WELCOME TO PREP

We would like to warmly welcome all parents and children to Bundaberg South State School. Bundaberg South State School offers a wonderful start for your child’s learning. Developing a love of learning, celebrating success and establishing the building blocks for future learning are the core elements of a quality Prep curriculum program.

We are glad to have the opportunity to work with you and your child during their first year of school. We regard these early years as an exciting and significant part of a child’s early education and development. We feel sure your association with our school will be a happy and beneficial one for you and your child.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Bundaberg South State School Prep will be operating Monday to Friday from 8:45 am to 3:00 pm.

Doors will open from approximately 8:30 am. This provides an opportunity for teachers and parents to communicate and develop partnerships for a successful transition to school.
WHAT YOUR CHILD WEARS AT PREP

Prep students wear the same uniform as all the students of Bundaberg South State School. The uniform is

- school polo shirt
- royal blue shorts, skorts or skirts
- royal blue school bucket hat or wide-brimmed hat. (No caps please)
- covered shoes and socks - black joggers with velcro straps preferred to enable independence.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR PREP

- A lunch box with morning tea, lunch and a drink bottle. Please include an ice pack or frozen drink as we are not able to put lunches in the fridge.
- A school bag large enough to comfortably hold all your child’s belongings e.g. hat, lunch box, drink bottle, library bag, reading case and jumper.
- A school bucket hat or wide-brimmed hat
- Full school uniform
- All the items on the Prep book list (please bring all these items in a clearly named large bag or box on the first day of school).

PREP YEAR - BOOKLIST 2015

The Prep Year Booklist will be available from the office during the last week of school in Term 4. Parents who have provided the school with an e-mail address will have a booklist e-mailed when available.
KEEPI NG TIME ......

You are welcome to come to Prep at any time after 8.30am. Take this opportunity to do a puzzle, read a book with your child, look at your child’s scrapbook, or use the computer. Punctuality in bringing and collecting your child is very important. The Prep program starts promptly at 8:50 am so please ensure that your child is at school on time. This way your child does not miss out on any valuable group learning experiences.

Please note that this school does not provide before or after school care. There are day care centres that provide a drop off and pick up service from Bundaberg South State School.

COLLECTION TIME

At 3:00 pm the students can be collected from the classroom by a parent, caregiver or an older sibling. Please ensure you inform the school if there is any change to who will be collecting your child.

LIBRARY

Prep students visit the Library to borrow a book each week. Students must bring a library bag to school to be able to borrow from the library.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

Prep students will participate in Music and Physical Education Specialist Programs. Students are engaged in one 30 minute lesson each week for both Music and Physical Education.
HOME ACTIVITIES

Students will commence bringing home early reading books and activities to practice during Term 1. An A4-size pencil case is included on the Book List and this case will comfortably fit reading books and newsletters.

SWIMMING

We hope to offer the Prep students swimming once a week from early November. Each year we request support from Prep parents to assist with supervision in the pool. The Prep students can only undertake swimming if there is an adequate number of volunteers.

NEWSLETTERS

The school newsletter is sent home every Tuesday with the eldest child from each family. Prep newsletters are distributed on a regular basis to help inform you of events and happenings in the Prep classroom. Please read these notices to keep up-to-date with what is occurring in your child’s school.

TAKE NOTICE!!

So that you are aware of what is going on in your school and community, please read all notices sent home. It’s a good idea to keep them for a while and to mark any important dates on your calendar.
SCHOOL EVENTS

As the year progresses there will be several whole school events or year level activities for Prep students to participate in, for example Athletics Carnival, Under 8's and visiting performers. As each event approaches information will be provided via the school newsletter and/or class letters.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Informal assessment of students is ongoing and takes place throughout the year in Prep. All students will receive a progress report at the end of each semester. Parents will also be offered the opportunity to meet with the teacher to discuss their child’s learning progress. Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns throughout the year at a mutually convenient time.

PARENTS IN PREP

Parents play an important and valued role in the education of their children. You have a great deal to offer and we want you to feel that you are an important part of the group of adults that educate your child. We encourage you to become actively involved in your child’s learning through visits to Prep. The children enjoy the opportunity to participate with parents in activities such as reading, cooking and swimming. We know you have something to share and we look forward to having you become involved in the Prep classroom.

