Welcome to Prep 2017, as we look forward to an enjoyable year. We understand it can be a somewhat confusing and nervous time for young students whilst settling into a new routine. Rest assured, it just takes time and patience for things to be less stressful. There is so much to remember. That is why we try to make it easier for your child by supplying you with many notes and reminders.

This year Prep will have five classes. Mrs. Muriel Saverin in Prep A, Miss. Sharnee Balke in Prep B, Mrs. Hannah Marshall in Prep C, Mrs. Amy Rodgers in Prep D and Mrs. Michelle Burrell in Prep E. Specialist teachers include Mrs. Tracey Sidoti (Science), Miss Stephanie Ballowtine (Physical Education) and Mrs Annette Harding (Music). Messages and reminders are also delivered to the class at the end of the day, so please assist us by keeping out of view until after pick-up time to avoid student distraction. Please remain downstairs and not on the verandahs.

It is important to let us know if your child has had an upsetting morning or weekend. (E.g. pet has died, injuries, etc.) A quick email (preferable) or note in the B.E.E. Folder is all we need. We welcome parent help in our classes. Please let us know if you are available to assist with activities and group work in the classroom. After Week 4, your teacher will notify any volunteers what sessions would be suitable to come in and help in the classroom. Please complete the Volunteer Induction course first.

If your child is absent, please ring and advise the school office. PLEASE CHECK DAILY for all forms of communication. We use emails (preferable) and the Home B.E.E. Folder for some notices that require a return form with signatures.

Pimpama is a unique school and you and your child have made a great choice becoming a part of this wonderful community. We look forward to our partnership in the education of your child.

As you are aware, we incorporate an iPad Program in our school. The MiPad initiative is being offered as an opportunity and is not compulsory. By allowing students with personal iPads to bring them to school and to be used for educational purposes, we hope to provide an opportunity for 24/7/365 access to personalised learning experiences and offer our students an alternative medium to build on their learning experiences, document their learning journey and strengthen the connection between home and school. The teachers have participated in many hours of Professional Development as well as assisting each other in the use of these effective tools. If families choose to participate, there are weekly support sessions and access to our school internet to download apps. Families are not required to download apps using their home internet connection. A $50 iTunes card is expected to last the duration of the year with nearly all apps being transferable from year to year.

Please make sure that you read and sign the iPad Agreement Policy. It is compulsory to submit this form for your child to be able to bring their iPad to school to use in our education program BEGINNING WEEK 3.

**Parent iPad Sessions:**
Term One, Monday Afternoons 3:15 – 4:00pm in the School Library.
Prep Teachers

This year all Prep classes will be working and learning with all five teachers once a week on a Wednesday. The teachers will be planning closely together and teaching each Prep class their respective subject. We are looking forward to getting to know all the Prep students who will stay in their class groups and rotate rooms according to the subject they will be learning.

- Mrs Saverin - ‘Values’
- Miss Balke - ‘Visual Arts’
- Mrs Marshall - ‘Health’
- Mrs Rodgers - ‘ICT (Computer Skills)’
- Mrs Burrell - ‘Perceptual Motor Programme’

More information will be given at the Parent Afternoon session in Week 3. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible. It will be an opportune time for you to ask questions regarding your child’s learning.

**Wednesday 8th February; 3:15pm—3:45pm; in the Prep Classrooms.**

Fruit Break

Young children become hungry during the first session of each day, so we like to provide them with a fruit break time. They can eat while they are working. So please provide your child with fresh fruit each day to eat in the classroom at 9:50am. Please cut up the fruit at home ready for eating and put in a named container. Your child may bring it in to put on their desk prior to the day starting.

PLEASE NOTE: No other food items will be allowed at this “munch and crunch” short fruit/vege brain break.

