KISMET PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Get Set For Prep!
2016

Building the foundations for success and happiness ......
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Principal: Mr Glenn McConnell
Assistant Principal: Mrs Diane Powell
School Office: Mrs Vanessa Leetch
Ms Deb Wight
Mrs Bernadine Hetherington

SCHOOL TOURS PARENT & INFORMATION SESSIONS
Tuesday 26th May 2015 9:30-10:30am
Wednesday 27th May 2015 7:00-8:00pm
Thursday 28th May 9:30 - 10:30am

PREP PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
Monday 23rd November 2015 7:00-8:00pm

PREP ORIENTATION MORNINGS
Thursday 26th November 2015 9:30 – 10:30am
Thursday 3rd December 2015 9:30 – 10:30am
Thursday 10th December 2015 9:30 – 10:30am

Our Orientation mornings provide opportunities for your children to take part in informal learning activities in their future classroom environment. Children work in their future class grouping with their Prep Teacher, providing opportunities for them to socialise, familiarise themselves with their new learning environment and for the teacher to observe them in our school setting. During these sessions you are invited to share in morning tea in our staff room where you will have an opportunity to talk with staff members, PTA representatives and fellow parents.

2016 Term Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Start</th>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday January 29</td>
<td>Thursday March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 Start</td>
<td>End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday April 11</td>
<td>Friday June 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 Start</td>
<td>End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday July 11</td>
<td>Friday September 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4 Start</td>
<td>End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday October 3</td>
<td>Tuesday December 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Hours

- Playground Supervision: from 8:40 am
- Classes Commence: 8.55 am
- Morning Recess: 11:00 am to 11:30 am
- Lunch Eating Time in Classrooms: 1:15 pm to 1:30 pm
- Lunch Recess: 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm
- Dismissal: 3.15 pm
- Playground Supervision: until 3:30 pm

PREP SCHEDULE FOR FIRST DAY & FOLLOWING FOUR WEEKS OF TERM ONE 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Allocated Start Time Slot to dismissal at</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th January</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1st - Friday 5th February</td>
<td>8.55am – 1.00pm daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th - Friday 12th February</td>
<td>8.55am – 1.00pm daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15th - Friday 19th February</td>
<td>8.55am – 3.15pm daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd - Friday 26th February</td>
<td>8.55am – 3.15pm daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29th February onwards</td>
<td>8.55am – 3.15pm Full time every day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office Hours
Normal school office hours are from 8.30 am to 4.30 p.m.

Uniform
School uniforms are supplied by Primary School Wear (PSW). Purchases can be made either online or at the PSW shop located at 126/106 Gap Road Sunbury. Opening hours are Wednesday to Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am - 12:00 noon.

Kismet Kitchen
Hours of Opening: Tuesday-Friday each week from 9.00 am - 2.00 pm. Lunch Orders are placed in the classroom basket and sent to the Kismet Kitchen by 9.30 am. Snacks may be purchased from Kismet Kitchen at recess and lunch play.

For the first month we suggest that you provide lunch from home whilst the children are settling into school.
ABOUT OUR SCHOOL
Kismet Park strives to create a highly engaging learning environment where there is focussed teaching in Literacy and Numeracy. We offer a broad curriculum that supports and develops student’s emotional, physical, social, cultural and academic needs. Students are encouraged to accept challenges in their learning through a positive, caring, and stimulating environment in which curiosity and creativity are fostered. A comprehensive Performing Arts programs nurtures student skills and interests in Dance, Drama and Music while our Physical Education program encourages an active, healthy lifestyle through involvement in a wide range of physical activities.

The right of all members of our community to learn is respected. We build positive relationships through a Restorative Approach that aims to create a calm environment where issues are dealt with in a reflective, emotionally intelligent and relaxed manner. We acknowledge one another’s strengths and talents, taking time to listen and communicate with each other in a respectful and open manner.

Facilities consist of flexible learning spaces that include classrooms clustered around internal learning galleries, a full sized gymnasium and a Performing Arts room. Our playgrounds include passive and active areas that encourage social interaction as well as a Vegetable Garden. ‘Buddy Benches’ foster friendship and spread the message of inclusion and kindness.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is integral to all areas of the curriculum. ICT tools offer a variety of virtual learning experiences, assessment tools and online resources for teaching and learning. A 1:1 iPad program operates in Years 5 and 6. Sets of Netbooks are available to students in Years 3 and 4 while sets of iPads in Prep to Year 2 allow students to develop digital skills, literacy and knowledge beyond the normal reach of the classroom.

We value the strong sense of community that exists between staff, students and their families. A dedicated School Council and Parent Teachers Association work enthusiastically in support of school programs and to provide opportunities for our community to come together. We are committed to building upon this strong sense of community through the process of becoming an accredited ‘Kids Matter’ school where there is a strong focus on the wellbeing of our students.

Vision
To provide a comprehensive program that supports and develops each student’s emotional, physical, social, cultural and academic needs in a happy, caring and stimulating environment. We aim to “Build the foundations for success and happiness” so our students can be responsible, informed citizens who make a positive contribution to our society. We strive to achieve this through:

A whole school community that:
- Works together to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment for all
- Shows respect for each other and our environment at all times
- Is committed to each other in all that we do to achieve the best possible outcome for all

Staff who work together to:
- Develop every child as a whole – socially, academically, emotionally, and physically
- Achieve the best possible outcomes for all
- Cater for the needs of all students
- Keep the community informed about school programs
- Develop their capacity to deliver teaching and learning programs that challenge and extend all students

Students who:
- Aim to be the best they can be in everything they do
- Take responsibility for their own learning and behavior

Parents who:
- Ensure their children attend school regularly
- Have high expectations of their children in terms of their learning and behaviour
- Engage supportively with the school to build a home school partnership
- Actively participate in their child’s education
- Model the school’s values in and around the school
Continuing the Learning Journey at School
As a parent you have been your child’s first teacher. You have already helped your child learn many things, such as crawling, walking and talking, teaching as necessary. When we watch children learn to walk it is obvious that some children learn to walk earlier and some children later. Yet all reach that milestone. Similarly, at school, students progress uniquely. Some students will learn some things quickly, while other students may need more time. In the classroom we foster a safe and happy environment where your child will be valued, praised and encouraged to take risks or ‘have-a-go’.

The Prep class is where students can continue on from their learning at home, Pre School or child care centre. The Prep year is designed to provide the foundation that each student needs for later success in schooling. Our Prep classrooms are friendly, interesting places where students learn through investigation and play, about themselves and other people and their world. The Prep class program is planned to cater for each student’s interests and needs. It aims to foster the development of certain abilities, attitudes and skills, which will assist in his/her educational development.

Prep Milestones
Students in Prep will be involved in:
- indoor and outdoor play
- focused learning opportunities
- routines and transitions
- literacy activities
- numeracy activities
- music and games
- using iPads, computers and interactive whiteboards
- art & craft activities
- learning a Language Other Than English (LOTE)
- specialised Art, Music & Physical Education lessons
- establishing personal learning goals

The learning experiences in the Prep Year will help students to
- take on responsibilities
- become more independent
- respect other people
- co-operate with others
- make sensible choices about health and safety
- develop their physical skills
- learn about their environment
- develop their oral and written language skills
- develop early mathematical understandings
- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use their imagination and creativity
- develop their early literacy understandings
- develop a LOVE FOR LEARNING

At the end of each school day, talk to your child about what they have done during their day. Enquire about a piece of work they have brought home or ask what the most interesting part of the day was. Even though the answer may be “nothing” 90% of the time, it is important that the child knows that you are interested in what they’re doing and learning at school.

This booklet provides information about your child’s first year at school, the programs that we offer your child and ways that you can support your child’s learning.
GET SET FOR PREP! A POSITIVE START TO SCHOOL

At Kismet Park Primary School we strive to ensure a smooth, positive transition from Kindergarten to Primary School. Our Kinder – Prep Transition which we call ‘Get Set for Prep!’ commences with Orientation sessions in November/December 2015 and continues through the first four weeks of school in 2016. Please note that the key dates for our program can be found on the General Information page.

Preparing Your Child for School
Starting school can be an exciting as well as an anxious time for both children and parents alike. We encourage parents to take the time to talk to their children about starting school. Your feelings and outlook about starting school will greatly influence how your child enters school and reacts to the new surroundings. Talk to your child about school and share in their excitement.

