Pre-Primary
Parent Information

2019
Welcome to Pre-Primary at Salvado Catholic College. We hope that this will be a happy and rewarding experience for you and your child in association with our College.

Our vision for Salvado Catholic College is to promote a welcoming Catholic community where students come to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

We strive to promote excellence and develop confident, creative and successful learners who are active and informed citizens in the world in which we live.

We nourish the learning journey of each individual child in a safe environment to help them reach their full potential as engaged learners, developing the skills to work collaboratively and be life long learners.

At Salvado Catholic College we show respect for ourselves and respect for others. We relate to others in a compassionate way and promote peace and justice in all that we say and do each day.
COLLEGE PRAYER

God, our Father

We thank you for the life of Bishop Salvado the missionary.

As a teacher, explorer, author, musician, farmer and builder,

he is an inspiration to all.

May we use our talents to enrich the lives of others.

Teach us to respect all cultures as he did.

Help us to care for our land,

live in peace, act justly and show compassion in all that we say and do.

Amen
AIMS OF THE PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

In Pre-Primary, our aim is to:

• Provide children with an environment in which they feel safe, valued and respected.
• Provide children with the skills to encourage and develop life-long learning.
• Deliver a play-based curriculum. Play is a crucial part of early childhood development. Play enhances language development, social competence, creativity, imagination and thinking skills.
• Promote collaborative learning as an important learning tool as it allows children to learn from each other and develop social skills.
• Develop strong relationship between home and College. We will respect and value families and foster an effective and positive relationship between home and College. We believe it is essential for parents to be involved and considered as partners in their child’s learning.

PRE-PRIMARY STAFF

Teachers:
Miss Giovanna Arfuso (Pre-Primary Grey) giovanna.arfuso@cewa.edu.au
Miss Chloe O’Callaghan (Pre-Primary Red) chloe.ocallaghan@cewa.edu.au

Education Assistants:
Miss Alana Moore (Pre-Primary Grey)
Ms Kahlene Robinson (Pre-Primary Red)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH LIFE

Religious Education is a key learning area in the Catholic school curriculum. Religious Education units will be covered throughout the year. The Religious Education programs assist with creating an environment which enables children to develop a sense of wonder about God. The children will be led by the example of Jesus and the sharing of Gospel values. The values of peace, justice and compassion will be shared and modeled with the children.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGLISH

Literacy skills are vital to ensuring every child has the best chance to succeed in their schooling and later life. Our English program will focus on recognising letter names and sounds, learning to read, experimenting with words and learning to form letters correctly.

MATHEMATICS

We will have a focus on using hands on activities and manipulatives in order to make the learning experiences real and engaging for the children. The program will incorporate a range of mathematics skills building on the proficiency strands of understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning.

SPECIALIST LESSONS

The following specialist lessons occur once per week with all Pre-Primary students:

• Music – Mr Paul Leeder
• Science – Mrs Nicole Goff
• Languages – Mrs Francesca Major
• Physical Education – Mrs Nicole Goff
ABSENTEES/ILLNESS

An absentee note is legally required to be completed when your child returns to school. The note must state:

- Date/s of absence
- Reason for absence
- And must be signed by a parent/carer

If your child is unwell please keep them at home to recover. This will minimise the risk of infection to other children and staff. If your child becomes ill at school we will contact you. If you are not contactable we will call one of the emergency contacts that you have nominated.

COMMUNICATION

In order for College staff to assist your child to the best of their ability, it is essential that clear lines of communication between the College and home are established and maintained. Appointments with teachers can be made through direct contact with the staff member concerned. Meetings are best made outside of class hours, that is, before 8:30am and after 3:00pm when staff are not in the act of teaching. Teachers may also be contacted by email, however, please allow a 24-48 hour turn around for responses. If an email is sent on the weekend, staff will respond as early as possible during the working week. For matters of high importance or urgency, please phone the College Administration and leave a message.

CRUNCH ‘N’ SIP

Crunch ‘n’ Sip is a short break during which children eat fruit or vegetables and drink water in the Learning Space. Students refuel with fruit or vegetables to assist physical and mental performance and concentration. Crunch ‘n’ Sip is optional for students. If your child is bringing Crunch ‘n’ Sip to school, please pack this separate to their recess and lunch to avoid confusion.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY - SUBSCRIPTIONS

Salvado Catholic College has wireless internet and network access throughout all the buildings, as well as digital television screens and Apple TVs in each Learning Space. There will also be banks of iPads available for students to utilise in their learning environment. The Year 4 and Year 5 students are part of the 1:1 iPad program.

ABC Reading Eggs

ABC Reading Eggs makes learning to read interesting and engaging for children with online reading activities and games. The program is designed to motivate and excite children about reading and lets them complete activities at their own pace. The Reading Eggs lessons are designed to build skills in the five key areas required to become a good reader: phonemic awareness and phonics, sight words, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. You will receive a login and password to access Reading Eggs at home. It can be accessed on a computer or portable devices such as iPads.