Student Digital Portfolios

Over the year we will be taking regular photographs of your child throughout his/her learning experiences. There will be individual photos, small groups and whole group combinations. At the end of the year we will provide you with a copy of these photos. We hope you will enjoy looking at these pictures, as much as we enjoy capturing the many special moments in your child’s learning journey in Prep. We will put them on the USB that you have provided with their booklist items.
Sound Pic Boxes

Each Monday (starting week 2) we will send home 2 boxes with students, to find and collect 5 items that begin with the alphabet sound pic we are looking at for that week. These items will be shared with the class as a game. Your child will be asked to give the class some clues as to what could be in the box.
This is a fun activity for students! E.g. Some-thing that you wash yourself with. (s–soap) If you can assist your child to practice their clues it will make it easier for them. We have provided instructions in the box for you.

Life Education Van

Each year we invite the Life Education Van to visit our school to teach the students the importance of good health. Healthy Harold is a puppet giraffe who, with his friends, explores ways to keep healthy. Janet (Life Ed. Teacher) is Harold’s friend and she comes along to help Harold share his knowledge about healthy living. A note will be sent home regarding the payment of this activity. Please complete the form and return money in an envelope to the office by Thursday 23rd February. If your child is unable to attend, they will be supervised with work in another class. More details coming in your child’s B.E.E. Home Folder. Please check daily!
You can visit their website: www.healthyharold.org.au

Water Bottles

As we are in our Summer months, it is very important that you send your child to school with a NAMED bottle of water. We encourage the students to drink plenty of water throughout the day. They must keep up their fluids to help reduce headaches and to assist their young brains to function properly. Lunch boxes require freezer blocks to keep food cool in the hot weather.
Thank you!

Homework, Home Readers and iShare

Each week we will set the students simple tasks to do at home. Please assist your child in developing a routine for doing their homework. The book activity should not take more than 10—15 minutes per week.
Please refer to your child’s Behaviour record on the inside cover of their Homework Book and sign weekly. 😊

Parents – if you do not wish for your child to receive the home activities please let us know. See note inside homework book.

1. **Homework Book**: a simple activity that your child can do by him/herself.
2. **Home Readers**: We will be making our own readers that will be sent home in their Reading Folder.
3. ‘**iShare’ item**: needs to be brought in on your child’s rostered day. More on this from your class teacher.
4. **Mathletics/Skoolbo/Reading Eggs** activities on the computer.
More information will follow, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.
In the Prep Year we will be implementing a new literacy program called Speech Sound Pics (SSP). Please make sure that you download the free SSP app on your child’s iPad as we will be using this everyday! The SSP program is not replacing the current curriculum but rather an excellent addition to the way we teach reading, writing and spelling.

More information on this Phonics ‘Learn to Read Program’ will be emailed to you throughout the term. If you have any questions about this program please see your child’s teacher.

School Reading Policy

Our doors open at 8.45 each morning for 10 minutes of reading with a parent or older sibling to share a book. This is a valuable time to invest in your child as you model the early reading process – sounding out words phonetically and predicting text by using various clues. Ten minutes of your busy time will settle and prepare your child for the day’s learning. You will be rewarded ten-fold as you discover by the end of the year that they will be reading to you!

Reading Eggs, Mathletics & Skoolbo

These wonderful online educational programs have been made available to enrich and extend literacy and numeracy learning. Please allow your child access to a computer or iPad at some stage throughout each week to complete their tasks. There is a $50 family voluntary contribution, to help with the expense of the extra programs our school provides. Payment may be made at administration and your class teacher will provide your child with their logon details and passwords.

Contact Details

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Phone: 55 494333

Prep Teacher E-mails:
M. Saverin - msave2@eq.edu.au
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H. Marshall – hrmar0@eq.edu.au
A. Rodgers - abarn177@eq.edu.au
M. Burrell - mburr93@eq.edu.au

School Website

We are on the web: http://pimpamass.eq.edu.au

Check out our school webpage. It has many important, up to date information items that you can access. Our weekly school newsletter is located at the left hand side of the page listed under ‘QUICK LINKS’.

PLEASE CONTACT ADMINISTRATION IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU.