

JAMBOREE HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL

Prep Year



Information Booklet

Principal: Mr Cam Wallace
Phone: (07) 3725 5666
Email: principal@jamboreeheightsss.eq.edu.au

WELCOME

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to you, as parents of our Prep year children. We look forward to sharing many happy times with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child.

EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

Our Prep year is a learning environment with exciting things to do, see, touch and experience. Your child will find friends to share with and teachers who respect them as capable and competent learners. Learning involves developing a relationship of trust. We aim to create a relaxed, secure and supportive environment where children are encouraged to investigate and explore to their individual potential.

We utilise the **Early Years Curriculum Guidelines** that incorporate the following:

- *supporting play as a context for learning*
- *understanding each child as an individual*
- *developing supportive partnerships*
- *providing flexible learning environments*
- *assisting children in exploring the world around them and the ways in which they learn*

The children learn through their inquiry into the materials provided, their play, and their contact with the school staff, parents, other children and community members as well as the focussed learning situations provided in prep.

We also utilise the National Curriculum, which clearly outlines the expectations of the Prep Year for English, Maths, Science, History and Geography.

EARLY YEARS (PREP) PROGRAM at Jamboree Heights State School

Everything your child does within our school has a purpose for learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask us.

The following factors have been identified to contribute to success in learning:

- *social and emotional competence with a focus on social and personal learning.*
- *health and physical wellbeing, particularly in making healthy choices, gross-motor and fine-motor development.*
- *language learning and communication focusing on oral language and early literacy.*
- *early mathematical understandings with emphasis on early numeracy.*
- *active learning processes with a focus on thinking, investigating, imagining and responding.*
- *positive dispositions to learning.*

OPERATING HOURS

First Bell 8:45am – School Commences 8:50am – Doors open at 8:45 daily for students to get organised and engage in activities to develop fine motor in preparation for writing. School finishes at 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

ALL PREP YEAR STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED IN AND OUT BY AN ADULT DURING SEMESTER 1.

Staff require time to prepare their room and attend any meetings that are scheduled before this time. Please do not enter the room before this time unless you have an appointment.

When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow the routine outlined by the teacher. This routine may include:

- *putting their bag into their locker or allocated space*
- *placing their water bottle into the appropriate storage container*

ATTENDANCE

Please ensure that your child attends regularly and punctually. Your child will benefit most, and settle into the routine more quickly and happily if she/he attends regularly and on time each day.

The door will be opened at 8:45 just before the first bell and the day begins at 8:50am.

We believe that regular contact with parents or caregivers adds significantly to the sharing of information to provide for the safety, learning and development of students. Children must be brought into and collected from prep by a responsible person known to the child and teacher.

To avoid stress to your child, please ensure that he/she is picked up promptly by 3:00pm. If you are unavoidably delayed, please contact the school office as soon as possible. If, at any time, you arrange for someone else to collect your child, please inform us beforehand. All prep children for the first semester must be signed in/out by an adult.

In the interest of safety, children are not allowed into the playground area before or after school. **Playground equipment is used only under the supervision of school staff.** To preserve the plants and gardens, please ensure that your children stay on the grassed areas and paths.

Please remember:

- *Children must be collected from the Prep classroom at 3 pm.*
- *In Semester 1 students must be signed in and out by an adult.*
- *From Semester 2 – a sibling in the upper school (Years 4-6) can take over this task.*
- *Do not park in the school grounds.*
- *Use pedestrian crossings.*

ABSENCES

Jamboree Heights State School has introduced **SMS 4 Schools** to communicate when students are absent. If your student will be absent please notify the office no later than **9:00am** by calling 3725 5666, press 1 OR **email** absentees@jamboreeheightsss.eq.edu.au

If no message has been received the primary parent of the student will be notified by SMS at approx. 10:00am. We ask you to respond to this message stating your child's name, class, date of absence and reason for absence.

If the student resides in two households, two primary carers can be nominated. Please contact the office.

This system relies on correct mobile and email addresses. Please ensure all personal contacts are updated with the office as required.

In the event of a child being absent or having to leave early, please oblige by sending a note to the class teacher stating the reason. This prevents any misunderstanding and ensures the safety of your child.

Early Departures – student to be signed out at school office, as per school procedure.

ACCIDENT/ILLNESS

We advise you to keep your child at home if she/he is not well. Remember that a sick child is better at home with their parents rather than at school feeling unhappy and spreading germs to other children.

In case of accident or sudden illness, every effort is made to contact parents. The school reserves the right to seek immediate medical aid for a child if this is considered necessary. This will most likely take the form of an ambulance being summoned. Please ensure all phone numbers, emergency contacts and custody arrangements are kept up to date at school.

MEDICATION

All medication, with a letter of authorisation and an administration of medication form, is to be handed into the Administration Office, from where it will be given to the children. A register is kept of dosage and time administered. All medicines are kept in a secure place.