Your child will find the transition to school easier if they have already started to learn:
- Being able to say his or her full name and address
- Being able to recognise letters of the alphabet and numbers
- Being able to recognise environmental print (eg Big W)
- Being familiar with how to find his or her way to and from school
- Being able to put things away after use
- Being able to recognise his or her OWN NAMED belongings
- Being accustomed to using a tissue or handkerchief properly and knowing the importance of covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Being accustomed to taking off his or her coat.

NOTE: Remember we only said “started to learn” these skills. Do not make it a burden if for some reason your child cannot yet do some of the above skills.

Some activities to consider in preparation for starting school include:
- Showing your child where their new school is and talk about how you will get there each day
- Visiting a public toilet to familiarise your child with the differences to that of a home toilet. Practise using the door locks, washing hands, adjusting clothing, flushing the toilet and explain that there is a girl’s toilet and boy’s toilet at school. Teach boys how to use the urinal if they don’t already know
- Organising play dates with other children who will also be attending the school. It can be helpful if your child knows someone else who is attending Kismet Park Primary School in 2016
- Practising actions your child will need to do in readiness for school (eg. putting belongings into their school bag and remembering to take a hat, opening their lunch box and other tricky packaging, removing and putting on their jumper, hat and school shoes)
- Confirm your before-school, after-school and vacation care arrangements
- Labelling your child’s belongings/clothes. Add a novelty key ring or tie to your child’s school bag for easy recognition
- Establish a sleep routine. You may find your child needs more sleep when they start school.

Parents should always make the teacher aware of any further information to ensure a smooth transition into school for your child including:
1. Any problems with eyesight, hearing and speech
2. Updates on medical conditions, needs and allergies
3. If your child is asthmatic / anaphylactic
4. Any worries your child may have about school
5. Any family matters that may affect their transition
6. Changes in address, contact phone numbers, arrangements for collecting your child.

Personal Hygiene
Going to the toilet at school often causes problems e.g. asking permission, unfamiliar toilet etc. Accidents sometimes occur and it is helpful if you visit the toilet with your child either on your pre-school visit, or on the first day to familiarise him or her with it. Preps use the toilets linked to their building. Any child, even the most confident, can have a mishap at school and therefore a change of clothes, particularly underpants and socks in your child’s school bag would be greatly appreciated.
What should your child bring to school?

- Lunch Box - containing snack, fruit and lunch
- Water Bottle - no glass containers please
- School Bag - for transporting library books and other belongings (Add a novelty key ring for easy recognition)
- Chair bag - for their personal belongings in the classroom
- School Hat - a school hat must be worn outside from September 1st to April 30th
- Art Smock - for Art lessons and messy activities in the classroom
- Library Bag - to carry Library books to and from home
- Red Communications Bag - where newsletters, notices, home reading are placed for safe-keeping
- Change of Clothing in a plastic bag - in case of a little toileting accident or mishap

NB. Students tend to take off items of clothing and leave them in the wrong places. It is most important therefore that every article of clothing, shoes & personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child’s name so that it can be returned if found. Unclaimed property is donated to our school’s Secondhand Uniform Shop at the end of each term.

What shouldn’t your child bring to school?

Valuables, large sums of money, expensive jewellery, toys and personal belongings or favourite toys and books that will cause great distress if they are accidently damaged or mislaid.

Lunch and Snacks!!
Snacks should be provided each day whether your child has a homemade lunch or Kismet Kitchen order. It is preferable that Preps do not have Kismet Kitchen lunches until they attend school full time, as they eat at different times to the rest of the school. Students will be given time to eat their snacks and lunches. Where food is left uneaten, it will be sent home. All students eat lunch in the classroom under the teacher’s supervision; it will help if your child is confident in unwrapping and opening containers. It also helps if you pack fruit or snacks separately for play lunch. Use plastic or disposable containers for drinks and provide smaller lunches in the early days.

The First Day of School

On this day only, the students will be welcomed in small groups, allowing the class teacher to welcome each student and enable each group to become accustomed to school before the next group of students arrive. You will receive a time & location arrangement slip prior to your child’s first day.

