2017 PREP
HANDBOOK
Welcome to Monto State School

Our school team are looking forward to sharing this very important year of schooling with you and your child. Your child’s first year of Prep is the beginning of their formal school years and a continuation of their early years. Children learn best when the important people in their lives, (parents, extended family, other children and teachers) establish strong partnerships.
What will my child learn in Prep?

The Prep program is planned to integrate each child’s individual needs and interests while following the requirements of the Education department and implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

Curriculum areas such as Literacy, Numeracy, Science, History, Geography, Visual Art, Music and Health and Physical Education will be covered on a daily or weekly basis.

The learning experiences in the Prep Year will help your child to:

- take responsibilities
- become more independent
- respect other people
- cooperate with others
- make sensible choices about their health and safety
- develop their physical skills
- develop their understanding of literacy and numeracy
- develop their oral language
- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use their imagination and creativity
- learn about their environment
What will I see my child doing?

Your child will be:

• investigating interests
• planning with their teacher about the things they might do, and carrying out their plans
• designing and making things
• singing, dancing and painting
• listening to stories
• climbing, balancing and jumping
• taking part in everyday experiences like gardening, cooking and tidying up
• shared/individual reading
• learning about size, shape, weight and measurement as they construct things indoors and outdoors

By the end of the year your child may be able to:

• identify the sound and name of all alphabet letters
• identify a range of sight words
• identify the beginning, middle and end sounds in words
• sound out and read simple words
• write simple sentences and then read them
• read simple texts
• identify and count numbers up to 20 in 1’s and 2’s forwards and backwards
COMING & GOING

School opening hours are from 8:30am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday. We request that your child arrive from 8:30am onwards and no later than 9:00am.

Being on time in the mornings will allow your child to have the best opportunities to learn. Coming to school prepared with the essential items for school will help your child feel at ease and avoid anxiety.

Important
Please inform either the teacher or office if anybody other than the regular collector will be collecting your child from school. We will not allow a child to go home with anyone else unless we have been informed of the change of routine.

What does my child need to bring?

- Bag to carry belongings
- Broad brimmed hat
- Lunch Box
- Water Bottle
- Spare set of clothes in case of accidents
- Library Bag
- School Supplies (see booklist)

Please remember to pack healthy choices for school lunches

Please remember to clearly name all belongings
DAILY ROUTINE

Prep operates 5 days a week.

The daily routine provides a framework for day to day activities. Times may vary from day to day depending on the children’s needs, interests, development abilities and growing independence.

### SAMPLE ROUTINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30 – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Arrival (puzzles, carpet activities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 – 9.15 am</td>
<td>Whole class morning fitness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.15 – 9.30 am</td>
<td>Group Time- leader, calendar, weather, roll etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 – 11.00 am</td>
<td>Literacy focus- Story, phonic sounds, letter writing words, reading, writing etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.30 am</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 – 12.00 pm</td>
<td>Group Time-counting and number activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 – 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Small group Focus on numeracy concepts-number recognition, patterning, sequencing, spatial concepts etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 – 1.50 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50 – 2.15 pm</td>
<td>Quiet reading/writing/drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15 – 2.30 pm</td>
<td>Indoor small group games &amp; activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 - 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Sharing/speaking Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do we prepare for your child?

The Brigance Early Childhood Screen is used in our school to quickly and accurately screen children to identify potential development delays and giftedness as well as specific strengths and needs in physical development, language, academic, self-help and social-emotional skills.

This screening serves as the first step in assessing a child’s school readiness as it provides a snapshot of a child’s mastery of early development and academic skills.

This data can then be used to decide on appropriate intervention and support services where required.

**SHARING INFORMATION**

Events in family life, such as an illness, accidents or death of a relative, friend or pet can be of major concern and upset especially for young children. It may also affect their behavior at school. It can make our job easier if we are kept in the know and can make allowances for events which may affect your child at school. This is also true of and up-coming exciting or happy occasions.

**BIRTHDAYS AT SCHOOL**

Birthdays are special days for children as they make them feel important, and of course we love to celebrate them with children. If on your child’s birthday you wish to have a cake to help them celebrate at school, you are more than welcome to do so.
PARENT INVOLVEMENT

All children benefit greatly from the individual attention of caring adults. In order to provide this, any opportunities for parents to be able to join us at school or in the classroom, is invaluable and encouraged.

Parents may help with reading stories, working with puzzles, and writing children’s stories. The children enjoy any experience with parent volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers in the tuckshop or on the P&C.

So keep in touch by...

✦ talking with the teacher and the children, to learn about school
✦ visiting and joining in - doing the things children are doing
✦ coming to the schools monthly P&C meetings
✦ keeping informed with newsletters and the notice board
✦ discussing any concerns or worries you or your child may have