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Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Currambine Primary School Community. Our School Motto "Together Towards Tomorrow" was selected, as we truly believe that to offer the students the best possible education we need to have a genuine partnership with the student's family.

When talking about the relationship between the school and the home I like to draw an analogy between the student and a train. If you imagine that the student is the train, one rail is the school, the other rail is the family and the sleepers are the communications between the school and the home. The two rails have to stay parallel for the train (the student) to run smoothly. It is important that the school and the family work together in partnership. If they come too close together or drift apart the train will derail and the educational process will be impeded. So it is important that the communications between the school and the family are continuous and two way. Please feel free to make appointments with your child's teacher to discuss his/her progress.

Currambine Primary School became an Independent Public School at the commencement of 2011. We are still resourced by the Department of Education on the same basis as all public schools. However, we can allocate our resources in ways that will enable us to implement the best education possible for your child.

The operation of the school is overseen by the School Board. The role of the School Board is one of setting the long term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school's operation. The School Board provides expertise to help Currambine Primary School achieve the best outcomes for the students. Please speak to me if you require any more information about an Independent Public School and it's School Board.

One very important method of communication and involvement with school is the Parents and Citizens (P & C) Association. The P & C meet at least once a term on Monday at 7pm in the Library. Meetings are advertised in the newsletter, the billboard and signs around the school well in advance. All parents are encouraged to attend meetings and play an active role in this important group. The school and P & C work together to provide the best possible education for all of our students.

The P & C operate the canteen and uniform shop and would love for you to join in these groups to help.

This information handbook is designed to provide to you information which you may require about the school. Please ensure that it is kept as a reference. Feel free to request another one from the front office at any time.

I hope all parents have a long and enjoyable association with our school community as we work "Together Towards Tomorrow" to help make Currambine Primary School the "Best School in the Nation".

Geoff Smith

Principal



About Currambine Primary School

ABOUT CURRAMBINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to Currambine Primary School: working “Together Towards Tomorrow” since 1997

Established in 1997, Currambine Primary School has been working with our community preparing our students for the global workforce of the future. Current enrolment is approximately 850 students from a wide range of backgrounds and cultural communities.

In 2011 Currambine gained the status of Independent Public School. We see this as a great opportunity to enhance the experiences available to our students.

We value the whole child and foster a learning environment where all students are encouraged to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. Individual differences are nurtured through inclusive educational programs that allow every student to reach their potential.

Leadership is promoted through the introduction of a leadership program based on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. All students are encouraged to find the leader in themselves and create a positive working environment with ethical leadership or “doing the right thing even when no-one is looking”.

OUR VISION

Currambine Primary School strives to grow each child’s academic knowledge and skills, leadership capacity, sense of wellbeing and intrapersonal skills in an inclusive, engaging, diverse and positive learning environment.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Currambine Primary School we believe in:

- Valuing, supporting and promoting excellence in all that we do.
- Actively supporting our students to manage their mental health and well being and their relationships with others including the development of a sense of empathy and concern for the welfare of others.
- Providing an engaging, supportive, inclusive and enjoyable environment for all members of the school community.
- Promoting learning as a life long pursuit and encouraging all members of the community to be reflective, collaborative, pro-active and respectful.
- Developing the leadership capacity of all members of the school community.
- Promoting problem solving, appropriate risk taking and critical and creative thinking.

OUR VALUES

- A pursuit of knowledge and a commitment to achievement of potential
- Self acceptance and respect of self
- Respect and concern for others and their rights
- Social and Civic responsibility
- Environmental responsibility



School Organisation

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Currambine Primary School is committed to providing a safe supportive and enriching learning environment. Within the school, three sub schools operate. The Junior School K - Year 1, the Middle School Year 2 - Year 3 and the Senior School Year 4 - Year 6. Each sub school is lead by an Associate Principal. Each sub school works collaboratively both with and across sub schools to implement programs to support children's academic, social-emotional and physical development. Your child's teacher is responsible for the delivery of the bulk of the school curriculum with the exclusion of specialist programs in Music, Visual Art, Science, French and Physical Education.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Principal
Associate Principals

Business Managers
School Officers

Marketing & Public Relations
Library Officers

Mr Geoff Smith
Mrs Asher Dragun
Mrs Janine Moses
Mrs Michelle Drage
Mrs Lorraine Popham
Mrs Brenda Koertzen
Mrs Mandy Austin
Mrs Rochelle Taylor
Mrs Robynne Hughes

SCHOOL BOARD

An Independent Public School Board operates with functions consistent with the legislative role of school councils.

