PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are the first educators of their children and therefore play an important and valued role in educational lives of their children. With your help and support, this year will be a happy one and of enormous benefit to your child’s development. Parents are invited to participate in the educational program of the Prep class. By volunteering in the classroom, it allows opportunity for you to gain an understanding of the learning that is occurring in the classroom. It gives your child tremendous satisfaction to have you in their classroom, involved in their learning. Parents will be informed of selected times you can assist at the start of the school year when routines and timetables have been established.

Also if you have a problem or concern we will do our best to be of assistance. It is also wonderful to share good news about your child.

There are many ways you can help when visiting the Prep class: When visiting the Prep class please feel free to join the children as they work. Talk with them about the activity they are engaged in; encourage them to solve problems. Give assistance to children working at indoor activities e.g. painting, collage, blocks, puzzles, etc. At puzzles encourage children to look for shapes or fit them in for themselves; show them how to do the puzzle. Discuss with a child what he/she is doing with blocks or construction kits and help him/her to extend his/her ideas, but please do not do the building for him/her.

You may have a particular ability as a story reader or with musical instruments or with puppets and we would appreciate your help with small groups of children in these areas, if you wish to give it.

WELCOME TO ALL PARENTS AND CHILDREN

We trust your association with Mirani State School Prep Year will be a happy and rewarding one for both you and your child. Mirani State School is very pleased to have the opportunity to work with you, as we believe education is a combined venture of the child, parents, teacher and community. Please keep this booklet handy for your reference throughout the year.

PREP TEACHERS - To be advised

PRINCIPAL - Mr Bruce Torrens

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER - (07) 49667333

SCHOOL ABSENCE LINE - (07) 49667360

WEBSITE: www.miraniss.eq.edu.au

PREP HOURS - 9.00 am to 3.00 pm DAILY

THE PREP CALENDAR WILL BE THE SAME AS THE SCHOOL.

 ATTENDANCE

If you are going on holidays, or your child is ill, please call the absent line on 49667360 and advise that your child will be absent, the reason, and for what length of time. If you need to collect your child early or will arrive late, please call into the office to collect a late arrival/early departure slip to give to the teacher.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Prep program aims to foster the development of attitudes, abilities and skills which will assist your child’s educational development. In order to learn, be safe and have fun, children are encouraged:

- To use language to communicate with other children and adults
- To develop an understanding of their world
- To develop self-confidence and self esteem
- To make friends
- To share and cooperate with others
- To develop independence
- To develop resilience
- To develop physical skills
- To develop a positive attitude to learning
- To problem solve
- To take responsibility for their own belongings

At Mirani State School the foundation level Australian Curriculum in English, Maths, Science, History and Geography is to be implemented. There are specific content descriptors for Prep in each of these learning areas. Planning for learning in other areas such as Social and Personal Learning, Making Healthy Choices and Active Learning Processes (Thinking, Investigating and Imagining and Responding) is informed by the Queensland Early Years Guidelines.

Children in Prep have the opportunity to learn according to their individual abilities and to be extended in the development of their literacy and numeracy skills. The Prep program is structured so that learning takes place constantly, both in an informal and formal way. Our main aim is to foster a real love of learning at an early age.

BRINGING AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

Children must be brought and collected by a responsible adult. For several reasons, of which no doubt all parents are aware, it is absolutely necessary that the teacher and aide knows and recognize the adult who regularly picks up each child. No child will be allowed to leave the room until collected by an approved person. If, for any reason, you ask a different person to collect your child on any occasion, please notify the teacher when you leave him/her at the beginning of the season.

At the end of the day the children will be assembled with their belongings before the door is opened. They are to remain seated on the carpeted area until you collect them.

Please try to ensure that your child is on time for the commencement of the day’s program at 8.50 a.m. We would also appreciate it if you were punctual in collecting your child by 3.00 p.m. If you are delayed please notify the teacher by ringing the school office on 49667333.

