St Andrew’s Catholic Primary School

Companions on the Journey

Kindergarten Information Booklet 2011

VISION STATEMENT
St Andrew’s CPS offers an education that acknowledges, respects and nurtures the uniqueness of each person. Within a framework of Catholic values and teamwork, the students will be challenged and supported to recognise their gifts and develop their potential as they learn and contribute to their community.

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Welcome to St Andrew’s Catholic Primary School - Kindergarten. We look forward to a wonderful and rewarding year with you and your child.

2011 TERM DATES

Term 1: Wednesday 2nd February – Tuesday 19th April
Term 2: Thursday 5th May – Friday 8th July
Term 3: Monday 25th July – Friday 30th September
Term 4: Monday 17th October – Wednesday 14th December

There will be no Kindy on the following dates due to teacher professional development or public holiday. Monday 7th March, Tuesday 8th March, Thursday 31 March and Monday 6th June, 2011.

KINDY HOURS

Week 1 - 3: Staggered Intake
Week 4: The Kindergarten will operate 2 full day sessions for each class.

Blue Group: Monday and Wednesday
White Group: Tuesday and Thursday

Session Times: 8.45 am – 2.30pm.

Kindy is funded by the State Government for 11 hours per week. This will rise to 15 hours per week in 2013. Your children attend for 11.5 hours per week.
All I Need to Know – I Learnt in Kindergarten
Robert Fulgrum

All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be – I learnt in Kindergarten.

These are the things I learnt:
- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don’t hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your mess.
- Don’t take things that aren’t yours.
- Say sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Flush.
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
- Live a balanced life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday some.
- Take a nap every afternoon.
- When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.
- Be aware of wonder.
- Remember the little seed in the foam cup: the roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
- Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the foam cup – they all die. So do we.

Kindergarten is the start of a new era in your child’s life.

These initial experiences will help your child to develop skills necessary for future learning.
PHILOSOPHY

The Kindergarten programme aims to:

- Create a safe, happy and caring environment for all children including those with special needs;
- Enhance personal development through a variety of stimulating activities and play, where children feel free to explore and experiment;
- Help each child develop a positive self-image by means of sharing cultural backgrounds, individual talents and needs;
- Encourage the development of positive social behaviours;
- Promote the participation of parents in all the aspects of the Kindergarten program.

Therefore, the programme provides an environment where each child will have the opportunity to refine current skills and develop new ones in all areas: Spiritual, Emotional, Social, Intellectual, Creative and Physical, at his/her own rate of development.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At Kindergarten level, Religious Education is informal and unstructured. The children's everyday experiences will be linked with developing an understanding of God – wondering about things in nature and through thanking God for things such as, flowers, fruit, animals, etc. Children will be provided with opportunities to develop concepts about Easter, Christmas and the Church. They will participate in religious expressions, simple prayers, movement and song, and view and listen to bible stories.

NOTICES

Information about Kindy’s events will be provided via:

- Newsletters on school website.
- Notice Board signs.
ARRIVAL/PICK UP PROCEDURES

Kindergarten children are delivered to the classroom by 8.45 am. This time does not coincide with the rest of the school to ease parking difficulties that we experience. Parents who bring siblings to school may play in the playground with their Kindy child until the Kindy doors open. Children are picked up from the teacher at the end of the session. Please be punctual and comply with session times. Please be prompt in picking up your child to avoid distress.

We will not dismiss a child to unauthorised persons. Any changes must be entered into the “pick-up” book by parent or guardian and staff notified prior to finishing times. Siblings are only allowed to collect children if written permission is given to the Kindy teacher.

DAYCARE

If Daycare will be delivering or collecting your child from Kindergarten you will need to complete a “Daycare Form” at the Office. Delivery and collection of children at Daycare is as previously outlined.

DISTRESSED CHILD

Please be assured that children settle quickly once parents have left. Be calm, confident and reassuring. Direct your child to an activity or staff member, say goodbye and promptly leave. If the child should remain distressed, the parent will be notified and an alternative, longer-term plan implemented.

PARKING

Parking is in the car park along Victorsen Parade, Anthony Waring oval car park and at the church. The ‘Kiss n Ride’ area is not a parking area. You may not leave your vehicle in this area.

TUITION FEES

Kindergarten children are part of the family discount for school fees. Annual school fee accounts are sent home in February. Information regarding payment methods is included with the school fee account. All families must contribute towards their child’s education in our Catholic school.