The structure of the Board includes:

- mandated parent representation
- mandated staff representation (the principal is automatically included)
- optional community and industry representation
- co-opted membership to board or sub committees and

Role of the School Board Members:

- Parent members of School Boards bring their experience as parents at the school, and the views and context of the wider school community to School Board meetings.
- Community members bring a particular skill to the School Board. This may include business, accounting or building skills, or other skills that the school is looking for.
- Department of Education employees bring their educational expertise to School Board Meetings.

School Board meets at least once in each term. People wishing to have items discussed can do so by raising them at a P & C meeting, staff meeting or writing directly to the Board, care of the Principal



School Organisation

SCHOOL TIMES

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 8.30 am | School commences |
| 10.40 – 11.00 am | Recess |
| 1.00 – 1.40 pm | Lunchtime |
| 2.40 pm | School finishes |

Pre Primary children attend full time.

Kindy children attend two full days per week plus alternate Wednesdays.

PRIORITIES

Our priorities are the Literacy, Numeracy, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Digital Learning. We focus on teaching the essential literacy and numeracy skills to produce students who achieve to the best of their ability. We support students to develop effective intra and interpersonal skills and provide opportunities for students to utilise 21st century digital learning tools.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

We value the contributions of parents to their child's academic and social and emotional growth and believe parents to be partners with the staff in supporting each child in our school. We are keen to ensure strong relationships between parents and teachers and welcome regular contact with parents.



School Organisation

CURRICULUM

Whole school practices are in place to ensure a seamless curriculum with “no gaps” in knowledge and learning. The focus is on the essential skills in literacy and numeracy.

The curriculum is differentiated to meet individual student needs. Students needing extension or remediation are placed on individual case management plans in collaboration with parents.

The Australian Curriculum learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography are presently being implemented.



VALUES EDUCATION

As explicit acknowledgement of core shared values is one of the principles of the Western Australian Curriculum, the integration of these values will enhance the learning opportunities within our school community. Students are assisted in developing these values through discussion and modelling as part of the learning and teaching processes within the school environment.





School Organisation

The values taught are:

A pursuit of knowledge and a commitment to achievement of potential.

Self acceptance and respect of self.

Respect and concern for others and their rights.

Social and civic responsibility.

Environmental responsibility.

7 Habits

Personal Leadership is promoted through Stephen Coveys 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

Be proactive

Begin with end in mind

Put first things first

Think win win

Seek first to understand then to be understood

Synergise

Sharpen the saw

THE LEARNING AREAS

- English
- Mathematics
- The Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages Other Than English (French)
- Science
- Society and Environment
- Technology and Enterprise





School Organisation

STUDENT CARE AND SUPPORT POLICY

The School has developed a Student Care and Support Policy. This policy is based upon a belief that all members of our school community have the right to come to school and be free from harassment (physical, verbal and psychological) in order to interact in a safe, caring and supportive environment. Central to this policy is the philosophy that all school community members work towards an environment that is SAFE, that all PERSONS and PROPERTY are respected and that students have the right to learn. The overall policy will be developmental in nature to meet the changing needs of our school community and flexible enough to accommodate children with special behavioural and learning needs.

Communication to parents and equality for all are the corner stone of this policy which not only deals with inappropriate behaviour but also rewards behaviour which provides a safe, friendly and caring environment for all students.

ASSEMBLIES AND AWARDS

The school holds assemblies every Friday starting at 8.30am. These assemblies will alternate each week between Assembly Group A (P - 2) and Assembly Group B (3 - 6). All parents are welcome to attend. When a formal assembly is held, a "host" class is responsible for the smooth running of the assembly and for a performance item. See separate calendar of events for dates of these.

The school has a number of awards and incentive systems for students. Each week Merit Certificates are presented during a formal assembly to recognise student successes. Parents will receive notification when their child is to receive a Merit Award.

Students are also accorded "Assembly Star" status for good behaviour/school work inside and outside the classroom.