Parent Pickup:- To assist with individual / group development of independence it is important that children are not distracted during their program. Therefore parents need to leave at the teacher arranged morning time and must wait in the covered area until the 3.00 p.m. bell in the afternoon before collecting their child from the Prep room.
EXCURSIONS / PREP VISITORS

From time to time we will undertake group excursions with children to places of interest. Due notice will be given and parents are asked to assist by sometimes volunteering to accompany the group or help with transport if possible. Visiting educational programs will also be invited to the Prep class. Once again you are most welcome to attend.

TREASURES FROM HOME

As we are equipped with attractive and educational materials for children, it would be appreciated if you would discourage children from bringing any toys from home to school.

SHARING TIME

Children will be asked to bring special items for Sharing Time. Each term a list of easily sourced items related to our weekly learning experiences will be sent home with a letter of explanation. Sharing Time is an important link between learning at school and learning at home.

READING EGGS

Reading Eggs is an online program that supports early learning in English. It offers individual lessons that allow children to progress at their own rate. It features interactive animations, games, songs, stories and lots of rewards.

In 2014 Mirani State School is asking that parents pay a small levy to go towards the cost of subscriptions to the online educational programs used regularly at school. The online subscription for Reading Eggs also allows parents and children to access the program at home for the year.

HOMEWORK

At Mirani State School our policy is to keep homework in Prep to a minimum. However, as the year progresses, the children will be asked to complete homework activities such as preparing for Sharing Time, reading Home Readers, learning High Frequency words and contributing to class projects. Information will accompany each activity to support you in helping your child complete their homework.

LIBRARY

The children will visit the school library once a week to borrow books. Children must have a waterproof library bag to borrow a book.
**SHARING INFORMATION**

Events in family life, such as major illness, visits of grandparents or other relative, accidents or deaths of relatives or friends or pets, can all be a major concern or excitement for children and markedly affect their behaviour.

It is important for the home and Prep class to share information which may affect children and we would be appreciative if parents would inform teachers of any unusual happenings of this nature.

**LUNCHES**

Children will need food for first and second lunch and our brain break. It is asked that all lunches include nutritious and easy to manage food. Children are to have a water bottle filled with **water only**. Please **do not** send chocolates, lollies, chips, ring top pull cans or roll ups. It is easier for students if packaged food is placed into small containers. During morning session children may have a 10 minute 'brain break'. At this time the children go to the toilet, wash hands, have a drink and eat a small healthy snack. Their snack may consist of fresh fruit, yoghurt, a small sandwich etc.

**BIRTHDAYS**

On this special occasion you may like to send along a simple iced cake (rectangular preferred) or patty cakes (one for each child) so your child may share their special day with their friends. Please do not hand out birthday invitations in the classroom unless all the children in the class have been invited.

**SHOE LACES**

Please take the time to teach your child to tie their shoelaces before school commences. This will assist greatly with time management.

**HEALTH POLICIES**

Children with infectious diseases must not come to Prep class for certain specified times as per Queensland Health regulations. In certain cases of minor ailments parents may use their own judgement about the child attending. Children who become sick during the session will be allowed to rest quietly while their parent is notified. Parents should make a written request for the administration of prescribed medicine by filling in the form available from the office. Please refer to the School Parent Handbook for further details.

**CHILDREN’S REQUIREMENTS**

- **School Hat** - Children need a sun safe hat in Prep every day
- **Sunscreen** - Preferably roll-on
- **Spare clothes** in case of accidents
- **Water Bottle**
- **Library Bag** - Children need a large waterproof bag
- 2 x ream white photocopy paper
- 1 x ream coloured A4 paper
- 5 x scrapbooks - 96 pages stapled
- 1 x A4 Exercise Book - Year 1 Red and Blue Lines
- 1 x 96 Page Exercise Book
- 1 x large roll of sticky tape
- 4 x glue sticks (UHU or Bostik)
- 2 x display folder
- 2 x plastic document wallets
- 1 x packet Faber-Castell connector pens
- 1 x pack of 6 whiteboard markers
- 10HB lead pencils (Stadler)
- 1x packet Wind-Up Crayons (Texta brand—Zoom)
- 1 x set Headphones
- 2 x erasers
- 1 x pencil case

**Reading Eggs Levy**

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL THE ARTICLES IN GREEN ARE NAMED**
MIRANI STATE SCHOOL
PREP CENTRE
2014
PARENT INFORMATION BOOK