NB Please remember to provide a snack and lunch each day and apply sunscreen to your child each morning when appropriate to do so.

Your child’s teacher will be busy settling the Preps in on this first morning so you can greatly assist by:

- Arriving at your assigned time, finding your child’s name tag (usually close to the door)
- Helping your child to locate the locker for their bag. Assist them to remove their play lunch, library bag, chair bag and art smock.
- Finding your child’s tub and place these articles in it.
- Introduce yourself to the teacher. Your child’s teacher will want to know who will be calling for your child at dismissal time.
- Taking your child around their classroom to view and talk about the choice of activities set out by the teacher. If you wish, stay a while to feel confident that your child has settled in or is being assured by the teacher and you’ve taken that all important photo opportunity.
- When your child is settled, slip away quietly. Please try to make the separation as calm and positive as possible. Re-assure your child that you or your nominated adult will be there at dismissal time to pick them up. It is very important that you or your nominated adult is punctual for greeting your Prep child at dismissal time. Little ones become very worried if no one is there at the expected time to greet them with a familiar smile and welcoming arms.
- At the end of the day, talk to your child about the highlights at school. However if your child is reluctant to divulge anything try not to be overly concerned but rather speak to your class teacher or choose a time at home (eg. a family chat at the dinner table) when your child is more receptive to having a talk about school life.
The First Weeks of School
The first few weeks of school play an important role in supporting a positive transition into the classroom environment. Therefore our Preps follow a modified timetable for the first 4 weeks of term 1. To ensure a positive start to school life and reducing the likelihood of feeling overwhelmed or excessively fatigued, we believe that the variation to the normal school day over these four weeks will assist our new students with adjusting to longer periods of concentration, familiarizing themselves with a new learning environment and accommodating the Prep Entry assessment (as outlined below).

During the first 2 weeks students will participate in shortened school days which finish at 1:00pm. Students will eat lunch at school on these days to assist us in establishing important classroom routines.

During the following fortnight students do not attend school on Wednesdays. Students attend school full time on all other days of the week.

Please see the Prep Schedule for First Day & Following Four Weeks of Term One 2016 on page 2.

Prep Entry Assessment
All Victorian Primary Schools are required to assess students on entry to Prep. Parents will be notified in advance of their child’s assessment time. The session will either be assigned for an afternoon when Prep students finish at 1:00pm or on one of the Prep Free Wednesdays prior to commencing their full time school program. Students will spend 45 minutes in the classroom with the teacher completing the Online English Prep Assessment and the Numeracy Online Interview. Parents will be asked to complete a survey to gather information about our transition program while the student undertakes the assessments with their teacher. The information gathered during this session will be used to gain an understanding of each child’s stage of development in Literacy and Numeracy and allow the teacher to begin planning an inclusive curriculum. The information will also be shared with parents during our first Parent Teacher interviews.

Primary School Nursing Program
The Primary School Nursing Program is a service offered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all children attending primary schools. The aim of the program is to provide all Victorian students the opportunity to have a health assessment in their first year of primary school. You will be given the School Entrant Health Questionnaire to complete sometime during the first year.

You will be asked to provide information about your child’s health history and any concerns you may have about your child’s health. With your consent this information will assist the nurse to undertake a health assessment of your Prep child and to provide you with follow-up information and advice if needed.
STUDENT WELLBEING
At Kismet Park Primary School we have long recognised the importance of healthy minds for students to accept the daily social and learning challenges in a positive and constructive manner. This is demonstrated through our commitment to the You Can Do It! Program, Better Buddies (Alannah & Madeleine Foundation) and Cyber Safety along with a comprehensive Social Skills program, newsletter articles and access to health professionals.

To further enhance our Student Engagement & Wellbeing profile, Kismet Park PS is working towards gaining registration as a KidsMatter school by implementing their framework. The following KidsMatter framework components have been proven highly successful in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and therefore a worthy commitment:

- Positive school community – builds positive & respectful relationships; a sense of belonging
- Social and emotional learning for students – to manage feelings & getting along with others
- Working with parents and carers – by providing useful parenting information & resources
- Helping children with mental health difficulties – to respond to needs through access to local health services.

