

# **CLASS INFORMATION BOOKLET 2017**



**Pre-primary Two  
Danielle Circosta**

## Welcome to Pre-primary

Welcome back to school for a busy and exciting year. The children have had a fantastic couple of weeks and have settled in well to the routines of the class after the summer holidays. I look forward to teaching your child and continuing them on their journey of learning at Edgewater Primary School.

## Classroom Philosophy

I believe that in an early childhood classroom it is vital that all children are treated as individuals. They are encouraged to develop at their own rate in order to reach their full potential. For this to occur, it is necessary to have appropriate expectations for each child and provide a developmentally appropriate yet flexible program. I will provide a warm, supportive environment in which children are encouraged to 'have a go' and take appropriate risks and where parental involvement is encouraged and valued. I hope that the children in my class will develop a high self-esteem and foster a positive attitude towards school and learning.

My aim is: "To provide a safe and happy environment for every child in my class."

## Contact

I am happy to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child. I can be contacted through your child's Communication Book to organise a suitable time or my email address is **danielle.circosta@education.wa.edu.au**

Please avoid lengthy discussions before school as it is a busy time of day. I am available to speak with you after school with prior notice. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are concerned in anyway. A Communication Book will be sent home early next week. If you have messages in the book I need to see, please place in the green box, with the appropriate page showing. Please check your child's Communication Book each night.

## Classroom Organisation

In the Pre-primary setting a variety of organisational strategies are used. These range from small group activities to whole class situations depending on the task at hand.

This year I will be team teaching with the other Pre-primary teacher, Gabrielle Radford. I will be teaching Humanities and Social Sciences (History & Geography) to both classes and Mrs Radford will be teaching Science.

## Teaching Methods

- Literacy

I use the program, "Letters and Sounds" which introduces letter names and sounds of the alphabet in a sequential order. It teaches the blending and segmenting of sounds to support reading and spelling. I will also be using Jolly Phonics to support the Letters and Sounds program. There are songs and actions to go with each letter sound to help imbed recognition. The letter sounds will be covered during first term with a focus on initial, medial and final sounds. During Term Two we will continue to consolidate sounds through CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant letter patterns) and digraphs.

Our reading will focus on shared big books.

We will focus on developing skills to enable the children to become better readers. These skills are referred to as "phonological awareness" skills and include being able to hear individual words in sentences, recognising and producing rhyming words, identifying the syllables in words and listening to sounds in words. This ability to hear and play with the sounds of language is critical to beginning reading development. The program will include a wide variety of strategies and activities to promote overall literacy development, comprehension and understanding.

- Cars and Stars - The Cars and Stars program (Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies and Strategies to Achieve Reading Success) is a comprehensive reading program that aims to develop comprehension and reading skills and improve literacy.

- **Reading Books**

Daily reading is an important part of our program and reinforces skills learned at school. During the next few weeks I will be sending a reading book home with your child. It is a great opportunity for **you to read to your child**. The most important aspect of Home Reading is **ENJOYMENT!**

You can help your child by:

- Talking about the cover, pictures and possible story line.
- Reading the book to your child, pointing to the words you are reading.
- Read the book together.
- Retell the story using the pictures.
- Ask questions about the pictures, events and characters in the story.
- In Term One it is not expected that your child will read the book independently.

Remember to praise and encourage your child's efforts constantly. Please return it to school each day so your child can be issued with a new book.

Your child will be provided with a small list of sentences to read which have been covered in class. These sentences will include target words and small words which are decodable.

## **News**

An important part of our Oral Language Program is our weekly news session. The children bring in an item, drawing, photo or information from home that has something to do with the weekly topic. It can be anything that relates to the news topic. The news presentation is more of a report format and is designed to promote family conversations prior to News Day. We call it Family Friendly News as we hope that you will also enjoy this exciting way of delivering news. We use the 5 'W' news framework: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW.

**We hope your child will look forward to Thursday News Day!**

- **Numeracy**

The children participate in an array of experiences which provides opportunities to apply skills and concepts learned through hands on and problem solving activities.

