



Warranwood Primary School CONNECTIONS

Prep News and Information

WELCOME TO PREP 2018!

We would like to welcome everyone to the start of a very exciting Prep year at Warranwood. It was terrific to meet many new families (and some familiar families) at our Welcome to Warranwood sausage sizzle. We had lots of excited Preps wanting to introduce you all to their new teachers!

For some of you the first couple of weeks have been filled with emotion, excitement, uncertainty, tiredness and relief. For others, its just relief! The Prep teachers are thrilled with the way the students have settled into school life and are learning all about each other, their classroom routines and their new school community. We thank you again for your support in making this transition such a smooth and happy experience for all.

Introducing the Prep Team

Jacquie Durik Lauren Curwood Liz Fragiacomio Suzie Smith Roseanne Parsons
(Team Leader)



Meet The Specialists

Visual Arts- Jeenah Metcalfe

From colourful paper collages to painting with acrylics, to learning about abstract art and mixed media artworks as well as how colour and shape can be used in creating artworks - the Preppies are in for a lot of fun this term! They will be drawing, cutting, pasting, painting and selecting 3-dimensional materials to create a range of different artworks that express their own feelings and ideas. They will look to the abstract artworks of different artists to learn about how shape, colour and line (art elements) are used to tell a story and then create their own abstract narratives. They will familiarise themselves with regular and irregular shapes as well as be introduced to the colour wheel to learn about warm and cool colour schemes. All activities are designed to build confidence in self-expression and develop techniques that can assist in creating imaginative and fun artworks. I can't wait to see what they create this term!

Performing Arts- Jacinta O'Leary

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION....WOOHOO... This term the Prep students will participate in drama, dance and group dynamic activities to encourage them to build their confidence and to create a sense of trust. They will also work on their acting skills to create a min- production to be performed during the Performing Arts Workshop in front of their families. The production will bring the picture story book 'Where the Wild Things Are' to life. Each class while acting out the book will focus on character development (i.e. body posture, use of voice, facial expression, mannerisms). Students will be taught basic stage conventions such as down stage, up stage, always facing the audience when performing and they will put these new skills into practise. The Preps will then be involved in costume design and will rehearse in their weekly sessions until the Performing Arts workshop session to be held early in Term 2....ROAR...LET THE WILD RUMPUS BEGIN!!!!

Japanese- Tanya Barlow

こんにちは! (Konnichiwa) Welcome to 2018 Year of the Dog. This term the Preps will learn some basic everyday words and action songs including Japanese greetings, classroom instructions and numbers. They will mimic Japanese pronunciation and rhythm through singing and role play. The Preps will identify similarities and differences between Japanese and their own language and cultural behaviours such as exchange of greetings and thanks. Learning to write their names in Japanese is always an exciting activity for the Preps. They will perform their first song in Japanese on Grandparent's Day!

Physical Education- Andrew Tonkin

We are planning to play games with and without equipment! The



TESTING

The first six Wednesdays of Term 1 are school-free days for the Prep level. These days are set aside for the teachers to work individually with each student to determine their initial abilities in maths and literacy. This snapshot enables the teachers to understand the academic needs of the students and to plan an effective teaching and learning program to cater for everyone. Times have been allocated to every student and the timetable is with your classroom teacher if you have lost your note or forgotten your time.

ATTENDANCE

Warranwood Primary School uses the Compass School Manager software program, which supports a number of administrative functions of the school. There are many fantastic features, which will save both time and money and allow you to access reports and interviews, etc. online. One feature is the marking of attendance. It is very important that if your child is going to be absent or late that you record your child's absence, late arrival or early departure using the Compass system. The roll will be marked in the classroom at around 9:10 am each day. Any arrivals after that time will be marked as late and you will need to check in at the office.

ASSEMBLY

Assembly is held most Mondays in the Hall at 9.05 am. We will start at the classroom and walk to the hall together. All sorts of wonderful things take place at assembly like Principals Awards, performances, announcements regarding sporting results and information about activities and upcoming events. Everyone is most welcome to attend!

PARENT HELPERS

We are very grateful for any assistance parents are able to offer, as it makes a huge difference to the classroom program. If you can help in the classroom or by doing tasks at home, please let your class teacher know. A note will go home soon, allowing parents to select a time and day they are available to help. A timetable will then be put up on the window. If you are unable to make a regular commitment, please don't hesitate to chat with your child's teacher about when you are available.