As families are the biggest influence on children’s mental health, parents and other trusted adults play an important role in a KidsMatter school. Therefore Kismet Park aims to actively engage staff, parents and the wider school community in having a shared understanding of the needs and development of children along with an awareness of the available resources and programs on offer.

A Healthy Head Start
During the first few mornings of school the classrooms will be set up similar to a Pre School program with various fine motor activities such as threading, drawing, play dough and jigsaw puzzles. This helps children transition smoothly and confidently into our school. The students will go to the toilet together as a whole class, where correct procedures and hygiene routines will be covered with their teacher. The students will undertake school tours to become familiar with their playing areas, boundaries and key locations such as the office, library, Kismet Kitchen and first aid room. School rules and playground safety will be explicitly taught. Topics such as Stranger Danger and Fire Safety are also covered during the first few weeks. The Prep students will play outside at a different time to the rest of the school initially to give them a chance to develop confidence in utilising their new outside environment.

You Can Do It!
Kismet Park Primary School is a You Can Do It! school. The You Can Do It! program encourages the development of student’s Confidence, Persistence and Resilience as well as developing the skills of Organisation and Getting Along with others. These personal attributes and skills play an important role in students achieving their academic, emotional and interpersonal potential.

Better Buddies
Buddy systems teach, and give children the opportunity to practise the important values of respect, care, valuing difference, responsibility, friendship and including others. Through looking after and caring for smaller, vulnerable children who are just starting school, older children learn the skills associated with empathy and compassion through activities in the classroom and in the playground. This helps combat bullying and other forms of antisocial behaviour such as harassment and teasing. Teaching pro-social values and skills can also contribute to the development of resilience, a protective factor for children if they experience hardship or loss.

Better Buddies enables younger children to feel safe and cared for while older children feel valued and respected. The Better Buddies Framework:

- assists with student transition to primary school
- develops positive cross-age relationships
- provides opportunities for peer tutoring
- contributes to a positive and caring school culture
- contributes to more positive behaviour by providing positive role models
- develops pro-social values and skills
- involves parents
- develops responsibility
- builds self confidence
- develops empathy
- promotes inclusion
- discourages bullying.

We are a Better Buddies school

Further information about the program can be found at: www.betterbuddies.org.au.
eSmart
Kismet Park is a registered eSmart school where the smart, safe and responsible use of information and communications technology is actively promoted. Students, teachers and the wider school community are equipped to embrace the best these technologies can offer, while being savvy about the pitfalls.

LEARNING AT SCHOOL
At Kismet Park Primary School we aim to provide a stimulating learning environment where your child will be challenged and supported. Our teachers aim to create a safe and happy place in which students are valued, praised and encouraged to ‘have a go’. Your child will sometimes work with the whole class and at other times be grouped for instructional sessions with students who have similar learning styles, needs and knowledge. As your child develops, they will learn to work independently and collaboratively in small groups.

English
At Prep level in English the students concentrate on:
• Identifying and writing letters in Victorian Modern Cursive style
• Building a bank of high frequency words and interest vocabulary for reading & writing
• Understanding the mechanics of a book (eg. Title, pages, illustrations, left to right directionality, recognising print)
• Reciting familiar rhymes, lyrics and poetry to promote fluency and expression
• Speaking in complete sentences
• Building knowledge of rhyme, syllables and speech sounds (phonics)
• Becoming a willing writer who can write simple sentences and/or stories on familiar topics (eg. Pets)

Students show achievement of the standards in a variety of ways including:
• learn the importance of listening
• develop confidence in sharing stories and contributing ideas
• learn how to ask questions for information
• learn to use simple punctuation such as full stops and capital letters
• reading simple texts and literature for a range of purposes
• self-correct by rephrasing when a statement or question is unclear.

Mathematics
At Prep level in Mathematics the students concentrate on:
• number (counting, calculating, estimating & creating number stories)
• space through shapes, objects and location
• measurement, chance and data
• using mathematical concepts (eg under/over, heavy/light)
• learning to work mathematically.

Students show achievement in a variety of ways including:
• ordering items according to height, weight and length
• using numbers 0–20 and beyond
• doing basic addition and subtraction through pictorial and numeric representations
• recognising geometric shapes such as triangles, circles and squares
• recognising and sequencing days of the week.