Students from Pre Primary to Year 6 can earn faction tokens both in the classroom and in the playground for positive behaviour. These are then placed in faction cylinders and totalled at each Assembly. Two winners of free lunch awards are drawn from the collected tickets at the Assembly. The winning faction at the end of each term has an extended recess.

Students in Years 4 to 6 are able to participate in the Gold Class Reward Scheme. These students collect signatures from staff for positive behaviour and then achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold reward certificates and badges, which then enable them to have access to special privileges as Gold Class Members, such as reserved seating at assembly, priority placement in the Canteen line and special excursions.

COMMUNICATION – Newsletters/Web site

The school newsletter, "The Currambine Chronicle", contains news and information from the school and the P & C Association. It is forwarded to parents in weeks 5 and 9 electronically. The eNews is forwarded to parents in weeks 1, 3, and 7.

The school also has an Internet site, www.currambineps.wa.edu.au. This site carries school information, the current newsletters, student work and activities, photos from school camps, excursions and discos and lots of great links. Surf on in and have a look around. Sign the guest book and let us know what you think!

The school App can be downloaded and is available for both iPhone and Android.

The Department of Education provides Connect as an online service for teachers, students, parents and Department staff. Connect is a communication channel that schools may use to communicate with parents/guardians on matters impacting student education.



School Organisation

MY SCHOOL DIARY

Each Kindergarten to Year 6 student requires a school diary, which can be purchased through the classroom teacher. This is used for communication between the teacher and the home and to record home reading and other events throughout the year.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent interviews are a very important method of communication between teachers and parents. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment and discuss their child's progress with the teacher.

ENROLMENTS (School Boundaries)

Currumbine Primary School is a "Local Intake Area" school. This means that children aged 5 to 11 years, who reside within the suburb of Currumbine are guaranteed a place at the school provided a suitable educational program is available. Students who reside outside of Currumbine may attend the school if there is room within the current class structure and a suitable educational program is available.

Application for admission should be made to the Principal. Proof of date of birth and immunisation records, proof of residence and visa status are required to be presented on enrolment.

Attendance at the Kindy is not compulsory but is strongly recommended. Limited places are available in the Kindy program.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an important part of the school curriculum. Should you wish your child to be excused from this for any reason, a note must be sent to the homeroom teacher making the request. No students will be excused without a note from home. Children are required to wear the appropriate footwear and hat. Children may bring a drink bottle containing water.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION

Selected students from Years five and six have the opportunity to learn to play the clarinet or flute. The program offers places for ten students to learn the clarinet and five to learn the flute. As places are very limited only children who are going to continue with the instrument are selected.

SCHOOL FACTIONS

The school has four factions – Baudin (Blue), Forest (Red), Corella (Green) and Carnaby (Gold). All children from the one family are allocated the same faction. The system is used to encourage the children to have pride in their faction and their behaviour. As part of the student care and support program the children are encouraged to earn points for their faction during break times through good behaviour. The faction with the greatest points at the end of each week has a ribbon tied to the Faction Cup.

The Faction competition is used in the sporting area as well. Each year all children (Kindy to Year 6) take part in the Faction Athletics Carnival. This is a mix between tabloid and formal events with all children competing in all aspects of the carnival.



School Organisation

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL PREMISES

For the safety and welfare of all students the school administration must be aware of students leaving during the day and those that are returning to school. This ensures the school has an accurate record of what children are on the school grounds at any time and to ensure adults collecting children have the legal authority to do so.

If you wish to remove your child from the school during the day parents must report to the office and complete a Sign Out Sheet at the front office prior to collecting their child. The parent will take the slips with them, providing the yellow slip for the teacher and the white slip for their own records. Children are not released from the classrooms without this slip. In the case of emergencies parents are advised to phone the school office so we can arrange your child's removal from the class prior to your arrival.

Children who exit and then return to school must return via the front office so their arrival can be recorded.

ABSENCES

The School Education Act 1999 requires the school to seek an explanation from parents for all absences. Parents will receive a text message if their child is absent and are able to text the reason back to the school. Parents may also communicate reasons for absences via a note to the homeroom teacher, an email to the administration or be using the School's Mobile App.

The administration writes to all families who have unexplained absences in week four and eight of each term seeking an explanation.

