



Starting school at Balgowlah North Public School Kindergarten 2022



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose land our school rests. Their footsteps and whispers blow in the wind, drift on the clouds, remain deep in the sandstone and float on the waterways of this place.

Their memories and Dreaming stories will continue to connect us to the land and guide future generations of our school community. Country is alive if you take the time to look, listen and learn.

Today's Agenda:

Principal's Welcome from Mrs Brooke Keevers

Richard Wokes- P&C President

Tal Lavee- A Parent's Perspective

An Overview of Kindergarten:
Rachel Ridley (R/Deputy Principal) and Sarah King

Koolkuna information

Questions

About Our School

Our vision is to create lifelong learners, able to challenge themselves, create connections and contribute positively to our world.

Our motto 'Love of Learning' ensures every student, teacher and leader is part of a community of continuous improvement.

Curiosity and creativity are fostered and the learning culture is underpinned by high expectations. Wellbeing is nurtured by meeting individual needs through collaborative practice and feedback. Our school is a place of quality teaching, quality learning and quality behaviour. We pride ourselves on ensuring every student is known, valued and cared for.

About our school

We currently have 482 students in 19 classes from Kindergarten to Year 6.

This year we have 3 Kindergarten classes.

Kindergarten classes have an average of 20 students in each class.

Starting School

- Starting school is a significant event in the life of children and their families. Strong relationships and information sharing between families, early childhood settings and schools help support a child's successful transition to school.
- When your child starts school is an individual decision. You may wish to discuss this with your child's preschool teacher, carer, doctor or your local primary school. Our teachers are trained to work with your child regardless of their age or level of development.

Is my child ready for Kindergarten?

There is no checklist that will determine if your child is ready for school. Some areas of development to consider in making the decision about whether or not to send your child to school include:

- Self assurance and ability to clearly articulate their needs.
- Emotional regulation in different environments.
- Social Skills - ability to play independently with other children.
- Ability to manage the learning environment- listening as part of a group, taking turns, sitting still on the floor, following instructions.
- Independent self management skills – managing personal hygiene and toileting, getting dressed, unwrapping their lunch, managing their possessions.

Orientation

This year, we will be hosting 2 orientation sessions:

- Thursday 21 October 9:15-10:45am
- Thursday 28 October 9:15-10:45am

As we will be unable to hold our Journey of Learning school tour, we will be providing you with a video snapshot of Kindergarten at Balgowlah North Public School later this term.



School Routines

- 8:30am Playground Opens
- 8:55am Get Ready for School Bell
(On Mondays this bell signals it is time to line up under the COLA for morning lines).
- 9:00-11:00 Morning Session
- 11:00-11:20 Morning Tea
- 11:20-12:40 Middle Session
- 12:40-12:50 Eating Time
- 12:50-1:40 Lunchtime Play
- 1:40-3:00 Afternoon Session



****Note: Kindergarten students have an earlier finishing time of 2:45pm for the first 2 weeks of term.***

Literacy and Numeracy

- Literacy and Numeracy is a key focus of our Kindergarten curriculum.
- Technology is embedded into all learning within the classroom. In Kindergarten we are learning how to interact with technology.



Literacy

- In Kindergarten, literacy learning includes:
 - Building concepts of print
 - Reading and responding to stories and different texts
 - Developing letter/sound knowledge
 - Learning about sentence structure, grammar and punctuation
 - Expressing ideas in writing
 - Developing vocabulary knowledge
 - Learning how to listen and respond
 - Developing verbal articulation and speech skills



Numeracy

- Forward and backward counting
- Number recognition
- Combining and partitioning
- Sharing and forming equal groups
- Repeating patterns
- Shape and object recognition
- Measuring length, area, volume
- Positional language
- Time



History, Geography and Science

- Students are involved in learning about the world around them through History, Geography and Science lessons.
- There is a strong focus on inquiry learning and conceptual understanding.



