

Prince Alfred College

Year 5/6G Parent Information Book



Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year. We extend a very warm welcome to all boys and their families, particularly to those who are new to Prince Alfred College. We trust that you will soon be feeling a very real part of the Princes' Community. We are looking forward to the opportunity to work with your sons to ensure that this is a positive and successful year.

THE YEAR 5/6 MULTILEVEL CLASS

This class has evolved to provide an environment that celebrates and supports the unique social and emotional development as well as the learning styles of boys who have been identified with high intellectual potential. To cater for the diversity of their individual needs the boys are supported in the development of skills that enable them to monitor their own learning and, by reflecting on assessment data and feedback, determine appropriate goals for themselves and design efficient learning pathways to those goals.

EMAIL CONTACTS

Class Teacher

Mrs Sue Gerschwitz sgerschwitz@staff.pac.edu.au

Upper Primary (Year 5 & 6) Coordinator

Mrs Lisa Lacy llacy@staff.pac.edu.au

Preparatory School Office

prepoffice@pac.edu.au

SCHOOL TIMES

Classrooms are open from 8.15. Boys are not permitted to be alone on the school premises before 8.15am unless they are going to 'Before School Care.'

8.35am	School commences
10.25	Eating time
10.35	Recess
10.55	End of Recess
12.45	Lunch eating time
12.55	Lunch play
1.35	End of lunch
3.30pm	School day concludes

SCHOOL ABSENTEES / LATE ARRIVALS

Students are required to be punctual each morning. If your son is to be absent for any reason, a phone call to the Preparatory School Office on 8334 1203, prepoffice@pac.edu.au or via sms on 0447 100 231, as soon as possible to notify us is appreciated. The roll is marked by 8.45 am each day and a text message sent to any family who has not explained an absence. Children who arrive late or leave early need to be signed in/out at the Prep office so the attendance register can be kept accurate

COMMUNICATION

Each class maintains a blog which will be updated at least once per fortnight. Class teachers will share access details with their parents early in the year. You are encouraged to bookmark the blog and access it often to keep in touch with class learning and events. Communication will also occur via the

student diary and by email. Please ensure the School has your correct contact details; changes can be made via the Princes Online login on the School's website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This handbook, newsletters and class blogs will give you details of activities, events and Term times throughout the year. School Assemblies are held every Wednesday in the Anzac Hall at 1.45pm and Chapel Services on Friday mornings at 8.55am. Student involvement is encouraged at both and parents are always welcome to attend these at any time.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES OF INTEREST

TERM 1

Week 1

Tuesday, 31st January	Term 1 commences
Friday, 3rd February	Prep School Captain Induction Assembly
Friday, 3rd February	Parent Information Night

Week 2

Tuesday, 7 th February	5-6 Scott's Creek Parent Information Night
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Week 4

Monday, 20 th February - Friday, 24 th February	Swimming Lessons
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Week 5

Wednesday, 1 st March	Prep Swimming Carnival
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Week 6

Tuesday, 7 th March	Summer Co-Curricular Photos
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Week 7

Monday, 13 th March	Adelaide Cup Holiday
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Week 9

Wednesday, 29 th March	Grandies' Day
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Week 11

Thursday, 15 th April	Cross Country and Term 1 concludes at 1:00pm
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Early to mid Term 1

Dates tbc	Parent / Teacher Interviews
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YEAR 5 SPECIAL EVENTS

Program with Seymour School, Terms 3 and 4
Father and Son Weekend, Term 2 (20-21 May)
NAPLAN Testing, Term 2, Week 2

YEAR 6 SPECIAL EVENTS

Program with Wilderness School, Term 1 and 4
Robotics Program (Lego Mindstorms), Term 4
Mother and Son Dinner, Term 2
Year 6 Exhibition, Term 3
Relay for Life, Term 4
Valedictory Service and Graduation, Term 4

SCOTTS CREEK CAMPS

Year 5 Father and Son Weekends

5M and 5T Term 1, end Week 7 (18-19 March)

5L and 5G Term 2, end Week 3 (20-21 May)

Every boy is encouraged to attend the Father and Son Weekend with his father or other male adult family member or significant adult. This is an ideal opportunity for boys to bond with their father and other boys. It also enables the boys to become familiar with the Scotts Creek environment before attending class camps in Term 2.