LATE ARRIVALS

All students arriving at school after 8.30am must report to the school office to obtain a 'late note' which must be handed to their teacher. This procedure is in the interests of student safety and your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the school office of any change to your address or contact phone numbers. It is very important that we have this information as it can be very stressful for your child if he/she is sick and we need to contact you and do not have the correct contact numbers.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

The School Board approved a School Dress Code at Currambine Primary School.

The School Board believes a school dress code:

- fosters and enhances the public image of the school
- ensures students are safely dressed for specific school activities
- encourages equity among students
- provides a reasonable priced uniform
- prepares students for work, as many work places have dress and safety codes

The School Dress Code will be enforced by the staff of the school and we would appreciate



School Organisation

the support of all parents in providing the correct uniforms. Faction shirts are to be worn only on allocated sports days. The dress code is located on the school website at

www.currambineps.wa.edu.au

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Uniform Shop opens each Tuesday afternoon between 1.45pm and 2.45pm and Thursday morning between 8.15 and 9.15am. The shop is operated by volunteer parents on behalf of the P & C. If you are able to offer assistance it will be most welcome.

Please note:

- No jewellery except sleeper earrings, watch and signet ring is to be worn.
- All hair of shoulder length or longer must be tied back.
- Make up and nail varnish is not appropriate.



Financial Information

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

The Currambine Primary School Board has endorsed the schedule of Contributions and Charges. The schedule is broken into three sections and will allow you to calculate all costs that you might be asked to meet throughout the year.

1. Contributions to Educational Program

The total amount of contributions parents and carers are being asked to pay has been set at \$60.00 annually per student.

While Contributions are voluntary, the quality of our teaching and learning program will be maximised when each family makes its contribution to supplement funding gained from other sources including the State and Commonwealth Governments. Money collected will be used to supplement school expenditure in the following areas: equipment, classroom activities (including cooking), sports bibs, maths texts, library and reading book purchases and resource materials for Physical Education, Mathematics, English, Science, Society and Environment, French (LOTE), the Arts and Technology and Enterprise learning areas.

2. Charges For Extra Cost Components

A breakdown of estimated charges for your child's participation in incursions, excursions, activities, etc is available on our Voluntary Contributions and Charges schedule. Detail on charges collected in previous years has informed our charges schedule. Students will only incur costs when they are involved in a particular activity. The amounts indicated on the schedule represent the maximum charged for scheduled activities for the year. You will be asked to make payment for each activity as it approaches.

These charges are divided into two groups, those which all students are encouraged to participate (eg excursions and incursions) and "Special Programs" which are optional, (eg PEAC, Cockatoo Club activities), and some for which participation is by invitation only (eg School Ambassadors). Participation in all these activities is conditional upon payment, however, it is school policy that no student should be disadvantaged due to genuine financial hardship. If you are having difficulty paying any of these charges, please contact the Principal to make mutually acceptable arrangements.

3. Items For Personal Use In The Educational Program

The charge for personal use items will vary according to the age group and individual student's needs. A list of these items which each student will need is available from the school office. Your child will need to have the listed materials each school day so that it might be necessary to replace some items such as pencils during the year.

If you have any questions about the above Contributions and Charges please do not hesitate to contact the school.

PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Parents are requested to pay for contributions and charges for excursions directly to the front office. Please send the money with the student in a clearly labeled envelope and place in the black box in the school front office. Pre printed payment envelopes are available for purchase at the front office. EFTPOS facilities are available for payments of \$10.00 or more. This arrangement will greatly assist teachers and office staff. Your co-operation will be very much appreciated.



At School

Information on the school's voluntary contributions and charges can be found by visiting the website

www.currambineps.wa.edu.au

SCHOOL TRAFFIC ZONE

There is a School Traffic Zone (40km) in place around the school on both Moore and Ambassador Drives on school days.

PARKING

The School Board has approved the following parking arrangements at the front of the school.

Mornings

The western end of the parent car park (from the path) will become a drop off area only. Parents are to enter the drop off area and travel to the far end before letting their children out of the car. Children are only to exit the car from the passenger side of the car (this is for the safety of all). Parents who have Kindy and Pre Primary children as their youngest child can park in the eastern end of the parent car park and walk their child into school.

