

Welcome to P/1

Your teachers 😊



Hello and welcome to a new school year. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Kathleen Fitzpatrick and I will be the prep/1 teacher this year. I am early childhood trained and am extremely excited to be working with the prep/1 class this year. I just know it is going to be a brilliant year!

We are also lucky enough to have Donna Steffens based full time in our class. She is an integral part of our class and is responsible for assisting in all areas of the P/1 curriculum.

We have a great team working with your precious little cherubs!!!



Our first day

The first day can always be daunting especially for our new preppies as it is their first experience at school. Although there were a few tears, we managed to have an absolutely fantastic day! We began the day by discussing the rules and expectations of school. We practised lining up, raising our hands and learnt a new song about whole body listening.

Break time was fun as the students were able to interact with and meet students from other classes.

After first break, we revised what was discussed in first session and then went on to have some time to get familiar with our classroom. There were a range of activities on offer for the children to experience. We all had a great day and I bet we were all off to bed early last night (I know I definitely was!!).

Here are some photos from our day.





Housekeeping

Classroom opening time

Please ensure that you or your child/ren do not enter the Prep/1 veranda area until the yellow gates at the front of the veranda are open. These will be opened at 8:30 each morning. Once these are open, your child is to get into the habit of placing their lunchbox in the fridge and their brain break in the box.

Parents and children are not to enter the classroom until I or Mrs. Steffens unlock the classroom doors which will be at approximately 8:40. As the year goes on, the classroom will open earlier to accommodate our home reading program.

Brain break

Brain break is a short 10 – 15 minute break that takes place in the morning session. Students are required to eat a small, healthy snack during this time. Please send a small, easy to eat snack that is labelled for your child each day that will be placed into our brain break box at the beginning of each day. After the first few weeks, brain break will be timed and if children have not finished their snack by the time the timer goes off, they must put it away ... this is why you must ensure it is a small snack! Some ideas for brain break include a small apple, a small container with cut up fruit, a small fruit salad, vegetable sticks, cheese and crackers or yoghurt.

Specialist lessons + Swimming

Our timetables are still being finalised for specialist lessons and teacher aide time. On Wednesdays we would like to welcome Miss Olsen to our classroom for the middle session (11:30 – 1:00). She will be taking the students for visual arts and history.

The Prep/1 library session is on a Monday from 1:45 – 2:15 and commences next Monday (February 2nd). Please ensure that your child's library bag and books are brought every **MONDAY!**

Swimming also commences next week and will be taking place on Thursdays (February 5th).

The lovely Mrs. Frizzell will be our P.E teacher this year and will be taking the children for their lesson. The first lesson will be held at the old Gatton Pool, with lessons after that taking place at the new pool at the showgrounds. Children are required to bring a swimming cap, a towel and a sun safe shirt. The Prep/1 swimming time is at 12:15 until 1:15.

Parent helpers

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 (from term 2 after students are completely settled into the school routine).
- Assisting with the Prep outdoor learning program
- Offering to share hobbies, interests, ideas and any special expertise.
- Collecting junk, doing small jobs at home (e.g. cutting up collage).
- Afternoon Art Activities/ fine motor.
- Smart MOVES/ Perceptual Motor Program activity leader. Each morning from 9am to 9.30 we would love parents to lead small groups of children in gross motor activities. Assist with setting up and packing up equipment for Perceptual Motor Program.
- Discussing any problems or concerns with the teachers.
- Testing sight words, changing readers, and listening to the children read
- Taking small groups of children in literacy activities, computer based activities, and supervising listening post activities.
- Typing children's stories (We have computers in our classroom. They can be typed at school or if you have a computer at home they could be saved to disk and then printed at school.)

We are always after parents to assist us in the Prep/1 class with a wide variety of activities. Once our routine is further established, a letter will be sent home asking you for any assistance that you are able to offer to our wonderful class 😊

Spare clothes

Please ensure that you send a spare set of clothes along with your child to school every day. It is highly recommended that you send along underwear as well as a shirt, pants or dress in a plastic bag just in case any accidents occur.

I am sure there are a few more things I must add and will continue to keep you informed through frequent newsletters and notices on the board outside. Please feel free to arrange a time to talk to me at any stage about your child and any concerns you may have. I am usually

very busy in the mornings getting things organised for the day so a quick chat is all I have time for before school. If you have any pressing concerns it is better to make an appointment for after school. I am always happy to discuss any concerns you may have.

Lastly please make sure your child is ready for school by bringing in all necessary equipment including water bottles, healthy morning tea and lunch. If your child is absent please notify the office or send a note along with your child, or email admin@granthamss.eq.edu.au.

Thank you and I look forward to a fantastic 2015 😊

Kathleen Fitzpatrick
P/1 classroom teacher