FOREWORD

The time has arrived for your child to attend Preparatory Year and this creates great opportunities for your child and your family. You will no doubt have many questions that you would like answered, especially if this is the first time you have a child who is preparing to attend school. We believe the child’s parents are the most important link in the educational chain. Together we can make your child’s experiences at school exciting, rewarding and memorable.

At Kenilworth State Community College parents, staff and students are valued. We promote the genuine involvement of parents in the learning process and take pride in celebrating our achievements.

Together we strive to:

- Communicate high expectations for student achievements;
- Develop clear curriculum programs;
- Provide access to a variety of learning resources; and
- Report regularly on student progress.

On behalf of our School Community, welcome to Kenilworth State Community College.

Elise Maguire
Principal
THE PREPARATORY YEAR PROGRAM
We deliver a balanced and child centred program based on The Australian National Curriculum, covering the following areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- The Arts
- Health and physical learning

Kenilworth uses the Jolly Phonics program to introduce letters and sounds.

Prep Eligibility
Prep students need to turn 5 prior to July 1st in the year they start in the preparatory class.

Parents
Parents play the most important role in fostering their child’s learning. Reading to and talking with your child fosters the development of their speech, language, early literacy and social understandings. Providing opportunities for physical play and taking time to do activities together that develop fine and gross motor skills will complement the Prep Program and help your children to get ready for the more formalised tasks required of them as their education progresses.

We welcome your involvement in the Prep class by:

- Sharing information about your child to assist us to meet his or her needs
- Reading the noticeboard and contributing items of interest
- Collecting clean recyclable materials for use in the classroom
- Providing supervision on excursions and at special events on campus
- Joining in the program and spending a morning working with your child
- Sharing your own hobbies with us – music, writing, art, craft, cooking, carpentry, gardening etc.
Preparing Your Child

One of the major goals for the year is to develop independence by encouraging your child to take responsibility for their belongings. Please encourage your child to put their own bag and lunch away.

Other things you can do to help prepare your child are:

- Practice putting shoes on and taking them off (we suggest velcro shoes until your child is able to competently tie their shoe laces)
- Practice eating and drinking without help (opening lunch boxes, wrapping and unwrapping food, taking lids off drink bottles, removing straws from poppers, opening tins, using spoons etc.)
- Using a handkerchief or tissue
- Toileting independently
- Using playground equipment safely
- Carrying their own bag
- Identifying belongings
- Familiarising the child with the school environment i.e. Drive past and talk about the start of the prep year and how excited you are for your child. Tell your child how they will get to school and how they will get home.
- Talk positively about Prep, the teachers and other school staff.
- Emphasising how to play safely and make good choices, including keeping hands, feet and objects to themselves or solving problems with physical means.
- Foster an interest in reading by providing books of a suitable nature i.e. picture books and story books. It is very important to read stories to your children and to let them see you read for pleasure.
- Be enthusiastic about school activities and speak positively about the school to your child.
- Help your child to count objects e.g. pieces of fruit in the fruit bowl, toys in the toy box, lollies to share with their friends.
- When helping your child print their name, use a capital letter and then lower case letters (e.g. Andrew not ANDREW) as these are the type of letters he/she will be using at school.
- Encourage your child to speak in sentences and discourage baby talk. Modelling correct speech is very important.
Ways of Teaching and Learning in Prep

Effective pedagogy and practice is an important part of supporting successful transitions for students from day care, Kindergarten or home to school. At Kenilworth State Community College, our Prep classroom uses Age Appropriate Pedagogies when delivering learning experiences to our students. Age Appropriate Pedagogies (AAP) focuses on achieving a range and balance of teaching strategies, taking into consideration student’s interests and capabilities, while delivering the Australian Curriculum. AAP is based on the key characteristics of effective early years teaching and learning as identified in international research with the goal of every student succeeding at school.

AAP uses a range of approaches, such as Inquiry Learning, Play-Based learning, Direct Teaching or Explicit Instruction. Students can learn by being active, immersed in a language-rich classroom, by leading the learning or working together to develop understanding. Age Appropriate Pedagogies engages students in their learning and contributes to a dynamic, supportive and flexible classroom.

