**Welcome to Kindergarten!**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to give you some information to make the transition to kindergarten a little easier for both you and your child.

**Classes**

The teachers on Kindergarten this year are:

**Assistant Principal-** Belinda Hickey

**KB –** Miss Bonthorne (Kindergarten Grade Leader)

**KA** - Miss Boyle

**KV -** Miss Vuong

**KL** – Mrs Luchetti

**KE** – Miss Edwards

**KC –** Miss Borg

**Drop off**

Children need to be dropped off and lined up under the big tree with their own bag ready to go inside as a class, when the music starts playing at 8:57am. This will be the procedure from Monday 15th February. Please do not enter the building with your child at this time, as we will be endeavouring to train the children to become independent. From the 22nd February, children will line up under the COLA for our whole school assembly on Monday mornings.

**Pick Up**

Children need to be picked up at their classroom at 2:30pm. This will be the procedure until Friday 12th February. Please wait under the big tree until 2:30pm and then enter the building to pick your child up. Entry prior to this is very distracting for the children and interrupts the final revision of learning for the day. From Monday 15th February, students will be picked up from their classroom at 2:45pm.

**Appointments**

If you need to talk to the teacher please make an appointment at the office or with the teacher, so you can be given the time you require. Please do not try to speak with the teacher whilst the children are being picked up as it is a very busy time and the teacher’s responsibility is to the children.

**Absent Notes**

Students are legally required to attend school every day that the school is open, unless they are genuinely sick. If your child is unable to come to school or arrives at school late, please send a note to the teacher by the next school day explaining why he/she was absent.

**Crunch and Sip**

At 10am every day, students will participate in Crunch and Sip. During this time, they will be able to eat fresh fruit or vegetables and have a drink of water. They will not be allowed to have poppers or yoghurt during this time.

**Lunch Box Ideas**

We promote healthy eating at Blaxcell Street Public School so please keep this in mind when packing your child’s lunch box. Some healthy ideas are; sandwiches or wraps, fruit or vegetables, cheese, yoghurt, water or fruit juice. Soft drink and lollies will not be allowed to be consumed whilst at school.

**Canteen**

If you wish your child to buy something from the canteen, please go to the canteen before school and fill in a lunch order. It will then be delivered to your child’s classroom at the beginning of lunch. Lunch orders can be made before school from 8.30am at the side canteen window. A range of burgers, sandwiches, hot food, halal food, drinks, ice blocks, fruit and snacks are available to order. If ordering after 9.00am, only sandwiches will be available.

**Birthdays**

If you would like your child to celebrate his/her birthday at school, please make sure no lolly bags are sent to school, due to allergies. Cakes and cupcakes are acceptable; however, please make sure all cakes are cut prior to school.

**Voluntary School Contributions**

Please make sure that when school contributions are paid that the money goes straight to the office as teachers should not be handling money.

**Literacy**

In literacy we cover speaking and listening, reading, and writing. To cater for the range of abilities of children, our literacy sessions are differentiated. This means the children are grouped according to their needs, enabling them to work, learn and progress at their own rate. We use an explicit, systematic synthetic phonics approach to teach reading and spelling.

**Numeracy**

In 2016, the teachers in Kindergarten are working hard to ensure a strong mathematical education for every student. Teachers will successfully turn current learning research into practical quality teaching ready for immediate implementation, developing a deeper mathematical understanding.

Through the use of engaging teaching programs, the Kindergarten teachers will build a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the relationship between these concepts, aim to further mathematical meta-language to explain understandings and deliver quality pedagogy (ways of teaching) using questioning, investigation and differentiation

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)**

The HSIE units for Kindergarten this year are listed below:

**Term 1:** School Days **Term 2:** Meeting needs

**Term 3:** Personal and family history **Term 4:** People live in places

**Science and Technology – Primary Connections**

The Science and Technology units for Kindergarten are listed below:

**Term 1:** What’s it made of? **Term 2:** Staying alive

**Term 3:** On the move **Term 4:** Weather in my world

**Sport**

Kindergarten participates in grade sport on Wednesdays. Please ensure your child wears their sports uniform and suitable sports shoes.

**Library**

Kindergarten visits the library on a weekly basis. In order to borrow a book, each student will need to bring his/her own library bag. Classes have library on the following days:

**KB**- Wednesday **KL**- Thursday

**KA**- Wednesday **KE**- Tuesday

**KV**- Thursday **KC-** Monday

**Community Language and Scripture Classes**

The language and Cultural studies area at Blaxcell Street PS is an essential part of a board and balanced education for all learners. Learning another language extends the cognitive and conceptual development and problem-solving skills of learners. It increases their awareness of how language works and can assist significantly in developing literacy. The language and cultural understanding develops and promotes cross-cultural relationships to contribute to all key learning areas.

Our community Language and Cultural Studies team comprises of:

Mrs Alca and Mrs Shmeissem as our Cultural Studies teacher

Mrs Cheung as our Chinese teacher

Mrs T. Nguyen as our Vietnamese teacher

Mrs Moussa, Mrs Ramsey, Mr Riad and Mrs Eter as our Arabic teachers.

Community language classes are held on Wednesday 11.45-12.45 and Thursday 1.15-2.15.

Scripture classes are held on Tuesday 2.15-2.45.

R/Assistant Principal Mrs J. Nguyen, will we working with both EAL/D and Community Language/Cultural Studies teams and will be available through the office on appointment.

**Home Learning**

Children will not receive home learning until Term 2, but please read to your child each night and show an interest in what they may bring home from school. Positive praise encourages them to try harder.

**English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D)**

With the vast language background other than English at Blaxcell Street PS, we have 5 specialist EAL/D (English as an additional/Dialect) teachers – Mrs Donohoe, Mr Simpson, Ms Zin, Ms Reed (Monday and Friday) and Mrs Melisi (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) working across K-6. As a qualified EAL/D team we will be providing a New Arrival Program (NAP) to newly arrived students from overseas to support them in acquiring the English language. In small groups, we work on developing their listening and speaking skills, reading and writing in English to help them become active participants in all aspects of school life.

We are also assigned to different grades to support all students in literacy and numeracy.

Kindergarten – Mrs Reed and Mrs Melisi

We are supporting Kindergarten this year with focus on literacy and numeracy. We will be targeting students to assist them in developing their phonemic awareness, listening and speaking skills, reading and writing skills.

**Kindergarten Teachers 2016**