## **Morning Routines**

It is extremely important to have your child at school **on time**. Doors open at 8.30am. Your child will have several small activities to complete before school formally starts. These will include name and number writing, as well as, answering the daily question on the whiteboard. Please help your child to read the question and write their name under the appropriate response to the question.

## **ICT/Computer**

During our computer sessions we will be completing some activities on cyber safety to ensure students understand how important this is when accessing the Internet, both here and at home. We will be learning computer coding using materials sourced from code.org. Students will learn through problem-solving how to write code in order to have the computer do something that they have planned.

## **School Website/School App**

The school website and the app are your 'one stop' shop for information about the school, including events, upcoming activities and online forms. Please download the school app as soon as possible from either the iStore or Google Play. The app's name is Updat-ed and it is free to download. Further instructions are on the website.

## **Absences/Attendance**

Any absence from school must be supported by an explanation – this can be by note, email, phone call to the office (9405 4007), or by using our online absentee form from the link on the home page of our website. Explanations must be made within three days of the student returning to school. Family holidays during term time must be notified in advance and in writing to the principal. Children leaving the school grounds during school hours must be signed out at the office. You will be given a pink slip to return to me before you can collect your child from the classroom.

## **Incursions, swimming lessons and excursions**

These occur from time to time during the year and payment should be made as soon as possible with the return of any permission slips. See the Contributions and Charges sheet on the school website for more details.

## **Newsletters**

These are published on the website fortnightly on Friday commencing in Week 2. If we have your email address on file you will receive an email alert to indicate that the newsletter has been published and links to it. Important information is always placed in the newsletter.

## **Bullying/graffiti**

The school has a zero-tolerance policy to both bullying and graffiti. In the case of the former, please contact the classroom teacher in the first instance if you believe that it is occurring. The sooner we know about it the sooner we can deal with it.

## **Uniform and School Hats**

School uniforms must be worn each day. They are available from Uniform Concepts in Joondalup. The school has a *no hat - no play in the sun* policy – only bucket, broad-brimmed or Legionnaires styles are permitted. Caps are no longer part of the school uniform.

## **Supporting Positive Student Behaviour**

We discussed what we wanted our classroom to be - safe, happy, fun and caring were some of the suggestions from the children and developed a class "mission" statement.. We talked about types of behaviour that were acceptable and not acceptable and came up with a set of class rules that created a safe environment for everyone. Consequences for the not acceptable behaviours were discussed - a warning, time out and office for serious behaviours. We then focussed on acceptable behaviours and positive rewards for this type of behaviour - praise, stickers, class prize box, 'pasta in a jar' for a special whole class treat, mini class certificates and school merit certificates. This year we are introducing "Brag Tags". Your child can earn a brag tag by demonstrating positive behaviour. These will be kept in a "Brag Tag Book". Details about Brag Tags will be in the books.

**Teachers have the right to teach and all children have the right to learn.**

## **Fruit Time**

**Beginning week four**, could you please provide your child with a piece of fruit or vegetable for morning tea. We will not be having shared fruit due to the time it takes to prepare the fruit for the children to eat. I will be registering our class as a "Crunch and Sip" classroom which means the children need to snack on fruit or vegetables and only drink water during this time. We are trying to promote and establish healthy eating choices.

## **Portfolios**

During the year a collection of your child's work will be put together in the form of a portfolio. It will be sent home at the end of each term for you to view. There will be a place for you to make a comment to your child at the end of each section. Please make sure you return the Portfolio to school at the beginning of each term.

## **Special Days to Remember**

- **Music** - Wednesday 11.05 - 12.05 (Mr Hadzic)
- **Junior Sport** - Wednesday 12.05 - 1.05
- **Physical Education** - Tuesday 2.00 - 3.00 (Mr Grey)

Please ensure your child has a hat and wears appropriate footwear on these days.

- **News Day** - Thursday (Mrs Forsythe)

Please ensure your child has news to share with their peers based on the weekly topic.

- **Library** - Thursday 2.30 –3.00 (Mrs Forsythe)
- Please remember your library bag and book.

- **Computer/ICT** - Friday 11.05-12.05 (Mrs Millard)

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Danielle Circosta