Home Readers in Prep

Home reading programs foster the partnership between home and school – a partnership which brings success for all students. It is important that children establish good school habits and a positive attitude towards learning at home and school. When your child is ready, they will bring home a levelled Home Reading book daily. This is a great opportunity to see how well your child is progressing and to spend some time allowing them to ‘show off’ their new reading skills.

Teachers provide information to parents when the home reading commences to show how to get the most out of the home reading program. Experience shows that students who read and who are read to every night are the most successful learners.

Sharing stories, discussing pictures, identifying letters and words, predicting what will happen in the story and talking about how you enjoyed the book and its characters are all positive ways you can build your child’s reading skills.
Attendance and Pick-up
Supervised play in the Undercover Area starts at 8.20am. If your child arrives earlier, they need to wait quietly outside the school office. Students assemble in the Undercover Area next to the Tuckshop when the first bell rings at 8.40am for a mini-assembly on Tuesday – Friday before heading to their classrooms for learning. On Mondays, students go straight to the Activities Hall for our formal school assembly. All parents are welcome to attend our assemblies.

Children are to be collected from their classroom by an adult or brother or sister. Please notify the teacher of any changes to arrangements.

If for some unforeseen reason parents cannot collect their child on time the school must be notified and the parent is to make other arrangements for someone else to pick the child up.

What to wear
Your child is to wear the complete school uniform and hair tied up if it is below the shoulders.

Parent teacher communication
Each child will have a communication book that comes to and from school daily. Please use this to share any concerns you may have about your child’s day or to communicate any information your child’s teacher may need to know. School notes and messages will also be stored here. If you would like to meet with your teacher please feel free to arrange a meeting.

Swimming
At Kenilworth SCC we conduct “learn to swim” as part of our PE program during term 1 and 4 each year. All students must wear a sun-safe swim shirt for swimming lessons.

We also like the students to be able to change and dress themselves. Please encourage your child to practice this prior to the start of swimming lessons.
Buses
If your child will be catching the bus, please contact the school and we can give you the appropriate phone number to ring. There are 2 bus runs, driven by Ingrid and Michael.

Spelling Program
Kenilworth SCC runs the “Words Their Way” spelling program. Students in Prep begin learning about initial consonants and sort pictures according to particular sounds.

Sickness
Always notify the school if your child is sick. It is recommended that you keep them at home if you are in doubt as to whether to send them. Children should be allowed time to rest and recuperate from illnesses. If a child has fallen sick at Prep then you will be called and asked to come and collect them. Infectious complaints require that you keep the child at home, so that other children are not exposed to the disease. Such diseases include: measles, mumps, and conjunctivitis.

Lunch Breaks
Each child needs to bring enough food for brain break, morning tea and lunch. Brain break is at 10:00am and children will only be allowed to have a healthy snack such as fresh fruit, almonds, yoghurt or cheese & biscuits, (this does not include roll-ups or muesli bars). Children must also bring a bottle of water.

Homework
In the Prep Year, children will receive a home reader, sight words and activities to assist them with learning letters, sounds and numbers.

Birthdays
Send in a birthday cake or cupcakes for your child to share if you wish. Please do not send a knife, the class teacher will supply one.

Children’s Equipment/Requirements
Booklists will be available in Term 4 from the school or local newsagency. The Kenilworth Newsagency will stock all necessary items. Please ensure that all listed items are obtained and brought to school in January clearly named.

Backpack
A school bag clearly showing your child’s name is required. Feel free to place a personalised symbol on your child’s bag such as a bright picture or sticker. This will help your child to
recognise their bag. The bag needs to be big enough to fit a drink bottle, lunchbox, hat and their green note folder.

**Clothes**
Please put a spare set of clothes (in a clearly labelled plastic bag) in the backpack for use at school should the need arise.

**Hat**
Green, broad brimmed school hat. Please write your child’s name clearly inside.

**Shoes**
Black runners or joggers worn with white socks so that children can safely participate in all activities at school.

Please ensure that all student equipment is clearly labelled with your child’s first and last name.

**In conclusion**
Our main aim is to provide a happy and stimulating educational environment in which children can achieve success and enjoy recognition for their individual achievements. We encourage children to take responsibility for themselves so that they develop ownership of their own behaviour and actions. It is important to encourage children to develop as individuals while respecting the rights of every child to be a unique person.