Parents can help by:

- Visiting and joining in with the program.
- Taking note of noticeboards and newsletters.
- Collecting junk materials.
- Supporting and encouraging your child.
- Discussing any problems or worries.
- Offering to share interests or skills e.g. playing an instrument, cooking, carpentry, ANYTHING!!
- Sharing information you may think we need to know.
HINTS FOR THE FIRST DAY

It is our wish that the first day at Prep will be a happy occasion for your child. Here are just a few hints to make the first few days go smoothly.

- Have your child’s things, including his/her clothes, laid out the night before so that you are not rushing around trying to find things at the last minute.

- Have lunch prepared and talk to your child about what to eat at morning tea and lunch. Your child should also practise using their lunch box and drink bottle before the first day.

- Being on time is very important to your child. Coming late may make him or her nervous.

- Be positive!! Talk about the new things in a happy way. If you are nervous or apprehensive, your child will notice.

- Don’t sneak away. Always tell your child you are leaving and will be back at the end of the school day.

- If your child seems uneasy, please leave promptly, as past experience has shown us that children settle more quickly after mum/dad has gone. If you are a little concerned, you are quite welcome to ring the school when you arrive home.

- Arrive on time to collect your child as they will be looking for you and may get upset if you are a little late.
THE FIRST DAY

The first day of Prep will focus on establishing the routines that your child will learn and follow throughout the year. Below is a schedule of what parents can expect to experience on the first day of Prep for your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>School Day</th>
<th>Parent Experiences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Classroom Doors Open</td>
<td>Arrive at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Help your child to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Locate their name badge and attach it to their school shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Place booklist items in assigned area</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Help your child place their bag on the port rack outside the classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Find a space at a desk or on the floor to do a quiet activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The teacher will move around the room to meet and greet parents and children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parents make a quick and cheerful goodbye to your child as soon as they are settled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
<td>The bell will ring</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher will invite students to gather at the carpet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher will ask parents to leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parents make a quick and cheerful goodbye to your child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher and teacher aide will settle the children with a story or song to start the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If your child is upset, direct them to the teacher or teacher aide who will help settle them as you depart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:50 am</td>
<td>Second Bell</td>
<td>The first day of Prep begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50 pm</td>
<td>Parents begin to arrive</td>
<td>Ensure you arrive prior to the bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>Final Bell</td>
<td>Teacher will invite parents into the classroom to collect their child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE PREP CURRICULUM

The Australian Curriculum, in conjunction with the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines, has been designed for use in all Preparatory Year classes. The curriculum is designed to provide all students with a solid foundation to their learning and provide the springboard to future learning success. The Preparatory Year curriculum is delivered in a variety of ways including focused learning experiences, play-based learning and hands-on activities. Inquiry-based learning and investigations are key elements of the curriculum.

Your child's teacher plans for student learning using The Australian Curriculum for the subject areas of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History and
- Geography

The Early Years Curriculum Guidelines support learning in the Early Learning Areas of:

- Social and personal learning
- Health and physical learning
- Active learning processes

These Early Learning Areas are linked to our school's curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. In the Early Years, children learn through:

- Focused learning and teaching
- Investigations
- Routines and transitions
- Play
- Real Life Situations
WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL DO AT PREP

Some of the learning experiences that your child will encounter include:

- Constructing using blocks, collage and manipulative equipment to develop early mathematical concepts and skills
- Initiating and participating in dramatic play to build an understanding of the world around them
- Drawing and painting to encourage oral language, reading and writing skills
- Writing stories and copying signs as part of their play, constructions and art
- Playing and investigating independently, in pairs, small groups and as a whole class
- Actively engaging in learning experiences utilizing technology resources including computers and the classroom's interactive whiteboard
- Planning collaboratively with the teacher using a plan-do-reflect model
- Participating in music and language experiences
- Participating in explicit learning experiences in the areas of literacy, numeracy, science, history and geography

These learning experiences assist children to:

- Develop early literacy and numeracy skills
- Understand and use language to group, sort and describe objects and to communicate ideas, feelings and needs
- Become independent thinkers and problem-solvers
- Learn how to co-operate with others
- Develop physical co-ordination skills
- Listen, respond to and give directions
- Become confident at taking risks in their learning
- Make good choices
- Develop a positive approach to learning
We know your time is precious, so we’re glad you took the time to read this booklet.

Should you have any queries regarding Prep policies or your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to talk to us.

Here’s to a happy and fun-filled year of learning for all!