Interpersonal Development
Children develop their interpersonal skills as they interact with other students, teachers and other adults. Emphasis is placed upon:
• developing friendships
• learning to share and take turns
• identifying the qualities of a friend
• respecting the rights and feelings of others.
Igniting Curiosity (Inquiry Learning)

To promote curiosity and inquiry Preps participate in sessions known as “Investigations’ that introduce them to the areas of Science, Geography, History and Economics. Through hands-on, collaborative problem-solving activities, Prep students are supported to develop the following skills:

- Oral language (expressive & receptive)
- Hypothesising, experimenting, designing, creating & evaluating
- Fine motor (eg. Cutting, tracing, constructing)
- Questioning and presenting to an audience

The goal at Kismet Park is to develop a thinking culture which encourages children to become autonomous life-long learners. Thinking skills empower the learner with strategies to engage in analytical, creative and critical thinking and to apply these skills in everyday life. Engagement, depth and rigour are essential characteristics of a curriculum that will motivate and interest students. This means challenging, meaningful and relevant activities that make the classroom an active centre of learning (Ralph Pirozzo, 2007).

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

At Kismet Park Primary School we understand that technology forms a vital part of a high quality, fully rounded education in the 21st century. Young people are now using mobile technology to assist them in life and learning. We believe students must be able to access digital information, tools and resources from anywhere, any time and in ways that lead to a deeper engagement and understanding of their learning across the curriculum.

Access to ICT through our 1:1 iPad program at Years 5 & 6, iPads at Years Prep to 2 and shared sets of notebooks at Years 3 &4 supports students in acquiring digital literacy skills and capitalises on the power of ICT to support student learning, share, collaborate and communicate in and beyond the classroom. We want our students to strive for excellence through a personalised learning program that integrates the curriculum and fully exploits the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The National Curriculum states that students develop ICT competence when they learn to:

- **Investigate** - using ICT to plan and refine information searches; to locate and access different types of data and information and to verify the integrity of data when investigating questions, topics or problems

- **Create** - using ICT to generate ideas, plans, processes and products to create solutions to challenges or learning area tasks

- **Communicate** - using ICT to communicate ideas and information with others adhering to social protocols appropriate to the communicative context (purpose, audience and technology)

- **Operate** - applying technical knowledge and skills to use ICT efficiently and to manage data and information when and as needed

- **Apply** - appropriate social and ethical protocols and practices to operate and manage ICT.

‘Igniting Curiosity’ focuses on nurturing our students’ thinking skills while engaging them through a variety of learning styles.

Vegetable Garden

Our Vegetable Garden aims to stimulate students’ curiosity about the world we live in, to wonder why it is that way, and to ask about our place in it. By providing hands on experiences our goal is to respond to and nourish such curiosity, wonder and questioning. Our Vegetable Garden Program is targeted at year four students and involves students in growing, harvesting, preparing, and learning about food. Students can also work in the vegetable garden during our lunch time activities program. These shared experiences will provide students with positive food experiences that can lead them to a lifetime habit of healthy eating. Through their involvement in the program our students will:

- expend physical energy working in the garden
- expand their vocabulary and language to describe food, plants, textures and flavours
- use mathematics to measure and weigh
- develop the scientific skills of observation and recording
- develop awareness of the environment and plant diversity
Specialists’ Programs In Prep

Health and Physical Education
As we have a very active program students must wear appropriate footwear and clothing on the day of their PE class. Girls should bring along either tracksuit pants or sports briefs to put on if dresses are worn to ensure they can fully participate. Students are expected to carry a drink bottle filled with water to all physical education activities.

Perceptual Motor Program
Our Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) aims to give Prep students experiences in seeing, hearing, touching, processing, making perceptual judgements and reacting through carefully sequenced activities which they enjoy doing like running, hopping, skipping, jumping, balancing, crawling, climbing, throwing, catching, bowling, sliding, etc., using a variety of common and specially designed equipment. Prep students attend once a week where activity stations are led by parent volunteers and overseen by the class teacher who observes each student’s progress and provides support and guidance. As students work through these carefully planned sequential experiences they develop perception and motor skills along with memory training. Confidence grows, problems are solved, language skills develop and the fundamental sports skills are learned which will enable the student to move competently into the major games and activities.

