

**Mount Barker
Community College
Early Childhood Education
Information Booklet
2018**



**Kindergarten Program
Phone: (08) 9851 3400**

**For children born
1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014**

Dear Parents

Welcome to Mount Barker Community College Early Childhood Centre.

Term dates for 2018	Session Times
Semester One	
Term 1: 31 Jan - 13 April	<i>Bandicoots Mon/Tues</i>
Term 2: 1 May – 29 June	<i>Wombats Thurs/Fri</i>

Semester Two	
Term 3: 17 July - 21 Sept	<i>Bandicoots Mon/Tues/Thur</i>
Term 4: 8 Oct - 13 Dec	<i>Wombats Tues/Thurs/Fri</i>

School starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.10pm.

On Wednesdays however, schools finishes early at 2.30pm.

Kindergarten Phase-in Process

Due to the young nature of our students and their first introduction to schooling, we use a phase-in period to give students and staff time to get to know each other in smaller groups. By working with half classes in the first two weeks, we can spend more time with each child and help them settle into their new environment. It allows us to learn about the children; where they are in their development and how we can best begin to move them forward on their learning journey. Your child will be allocated to either Group B1/B2 or W1/W2 for this period. From the start of Week 3/4, all the children begin attending together and the Kindy program commences in earnest. It is important your child immediately develop the routine of arriving to school **on time**. Learning begins the second the bell rings and your child will benefit greatly from a regular prompt start. We really appreciate your support through this process.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1			31 st Jan No Children	1 st Feb W1 All Day	2 nd Feb W2 All Day
2	5 th Feb B1 All Day	6 th Feb B2 All Day	7 th Feb No Children	8 th Feb W1 All Day	9 th Feb W2 All Day
3	12 th Feb B1 All Day	13 th Feb B2 All Day	14 th Feb No Children	15 th Feb W All Day	16 th Feb W All Day
4	19 th Feb B All Day	20 th Feb B All Day	21 st Feb No Children	22 nd Feb W All Day	23 rd Feb W All Day

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Education is about learning, developing and practising skills that are necessary for successful participation in society. Children's play is a rich source of learning. The child is in control of learning in an environment carefully structured by the teacher for purposeful exploration and play. Children are encouraged to explore, experiment, discover, improvise, innovate, create, question, discuss and construct. This is important to all learners but essential to young children. Play ensures that young children have opportunities to make personal sense of the world around them as well as providing new experiences in cognitive, linguistic, physical, social, creative and emotional areas.

Teachers learn about children from careful observation of their play and assist them to progress from what is known to the unknown. Structured activities are provided to assist children with early concept and skill development. Play provides the social situation for developing language and socio-cultural links. Values and attitudes are very important, as are the skills of solving social problems.

Involvement with Whole College

The Centre joins in with whole college activities where possible e.g. Open Days, special events, incursions and excursions during the year.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

At the end of each semester, your child will receive a formal, written report. At the end of the year, each child will also take home a work sample book to celebrate the year at Kindy.

Helpful information, encouragement and assistance are as welcome and valuable to the staff as they are to the students.

Please make an appointment if you have any queries or concerns. We will be happy to find a time that is mutually convenient, preferably during staff non-contact time **if at all possible**. The teacher's full attention can then be given to you to promote the best possible outcome of the meeting.

Newsletters

College newsletters (via the youngest child in the family) and other notes will be sent home on a regular basis. Please check your child's bag regularly. If you would prefer to receive these by email, please let one of our staff know and provide them with your email address if you have not done so already.

Please Bring:

Drink bottle - to enable your child to get a drink of WATER when thirsty.

Fruit – One piece of fruit, cheese or vegetable to share for morning tea.

Lunch - Please ensure your child has a nutritious lunch that is easy to handle.

Please support our shared environment by NOT sending lollies or chocolates to school with your child. Thank you.

Canteen - The menu for the school canteen will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Parent help is always appreciated in the canteen.

Hat - Every child must wear a hat in Terms 1 and 4 as part of the school's "NO HAT - NO PLAY IN THE SUN" policy. Children without hats must stay out of the sun. Please use the red school hat, issued by the P & C Association and label it clearly

Back pack - Please make sure it is normal school size so that it is BIG enough to fit all your child's belongings and ensure that it is clearly named.

Spare clothes – Your child will need a complete set of spare clothes to change into in case of emergency. Please label with your child's name

Small pillow: Our full day program includes a REST TIME. This quiet time is spent on the mat, lying quietly, listening to peaceful music. Many children have already outgrown a rest time at home but working and playing with many other children can be tiring. Please provide a *small* pillow for your child to use during this time and clearly label it with your child's name. A rug is not needed.

Our college is a **NUT AWARE SCHOOL**.

A number of our students have serious allergies or reactions to nuts and nut products.

Please keep this in mind when sending food to school with your child.

At our college, each child's well-being is everyone's concern.

