

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to Mount Barker Community College Early Childhood Centre.

Term Dates for 2017	
Term 1:	Wednesday 31 January - Friday 13 April
Term 2:	Tuesday 1 May - Friday 29 June
Term 3:	Tuesday 17 July - Friday 21 September
Term 4:	Monday 8 October - Thursday 13 December

Session Times	
Mon:	8.50am - 3.10pm
Tues:	8.50am - 3.10pm
Wed:	8.50am - 2.30pm
Thurs:	8.50am - 3.10pm
Fri:	8.50am - 3.10pm

A Strong Start to the Year

Pre-primary is an exciting year for our young ones as they build on all the things they have learnt in Kindergarten through our five day program that starts right from the first day of the school year. Literacy, numeracy and social and emotional development are our focus areas during this year and these skills and ideas are really important for your child's future.

Although it may feel unusual for you if you are used to having your child home with you during the week, we believe your child will quickly become accustomed to the full five day program when they attend regularly, eat well and get plenty of sleep.

Our staff will naturally implement programs and strategies that ease your child in to full-time schooling and we encourage you to talk with one of our staff if you have any concerns about your child's transition from Kindergarten.

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 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.

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. We will attend assemblies and visit the library later on in the year.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

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.

The newsletter can be sent out by email so please provide one of our staff with your email address if you would like to receive it this way.

Please Bring:

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

Healthy morning snack – a piece of fruit, cheese or vegetable to be packed in separate container from their lunch box.

Lunch - Please make sure that 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. You can save time and order lunches online at www.flexischools.com.au. **Please, no recess orders.**

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 – the children will need a complete set of clothes to change into in case of emergency. Please change these with the season.

Small pillow: Our full day program includes a REST TIME. This time is spent lying quietly, listening to peaceful music or reading books. Many children have already outgrown a rest time at home but working and playing with many other children can be tiring. We are always willing to negotiate programs according to individual needs.

Please provide a **small pillow** to be used during rest time and clearly label it with your child's name.

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.

Kitchen Supplies: We use these supplies regularly in our Pre-primary 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.

Shoes

During warmer weather, we encourage the removal of shoes on arrival. This is for safety reasons when climbing and to help the children develop a sense of body awareness.

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 Days are exceptions. **News days will commence in Term 2.**

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
- ❖ put on and take off shoes and socks (staff will assist with laces)
- ❖ know their full name
- ❖ recognise own belongings
- ❖ look after and be responsible for belongings
- ❖ writing - if your child is ready to write his/her own name please teach them using a capital for the beginning letter, and small letters for the rest e.g. John. A copy of the alphabet font used will be sent home early in the year.

Useful Things

We are very good at recycling. Many items that would normally be thrown out are very useful to us. These include food boxes of all descriptions, ice-cream, yoghurt and margarine containers, wrapping paper, wool and material scraps, bottle tops, corks and greeting cards. The only things that cannot be used are cigarette, personal hygiene, laundry and soap boxes, toilet roll cylinders, medicine boxes and glass containers.

Health and Well Being

Please let us know if your child:

- has or develops any health conditions (asthma, allergies - especially food allergies etc.) or other circumstances (family member in hospital, new baby in the family etc.) that could affect them during the day.
- 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. 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 a 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 Centre, 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.

Kindergarten and Pre Primary - Parents and Citizens Sub Committee

Come and meet fellow parents and the teachers for afternoon tea on **Tuesday 13th of February 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 of February at 3.15pm in KP3.

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Pre Primary 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.

As part of our Maths and Language programs we incorporate different cooking activities. These are ongoing throughout the year. As you can appreciate there is a cost for the supply of the ingredients. This is included on the Fees and Charges from the College. Please let us know of any allergies (e.g. Gluten Intolerance) that your child may have.

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 will be the start
or continuation of a close and enjoyable association
with Mount Barker Community College.***



Together We Strive