PREP PLANNER — WELCOME TO BLPS
8/2/2013

Welcome to Blackburn Lake Primary School. We have had a wonderful time getting to know your children over the past few days. The transition to school for the Preps has gone very smoothly. Over the past week the children have been learning about our School, classroom routines and getting along with others.

Thank you for coming into our Parent/Teacher interviews. If you were unable to attend your interview or lost your time in the busy Christmas rush please make another time to see your teacher. Today we have sent your child’s communication diary. Please use this diary to communicate with us. If your child is absent there is a small form at the back of the diary you may fill in.

If you have any concerns, questions or queries throughout the term please do not hesitate to contact us through your child’s communication diary or via email (our individual addresses are listed below). We are always willing to talk to you about your child’s progress and want to ensure that the link between home and school remains strong. We hope you and your children have a great first term.

Best wishes,
Bec Phillips, Emma Maguinness, Sue Rosendale and Alana Hartman-Smith

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SUNSMART

During term one and term four it is a requirement that all students wear a school hat when outside. Please ensure your child has their name clearly labelled inside their hat and that they bring it to school each day. Some parents may choose to put sunscreen on their child in the morning to further protect them from the sun or others may send a roll on sunscreen to school. This is allowed, however it is the child’s responsibility to apply it each day.

Obviously with the hot weather children can get dehydrated. Please be assured we are more than happy for your child to go and get a drink of water out of their bags or drinking taps throughout the day. It is not just limited to play times.

To assist your child cope with the transition to school and the demands physically and emotionally that this can have on Prep students you may want to consider limiting any extra-curricular activities your child may be involved in after school during term one to allow them adequate time to rest and ‘recharge’ at the end of each school day.

A REQUEST . . . .

To ease the congestion in the morning could students in Prep A and Prep S please enter the Prep building from the entrance near the toilets - thank you!
**SPECIALISTS**

At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes. Please see below for your child’s specialist class times. The below times are current until the Preps are at school full time.

**PREP A:**
- Art – Thurs 10.00 - 11.00
- Italian – Mon 2.30 - 3.00
- Library – Tues 11.30 - 12.30
- Music – Thur 2.30 - 3.00
- PE – Mon 3.00 - 3.30
  - Tues 1.00 - 1.30

**PREP B:**
- Art – Thurs 2.30 - 3.30
- Italian – Mon 3.00 - 3.30
- Library – Fri 10.00 - 11.00
- Music – Tues 3.00 - 3.30
- PE – Mon 2.30-3.00
  - Tues - 12.30 - 1.00

**PREP E**
- Art – Thurs 11.30 - 12.30
- Italian – Tues 3.00 - 3.30
- Library – Tues 11.30 - 12.30
- Music – Mon 2.30 - 3.00
- PE – Tues 2.30 - 3.00
  - Thurs - 2.30 - 3.00

**PREP S**
- Art – Thurs 12.30 - 1.30
- Italian – Tues 2.30 - 3.00
- Library – Fri 10.00 - 11.00
- Music – Mon 3.00 - 3.30
- PE – Tues 3.00 - 3.30
  - Thurs 3.00 - 3.30

If you have not yet arranged the following items, please do so as soon as possible since it is essential your child has them at school.

- ✔️ Labelled Art smock
- ✔️ Labelled Library bag
- ✔️ Labelled wide-brimmed or legionnaire style hat
- ✔️ Tissues

**PICKING UP YOUR CHILD**

We will continue to bring the children out of the classroom to the netball court at the end of the day where you can meet them. Please allow us to get right around to the netball court before you take them out of the line. This will be the procedure over the next few weeks until we inform you to make a meeting spot with your child.
TAKE HOME BOOKS

Today your child will bring home their green Blackburn Lake 'book-bag' with a take-home book in it. This must be bought to school each day. You are able to record what your child has read each night in their school communication diary.