TAKE HOME BOOKS

The students have been given their take home books and have started taking them home. Initially this is to get students into the habit of reading each night and changing their books each day. Once our testing is completed we will be able to allocate books according to ability levels. If you find that the book is easy, use the time to ask your child about the story, create a different ending, discuss interesting words, etc. If the book is too hard, read it to your child and discuss aspects of the story. Ask them to read the more predictable words. Inside your book cover there is a diary. After your child has read their book, please fill out the diary on the day you read it. This will help to ensure your child gets a variety of books and also lets us know how they felt about the book. If you do not get to read the book, it still needs to come back to school, but we won't change it over. Once we start having parent helpers, we often ask them to sit and read with the students, which is why it is necessary for them to bring their readers back each day.

BUDDIES

Very soon the Preps will meet their Buddies. It will be a very exciting afternoon where they get to know their Buddies and complete an activity together. The role of a buddy is to be a helpful friend and mentor out in the playground and to have fun with the Preps in a series of planned activities throughout the year. Due to numbers this year you may find that your child has two Buddies.

CAFÉ READING

Our school uses the CAFÉ reading framework, which is a direct teaching approach that uses explicit and direct instruction to give meaning to what we do in our literacy blocks.

Café Reading stands for:

C – Comprehension, A – Accuracy,

F – Fluency, E – Expanding Vocabulary.

In Prep we are starting to focus on the concept of reading for understanding (comprehension) and choosing a book to read that is a 'Good Fit' book. As we model reading using big books and other literature, we ask as we read, "Do I understand what I am reading?" We are also discussing the use of pictures to help us understand the text and match key words. Throughout the year we will be explicitly introducing many strategies that will assist with the development of the above four essential reading skills.

READING EGGS

You will note that in your term fees you have been asked to pay a **subscription fee** to the Reading Eggs program. This is a fabulous literacy program, which supports the way in which we teach reading and phonics. The students are able to access Reading Eggs both at home and school. If they were to sign up individually it would be at a cost of around \$100 so this is a great saving and an excellent learning tool. Your child's log on details will be sent home soon so they can begin their Reading Eggs adventure at home.

CANTEEN

The canteen is closed on Wednesdays for lunch orders but open during lunchtime every day for the children to purchase snacks. Lunch orders need to be placed in the class basket at the beginning of the day. We will encourage students to place any change in their bags. If they are allowed to spend their change, please let them know.

SPENDING MONEY

Due to our concerns about food allergies, we ask that you please discourage your children from buying snacks from the canteen for other students. Buying food for others can also cause distress for the students who are not selected by their friends to share the money.

HEALTHY BODIES

Although we have just begun the year, the students are very busy so it is important that they eat well, get plenty of rest and exercise regularly. We encourage all students to have a fresh bottle of water in their bag which they can easily access. We also remind students to refill their bottle throughout the day. We encourage the students to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Please advise your class teacher if your child has food allergies or there are foods such as chocolate you prefer they do not eat. Several of the students in our year level can have anaphylactic reactions to certain foods. Parents are requested not to include any nut products in any food. Please be aware of this when packing lunches and we ask that you reinforce the message with your children that students are not to share food.

ILLNESS

If your child is sick please keep them at home as necessary. However don't forget that every day is full of learning and students often feel left behind if they have too many days away from school. Please contact the office if they are going to be away and notify us immediately if your child's absence is due to an infectious disease (eg Chicken Pox). If your child is infected with head lice or the eggs (nits) please notify your class teacher so the correct procedures can be followed to avoid an outbreak. Please contact the school nurse or the office if you need further information regarding health issues.

SUN SMART

Our school is a Sunsmart School and hats are required for outside play every day. You are encouraged to send along sunscreen for your child to apply prior to going to play or lunch as well as applying it at home each morning.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting term. Please come and see us if you have any further questions.

**Suzie, Jacquie, Roseanne,
Lauren and Liz** 🌸

Term One Diary Dates

Testing and School Free Days

Wednesday 7th February
Wednesday 14th February
Wednesday 21st February
Wednesday 28th February
Wednesday 7th March

Prep Pancake Making Day

Tuesday 13th February

School Photos

Thursday 22nd February

Sushi Day

Tuesday 27th February

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 12th March (No School)

Students Attend Full Time

From Wednesday March 14th March students will be attending school full time.

Curriculum Day

Friday 23rd March

End Of Term One

Thursday 29th March
(2:30 dismissal)