



Informing Parents

Parent Information Newsletter: Term 3 ♦ Week 4 ♦ Monday, 6 August 2007

Effective Transition to Kindergarten Programs at Narrabri West

Introduction:

We implement an ongoing transition program to Kindergarten program starting in Term 3, where parents and students will access a variety of opportunities which will better prepare them for school life. The importance of providing early experiences and accurate information is the key to our transition program and we are confident it will be of great assistance to our Kindergarten students and their parents.

Successful transition from Pre School into Kindergarten is a vital element of a child's overall development. A smooth transition from Pre School to Kindergarten lays the foundation for positive learning experiences enriched by an eagerness to learn in a comfortable and stimulating environment.

What are the aims of the transition to Kindergarten program?

The transition to Kindergarten is a significant step for children. However, if they are prepared for change and are confident in their ability to cope, entry into school will be easy and enjoyable.

Our program is designed to promote a successful transition of Pre School children into the Kindergarten environment in preparation for their enrolment in Kindergarten in the following year.

We believe in providing a smooth, sensitive and tailored transition for all children entering Kindergarten and our program will help ensure that every Pre School child has a gradual and fulfilling introduction to school life. It will cater for each child's individual abilities and strengths, as well as any areas of need which are identified prior to the start of the school year.

What do we hope to achieve in our program?

- Pre School children will happily separate from their familiar surroundings to the Kindergarten environment.
- The program of activities will be carefully planned to enable all children to gain a happy and positive experience in preparation for their enrolment in Kindergarten.
- The children will experience a variety of different routines that will build their confidence and understanding of school.
- Pre School children will make new friends and build on relationships with new teachers and aides.
- Parents will receive information on school programs that will support their child's education.

What are the benefits of an extensive transition program?

An extensive transition program should provide opportunities for:

- social and emotional development to prepare students for school life;
- building children's early literacy and numeracy development;
- becoming familiar with school routines;
- supporting families in assisting their children's learning before and during Kindergarten; and
- forming positive relationships between children and their families with the school.

What are the benefits of transition from Narrabri West Pre School to Narrabri West Kindergarten?

Children at Narrabri West Pre School are able to benefit from a year long structured transition program.

A transition program differs significantly from an orientation program. Orientation is an experience provided to the child by the school (e.g. where is the classroom? where is the toilet?).

Transition is a connecting experience involving the child, family, teacher and school community. During transition children can learn what is expected of them over a sustained period of time.

Children attending our Pre School who will be attending Narrabri West receive a significant advantage. They will benefit from:



- A close relationship between teachers from Pre School and Kindergarten;
- Prior knowledge of the school;
- Familiarity and security with surroundings;
- A sense of belonging;
- Access (and follow up) from the Early Intervention program;
- Planned curriculum flow to accurately meet their developmental needs; and
- Access to a structured year long transition program.

Narrabri West Pre School parents and children are already an integral part of our school. Some examples of how we achieve this are:

- Pre school fortnightly newsletter being incorporated into school newsletter;
- P-6 Athletics Carnival;
- Attending special events, performances, assemblies e.g. Education Week;
- Kindergarten teachers and Assistant Principal (Infants) teaching Pre School during Pre School teachers RFF. This is an opportunity for the children to get to know the Kindergarten teachers and for the teachers to get to know the children;
- Regular impromptu visits by Pre School to school site;
- Visits by school staff members;
- Volunteer student helpers from senior primary grades.

Narrabri West Transition to Kindergarten Program:

Ready, Set, Kinder!

All students entering Kindergarten will participate in our **'Ready, Set, Kinder!'** transition program for a ten week period to undertake learning and familiarisation activities and to experience aspects of school life. This is an opportunity for them to explore and play in a new learning environment and will assist in helping them feel happy, safe and secure.

All children enrolled at Narrabri West Pre School will have access to this program, regardless of their choice of school for Kindergarten.