Parking: We aim to make the pick-up and drop-off process as easy as possible for everyone. Please do not park in the turning circle as this is not only an inconvenience for others but a danger as well. Please note that the Kindergarten classroom doors do not open until 8:45am.

Kitchen Supplies: We use these supplies regularly in our Kindy and would appreciate your support by providing:

What to Wear

We encourage all our students to wear school uniform as often as possible as it helps to create a sense of belonging to our whole college community. Duggins Menswear in Lowood Road, Mount Barker, has a wide range of school uniforms readily available in the store.

Clothing needs to be comfortable, unrestricting, easily washed and, most importantly, **clearly labelled!**

Washing Instructions:

We use water-based paint that should be easy to remove but we also use food colourings and dyes which can be more difficult to remove.

1. Soak in COLD water.
2. Rub stain with a stain remover.
3. Wash as normal.

Shoes

During warmer weather, we encourage the removal of shoes on arrival. This is for safety reasons and to prolong the life of our equipment. We would really appreciate it if the shoes could have Velcro straps as you can imagine trying to do up 20 pairs of laces takes some time.

Personal Belongings

Sometimes children like to bring in their favourite toys. This is discouraged as it causes distress if the toy is lost or damaged. Birthdays and News are exceptions. Again, please label all items clearly to avoid confusion and loss.

Teaching at Home

Help your child to become independent gradually. By the time they start with us they should be able to:

- ❖ take themselves to the toilet
- ❖ wash and dry own hands and face
- ❖ blow own nose
- ❖ put on and take off jumpers
- ❖ take off and put on shoes and socks (staff will assist with laces)
- ❖ know their full name
- ❖ recognise own belongings
- ❖ look after and be responsible for belongings

Health and Well Being

Please let us know if your child:

- has or develops any health conditions (e.g. asthma, allergies - especially food allergies) or other circumstances (e.g. family member in hospital, new baby in the family etc.) that could affect them during the ,please keep them
- is sick or is going to be away for any reason
- has a contagious health problem, such as flu, heavy cold, conjunctivitis, mumps, measles, rubella, etc

Before we are able to administer short or long term medication to your child, we require a form to be completed. Please see one of our friendly office staff to assist you through this process.

Your child may want to attend while they are sick, but we rely on you to ensure they are no longer at risk of infecting other children or staff, and well enough to gain benefit from being at school. Children regain their health much more quickly if rested when unwell. As a general guide if your child isn't feeling well or has a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea, please keep them home for 24 hours after the end of symptoms

Arrivals and Departures

Due to the high supervision needs of such young children and the corresponding high level of staff preparation for learning each morning, we ask that you remain with your child until class begins at 8.50am. It is also very important to *collect your child promptly* at the finishing time as it can be very distressing to be the last child left at school, even for a short period of time. **All children must be delivered to the classroom by an adult or older sibling and it is vital that you notify us if your child is to be collected by an adult other than yourself.**

If you need to collect your child during the day, please visit the front office first to sign your child out of the college.

Bus Children

To enable your child to use a bus service, you will need to register online at www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au. Mrs Mentha, at the front office, is available for assistance if required.

Your child will be safely escorted to and from the buses each day by our Education Assistants. **It is very important to let the office (9851 3400) know if your child will not be on the bus for any reason.**

There are a lot of children to be organised correctly on to buses, so please pick your child up from the classroom, not the bus-line, if taking them home from school.

If you have any issues regarding your child's use of the bus, please let the office and your teacher know as soon as possible.

Parent Helpers

Your help enables us to work with smaller groups of children and to give individual attention where it is needed.

Duties as a "Parent Helper" include cutting up fruit, assisting with learning activities and helping staff and children to pack away. Please write your name on our roster on a date that is convenient for you. We look forward to sharing time with you and trust that you will enjoy your time with us. You are welcome to stay for a half day, or just pop in for a few minutes. Parent helpers are greatly appreciated by both staff and children, especially your own child.

Kindergarten and Pre Primary - Parents and Citizens Sub Committee

Come and meet fellow parents and the teachers for afternoon tea on **Tuesday 13th February**, in KP 3 at 3.15pm. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each term to discuss events, fund-raising, purchase of new equipment and educational matters. The AGM will be on Tuesday 20th February at 3.15pm in KP3. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Kindergarten Contributions 2018

Full year payments

\$60 for 1 child

Family discounts available

Term Payments

\$15.00 for 1 child

This contribution directly enriches educational opportunities available to your child at this college. The funding collected from parents goes to class cost centres and is particularly important in early childhood where we tend to use a large amount of consumable items as we encourage your child to work and learn by doing.

The college offers a range of payment options to assist parents in hardship.

Contributions will be gratefully received at the office, preferably during the first few weeks of school, or by EFT to Bendigo Bank MBCC BSB 633-000 A/c 115451163 (Please include your child's name in the description box)

***We trust that this year will be the start
or continuation of a close and enjoyable association
with Mount Barker Community College.***



Together We Strive