Thursday, 26 November 2015

Dear Parents of Kindergarten 2016,

The excitement is building as we draw nearer to Christmas and to the time our new Kinder students arrive at Bethany on Monday, Feb 1st, 2016. We hope your child has found the transition visits to Kinder during Nov/Dec to be very worthwhile and rewarding. No doubt they are feeling more confident about starting ‘BIG’ school.

A few final reminders to families, since some parents were not able to attend the parent meeting on Thursday, 19th November. A few important points discussed on the day included:

**STARTING DATE/ FIRST WEEK**

On Monday 1/2/16 to Wed 3/2/16, Kinders have half days to orient them to the school routines and procedures. They do not assemble with the rest of the school but simply GO STRAIGHT TO THE CLASSROOMS at 8:30am and settle in like they did during Transition.

From Thursday, 4th Feb., Kinder students need lunch since they start full days. They finish at 2:30pm for the first few weeks since nearly every parent drives up to the school to pick up their little ones. If you leave the grounds immediately, it alleviates pressure on the rest of the community who also arrive in the carpark after 2:30pm to pick up the other children from Yrs 1-6.

**WELCOME BBQ**

ALL Kinder families (including ‘established’ Bethany families) are invited to a welcome BBQ on Friday evening, Feb 19th, starting about 5:30pm. Traditionally, this great event is organised by the Year One parents who had the same lovely welcome to Bethany this year.

It is a wonderful chance for the new Kinders to explore the school, to make new friends and to feel more comfortable in their new learning environment. On the morning of the 19th, we also have a Welcome Mass for the whole school as we ask God’s Blessings on the learning time ahead for everyone in the community. Kinders will attend this mass.

**CLASS GROUPINGS**

We have organised the students into three groups (Red/ White/Blue) with the aim of having three balanced groups (e.g. gender/ abilities/ social skills/ etc.). Much thought has gone into this following the assessments during recent weeks.

However, as the New Year evolves, we find that certain combinations of students can have a detrimental impact on each other’s learning. We intend to maximise learning FOR ALL, so we reserve the option of changing individuals from one group to another if it is in the best interests of students and their learning.

**1ST WEEK ORGANISATION**

8:30am - 12:15pm Mon-Wed
8:30am - 2:30pm from Thursday 4th (lunch needed)

The great majority of kinder parents pick up their child when they start. We finish the Kinders at 2:30pm to allow the carpark to empty so that the rest of the community can arrive for the usual 2:45pm dismissal. This system is in place for the first month or so.
MAIs - Wed 27/1, Thurs 28/1 & Fri 29/1
(Mathematical Assessment Interviews)
Next year, we will interview and assess EVERY STUDENT at Bethany to gain insight into WHAT they know mathematically. The interview might take 30-40 mins and you can choose your timeslot over these three days. Just follow the directions to register your child –

From Bethany's webpage, click the “Mathematics Assessment Online” icon on the right hand side.

**ACCESS CODE: 9BL7Y**
**Bookings Open:** Thurs 19 November, 2015
**Bookings Close:** Friday 4 December, 2015

Click on **2016 Kinder Teacher A-D availability:**
- Wed 27 Jan 11:00am - 1:00pm
- Wed 27 Jan 1:50pm - 4:30pm
- Thu 28 Jan 8:30am - 10:30am
- Thu 28 Jan 11:00am - 1:00pm
- Thu 28 Jan 1:30pm - 3:30pm
- Fri 29 Jan 8:30am - 10:30am
- Fri 29 Jan 11:00am - 1:00pm
- Fri 29 Jan 1:30pm - 3:30pm

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS AT THE REQUIRED TIMESLOT SO THEY DO NOT MISS OUT. If the time is not available, repeat process and select a different letter. ‘A – D’. It does not matter which letter you choose.

**TRANSITION PROCESS**
We are always eager to get feedback on the programs and processes we use at Bethany. We had a verbal evaluation on Thursday and if you would like to add further insights, please write to the school email.

We also strongly urged parents to continue their **preparation of the little ones for school**….all the topics mentioned at the **READINESS Meeting** in August should now be well developed. They hit the ground running when they arrive on Feb 1st.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**
DEC 4th. 5:30pm onwards
You and your child are welcome to come to this year’s celebration and see how we party as a community. Just bring a blanket or chair. Glenn Green’s band starts at 5:30pm and the students at 6pm.

Make sure you install the **Bethany Skoolbag app** so that you get all alerts, calendars, events, messages, etc. It is important to be well informed.

**2016 STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**
- 8 X 21g Glue Sticks (Bostick or UHU)
- Paint Shirt (labelled)
- Library Bag (purchased from school/labelled)
- 1 Roll of Paper Towel
- 12pk of Micador Oil Pastels
- 1 Box of tissues
- 1 Packet of Baby Wipes
- 1 Plastic Document Wallet (labelled)
- Crayola Jumbo Crayons

Looking forward to your child’s arrival in 2016!

Best wishes to you and your family for Christmas and the New Year.

Ted Langford
Principal