Class Camp

5/6T Term 2, Week 8 (20-23 June)

Full detail about Camps will be provided closer to dates and via the college website at www.pac.edu.au

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND CLOTHING REGULATIONS

School uniform must be worn to and from School, and on those occasions specified by the Headmaster. It is a fundamental expectation of students of Prince Alfred College that they will wear the correct uniform, and wear it well.

NO PART OF THE SCHOOL UNIFORM IS TO BE WORN WITH CASUAL CLOTHES.

In the Preparatory School the blazer is only worn in Terms 2 and 3 and the summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4.

A detailed statement of uniform regulations can be obtained from the Uniform Shop; shirts should be tucked in and ties neatly tied and in place. At all times it is expected that the boys' uniform will be neat and shoes clean and polished.

Boys' hair must be clean and tidy, and trimmed in a reasonable manner. Hair should not be lank, unkempt, close shaven (minimum length of a number 3 cut) and not longer than collar length. In essence the hair style should not be provocative. It is not our custom to allow boys to have any body piercings or to wear jewellery.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The parent Information brochure for Behaviour Management Guidelines and relevant documentation are available upon request from the preparatory school office.

The purpose of this brochure is to inform parents of the behavioural expectations of students and the procedures used to maintain a happy and safe environment in the Preparatory School.

PRINCES eNews

The e-News is published on-line each fortnight. It is accessed through the school website and is emailed to you.

PREP TUCKSHOP

The Tuck Shop sells pre-ordered lunches online through the Flexi schools website or app (www.flexischools.com.au). Please obtain any 'additional information about using this service from the Prep Office. All Combo meals are to be ordered via Flexi School with the boys being able to purchase an ice-cream or similar at lunch and recess.

If your son does not have his lunch, he is able to go to the prep office and use a lunch voucher. This voucher is to the value of \$5.00 and offers him a sandwich, fruit and drink. Due to a large number of students with severe nut allergies PAC is a "Nut Aware" school. Nut products are not stocked in the School Canteen's or used in the school kitchen.

Please refrain from sending any products containing nuts to the school with your child. (Please note: products with the "may contain nuts" are not included in this exclusion) If your child has eaten nuts before coming to school, please ensure that your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school. Please remind your children not to share their food. If you are providing food for special occasions, e.g. birthday treats or class parties, please provide a list of all ingredients and please do not include nuts.

MEDICATION

We understand that there are occasions when your son may need to take medication during school hours. Should this be the case, we request that the medicine, in the original containers, are labelled with clear instructions from the pharmacist and given to the receptionists at the Prep Office who will supervise appropriate administration. Teachers do not give any medication unless we have a written request signed by parents. Panadol will not be given to students until consent is obtained from parents, after a phone call, if the boy is feeling unwell at school.

Should your son need medication to be kept at school (e.g. Ventolin, Adrenalin pens), this needs to be sent in a clearly labelled bag, with his Action Plan, signed by parents. All medication is held in the Prep School Office and administered by office staff to avoid other children having access to it.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Each class is encouraged to have 1 or 2 parent representatives. The Class Representative's role is to liaise with members of the Friends of PAC (FoPAC) committee and the Director of Advancement to keep families informed of school functions and to coordinate any social gatherings for parents during the year. Class Representatives often work together to arrange joint year level functions.

SUN PROTECTION

We have a 'no hat, no play' policy in Terms 1 and 4, so boys must have a school hat, clearly named, at school each day. Sunblock is also available in the classrooms, but boys are encouraged to have their own and use it.

HOMEWORK

Year 5 students are required to complete the equivalent of up to 40 minutes (Year 5) and 50 minutes (Year 6) of homework on each Monday to Thursday weeknight during term time – full details of the Preparatory School's Homework Policy as outlined in the student diary. Class teachers will communicate details regarding format and requirements for homework activities to parents early in the school year.

NAPLAN TESTING

Year 5 classes will continue a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy skills as part of learning expectations and ongoing preparation for NAPLAN testing across school years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students will be supported in ensuring they are fully aware of test formats to ensure they can complete these to the best of their ability on the day.

STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM

The Year 5-6 Student Success Team (SST), consisting of learning support staff , Marilyn Tregilgas and Robyn Brice, and our Wellbeing Coach, Neridah Boraso, work with class teachers and specialist teachers to support the diverse needs of the boys in Years 5 and 6.

