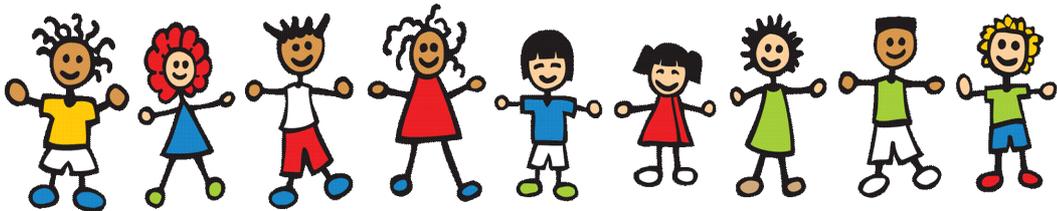




Aranmore Catholic Primary School
Parent Handbook 2015
Pre-Kindy

Aranmore School Vision

*The Aranmore Family,
enriched by its Catholic tradition
and cultural diversity,
nurtures in each child
a love of life,
a passion for learning
and the skills to make a difference.*



School Prayer

Take time to read
Take time to think
It is the road to wisdom

Take time to laugh
Take time to love
It is the way to be alive

Take time to give
Take time to pray
It is the road to God



WELCOME

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the children and families commencing the Aranmore Three Year Old Pre-Kindy.

We look forward to working together with your family as a team to provide the best learning environment for your child.

Our Three Year Old Pre-Kindy program provides an introduction to schooling for children and their families and sets the foundation for future school learning.

Pre-Kindy classes will commence on Monday 2 February 2015 and conclude on 11 December 2015. Classes run parallel with school terms.

We are looking forward to having lots of fun together!

*Mrs Janine Del Grossi
Pre-Kindy Teacher*

*Mrs Karen Krikstolaitis and Mrs Lisa Ciffolilli
Pre-Kindy Teacher Assistants*

WHAT IS PRE-KINDY

Pre-Kindy is an educational program for children aged three years.

The program is play-based and provides children with meaningful experiences that promote the development of spiritual, social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical skills.

The staff will create a caring, safe and stimulating environment that will nurture your child's disposition to wonder, explore and construct meaning about the world.

WHO CAN ATTEND

Regulations prevent us taking a child until they have turned three years old. If your child has not turned three years old when the program commences they may be enrolled and we are happy to hold their place for you until after their third birthday.

For further enrolment information please contact the school office.

SESSION TIMES

Monday 8.45am - 2.45pm

Friday 8.45am - 2.45pm

THE PROGRAM

The Pre-Kindy program aims to:

- Provide an environment supportive of the Catholic ethos which acknowledges the innate spirituality of every child, fosters the child's ability to wonder, experience awe, overcome difficulties, love others and reflect on God as their creator.
- Provide a happy, stimulating and supportive environment where the children feel welcome, secure and valued.
- Provide a program that will cater for a wide range of developmental abilities and interests allowing children to develop to their full potential.
- Provide a program that will emphasise learning as an interaction process. The child interacting with the environment, through a balance of teacher initiated or directed activities, free play and discovery learning.
- Encourage children to become self-reliant and to be able to make choices.
- Develop in the children the ability to communicate verbally and non-verbally their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Children learn through play because:

- It is a natural and spontaneous activity for a child.
- It allows for children's differences and encourages an individual approach.
- It encourages children to learn through trial and error and experimentation.
- It gives teachers the chance to observe and assess individual progress in an informal learning environment.

The Pre-Kindy program will place special emphasis on:

- Skills (social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical)
- Formation of friendships
- Children's interests
- Creative expression
- Sensory experiences
- Experimentation

DAILY REQUIREMENTS

1. A **bag** large enough to carry all necessary items.
2. A **hat** for outdoor play. Please note that the school has a “No hat, No play” policy to ensure sun safety for the children.
3. A **piece of fruit or vegetable** for shared morning tea.
4. A **drink bottle** of water only so children can help themselves to a drink throughout the day.
5. A **packed lunch** in a lunch box to be eaten individually at lunch time.
6. A **spare change of clothes** (suited to the season) in a plastic bag in your child’s school bag to allow us to attend to accidents or spills.
7. A **small cushion** (no larger than 30x30cm) for rest time.

Please ensure all your child’s items are clearly labelled with their name.

WHAT TO WEAR

Children need to wear comfortable play clothes to Pre-Kindy that can get messy and that are easy to manage for quick dashes to the toilet. Also please send your child in shoes that they can manage to take off and put on by themselves.

We understand that not all three year olds are toilet trained. We are happy to support the children in this learning process and encourage the wearing of ‘pull-ups’ to assist with their independence.

Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to Pre-Kindy. We will have sunscreen available to re-apply when needed.

The uniform shop sells short and long sleeve ‘I’m an Aranmore Kid ’ shirts in different colours. You are encouraged to buy the shirts for the children to wear as it develops a sense of belonging and identity with Aranmore. Please check with the office as to which faction your child is in.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The children are asked not to bring toys or personal belongings to Pre-Kindy as items lost or broken often cause undue stress.

SETTLING IN

One of the first things a Pre-Kindy child needs to learn is how to be away from his/her parents or primary caregiver. This may take some time for some children as they learn to cope with their new environment and routine. It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the Pre-Kindy environment.

The Pre-Kindy staff will work closely with parents/caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best chance to settle in at their own pace.

GUIDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

Responsible freedom is encouraged through the development of self-confidence, self-reliance and self-regulation in a safe and secure democratic setting where children have clear defined limits. The children will be involved in the setting of these limits and they will be enforced consistently and fairly. The role of the Pre-Kindy teacher is to encourage positive behaviour and interactions through positive reinforcement.

We believe a child has the right to talk about their feelings and frustrations with unconditional acceptance. We will respect and comfort a child regardless of that child's behaviour. Children will be given verbal reminders of appropriate behaviours and if necessary will be given assistance to appropriately assert themselves to others. On a daily basis appropriate behaviours are demonstrated and acknowledged by the teachers.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Please inform us of any condition that may affect your child's well-being, and equally of any circumstances that may affect their behaviour on a particular day. This helps us to cater for the needs of your child.

If your child is unwell please do not send them to Pre-Kindy and ensure that they remain at home until fully recovered. Please let us know if your child has an infectious disease such as chicken pox, measles etc so that other parents can be notified.

Should your child become unwell or be involved in an accident while at school you will be notified. For this reason it is important that telephone numbers and emergency contacts are kept up to date at all times.

MEDICATION

As a matter of general policy, staff are not able to accept the responsibility of administering medications without the completion of appropriate forms which are available at the school office. You are most welcome to come to the school to administer the medication yourself.

ALLERGIES

Please let us know of any allergies or medical concerns so that a Medical Action Plan for your child can be put in place, if required.

Aranmore Catholic Primary School is an allergy aware school. Some children are allergic to various food products including nuts, which are the most common. We ask that food with nuts or traces of nuts not be brought to Pre-Kindy as a precaution. Consider very carefully what you send to school in your child's lunchbox and remind your child not to share food.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are a special time in the lives of young children. We are happy to celebrate your child's special day. Please keep the school Healthy Food and Drink Policy in mind when providing birthday treats for the class. Please speak to the teacher or refer to the policy for suggested treats.

COMMUNICATION

We consider communication between home and school to be very important. Our first concern is the happiness of your child. Should anything happen at home to upset your child in any way, we would appreciate it if you could let us know .

We will keep you informed about the Pre-Kindy program via notes sent home and a parent noticeboard on the classroom door.

The school newsletter is available weekly, each Friday afternoon. Newsletters are issued in electronic form only so please ensure your email address is correct.

If you have any queries, concerns or information regarding your child's well-being, please do not hesitate to speak with the Pre-Kindy teacher. Teachers are always available for a quick chat during class time for parents to share information with us. However if you need a longer meeting we will make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

COMMUNICATION BOOK

Our Communication Book is an important tool for parent-teacher communication. All children must be taken to and from the Pre-Kindy classroom by an adult. Please notify us through the Communication Book if someone other than one of the child's parents is collecting your child.

We realise that unforeseen circumstances may arise at times; therefore, if there is a change of person collecting your child or you are running late, please telephone the school to let us know.

PARENT ROSTER

We encourage all families to be involved in the Pre-Kindy program through rosters and special events. Parent roster will give you time to be with your child while they learn through play at Pre-Kindy and observe their interactions with others and the materials provided in the classroom. We also appreciate the extra adult help and you may be asked to assist with an activity, to cut up the fruit or to help with other preparation needed for the program.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We respect that parents have valuable information about their child which can help us in our planning. We would appreciate it if you could please complete the parent questionnaire and hand it to the teacher on the first day of Pre-Kindy. Information provided to us by you will remain confidential.

FEES

The Pre-Kindy fees cover staff wages and other associated costs. Unfortunately we are unable to offer discounts. An invoice will be sent before the start of each term and needs to be paid in full before the commencement of the term.

The fee for 2015 will be approximately \$520-585 per term for one session. A pro-rata fee applies if your child commences partway through the term. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$50.

Pre-Kindy classes will commence on Monday 2 February 2015 and conclude on 11 December 2015. Classes run parallel with school terms.



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