

Tannum Sands  
State School

# ***PREP INFORMATION BOOKLET***



## Tannum Sands State School

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# Principal's Welcome

Thank you for choosing to enrol your child at Tannum Sands State School for Preparatory Year. To enrol in the Prep Year, your child needs to be turning 5 by the 30th of June with special consideration of students turning 5 by the 31st of July of that year.

The early years of schooling are very special and important and we look forward to sharing many exciting learning experiences with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child. We look forward to working in partnership with you now and beyond.

Selecting the school that will cater for quality future pathways for your child is an exciting and challenging phase of their educational journey. This booklet contains valuable information about Tannum Sands State School and how we organise and maintain our quality learning environments.

We are committed to our motto – **Sail To Success.**

Underpinning this vision is our school's four core expectations – **Be Safe, Be Friendly, Be Respectful and Be Responsible.** When students put these into play we know they will **Be An Active Learner.** This is symbolised in the **Tannum Wave.**

Our school aims to provide relevant and engaging learning pathways for all students, whilst maintaining a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Our school prides itself on having high expectations of both student behaviour and learning achievement.

21st Century approaches to teaching and learning are integrated throughout all classrooms. Our teachers work hard to deliver an active curriculum, being explicit about what they want students to do and rewarding positive outcomes.

By being an active and engaged learner throughout their school years students will enjoy their education and be well prepared for high school.

Tannum Sands State School values respectful, open and supportive relationships between teachers, students and caregivers. Please call us for any matter of concern or, alternatively, to give us some good news. If a matter is urgent, please advise an office staff member.

We welcome our Prep students and we hope to help you create excellent futures!

Christie Minns  
Principal  
Tannum Sands State School

# Welcome to Prep

Welcome to Prep at Tannum Sands State School. We are dedicated to making the transition to Prep as smooth as possible. To ensure we achieve the best learning experience for each child we encourage parents to work in partnership with us by:

- Providing us with a copy of the Transition Statement from Kindy/Daycare.
- Sharing important knowledge of your child with us. You are the expert when it comes to knowing them best.
- Keeping us up to date on changes in your child's life that may affect their day e.g. illness, diet changes, family issues and significant events.
- Talking to us when you have questions or concerns about Prep.
- Making time to find out how your child is progressing. An interview opportunity will be offered during term 1.
- Volunteering to spend some time in the Prep classroom, assisting in learning activities.

Our Prep year is a new learning environment with exciting things to do, see, touch and experience. Your child will find friends to share with and teachers who respect them as capable and competent learners. We aim to create a relaxed, secure and supportive environment where children are encouraged to investigate and explore to their individual potential.

At Tannum Sands State School we offer an educational program which aims to develop your child emotionally, socially, physically, intellectually and creatively.

Our teachers value the importance of oral language development in our early years. In Prep we implement a whole class OLEY (oral language in the early years) program, which was developed by local speech language Pathologists to improve students' communication skills.

We promote learning of whole child development through our daily PMP (perceptual motor program) This is a movement-based program which helps younger students improve their eye/hand and eye/foot coordination, fitness, balance, locomotion, eye-tracking skills and self-confidence.

We prepare our students for learning thorough the daily implementation of the Learning Connections program, research into this program with prep children shows, among other things, a marked advancement to school readiness in children participating in the program. The Learning Connections program assists the brain to fire better signals and to reorganise what was previously disorganised. When this happens, learning becomes more effective.

Our teachers set our students up for writing success by implementing the Peggy Lego. This approach to handwriting was developed by occupational therapists to prepare and engage our prep students in pre-writing activities. This approach helps to develop their writing skills using Peggy Lego cues, gross motor and sensory activities.

Our comprehensive learning programs are aligned to the Australian Curriculum and Queensland Syllabus (Early Years Curriculum Guidelines). The Curriculum emphasises the important foundation knowledge, skills and understandings that are recognised as factors in successful learning in the early years.

# Curriculum

The Curriculum provides opportunities to focus on:

## Key Components:

- Supporting play as a context for learning.
- Understanding each child as an individual.
- Developing supportive partnerships.
- Providing flexible learning environments.
- Assisting children in exploring the world around them and the ways in which they learn.

## Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- HASS- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Health - physical wellbeing, making healthy choices, gross and fine-motor development.
- Social and emotional competence with a focus on social and personal learning.
- The Arts – Visual Arts and Performing Arts including Drama, Dance and Music.

At Tannum Sands State School we focus on:

## Understanding Children:

We as teachers develop an understanding of young learners by:

- Understanding children's prior experiences.
- Understanding children's learning.
- Understanding learning and development in educational contexts.
- Understanding individual needs and differentiating to support all learners
- Building understandings about children.

## Building Partnerships:

As teachers, we build and maintain partnerships for the benefit of the children

We build partnerships with:

- Children
- Families and carers
- Communities
- Professional colleagues

## Establishing Flexible Learning Environments:

We need to take into account the different types of environments the children will learn in.

These environments include:

- Physical environment: indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- Social Environment: the children and all other partners in our Prep environment are made to feel welcome, safe and respected.
- Temporal Environment: building a sense of security through establishing predictable routines and procedures for their classroom.

## Creating Contexts for Learning and Development:

It has been identified that there are also 5 Contexts for Learning and Development. They are as follows:

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- Play
- Real-life situations
- Investigations
- Routines and transitions
- Focused learning and teaching



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## Exploring What Children Learn:

This key component is where we explore all the skills the children will come to understand and develop through investigations and the key learning areas.

## Parent Information/ Communication

As a parent or carer, you are an essential part of your child's education and experiences.

An effective Prep program depends on strong partnerships and communication between both home and school. Therefore, it is important to keep up to date with what's happening around the school and to maintain regular contact with your child's teacher.



Keep in touch and stay involved by:

- Reading the class noticeboards and the notes sent home.
- Receiving class newsletters, these are sent home at the start of each term.
- Register for the school newsletter by providing your email address to the school office. A paper copy of the newsletter can also be collected from the school office.
- 'Liking' our school Facebook page.
- Attending the monthly meetings of the Tannum Sands State School P&C Association, the Class Parent Meetings and the Parent Information Sessions.
- Attending Parent/Teacher interviews.

If you need a quick chat with the classroom teacher, please arrive well before the commencement of lessons. Should you have a concern that requires discussion, please arrange an interview time with the teacher.

## Parent Involvement

At Tannum Sands State School we recognise the important role that parents and carers play in the education of their children. We invite and encourage parents to become involved in our Prep program. Parents are most welcome to assist in classrooms. Supervision arrangements must be made for younger children. Teachers will advise of ways you can assist during parent information sessions.

## Arrival, Departure and Absence Procedures

Prep students are dropped off at the classroom in the mornings and collected from outside the Prep classrooms. To ensure the safety of your child, it is required that Prep Year children be brought into the Prep classroom and collected in the first term.

Students arriving at school before the 8:45 bell must remain in the Senior Undercover Games area near the office, where supervision is offered.

If a person other than a parent is collecting your child, please inform the Prep staff of the alternate arrangements or contact the office if arrangements for pick up have changed.

Advise Prep staff if you require your child to have an early departure. All early departures must be signed out at the office. Late slips must also be obtained from the office if students arrive after 8:50am. This slip must then be handed to the class teacher.

## Attendance - Every Day Counts

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that children attend Prep every day. Research shows that children with a high rate of attendance are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

It is just as important that your child arrives at their classroom early enough each morning to show you some of their work / activities and be ready to start the school day when the bell rings.

Please contact the school to explain your child's absence via a mobile text or phone the school office on 49 799 111. Alternatively, a letter or email to the class teacher is also acceptable. Any absences of 10 or more days must be approved by the school principal.

## The School Day

**8.45 am** the classroom is open and parents are welcome to come in with their child. When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow classroom routines.