Visual Arts

- Students are involved in learning about artists and explore using different materials.
- Visual arts is integrated throughout the curriculum



Other curriculum areas

PD/H/PE

- Students participate in one sports lesson per week and health lessons in the classroom.
- They learn fundamental movement skills, teamwork and specific games skills.

Music and Dance

- Students participate in one music lesson per week.
- They learn to appreciate, respond to and compose music.

Preparing for school

- Focus on independent 'self care' skills- refilling drink bottles, taking lids off containers, packing and unpacking school bag, zipping up jumper etc
- Read beautiful books regularly
- Discuss the books you read
- Count day to day items with one-to one correspondence
- Play board games with dice
- Share Nursery Rhymes and sing childhood songs
- Talk about daily events, question your child about their experiences



Preparing for school



- Encourage activities to help develop their fine motor skills which will help with their pencil grip and writing. Some examples include playdough, beading, using tweezers/chopsticks, puzzles, lego etc.,
- Encourage expressing ideas in pictures or writing (even scribble is recognised as prewriting)
- Encourage your child to use a broad vocabulary and to talk in full sentences
- Discuss numbers that you encounter in daily life- letter boxes, supermarket etc.,
- Talk about shapes and colours your child can recognize.

I will learn to read
but first I need to...

Rhyme
I need to recognise the sounds that letters make before I can read



Look at books
I need to be interested in words and books to read



Track
I need to follow objects with my eyes to read



Talk
I need an extensive vocabulary to understand what I read




Do puzzles
I need to differentiate size, shapes, lines and directions to read



Build
I need to use my fingers and hands independently to hold books and turn pages



... and I need someone to read to me every day!



I will learn to write
but first I need to...

Imagine
Making up stories when I paint and create will help me to write



Build
I need to use my fingers independently to write



Scribble & Draw
Making marks and shapes to convey my message will help me to write



Manipulate
Using paintbrushes, crayons, pencils and pens will help me to write



Climb
I need strong arm and body muscles to sit up and write



Play with letters & words
I need to be interested in letters and words to write



... and I need someone to show me how important writing is every day!





I will learn maths but first I need to...

Count

Understanding numbers will help me in all areas of maths



Sort & Match

Understanding same and different will help me to classify



Explore

Exploring will help me understand spatial terms like: in front, behind, above, below, left and right



Measure

Measuring will help me understand the concepts of height, length, weight, time and money



Pattern

Making and recognising patterns will help me make maths predictions



Recognise shapes

Recognising 2D and 3D shapes will help me in all areas with geometry



... and I need someone to explore these concepts with me every day!



Best Start

- The *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is designed to identify each student's literacy and numeracy skills and understanding at the beginning of Kindergarten.
- It is a useful tool for teachers so they can differentiate learning to accommodate prior to school knowledge and learning experiences.
- There is no expected level of knowledge or skills for students beginning Kindergarten.



Best Start

- The Assessment covers some key aspects of early literacy and numeracy development.
- It takes a ‘show us what you can do’ approach so every child is made to feel capable and clever.
- It also provides us with a great opportunity to spend some one-on-one time getting to know your child.



Best Start

- Your child will have a one-on-one interview time with their teacher at the beginning of the school year.
- The interview will go for approximately 30 minutes.
- Interview times will be made via an online booking system in early December 2021. You will be sent an email with further details.
- Our dates for Best Start 2022 will be Tuesday 1st-Thursday 3rd February.
- Our first day of school will be Friday 4th February

Supporting your child's transition to school

- Please ensure you download the SchoolZine app and ensure the office has up to date contact details so we can ensure you receive all necessary communication.
- Please return your enrolment forms ASAP.
- Complete the Transition to School Questionnaire that you will be receiving via email soon. This will also include your consent for us to communicate with your child's Early Childhood Educator if it is necessary. It is always helpful for us if you share any additional information we might need to support your child in their successful transition to school- this includes specialist reports and information about early intervention services.
- Please contact us if you'd like to discuss your child in further detail:
balgolwahn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Any questions?

