

This information is for parents/carers who are considering enrolling their child in kindergarten at Curl Curl North Public School. Further details and information can be also obtained from our school office (02) 9905 1757

## **Introduction**

Starting school is an extremely important step for both you and your child. But how do you know if your child is ready?

The Starting School page of the **Department of Education and Training** <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary/startingschool.php> website provides guidelines to assist you in determining your child's readiness for school.

Once you have made this important decision, it is our goal at Curl Curl North to ensure that your child feels happy and safe from his or her very first day.

To achieve this goal, we have implemented an extensive information and orientation programme, an ongoing buddy system, and a welcoming approach to your child's first day of school.

## **Small Group School Tours**

The principal, Mrs Penny Verdich, conducts tours of our school for small groups of parents and carers on a regular basis throughout the year. The aim of these tours is to allow parents to observe our school operating as it does on a regular school day. The tour includes visits to classrooms, the library, hall, playground and other facilities. Kindergarten rooms are visited, enabling parents to see Kindergarten teachers and students at work and at play. Opportunity is provided for parents to ask questions of the Principal in an informal and relaxed setting. An invitation is extended to parents to follow up their visit with phone calls to ask specific questions pertaining to individual children.

Please phone the school on (02) 9905 1757 to book in for a school tour.

## **Coffee and Play**

Children accompanied by parents or carers, are invited to come along to our Coffee and Play mornings. These sessions are scheduled once a term and their purpose is to help the Kindergarten 2010 students become familiar with our school through informal play sessions. This is also a chance for parents to meet others who will be joining our school community.

## **Parent Information Session**

Parents are invited to an Information session at which they will be given detailed information about their child's enrolment for the next year. Information folders given out at this time contain important information about the enrolment procedure for the following year.

## **Kindergarten Orientation Sessions – for students**

Once enrolled, your child will be invited to an Orientation Session in October or November. These sessions are extremely important. They provide your child with a taste of Kindergarten classroom activities and they provide the Kindergarten teachers with the chance to observe your child's interaction with others.

## Buddy System

The Buddy System is another initiative which has been embraced by our school community over several years.

On the first day of school your child will be introduced to his or her Year 6 "Buddy". The buddy will be a child from Year 6, whose role is to be a friend and look after their Kindergarten Buddy in the playground, once he or she starts school. Please note that if your child has been unable to attend Orientation Day, he or she will be assigned a buddy on the first day of school.

This system provides dual benefits:

- Older children learn leadership and mentoring skills and have the opportunity to nurture their younger buddy.
- Kindergarten children will have a familiar face, someone to look after them when you are not around, someone to take them to the canteen, and someone to play with during those first few weeks until they begin to establish their own group of friends.

## First Day of School

You will receive information about what happens on the first day of school well prior to the first day so that you and your child can feel comfortable at school from the very first day.

As part of the Department of Education and Training's **Best Start** program, Curl Curl North Kindergarten teachers assess each student individually prior to their first day at school. To find out more about this program click here

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary/primaryindex.php>

The following practices have been introduced to make your child's first day at Curl Curl North Public School as stress free as possible

- Staff members will be there to assist you with any queries and guide you and your child to the appropriate areas.
- Your child's buddy, will be there to meet you and join your child in the classroom and for morning tea and lunch.

## How Do I Enrol?

**Please contact the school office on (02) 9905 1757 to arrange for an enrolment form to be forwarded to your address.** Once you have completed the enrolment form, return it to the school, together with a copy of your child's birth certificate and up to date immunisation records.

**Please note that lodging your enrolment form at the school early will ensure your child receives an invitation to the Coffee and Play mornings, the Parent Information session and Orientation Visits.**