Visual Arts
As our students gain experiences using a wide range of art and craft materials, they must wear an Art Smock during each weekly Art lesson. The lessons are designed for Preps to explore textures and colours that often involve wet activities. Students are also encouraged to share responsibility for cleaning paint brushes, palettes and pots, transferring artwork from tables to drying racks and washing their hands at the water trough in the Art room. Hence an art smock will help to protect uniforms and avoid messy accidents.

Performing Arts
Our Preps receive weekly lessons where they will develop musicality through rhyme, song, dance and movement as well as explore and use a variety of percussion instruments to accompany different pieces of music to develop a sense of rhythm. Much of the learning will incorporate storytelling and creativity. Every second year the entire school participates in our Whole School Production.

Japanese
Learning another language fosters students’ ability to think and reflect about the workings of language, and to develop mental flexibility and problem-solving strategies. In 2015 Kismet Park Primary School introduced Japanese to classrooms across the school. In addition to our specialist Japanese teacher a number of staff have Japanese language skills. The Japanese language is easy to learn because it is a phonetic language. All of the sounds can be written with forty-six symbols called hiragana.
LEARNING AT HOME

Reading
Our Home Shared Reading program will begin mid Term One. This gives the students time to settle into the school environment, become familiar with books in the classroom and begin to develop a love of books and reading. Students will be taught the correct way to hold a book, how to correctly point to words as they ‘read’ and identify components of a book such as the front cover, title, title page, print and illustrations. During Term One parents who are interested in assisting with our home reading program by reading with the students each morning will participate in a Parent Education Induction Program, allowing them to help in the classroom. In the mean time we encourage you to continue to read with your child books from home or from the local library.

How to Help Your Child with Reading
- **PAUSE** before responding as it is important to give your children time to try to work out the word independently.
- **PROMPT** by encouraging your child to look at the pictures and ask: What word would make sense? What would sound right? What does the word start with? (when they know their letters). If the word makes sense allow the child to continue and correct them later so not to lose the flow of language. If the word doesn’t make sense encourage your child to have another try and/or tell your child to avoid frustration.
- **PRAISE** and encouragement for their efforts at all times is extremely important for building confidence and self esteem.

How to Help Your Child with Writing
- **PRAISE** all attempts at writing and spelling. Talk about what your child has written. Have your child point to the writing and talk about the message it carries
- **PROVIDE** a range of materials to encourage writing, drawing, and publishing eg: pencils, markers, paper, scissors, paste and old magazines
- **WRITE** together. Make your own shopping list and encourage your child to make their’s too.
- **DEMONSTRATE** how to write by explaining what you do, eg: I start my writing on this side of the page. I’m making gaps between the words
- **IDENTIFY** letters and words around you. Play with letters of the alphabet; find letters and words in magazines that are significant eg: that letter is in your name
- **LOOK** for your child’s work in class books that are brought home to share.

How to Help Your Child with Mathematics
- **ENCOURAGE** your child to estimate and count collections of objects, eg: toys, people, and rocks
- **COLLECT** a variety of objects to sort into groups eg: find all the brown buttons. Put the big ones over here
- **PRACTICE** counting forwards and backwards. Start at different numbers
- **TALK** about measuring using everyday things. How many cups of cereal in my bowl? Have we got enough plates for everybody?
- **FIND** the biggest potato. Is the onion as heavy as the carrot?
- **NAME** the days of the week. We go to Kinder on Mondays and Wednesdays
- **SHOW** your child a calendar and talk about when we celebrate festivals and birthdays
- **DISCUSS** the events of the day. After breakfast we will ... When the big hand on the clock points to the 12 “The Wiggles” is on T.V. etc
- **BUILD** shapes and objects – simple jigsaws, towers and patterns with shaped blocks.
HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Parent Helpers
Parent involvement is encouraged and valued at Kismet Park Primary School. There are lots of different ways parents can assist or be involved, such as –

- Helping in the classroom with reading, spelling or mathematics
- Assisting on excursions and camps
- Making classroom resources
- Being a parent representative on School Council, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or Sub-Committees
- Assisting with community events/fund raising/stalls
- Assist with food preparation and sales at the Kismet Kitchen (Kismet Kitchen)
- Assisting with the maintenance of our School Veggie Patch and Community Garden Club
- Sharing expertise as a Special Presenter.