Only prescribed medication is able to be administered. Panadol and headache tablets WILL NOT be administered without a doctor's label.

A student may be responsible for his/her inhaler for asthma with written permission from a parent/guardian and approval of the Principal (usually students from Years 4-6). It is a danger for students to keep other medications in bags. If your child has a serious medical condition – eg. Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, Asthma etc. please bring their **Individual Medical Plan from your GP to the school interview.**

EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS

Throughout the year there will be additional educational experiences that will involve a change from the normal school day routine. We will let you know in advance and will welcome your company on these occasions. There will also be visitors who are invited to support our program at various times throughout the year. These experiences will involve a small monetary cost, which will need to be paid for by you.

SUN SAFETY POLICY

The outdoor learning environment is perfect for children to explore their gross motor skills, e.g. running, climbing and hopping. It also promotes body strength, balance, coordination, and supports growth in thinking processes and social learning.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child's arrival at school. Children must have their own hat to wear. Additional sunscreen will need to be applied during the day. We recommend a roll on sunscreen be kept at school for this purpose.

We strongly adhere to the school rule – **NO HAT, NO PLAY (in the sun).**

TREASURES FROM HOME

Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home. Any toys that find their way to school will be cared for in the office until the end of the day.

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Everyone loves a birthday and other special celebrations, as these are wonderful ways to build understanding about each other. We have found that patty cakes or ice blocks are the most ideal and fair way for children to share their special event with their friends. Keeping in mind allergies, if you wish to send along patty cakes or ice blocks to share please check with the teacher.

COMMUNICATION

Messages

Please read the noticeboards regularly to keep in touch with the children's activities, items of interest and generally, what's happening at school. Notices sent home in newsletters need more attention. Newsletters will be sent out electronically informing you about events happening in and around the school community. The school newsletter is issued fortnightly. Please ensure we have your email address. Additional information can also be accessed through the school's website or the school's Facebook page.

Sharing information

Events in family life, such as illness, new babies and visitors can be a prime source of excitement or concern for young children, and so affect their behaviour at home and/or at school. It is important for the home and school to share information that may affect children, and we would appreciate it if parents would inform us of any unusual happenings of this nature. Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries with your teacher that you may have about your child's progress, the school or the program. We look forward to working with your child and yourself in building a supportive partnership.

NAMES AND LABELS

As young children often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything – school bag, shoes, lunch boxes, hats, library bags and clothing.

PREP UNIFORM

Our school expects all students to wear a school uniform daily. Prep children will be required to wear a hat with a minimum 6cm brim. Jamboree Heights has a "No Hat – No Play" policy. Uniforms are available from the school's Uniform Shop, which operates at school in the hall on Monday and Friday mornings from 8:15am, and Wednesday afternoon from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

Sometimes a child may have an accident, which means that the clothes are too dirty to wear. In anticipation of such accidents, we ask you to leave a marked plastic bag containing spare clothes (including underwear) in your child's school bag. Please remember to label each piece of clothing.

Shoes are worn to school and the children develop the responsibility for taking shoes and socks off and putting them away in the correct place. Prep children should be able to fasten and unfasten their own shoes. Parents should notify the staff if there are medical reasons why a child should not remove their shoes. Shoes can be a hazard in outdoor obstacle courses. The children need bare feet to grip as they climb and for sensory development.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Your child will need:

- School bag, large enough to carry all school belongings
- Red legionnaires hat
- Healthy morning tea and lunch (limited sugar and processed foods and also be mindful of other children's allergies if informed by the teacher)
- Drink bottle filled with water
- Box of tissues
- Library bag – a waterproof Jamboree Heights library bag can be purchased from the uniform shop
- Spare set of clothes, including underwear, in a named plastic bag to be kept in your child's school bag
- You may wish to keep a roll-on sunscreen in your child's bag for them to apply before

playing outside. We recommend that your child comes to school with sunscreen already applied.

- Our Student Resource Scheme contribution per child will cover materials for activities such as designing and making, investigating, writing and drawing etc. This resource contribution replaces a major book list. Part payment is available on request.

PARENTS IN THE PREP CLASS

As parents, you play a vital role in the education of your children and therefore, we welcome you to become involved in our classroom.

You can help by:

- Visiting the classroom and joining in the program. Once children are settled, parents are invited to visit and assist at prep on a term roster.
- Offering to share hobbies, interests and any special expertise
- Discussing any problems or concerns with the teachers
- Collecting junk items, doing small jobs at home (eg. cutting up collage)

Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries that you may have about your child's progress, the school or the program with your child's teacher. We look forward to working with your child and yourself in building a supportive partnership.

We hope you will have an enjoyable and rewarding year with us. We also look forward to working closely with you to ensure the best possible start in education for your child. We are looking forward to sharing a happy and productive first year of schooling.