This routine includes:

- Putting their bag on the port rack
- Placing their water bottle and fruit for Fruit Break where required and signing in for the day
- Going to the toilet before 8:50am

**8.50 am** Morning Session commences.

**10.00am** Fruit Break

**10.40am** **First Break:** Lunch

**10.50am** Play

**11.20am** Middle Session

**1.20pm** **Second Break:** Afternoon Tea

**1:30pm** Play

**2.00pm** Afternoon Session

**2:55pm** Bus Bell

**3.00pm** End of school day



# Food

## Fruit Break: 10am

At Tannum Sands State School we promote healthy eating and recognise that growing bodies need energy to learn. Many children have an early breakfast so at Tannum we have a fruit break. The snack needs to be small and healthy piece of fruit or vegetables.eg. vegetable sticks or cut up fruit. Anything that can spill is not suitable. Your child's fruit break needs to be labelled and placed in the class fruit break box first thing in the morning.

## First Lunch: 10:40am

To maintain energy levels, thinking ability and general wellbeing, your child will need a healthy lunch e.g. sandwich with nutritious fillings, yogurt, crackers, salad, vegetables, pasta and fruit. (Please understand that we cannot heat food or provide utensils for eating.)

Please pack all food in one named lunch box. The lunch boxes will remain in your child's bag so it is a good idea to add a freezer block to prevent perishable food from deteriorating.

## Second Lunch: 1:20pm

Children eat what is left in their lunch box.

# Children's Toys

Please discourage children from bringing toys to school. We cannot assume responsibility for loss or breakage, so it saves a lot of heartache if toys are left at home. However, throughout the year the children will be encouraged to bring items of interest and educational value to share with the class as part of our speaking and listening program.

## Birthdays at Prep

We enjoy celebrating birthdays at Prep, after lunch or at the end of the day. Please feel free to send along a snack (individual snacks are easiest to distribute).



## Special Tips for Prep Parents

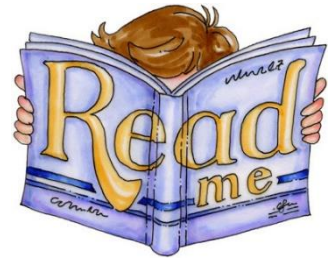
- Please include a spare set of clothing in a plastic bag to be kept in your child's school bag at all times in case of accidents.
- Prep students are to wear the Tannum Sands State School uniform including the school sun safety hat. Tannum Sands State School has a sun safe policy 'Hat's on, Plays on'. Therefore, students require a hat at school every day.
- Closed-in shoes must be worn. Please consider velcro or buckles until your child is able to tie their own shoelaces as we want them to be as independent as possible.
- Children are expected to independently open all lunch packages.
- No ring/pull top cans due to high risk of injury – repackage in another container.
- Please clearly label all your child's belongings.

# Illness

Illnesses are inevitable amongst young students. We ask for your help in reducing the spread of infection by monitoring your child's health, keeping them home to rest when they shows signs of illness, and making sure they can blow their nose and wash their hands correctly.

## Reading

Reading aloud and sharing stories with your child is a great way to spend time together. Reading and storytelling also helps promote language, literacy and brain development.



Why reading to babies and young children is important?

Sharing stories, talking and singing every day helps your child's development in lots of ways. Reading and sharing stories can:

- help your child become familiar with sounds, words, language and the value of books
- spark your child's imagination, stimulate curiosity and help his brain development
- help your child learn the difference between 'real' and 'make-believe'
- help your child understand change and new or frightening events, and also the strong emotions that can go along with them
- help your child develop early literacy skills like the ability to listen to and understand words.

Sharing stories with your child doesn't mean you have to read. Just by looking at books with your child, you can be a great storyteller and a good model for using language and books. Your child will learn by watching you hold a book the right way and seeing how you move through the book by gently turning the pages.

Reading stories with children has benefits for grown-ups too. The special time you spend reading together **promotes bonding and helps to build your relationship**. This is important for your child's developing social and communication skills.

At Tannum Sands State School we believe that learning is a partnership between the teacher, community, parent and student. Your positive and practical support plays a huge role in creating success.

### YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE BY READING WITH YOUR CHILD EACH DAY

The school aims for 100 percent participation in our home reading program. With your help we can achieve a successful standard of reading for every child within our school community. The aim of our program is to improve reading skills and comprehension and to encourage in your child an interest in reading for pleasure whilst improving their understanding of what they are reading and how it relates to others texts that they have read, personal experiences and things that are happening in the world. We ask that you spend some time listening to, reading with and discussing the text with your child.