Parents in the Prep Classrooms
As parents, you play a vital role in the education of your child and therefore, we welcome you to become involved in your child’s classroom. Prior to assisting in the classroom you will have the opportunity to attend our Parent Education Induction session.

You can help by:

- Assisting in the classroom
- Leading PMP physical activity stations in the Gym
- Sharing Reading Times and hearing students read take home books
- Collating the school newsletters and notices
- Supporting and encouraging all students to develop a positive feeling about themselves
- Sharing hobbies, interests, ideas and any special expertise e.g. playing a musical instrument, pottery, gardening, cooking
- Supplying junk materials such as cardboard boxes, paper, silver and gold foil, computer paper, string/lace/ribbon, buttons/ beads/ sequins, softwood, lids/corks, plastic bottles, squirty bottles, old appliances.

Working with Children Checks
Kismet Park Primary School is an open, friendly and inclusive Learning Community that actively promotes opportunities for students, parents, teachers and the wider community, both individually and collectively to develop their skills and understandings on the journey of learning. Parental and community involvement is strongly encouraged at all levels of the school. School Council requires all volunteers involved in child related work to have a Working with Children Check. Application forms are available from the school office or Australia Post.

Out of School Hours Care
Our Out of School Hours Care is provided by ‘Extend Before & After School Care’ with morning sessions commencing at 7:00am and afternoon sessions concluding at 6:30pm. Extend also offer programs during school holidays and on curriculum days. For further information about the program please visit their website at http://www.extend.com.au or call 1300 366 437.

School Fees & Voluntary Contributions
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has issued specific guidelines that provide details of those materials and services which are paid for by parents. These include:

- Student textbooks and print/resource materials in lieu of textbooks
- Student requisites and stationery
- Materials for the Visual Arts program

For 2015 School Council costed our Materials & Requisites fee at $105.00 per child. For this fee each receives a book pack of supplies that have been specifically selected to support the learning needs of children at particular levels of the school.

In addition to the individual book pack supplies;

- Each classroom requires a wide range of materials and requisites for shared use. These include items such as a range of papers, pastes, other writing and drawing implements, and classroom scissors.
- Materials and requisites that are accessed through our Visual Arts program. These include glues, tools, clay, construction resources, needles, threads and a range of papers/cards and textiles.
School Councils are also permitted to request parents to pay a voluntary contribution for any item or purpose. In 2015, the school requested a voluntary contribution of $70.00 per family towards the Kismet Building Fund. This is a Tax Deductible voluntary payment and donations are used for classroom and building refurbishments as well as the general maintenance of school facilities. Your donation supports School Council in providing a safe and pleasant learning environment for our students. Contributions are greatly appreciated.

Later in the year School Council will set the amounts for both the 2016 Materials & Requisites Fee and Voluntary Contribution. These amounts will be confirmed at our Parent Information evening on Monday 23rd November. We trust that this information has provided a guide towards expected costs in 2016.

As part of the school’s efforts to effectively communicate with you, and in response to parent feedback, we have introduced the ‘Kismet Park Primary School Skoolbag’ app.

As our society moves into the new technological world, newsletters, school information, notes and important dates will now be available from your Smartphone.

Communication
As part of the school’s efforts to effectively communicate with our community we introduced the ‘Kismet Park Primary School Skoolbag’ app in late 2014.

Key features of the Skoolbag include:
- A prompt and efficient way for you to keep up to date.
- You can save events directly to your smartphone calendar.
- Absentee Note and Change of Details - you can email us an absent note or any of your detail changes directly from your device.
- No more “Lost” notes in the bottom of a schoolbag. You will be able to find notes and permission slips on the App.
- Links directly to KPPS Facebook page.

This App will help us move towards a paperless form of communication in the future, complementing our website and Facebook tools. It also supports our goal for fostering 21st Century learning skills in our school community.

Our 2016 Student Leaders

Every face has a place!

Further information about our school can be found on our website: www.kismetparkps.vic.edu.au

We can be contacted at the following email address: kismet.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

The DEECD website also has useful information about the transition to school: www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning