PREP TRANSITION PROGRAM

Helping to make the transition from home or a preschool setting to the school situation as smooth as possible is of paramount importance to the staff at St Francis Xavier.

Starting school marks an important milestone in the lives of young children. Recent studies suggest that children’s adjustment to their first year at school is strongly influenced by their familiarity with the school setting.

The transition to school often marks a time of great excitement for families, and many children settle well into school. Other children may experience some adjustment difficulties. St Francis Xavier is a “Kidsmatter” school and has a supportive program for all children. We recognise that the transition to school represents an important time for working with families to support a positive start to school and to promote children’s mental health and wellbeing, social and academic success.

A great deal of thought and planning has gone into our program for 2015 and we believe it will:

- assist preschoolers in making a successful adjustment to the school environment
- offer an opportunity to participate in classroom activities
- allow the children to practise skills necessary for school
- encourage new friendships and develop a support system
- provide information and support for parents

We extend a warm welcome to all preschool children and their parents who have successfully enrolled at St Francis Xavier to participate in the following.

We look forward to meeting you and your child.

FOUR SESSION TRANSITION PROGRAM

Please meet in the School Hall at the beginning of each session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILDREN’S PROGRAM</th>
<th>PARENT PROGRAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
<td>Parents Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Monday 10th November 7.30pm</em></td>
<td>This evening is for parents only and will introduce parents to school procedures. The Prep teachers will briefly outline the basic skills necessary for starting school. There will be time for questions and answers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
<td>The Principal and Deputy Principal will address the parent group. Parents will be given further background to school procedures and well-being initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Monday 17th November 9.30 to 11am</em></td>
<td>Children will participate in classroom activities that will help them to become familiar with the Prep classroom environment. They will take home a gift with some souvenirs of their visit.</td>
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# Children's Program

## Session 3
**Monday 24th November 10 to 11am**
Children will work with the Year 5 students in a range of activities in the classroom. These students will be their Grade 6 buddies next year. Children will meet their new Prep teachers for 2015.

## Session 4
**Monday 1st December 10 to 11am**
Children will have a picnic morning tea with their new 2015 buddies.

# Parent Program

Parents will be introduced to preparatory skills for learning literacy and numeracy.

Parents are encouraged to attend the morning tea in the Friars Room to meet other Prep parents in a social setting.

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## Further Steps in the Transition Process

### Kinder Visits
During Term 4 2014, St Francis Xavier Staff will visit feeder Kinders and meet new Preps.

### Prep Play in the Park
**Tuesday 27th January - 10am, Box Hill Gardens.**
This is an informal get together for all children beginning Prep and their families.

### 2015 School Start Dates for Prep Students
**Thursday 29th January** - Preps commence school 9.00am to 12noon only  
**Friday 30th January** - Preps at School 9.00am to 12noon only

### Wednesdays in February
No normal classes for Prep students - individual testing by appointment. Students are only required at school for their test time which will be advised.

### Whole School Family Picnic
**Wednesday 4th February**

### Fish & Chip / Take Away Food Night
**Friday 13th March**
For Preps and Year 6 Buddies and their families

### Supported Outdoor Play Program
During Terms 1 & 2 there will be organised outdoor play activities with Year 6 Buddies including the use of a supervised Prep Play Area.