We have decided to vary the books your child can bring home over the next two - three weeks. Your child may be able to recognise some words that are in them, they may not be able to recognise any words or they may be able to read it to you. All responses are ok. We just want the children to become familiar with reading or listening to a book every night and to enjoy reading.

Below are some hints about how you can help your child with reading.

**How to help your child with Reading**

- Make a regular time for reading together
- Talk about the book, use the pictures to predict what is going to happen before you even begin reading the book
- Locate signs, read recipes, junk mail, packets and other household items
- Read old favourites again and again to promote familiarity and confidence
- Display an interest in reading – let your child see you read
- Discuss parts of the book – show me the cover, where is the title?
- Explore the pictures in books to decide where the story is taking place. Compare those events and places with those in your own lives
- Please don’t cover the pictures – the child can use these to predict words
**PREP ‘WORD RING’**

Today your child will also bring home in their green Blackburn Lake ‘book-bag’ their very own ‘word ring’. On this metal ring are your child’s name and the letters of the alphabet on white laminated card. As well as reading with your child each night we encourage you to practice the letters of the alphabet with them and the first or initial sound the letter makes. In class the children learn to say “My name is . . . My sound is . . .”. Depending on your child’s understanding of letters and sounds you may wish to focus on five letters at a time, introducing new letters once your child has become confident and is ready to move on.

This ‘word ring’ must be bought to school each day in your child’s green ‘book-bag’. Once your child’s teacher believes your child has a sound understanding of the alphabet letters and their sounds, they will be assessed on their knowledge and supplied with the first group of coloured high frequency words to go on their word ring which can be practiced and learnt for reading each night.

Please note that your child will only be supplied with one metal ring, and one set of each coloured words throughout the year. Should your child’s word ring be misplaced it will be a parental responsibility to replace the metal ring. These XXmm rings can be purchased from stationary retailers such as Officeworks for a small cost.

**Morning Recess & Lunch**

Over the next two weeks the Preps will have different outside play times to the other students in the school. This allows them to gain confidence when using the playground before sharing it with others.

Every child in the school is allowed 10 mins to eat their lunch inside before going out to play. In Prep, the children (at times) tend to take longer to eat so therefore we will begin eating our lunch and play lunch earlier than the students in other year levels.

In Prep, as in other years, the students are often so eager to go outside to play with their friends and explore the playground or take a long time to eat that they will often not eat enough during the school day. This can result in reduced concentration, lethargy and poor behaviour at home and at school. Although your child’s teacher will do their best to monitor your child’s eating during morning recess and lunch we suggest you consider offering your child snacks that are nutritional, easy and quick for your child to eat and appealing to them eg, fresh fruit, vegetable or cheese sticks, yoghurt, crackers, or homemade treats.

This year in Prep we have several students with food allergies, including a student with a severe nut allergy. Please be considerate of this when packing your child’s lunch for school.
Dear Prep Parents,

Our Prep children are keen to begin reading in the classroom! We would like to invite you to help by reading with the children between 9.10 and 9.40 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from Week 5.

As you know most children in Prep are in the beginning stages of independent reading, and as such your support and encouragement will be essential in this process. We are asking that on your rostered morning you locate the reading tub and class list into the area designated for reading by your child’s classroom teacher. The child will have a book to read in their green ‘book bag’.

Begin by looking at the cover of the book and ask questions such as ‘Tell me what this book is about?’ etc. Ask the child to ‘read’ the book to you. Read it with them if they are having some difficulty. Finish with lots of praise! Please tick off the child’s name on the list and ask the child to tell the next child on the class list to come and read.

Please also remember to remain confidential about student reading abilities.

Please fill out the request form below and return it to your classroom teacher by Wednesday 20th February, so we can begin reading with parents on Monday the 25th of February!

Thank you

The Prep team

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Parent Reading Helpers

Grade: ___ Parents Name: _____________________ Child’s Name: ___________

I am able to help on (Please circle)

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday

I am able to help (Please circle)

Weekly Fortnightly