Afternoons

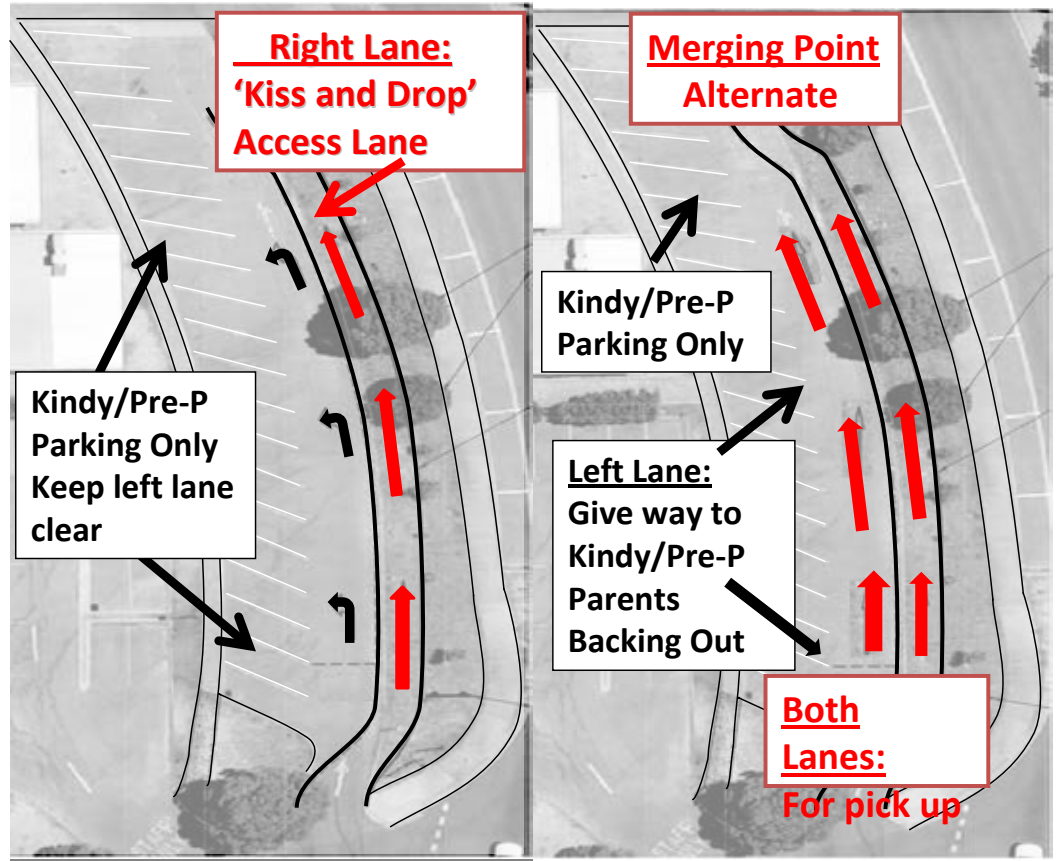
The western end of the parent car park is "in car parking" only (1.45pm to 3pm). This will allow parents to pick up their children and then drive on. If your child is not ready you must drive around back to the round-about at Paddington Avenue. The eastern end of the parent car park is only to be used by parents who have Kindy or Pre Primary children as their youngest child and need to park and collect them.



At School

AM

PM



Staff Car Park

No parents are to park in the staff car park. In the interest of safety no children or parents are to walk through the staff car park as it is used by the after school care vehicles.

Bus Bay on Moore Drive

No parents are to park in the bus bay on Moore Drive at any time of the day. This is a bus bay only and causes considerable difficulties for buses picking up and dropping off of our students if they are unable to park. Parking in this bay is illegal.

STUDENT CROSSWALKS

There are four guarded crossing locations near the school. These are on Moore Drive, east of Ambassador Drive, Connolly Drive, south of Moore Drive, corner of Ambassador Drive and Paddinton Avenue and Ambassador Drive near Connaught Way. There is an underpass under Connolly Drive, north of Moore Drive. Students must use these crossing points when crossing any of these major roads.

EARLY ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

No children should arrive prior to 8.00am.

Students arriving at school before 8.15am, even if accompanied by an adult, are required to wait under the verandah area of the administration building. Prior to that time there are no teachers on duty to ensure adequate supervision of children. Parents



At School

are asked to be aware of this fact and discourage children from coming too early. Children are not allowed to play on play equipment before school even with a parent present.

SCHOOL WATCH – What Can You Do?