Details of the transition program are:

- Weekly transition sessions in Term 3 on Thursday afternoons (1.15pm-3.25pm) and Friday mornings (9.30am – 11.30am);
- 5 full day transition sessions (Friday) in Term 4 (children may order lunch/recess from school canteen);
- Parents welcome to attend transition sessions if they wish;
- Children will take home information sheets each day outlining what they have done;
- Parent information sessions each Friday from 9.30am – 10.30am (Term 4 Weeks 1-4), covering topics including literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills,

technology etc. Specialist school staff will be utilised for these sessions;

- Parent information session on last Friday (Week 5 Term 4) of transition program:
 - Practical information including uniform requirements, information on the various parent organisations, bus travel, general school information etc.
 - Assembly attended by Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students where a portfolio of work completed by children during program (including worksheets completed, photos etc.) will be presented.
 - Multimedia presentation of program highlights.
 - Tour of school and facilities conducted by school captains and councillors.
 - Morning tea attended by school staff and parent association representatives.
- Developmentally appropriate program prepared by Louise Stewart (Pre School teacher), Jane Landford, Liz Jackman (Kindergarten teachers), Di Moore (Assistant Principal Infants), Regina Stoltenberg (Itinerant Support Teacher – Early Intervention) and Jill Collis (Aboriginal Education Assistant)



When is the program being held?

Term 3				
Wk 7	Thursday 30 th August	1.15pm – 3.25pm	Friday 31 st August	9.30am – 11.30am
Wk 8	Thursday 6 th September	1.15pm – 3.25pm	Friday 7 th September	9.30am – 11.30am
Wk 9	Thursday 13 th September	1.15pm – 3.25pm	Friday 14 th September	9.30am – 11.30am
Wk 10	Thursday 20 th September	1.15pm – 3.25pm	Friday 21 st September	9.30am – 11.30am
Wk 11	Thursday 27 th September	1.15pm – 3.25pm	Friday 28 th September	9.30am – 11.30am

Term 4				
Wk 1	Friday 19 th October	9.30am – 3.25pm	Parent Session	9.30am – 10.30am
Wk 2	Friday 26 th October	9.30am – 3.25pm	Parent Session	9.30am – 10.30am
Wk 3	Friday 2 nd November	9.30am – 3.25pm	Parent Session	9.30am – 10.30am
Wk 4	Friday 9 th November	9.30am – 3.25pm	Parent Session	9.30am – 10.30am
Wk 5	Friday 16 th November	9.30am – 3.25pm	Parent Session	9.30am – 12.00pm

What activities will there be for children?

- Literacy / story telling sessions
- Numeracy activities
- Assemblies
- Music
- Recess / lunch/ playtime with Kindergarten
- School tours
- School familiarisation activities
- Art / Craft
- Library
- Use of canteen
- Interactive 'Smartboard' and technology lessons
- PE / Games

QUESTIONS:

1. How do I reserve a place in the program?

Contact the school office to reserve a place and to receive further information on either this program or enrolling at Narrabri West Public School.

2. What should children bring?

Term 3:

Thursday afternoon session – afternoon tea, drink bottle and hat (these sessions will include afternoon recess with Narrabri West Kindergarten students)

Friday morning session – hat

Term 4:

Friday full session – lunch, afternoon tea, drink bottle and hat. Children may order from Narrabri West canteen if they wish. Order forms and menu will be supplied during the transition program.

3. Should children go to all the sessions?

Although children do not have to attend all of these sessions, it is strongly recommended that they do, as each one will cover a different aspect of school life. Children may join the program at any stage, however again it is recommended they attend all sessions in order to obtain maximum benefit.

4. Where is the program conducted?

The program will take place in the Kindergarten rooms.

5. What will this years Kindergarten students be doing during this program?

During the program our Kindergarten students will continue with their normal lessons and teaching/learning program as prepared by Mrs Landford and Mrs Jackman.

During the shorter transition sessions in Term 3 they will be taught by other members of the school staff and will also act as 'buddies' and mentors to the incoming Kindergarten students.

During the full day sessions in Term 4 we will be employing a casual teacher and utilising school staff to continue their studies.

It is obviously essential that Mrs Landford and Mrs Jackman are involved with the transition program. We will however ensure that our current Kindergarten students continue uninterrupted with their own learning programs, but also gain from the opportunity to interact with and assist our new students, which is an important aspect of their own development.

We look forward to the participation of all Kindergarten students in 'Ready, Set, Kinder!'

Information regarding our transition program and Narrabri West Public School has been provided to all Narrabri Pre Schools, however if you have a child attending Kindergarten that has not received this information, please contact us for further details.

If you know of any Kindergarten children attending who do not have this information, please pass this on, or ask them to contact the school.