The Catholic Education Office offer a discount to holders of current Health Care Cards. The card needs to be sighted and copied by the office staff by mid February to be eligible for the Health Care Card discount. On expiry, the new card needs to be presented or the discount will be discontinued.
PARENT INVOLVEMENT/ROSTER

Parent help is essential for the efficient and effective operation of a Kindergarten programme.

A roster will be placed on the Notice Board early each term. You will be asked to attend between 8.45am and 11.00am on your child’s Kindergarten day. Parents and guardians are all welcome. Each family is asked to help in the Kindy at least one session per term.

It is also required that siblings be minded on your roster day so that your attention is not divided between the Kindergarten children and your toddler. The parent help roster begins in Week Five of Term One.

MEDICAL OR SICKNESS

Please notify us on or before the first day if your child has a medical condition or suffers from asthma or allergies. Please keep children who are ill at home. Inform staff if your child has an infectious disease or condition, i.e. chicken pox, measles, eye discharge, diarrhea or vomiting, head lice, school sores.

If your child is ill please notify the school office by phone or a message sent to school. When your child returns to school, written notification, including dates and reason of absence, must be provided for the class Register of Attendance.

Any medication that requires administration while the child is at Kindy, requires signed approval from the Principal. The necessary form (obtained from the office) requires written details completed and permission signed by parent/guardian before approval is sought from the Principal.

Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately if a child becomes ill or suffers an accident whilst in attendance. You may be asked to take the child home, or in the case of an accident, will be notified of the situation. Therefore, we request your co-operation in keeping us informed of any changes to home, work or emergency contact telephone numbers.

Due to the number of children with nut allergies, we ask that no nut products be brought to school. This includes peanut butter and walnuts. Your attention to this is appreciated.
HOME SITUATIONS/COMMUNICATION

Home situations have a great influence on children. Please notify the teacher of any change to the normal home routine (e.g. parent in hospital, separation). All information is strictly confidential. Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns or interests as they arise with the teacher.

CLOTHING

- Please send child in PLAY CLOTHES, i.e. easy to move in, comfortable, appropriate for messy activities and easily undone by child for toilet time. Dresses and skirts can be a problem when the children are climbing, moving to music and sitting on the floor.
- Footwear must be comfortable and simple to take off and put on, e.g. Velcro fastening, slip-ons.
- Hats must be worn during outdoor activities - the school policy is ‘no hat, no play’. High ponytails and hair clips often cannot be accommodated by a hat.
- Please apply sunscreen to your child before they attend each session, particularly in Summer.
- Label all clothing clearly.

THINGS TO BRING TO KINDERGARTEN

Please supply your child with the following items – clearly marked with his/her name:

- A spare change of clothes (in a named plastic bag) in case of accidents. Please ensure the clothing is suitable for the appropriate season. This stays in the child’s school bag.
- A school bag that is big enough for spare clothes and for the work that is sent home. Also that it is easily accessible by your child.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable every day. The fruit will be cut up and shared between the children at snack time.
- A water bottle.
- A suitable sun hat - wide-brimmed or legionnaire and a good fit.
- A packed lunch e.g. small sandwich, yoghurt, a few crackers. Lollies, chips, chocolate are not permitted. Please ensure that what you pack for you child in their lunch box, they are able to finish.

Please ensure that no personal toys are brought to school.
BOOKLIST

The booklist has been sent out to all families and closes on 11th November (or 15th November online). Please purchase the requested items but do not name them. The items are given to the teacher on the first day that your child attends Kindy in 2011.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very special to young children. You are most welcome to bring in small cupcakes or individual items on your child’s birthday so that we can help celebrate your child’s special day. Please NO large cakes. Please give birthday invitations to staff to give to children.

USEFUL THINGS TO COLLECT

Many recyclable items, scrap and waste materials are used by the children in our programme. Please collect and give to us any of the following:

Rolls of contact; small jars; cardboard boxes – all sizes and clean; corks; computer paper; milk bottle tops; leaves; bark; nuts; shells; cardboard cylinders – no toilet rolls; sweet wrappers; old greeting cards; wrapping paper; material scraps – velvet, lace, netting; wool; feathers; button clothes suitable for dress-ups; postage stamps; golf balls; wood scraps – cut into triangles/circle/arches etc for woodwork; safety glasses; house paint brushes; coloured envelopes; plastic containers; magazines; newspapers; cardboard all shapes and sizes; paper plates; cotton reels; buttons.

We look forward to a wonderful and rewarding year with you and your child.