School Watch is a joint exercise between the Education Department of Western Australia, Western Australia Police Service and Currambine Primary School. We would like your help to reduce crime at our school before it becomes a problem. We would like to protect our community from anti-social behaviour such as property theft, vandalism and arson which interrupts the learning programs of the students in our school.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We would like you to keep an eye on our school after hours and on the weekends. If you see something happening at the school, which should not be, please report it to School Watch. Confidentiality is assured.

If you see or hear anything suspicious, please contact:

School Watch 9264 4771 or Police Service 9222 1111

In a life threatening situation
Phone: 000

“Crime Prevention is the
Responsibility of Everyone”

SAFETY HOUSE PROGRAM

The National Safety House Program is a community based scheme aimed at providing a safer environment for children in transit to and from school. It provides a network of safety houses (identified by a yellow emblem on a letter box) where a child can go if they need help or feel unsafe.



IMMUNISATION

The City of Joondalup conducts Immunisation Clinics for students in years 1 and 4 at the school during the year. Consent forms will be sent home at the time.



OCEAN REEF DENTAL THERAPY CENTRE

This centre provides a dental service to children at this school, if parents wish to avail themselves of the service. The centre is situated at Ocean Reef Primary School. The phone number is 9307 4775.



At School

BICYCLES

Parents are reminded that the Police Department do not advise children under 9 years of age, ride a bike to school. If your child is under this age, and you want them to ride to school, the Police suggest you ride with them. Cyclists are required by law to wear helmets and for the safety of all, bikes are not to be ridden on the school paths. Bike racks are situated next to TA27. Please lock bikes into the rack.

DOGS AT SCHOOL

No dogs are to be brought into the school grounds. This is for the safety of all children.

SCHOOL DISCOS

The P & C along with Year 6 students run a fundraising disco during the year. The Junior School disco runs from 4pm to 5pm, Middle School disco from 5.30pm to 7.00pm and Senior School disco 7.30pm to 9pm. All children must be delivered to and picked up from the undercover area. No child can leave the undercover area without an adult. Parent helpers ensure the continued success of this popular event.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a lost property box outside the school office. All valuables are held in the office. Please make sure all clothing and personal belongings are clearly marked with your child's name so that lost property can be returned quickly.

JEWELLERY

Students are NOT to wear jewellery to school except for a watch and signet ring. If ears are pierced only studs or sleepers may be worn.

LIBRARY BAG/LOST BOOKS

All children need a library bag (a plastic bag will do) in order to borrow books from the school library. Could parents please ensure each child is provided with a suitable bag to bring to library class.

The number of lost or damaged books last year was of great concern. We know accidents do happen and allowances are made for that. To assist parents with helping their children care for library and reading books we provide the following advice:

- Use a library bag
- Keep your books out of the sun and damp places
- No tearing, scribbling or spilling of food and drink onto your books
- Always put your books in a safe place where you can find them
- Always have clean hands before you begin reading
- If a child loses or severely damages (beyond repair) a reading or library book, his/her parents/guardian will receive a note to this effect stating the replacement cost of the book and inviting payment.
- We trust that parents will co-operate by firstly, searching at home for the book and then paying for its replacement if the book cannot be found.



Policies

WET WEATHER POLICY

The school has in place a policy to cover wet, cold or windy weather. Implementation of the policy will be notified by administration staff. All staff and students are to remain indoors or undercover. This policy is designed to prevent students returning to class wet and/or cold and to minimise the risk of injury at these times.

MEDICATION POLICY

The purpose of the Medication Policy is:

- To help administer medication in situations where the safety of students and staff is paramount.
- To store medications at school in a manner which keeps them inaccessible to children.
- To maintain records of medication administered by staff to students and agreements to administer medication.
- Provide medical action plans for school and out of school activities.

If your child requires medication whilst at school, please see the class teacher or enquire at the school office.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Health Department details on the exclusion from school of children with communicable diseases may be obtained from the administration office. The following diseases require exclusion from school:

CHICKEN POX, HEAD LICE, INFLUENZA, MEASLES, MUMPS, RINGWORM, RUBELLA, SCABIES, SCHOOL SORES, WHOOPING COUGH and TRACHOMA. Measles cases at school also require the exclusion of any non-immunised children from school for up to 13 days. Parents are asked to check their children's hair regularly for lice. Please do not send sick children to school.

