Kindergarten Term 1 Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Kindergarten 2015! We have had a wonderful start to the school year with 159 smiling Kindergarten students. All students have settled into school life quickly and are enjoying learning new things every day. We have formed 8 classes due to increased enrolments. Here is some important information to help you learn about our school and some of the routines.

Daily Routines
Please be prompt to drop your child off by 8.55am in the mornings. Supervision is available from 8.40am. If it is raining, please take your child directly to the classroom. Pick up is now at 2.45pm and will remain at this time for the rest of Term 1. In the afternoon, teachers are ticking children's names off as they are dismissed to ensure that all children go home safely. Students usually have crunch and sip at about 10am each day. Please make sure your child has a piece of small fruit or cut vegetables for this break. Recess is at 11am and lunch is at 1.10pm. We encourage you to send in a healthy lunch and bottle of water for your child. We aim to be a nut free school, so please check the ingredients of the food that is sent in. We also discourage students from sharing food. If your child has a lunch order, please let them know in the morning.

What to Bring
An equipment list has already been sent home listing the requirements for Kindergarten students. Thank you to those parents who have already sent the items in. Please make sure all your child’s belongings are labelled. We are unable to return lost property to students if there is no name. We also ask that you pack a spare pair of underwear and socks in your child’s bag in case of an accident.

Best Start Assessment
All students have completed the Best Start Assessment which has enabled teachers to identify strengths and knowledge that your child brings to school. You will receive a written report in the next week outlining how your child performed in the assessment and how you can help at home.

Homework
Homework has begun this week and will be completed in class so that students understand what is expected of them. Homework will be sent home in week 5. Students are required to practise reading a mixture of sight (camera) words and sound words at home. Students will also practise the sounds that they are learning at school. Home reading will start in week 5. Students will bring readers home daily and you will be required to list the books read in the home reading journal.

English
Students will participate in daily activities to improve their knowledge of phonics, enabling them to read and write. Students will also begin structured news topics later this term to improve their speaking skills. Please help your child prepare their speech
for presentation on their news day. Students will participate in literacy groups and students will also have modelled writing lessons with support from the ESL teacher.

**Maths**
Students will participate in practical activities to improve their understanding of a range of mathematical concepts. The strands covered in the Mathematics syllabus include number, data, space and geometry, patterns and algebra and measurement. Some concepts may be hard but we will revisit them throughout the year.

**Human Society and Its Environment**
Students will be exploring the topic “This is Me”. Students will have the opportunity to explore our school, talk about themselves and what makes them special.

**Science and Technology**
Students will also be exploring the topic “Seasons and Senses”. Students will explore the seasons and learn about the five senses. Students will also learn to log on to the computers at school with a username and password.

**Creative Arts**
Students will participate in a range of activities that explore the strands of dance, drama, visual arts and music.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**
Students will participate in aerobics once a week and fundamental skill based activities once a week. All Kindergarten students will need to wear sports uniform on Fridays. In class, students will learn about being responsible and respectful learners.

**Other**
Students will also participate in the Community Language program to strengthen home language or to learn about new cultures and languages. A note was sent home about Community Language. Please return this note as soon as possible.

Students will also borrow from the library each week. Please make sure these books are returned in library bags on the day of class borrowing. Students in KC, KP, KW and KM will have their library lessons on Wednesdays. Students in KE, KT, KK and KL will have their library lessons on Fridays. Students will be given a library bag at school.

Please see your child’s teacher if you are able to help in the classroom. This may involve listening to students read, helping with Mathematics or sharpening pencils for classroom use. We value and appreciate any help that you are able to give us. **Please make sure all money and notes are placed in an envelope with your child’s name, class and what the note/money is for.** A note has been sent home asking for you to choose which scripture (religion) group you would like your child to attend. This note should be returned as soon as possible. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun  
Assistant Principal

Mrs Anne Hewson  
Principal