ABC Mathseeds

ABC Mathseeds teaches children core maths and problem solving skills with fun, highly interactive and rewarding lessons. ABC Mathseeds combines highly structured lessons with fun motivational elements that keep children engaged and keen to learn. You will receive a login and password to access Mathseeds at home. It can be accessed on a computer or portable devices such as iPads.
**DROP OFF AND PICK UP OF CHILDREN**

Pre-Primary students can be dropped off and picked up at the drive through where they will be supervised by staff on duty. The gates to the Pre-Primary learning spaces will open at 8:30am each morning when your child can come in, unpack their belongings and complete activities until the bell goes at 8:40am when teaching and learning will commence. At 3:00pm, the Pre-Primary classes will exit through the playground gate while supervised by Pre-Primary staff and will be walked to the drive through at the front of the College, unless collected by parents prior.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAYGROUND**

We are very fortunate to have a nature playground for the children to play in and on. The nature playground is out of bounds both before and after school to all children, including siblings. This is a duty of care issue as staff are not able to supervise this area at these times. We appreciate your support in this matter.

**KEEPING SAFE: CHILD PROTECTION CURRICULUM**

All students at Salvado Catholic College participate in *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* lessons. *Keeping Safe* is an evidence based, highly regarded curriculum that has been developed collaboratively with child protection specialists, teachers, educational leaders and other professionals. *Keeping Safe* covers a range of topics including new material on current issues such as bullying and cyber safety. The curriculum across each of the year levels addresses two main themes and four focus areas appropriate to the developmental level of the children.

The 2 main themes are:
- We all have the right to be safe
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust

The 4 focus areas are:
- The right to be safe
- Relationships
- Recognising and reporting abuse
- Protective strategies

Further information about the implementation of the *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* at Salvado Catholic College will be shared with parents/carers through the year.

**LIBRARY**

Pre-Primary will be visiting the library each Friday to choose a book. Students require their red library bag to borrow a book, and books are to be returned each week.

**MORNING TEA AND LUNCH**

Children need to bring their own morning tea and lunch to school in a labelled lunch box. In Pre-Primary we promote a healthy, nutritious approach to food. Please support us by providing fruits or vegetables for morning tea and only sending water to school. Please send an appropriate amount of food according to your child’s appetite in easy to open containers. We are unable to heat lunches for students or keep children's lunches in the fridge. We are an ‘allergy aware’ school, so please do not pack anything with nuts in it in your child’s lunchbox.
PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents play an integral role in the life of the College and can contribute in many positive ways to the education of their children. Parents will be invited to assist in the Learning Space from Term Two.

How you can help your child:
• Be punctual.
• Encourage your child to show and tell you what they have done at school and listen.
• Inform us of any changes at home that may affect your child.
• Read with your child every day. Encourage your child to ‘read’ to you.
• Point out print in the environment e.g. when shopping, travelling, road signs, shopping centres.
• When your child shows interest in writing, encourage it. Especially assist him/her to write his/her name and use the correct print ‘NSW Font’.
• Encourage your child to play creatively and imaginatively.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please ensure that the information on Admission and Medical forms is kept up to date. Please inform us immediately if your child has or develops allergies, asthma or any ongoing medical issues.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLAN

At Salvado Catholic College the individual person is celebrated and accepted for the gifts they bring to our College community. Everyone is given the opportunity to succeed in a respectful and safe environment, that promotes effective teaching and learning. As part of our Whole College Positive Behaviour Support Plan, students will be explicitly taught the social skills and expectations to make them effective participants in our College environment.

With Christ as our model at Salvado Catholic College we show respect for ourselves and others, we relate to others in a compassionate way and promote peace and justice in all that we say and do. We work together to create a safe environment for all by taking ownership of our choices and behaviours. In our Learning Spaces, we promote and encourage positive behaviour through verbal praise, levelled behaviour systems and a focus on intrinsic motivation.

PRE-PRIMARY ASSESSMENT

An On-Entry Assessment will be conducted in Term One. This assessment is done to provide information about the knowledge your child is bringing to Pre-Primary and allows us to effectively plan to suit the learning needs of your child.

In Pre-Primary we administer ongoing assessment as part of our Teaching and Learning programs to ensure we cater for individual student needs.

REPORTING

Compulsory Parent/Teacher interviews will be conducted at the end of Term 1. These meetings allow us to discuss your child’s progress as well as to set goals for future learning.

A portfolio displaying your child’s work samples and ongoing learning journey will be sent home at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.

A formal report will be sent home at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. This report includes evaluations of your child’s achievements and development throughout the year.

Parent/Teacher interviews can also be made via appointment if necessary throughout the year.
SEESAW

Seesaw is an App we will be using to share what your child is learning at school. Seesaw gives your child a safe space to document their learning whilst learning how to use technology. Each child will get their own digital journal and will add work to share what they are doing at school. Seesaw is safe to use, as only you can access your child’s journal. The journal may be made up of pictures, videos, drawings and voice recordings. Seesaw can be accessed through a downloadable App on a phone or tablet, or through a web browser on a computer. Information regarding how to access Seesaw will be sent home later in the term.

TOYS

Children are discouraged from bringing their own toys to Pre-Primary with the exception of the rostered weekly news topic. Bringing toys to school can create arguments and the accidental damage or loss of a toy can be very upsetting for your child.

UNIFORM

Students are expected to wear the College sports uniform each day. Please refer to the Uniform Policy in regards to the correct College uniform. If your child is not wearing the correct uniform, a uniform notice will be sent home via email explaining the issue to be addressed. Please also pack a spare change of underwear in your child’s bag in case of toileting accidents. Please remember to label all items of clothing.

We look forward to your involvement throughout the year and we hope that this will be a happy, rewarding and exciting year for both you and your child at Salvado Catholic College.