NO HAT NO PLAY IN THE SUN POLICY

All children must wear a legionnaire or wide brim hat all year around. Children outside without a hat on will be directed to a designated shade area.

REPORTING POLICY

A formal report will go home each semester.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Mobile phones can only be brought to school with written permission from parents or carer and must be kept switched off during the school day.



P & C

CURRAMBINE PRIMARY SCHOOL P & C BUSINESS PLAN

OUR VISION

To provide the best possible environment at our school that promotes our children's health, happiness and educational development and prepares them for the future.

OUR MISSION

Together with the staff and community supporting our school, we shall promote the interests of the physical, social, emotional and educational welfare of our children.

To support our children our key strategies will focus on:

- effective communication
- a healthy physical environment
- effective use of all resources and opportunities

The key measures of our success will be:

- happy, healthy children
- children who are successfully preparing themselves for their next steps in life
- meeting the financial and developmental targets established by this process

We will continuously work at improving the effectiveness of the P & C by:

- Looking for new and easier ways to communicate with all parents, particularly those constrained by work or family matters.
- Ensuring the accessibility of committee members to parents, staff and the community.
- Ensuring the committee members remain abreast of developments in Education Management and the community that may impact on our children.
- Taking advantage of every opportunity to promote the school spirit to the community.

CANTEEN

The school canteen operates daily - lunches are ordered before school commences. A menu is published each term which includes daily specials. Lunch order bags are available for purchase from the canteen.

The canteen is operated by the P & C. It has a paid Manager, and relies heavily on parent helpers.

If you have time to help please contact the canteen.



Learning Strategies for the Home

STRATEGIES FOR THE HOME

Parents have many ideas about what they would like their children to learn or develop an interest in. Some ideas are based on their own interests, work, or skills while others reflect their upbringing. The suggestions that follow complement the experiences parents naturally communicate with their children.

Language

Parents should:

- talk with their child rather than at their child;
- listen carefully and respond to the child's ideas;
- find out how the child is thinking and feeling;
- employ the language of learning, eg refer to shape, size, order, position, time;
- encourage early experiences in reading and writing.

Physical

Provide lots of opportunities for large motor skills:

walking, running, skipping, hopping, jumping, climbing, throwing, swimming, gym, ballet, catching, rolling, riding, sliding, lifting, digging;

Provide many and varied opportunities for small motor activity:

drawing, threading, writing, sewing, knitting, weaving, spinning, gardening, construction and modelling, playdough, clay, puzzles and hammering.

Social-Emotional

Encourage children to express how they feel: tired, hungry, uncomfortable, sad, lonely, excited, surprised, happy, giggly, frightened

Encourage appropriate social skills:

greetings (hello/goodbye)

responses (yes, please/no, thank you)

Encourage appropriate interactions:

taking turns

waiting for turns

sharing

offering assistance to peers and adults

Encourage self esteem by:

commenting positively on child's behaviour and actions

Encourage child to learn his/her:

given and family name

address and phone number

town city he/she lives near

age and date of birth

Problem Solving

Provide children with many and varied opportunities to explore materials and problem solving using junk material, cardboard boxes, kitchen utensils, paper, paint, glue, scissors and string.

Risk Taking

Encourage children to have a go and comment favourably

Model making mistakes so children understand about errors - making mistakes is another way to learn



Learning Strategies for the Home

Develop ideas about practice and repetition as a way to develop mastery

Taking Responsibility/Being Independent

Encourage children to do simple tasks:

- put on clothing
- find belongings
- set table

Provide children the opportunities to follow directions/instructions

Encourage children to take simple messages

Encourage children to answer the phone appropriately

Allow children to pay for an item purchased in a shop and collect change

Experiences Outside the Home

Keep outing brief and have fun - some ideas:

- picnics, train ride, cycling, walks, visit zoos, shows, plays, beach, go fishing, collect shells, seaweed, watch birds, grow seeds, fly a kite, collect insects and observe them

Television Viewing

Encourage children to be selective in viewing habits

Watch programs with your child and discuss the content if appropriate

Reading Help

Support your child's interest in reading by discussing excerpts and ideas from reading material

Select a wide variety of books

Help your child with his/her reading comprehension by discussing what they liked/disliked about a book

Respect their reading choices

Provide a quiet space for reading

