



Busy Bright Stars!

Upcoming Events and Dates

• Friday 23 March- Easter Egg hunt- all children are invited to come to school on the last day even if they don't normally come to school on a Friday!

School closes at 11:00 am- end of term 1- no aftercare

• Tuesday 10 April Term 2 starts

"Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is open, teachers are flexible - the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family." - Virginia Satir

Term 1

It has been another happy term at Prand. I love seeing all the happy and settled little children experiencing so much pleasure during their morning at school. It is so exciting for me to see how Prand just keeps on growing and evolving each year. 2012 is a very exciting year for us at Prand. We have spent a great deal of time fine-tuning our curriculum and daily programme and we are going to continue to focus on this as the year unfolds. Thank you to so many of you for attending the parent's meetings that were held before the term started. I am delighted that you were able to get an insight into the importance and direction of our planning and focus and understand the basis of our curriculum. One where play (directed, outcomes focused play as well as free play)



forms the ideal learning platform.

The implementation of this is very successful and I am constantly observing the benefits of this in the responses from the children. The children are happy, confident and eager learners; ring times are stimulating, fun, perceptually based, playful and the teachers provide wholistic developmental activities.

There has also been a large focus on developing emotional intelligence and social skills this term. I am simply amazed at the increased willingness to share and co-operate!

I am very grateful to my staff for their dedication and their enthusiastic implementation of this programme. It was lovely to hear a visiting teacher commenting on the fact that every single one of Prand's teachers are truly passionate and committed to nurturing and guiding each and every child at Prand.

Extra mural activities

Dancing, Playball, Monkeynastics, Wriggle and Rhyme and Soccer Stars have all begun so successfully this year! Each class has a good number of children and each little one seems to love their chosen activity! Here are some photos of the little Bright Stars

doing Playball! It is wonderful to see how much progress they have all made in such a short time and they already love having Andrea visiting on a Tuesday. More photos of the other extra mural activities will also be shared over the course of the year!



Bright Stars at Playball





Climbing the trees at Kirstenbosch Gardens



Kirstenbosch outing

The outing to Kirstenbosch was so much fun and the children really enjoyed climbing in trees and over rocks, catching tadpoles and a scrumptious picnic! Good old fashioned fun!! They also loved the happy and positive interaction between friends, families and staff. What a beautiful way to develop the link between school and home-family and education! The home and family provide the first and most important foundation to education and the school needs to be closely linked to this in order to create a learning environment where children feel loved, safe, treasured, appreciated!

This parent interaction and involvement will continue to be nurtured over the course of the year. You will receive dates of term 2 events and outings via e-mail; so please diarize these and try to make plans to attend those you are able to attend.

Parent committee

Each year a parent committee is formed. This committee organizes social events/ a fundraising event and a charity fundraising event. If you would like to join this

committee, please contact Adele Paine: It would be lovely to have some parents from all classes. If you are unable to join us on the committee, but have contacts/ideas that may assist us, please contact Adele with this information as well.

Adele was the chairman of last year's committee. We are thrilled that she has kindly agreed to continue in this role for 2012. The 2011 committee organized the most enjoyable social evening that was held at the school. The fundraising evening was held at the Westlake Golf Club and it was a very entertaining evening of dinner, dance, a magic show and a very successful auction. Money was raised for the proposed parking area that will be constructed outside the school. We are still waiting on the councils' approval. Once we have received this, work on the parking will begin.

The awning outside in the garden was also a fundraising project. The "drop down shades" are being installed in the holidays in preparation for the winter months. This will make this an alternate play area on rainy days. Thank you to Mr Webb for his most generous donation that has allowed us to purchase these.

Message Books

A system of communication via message books was implemented for the first time this year. Although this seems to be working very well in the Moonbeam class, it is not as successful in the younger classes. This is due to the fact that the teachers are totally hands-on with the little ones throughout the morning and it is extremely hard for them to write daily messages in the books. As you will have noticed by now, the teachers give verbal feedback to parents daily. We are also always available to discuss any issues, queries or concerns. The younger classes will rely on this method of communication of these issues instead of the message books. I definitely prefer the more personal contact. Please still check the message books and message pockets for general notices.



Enjoying a picnic in the shade! Welcome to Morgan- Jane Farmer (pictured here) in the Bright Star Class! We hope you have a happy year at Prand!

The weekly Perceptual Programme!

This programme has taken off so successfully this year. This term I have introduced various activities and games for upper body core strength, laterality, midline crossing, eye movements, auditory and visual processing, thinking skills and articulation. The children ask me every day whether it is their turn to come and play with me- they LOVE the activities! I can already see the children becoming stronger and how their little bodies and minds are beginning to work as a more cohesive unit. I am thoroughly enjoying these sessions! By teaching small groups, I am able to build connections and establish a bond with each little person in the school. I also can stay on top of all aspects of their development, and assist the teachers in providing a solid wholistic educational foundation.



Belated congratulations to the Boughey family, the Long family and the Valentine family who all welcomed new little additions to their family recently. We wish you all lots of happiness!



Interaction at school- We have already made so many new friends!

This year's fundraising project....

With the success of this programme, my vision is to create a more permanent therapy room, with various focus stations, in the back garden behind the art room. One where all the children can partake in the Perceptual Programme more regularly and where individuals can come on a one-to-one basis if certain skills are needing more focused attention. It would also provide the space to allow occupational therapy/speech therapy sessions to take place at school should they be required. This will definitely be a long term goal and will take a few years to complete. In preparation for this we would first need to put up ceilings and provide better ventilation and insulation in the art room. Adele Paine and the parent's committee will be contacting you with details of the fundraising event and what the immediate goals for this event will be.

All new Playball and Kirstenbosch outing photos will be uploaded on the website. Please go and have a look!

Thank you for all your warmth, support, interest and involvement this term! Prand is truly a happy place to be!
Have a lovely school holiday! Warm regards,
Janine