SST staff are timetabled to work in each class every week, working alongside teachers with small groups and with individuals to help them achieve success in their class learning tasks. At times, boys needing further development of specific skills may be withdrawn from the classroom for a short amount of time to undertake specific learning programs.

Any withdrawal is done through discussion and negotiation with class teachers and specific dependent on the need of each child and determined by observation and assessment. Some programs to improve skills include Literacy Planet for spelling skills, MULTILIT and MULTILIT Extension for reading skills, Athletics to support Maths growth and Friends to further develop social skills.

REACH

The College has for a long time attracted students with high intellectual potential. The provisions in the Prep School for these students have always been intended and designed to meet the social and emotional needs that so often accompany high intellectual potential, such as social integration, a sense of belonging and the need to find a place where their unique skill sets are understood and accommodated.

Provisions for students with high intellectual potential are of three types:

1. Class teachers provide differentiated learning experiences within the regular classroom program.
2. A Multi-Level class that caters for students with high intellectual potential in Years 5 & 6.
3. The REACH program.

This year, Matthew Tohill, Lisa Foster and John Shackleton will be providing support for those students who have been identified as working at an advanced level within various areas of the curriculum from years 2-6 as well as providing support for the teachers of these students.

The REACH program will include opportunities for both extension and enrichment in the form of workshops on skills development, aspects of English and Mathematics, and opportunities to participate in activities such as competitions, experiments and long-term projects.

An overview of experiences offered will be sent home at the commencement of each term.

SPECIALIST LESSONS

Specialist lessons are an important part of the curriculum and are not to be seen as stand-alone components. It is expected that boys come to lessons prepared, in an orderly and sensible manner, willing to learn and contribute to the lesson.

For students whose behaviour is unacceptable, "Yellow Slips" will be sent home via the diary. It is an expectation that these are signed by parents before returning the diary to the class teacher the following day.

Communication between school and home is important and we ask that if you feel the need to contact a specialist teacher, you initially do so by email.

Physical Education

All Reception to Year 6 boys receive one sixty minute Physical Education lesson a week. Boys are allowed to wear their PE gear to school on the day they have PE. A note or email is expected if there is a medical reason for any boy not participating.

Reception to Year 2 boys participate in swimming in a one week block in Term 4 and JP Sports day in Term 3. Year 3 to Year 6 boys participate in Swimming and Cross Country in Term 1 and Sports Day in Term 3.

Mr Sam Barton – PE Teacher – sbarton@pac.edu.au

Languages- Chinese and French

All boys in Reception to Year 6 participate in the language program. All Reception to Year 2 boys do Chinese, while when they get to Year 3 they have the opportunity to do French instead of Chinese, numbers permitting. Through the program, the boys develop the knowledge and skills in communication and understand the language, culture and their relationship.

Reception to Year 2 - All boys receive two thirty minute lessons or one sixty minute lesson per week.

Year 3 to Year 6 - The boys receive one thirty minute lesson and one sixty minute lesson per week.

The learning experiences include a range of activities such as singing, interviewing, filming, viewing, exchanging information, language games, role-plays, projects, on-line research, Chinese calligraphy, art work, and cultural performances. The boys are immersed in their chosen language in a culturally enriched environment.

Mrs Carol Li – Chinese Teacher - cli@pac.edu.au

Ms Tania Carpinelli – French Teacher - tcarpinelli@pac.edu.au

The Arts

All boys in Reception to Year 6 participate in the Arts program. The Music, Art and Drama program is offered to all boys from Reception to Year 6. Through the Arts programs the boys develop their knowledge and skills in these areas.

Music - All boys receive one sixty minute lesson per week. In addition the Year 3 and 4 students have the opportunity to participate in the Year 3/4 Choir.

Art/Drama - All boys receive one sixty minute lesson per week. Semester 1 they do Visual Art and Semester 2 they do Drama.

All boys take part in the Jack de Vidas Art Exhibition in Term 3

Mrs Mandy Bell – Music Teacher – mbell@pac.edu.au

Mrs Kellie McCauley – Art and Drama Teacher – kmccauley@pac.edu.au

We hope 2017 will be a happy year for you and your sons in the Prince Alfred College community