Welcome, Parents to Castle Cove Public School. Here is a brief outline of the general kindergarten program and routines for the year. The students are all off to a great start and we are very happy with how they have all settled in quickly to school. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

**Key Learning Areas**

The six Key Learning Areas (KLAs) in primary school are: English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment (H.S.I.E), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (P.D.H.P.E), and Creative Arts. Following is a guide outlining what will be happening in each KLA.

**ENGLISH**

English: aspects of Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening are covered through:

- Shared Reading - Big Books, Guided Reading, Shared Reading and Independent Reading.
- Sight Word practice and recognition activities.
- Development of decoding skills, word recognition and prediction skills.
- Modelled, Guided and Independent Writing.
- Phonics – recognising sounds, segmenting words into separate sounds and blending sounds together to read words.
- Phonemic Awareness – including recognising rhyme and syllables.
- Talking/Listening– students are encouraged to participate in various activities that develop these important skills.
- Handwriting - will include patterns to develop fine motor skills and practice of letter formation using correct pencil grip. Kindergarten focuses on lower case letters and their correct formation.

**MATHEMATICS**

The Mathematics program deals with a wide range of concepts. Students will have opportunities to engage in and explore various ideas of number, patterns, data, measurement, space and geometry, in both formal and informal experiences. Working Mathematically, or the way of thinking a problem through, is embedded in all strands of Mathematics. Kindergarten mathematics sessions will involve lots of ‘hands-on’ activities, and Count Me in activities.
HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Each term, we focus on an aspect of the world around us. In term 1, our unit **School Days** is about students’ individuality and the way students’ needs are met at home and at school. Students will learn about:

- appreciating each other, their likes and dislikes
- personal and class needs and how they are met
- the roles of people who are at school
- roles, rights and responsibilities at school, in the classroom and at home

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In Science we will be investigating different areas each term. This term, we will be looking at a unit focussing on **Living Things**. Mrs Phillipa Gray will deliver this program.

In ICT, Students will learn a variety of basic skills, and learn to use computer programs and applications. Examples of skills include logging on and off, safe usage of the internet, word processing and graphics. ICT is incorporated in every KLA.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kindergarten sport activities will incorporate various gross motor skills development, e.g. throwing/catching, skipping, running, balance and jumping. Sport is done as a grade in our School Houses every Friday morning, where students have the opportunity to meet and interact with members from other classes. We ask that students be dressed in their Sports Uniform on this day to participate in games and physical activity.

The Moving Bodies team will be conducting Dance and Athletics this term on Thursdays.

In Term 1, Kindergarten students participate in a peer support program which is held every Monday afternoon. During this time, the older students from Years 5&6 guide their group of K-3 students through a program of social skills activities. This year the focus is on values.

CREATIVE ARTS

Students will be provided with many opportunities to engage in Visual Arts and Craft, Dance, Drama and Music activities throughout the year, focusing on creative development and individual responses to artistic forms.
**CLASS ORGANISATION**

Each class has their own Class Parent, who will be able to help with some of your questions about class routines and organisational aspects of programs. The Class Parent assists the teacher when class/school events are being organised.

**Library**

The students attend the library once a week for library borrowing with Mrs Kate Westoby. Students need a library bag for borrowing to help protect the book. Kindergarten students may borrow one book each week.

**Scripture**

Scripture lessons take place each Wednesday. Lessons for K-2 are from 12.00-12.30pm. Scripture classes are provided for Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Baha’i. Children whose parents do not elect a scripture group will go to non-Scripture, where a teacher will supervise them. Please send a note to Mrs Carter if you wish your child to change classes.

**Painting Shirts**

Kindergarten students participate in many art and craft activities, and a paint shirt is essential to help protect their uniforms. Commercially produced paint shirts or an old shirt of mum or dad’s is fine – please label with the child’s name. These will live in a common basket in the classroom.

**Buddies**

Kindergarten students were paired up with a ‘buddy’ student from Year 5/6 in their orientation session last year and again on their first day of school. This system has proved to be highly valuable in settling our new Kindergarten students happily into school. These relationships serve to provide Kindergarten students with an older ‘familiar face’ in the playground. Kindergarten students are placed in the same peer support group as their buddy and enjoy spending time with them regularly.

**School Reward System**

Castle Cards, Merit Certificates and A-Day Awards are given out throughout the year.

Once your child receives 10 Castle Cards please hand them into your class teacher in a named envelope. These will be traded for a Merit Certificate which will be handed out in class.

10 Merits earn a Bronze Award, another 10 a Silver Award and a following 10 earn a Gold Award. The cycle begins again with Bronze, Silver, Gold Award II. This award system continues throughout their school life at Castle Cove so children should retain all awards. Kindergarten students, on average will begin receiving bronze awards during Term 1 of Year 1. Please refer to the full Castle Cove Student Welfare Policy, which was in your orientation folder from last year. It is also available on the school website.
Attendance

If for any reason your child is unable to attend school written notification to the teacher or a phone call to the office needs to be provided. Late Arrivals and Early Leavers must be signed in/out through the office.

Notes

Please deposit all notes that have money enclosed into the silver boxes at the office. All other permission notes are to be handed into the classroom.

Teacher Meetings

On Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons all teachers attend staff meetings/professional development. As these occur immediately before and after school the class teacher will arrive at bell time on Mondays and will need to leave promptly on Wednesdays. We would appreciate your cooperation in avoiding lengthy conversation during these times. Please make an appointment with the class teacher if you feel the question or comment requires quite some time. Alternatively, please email the class teacher and we will reply as soon as possible.

HOMEWORK

The most important homework students can do is to read an appropriate reader to mum or dad and to be read to each night.

Our Home Reading program has begun and students will regularly take home books to read at their independent level. Your child will also bring home Sight Words to learn. Both systems are monitored by the class teacher. Notes have been sent home outlining these elements of homework. If you require another copy please ask your teacher. If you have not already done so please supply your child with a plastic folder for Sight Word sheets and Home Readers.

CASTLE COVE PUBLIC SCHOOL RULES for a happy school

• Be Fair
• Be Safe
• Be Responsible
  ...to yourself, others and the environment

Thank you for your continued support,

Susie Jacobs, Natasha Dare, Stephanie Walters, Jeanette Carter