Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you for attending our parent-teacher night. This year is going to be a very busy but exciting one for your child. We have prepared an outline of the learning programs for Early Stage 1 students.

Our classes and teachers are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Ms Therese Awadalla</th>
<th>STLA</th>
<th>Mr John Riley</th>
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<tr>
<td>KK</td>
<td>Ms Voula Karahaliou</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Mrs Rica Meltzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Ms Sharon Rosen</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Mr Rob Sommerville</td>
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<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Ms Cleo Zouroudis AP</td>
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<td>LOBTE</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Ms Tina Economy</td>
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<td>Stage Team Leader</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Ms Sharon Rosen AP</td>
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The ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers, team teach with Kinder classes, concentrating on students who need help with spoken English and work with our students in Literacy groups.

**KEY LEARNING AREAS**

**ENGLISH**

**Talking and Listening:** Children are encouraged to speak to the class, to join in discussions on topics they are studying and to develop their listening skills through conversations, games and teaching activities

**Reading:** Children read “Big Books” as a whole class, they read in groups with a teacher, they read books they have chosen themselves in class and from the Home Reading scheme or from the library. Learning rhymes, letter names (alphabet) and the sounds we use for various letters is also a part of the program of learning.

**Writing:** At first teachers write the stories that children dictate or children write a mixture of familiar words, labels, names or single letters they know and which have meaning for them. Gradually they learn more about how to put words together to make sentences.

**Handwriting:** Children are taught how to form the letters according to the NSW Foundation Style – a copy is attached.

**Spelling:** Spelling words are grouped into four types of words. These are: morphemic (base words), phonemic (sounds), visual (sight) and etymological (words from other languages). Regular practice of spelling words is an important component of homework.

**Mathematics:** The five strands – Number, Space and Geometry, Measurement, Data and Patterns and Algebra will be developed through the use of concrete materials, and will be reinforced by textbook activities. Extension and remediation activities will also be provided. Children will be grouped as needed. Mathletics will be implemented during computer time and followed up at home as homework later in the term.

**Science and Technology:**

This Key Learning Area will also be supported by excursions which are a valuable teaching and learning tools.

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE):**

The following unit will be studied in Term 1: ME/School Days

This Key Learning Area will also be supported by excursions which are a valuable teaching and learning tools.
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE): The following programs are included in this key learning area:

- Peer Support
- Child Protection Education
- Friday sport
- Drug Education
- Gymnastics
- Basic Games Skills
- Fitness and Physical Activity
- Dance To Be Fit

Creative Arts: The following programs are included in this key learning area:

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Drama
- Choir

Language Other Than English (LOTE): Mascot Public School offers Greek as our Community Language. Students K-6 who are native speakers in Greek attend LOTE classes taught by Ms. Economy. The focus of the lessons follow the class program, students are given the opportunity to extend their oral and written vocabulary in Greek.

OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

HOMEWORK READING

Homework Reading is a part of the Kindergarten homework program. Children will be bringing home books to read with you. Homework Reading requires parents who can spare some time in the morning to stay and hear children read. Please consider helping out, even if only one day a week. Please see the information which follows.

LIBRARY:  KA – Thursday  KK – Wednesday  KR - Wednesday

Ms. Rajah is our librarian who will be working with your child to develop library and research skills. Children should bring a library bag to borrow books (this cloth bag can also be used for excursions). Library bags are available from the uniform shop.

COMPUTERS:  KA– Monday  KK –Thursday  KR– Thursday  (For Term 1)

TRI-SKILLS GYMNASTICS: Tri-skills Gymnastics will commence on Tuesdays week 7-11.

SCRIPTURE:  Thursday 9:00am – 9:30am
             Religious Education by specialist Teachers:

ASSEMBLY:  Thursday 9:30am – 10:00am

KINDERGARTEN SPORT DAY:  Friday

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Good eating habits begin in Kindergarten and stay with children throughout their school life. Pack their recess (little lunch) and lunch (big lunch) in one lunch box. Make this food quick and easy to eat.

For example:

Recess

Cheese and crackers OR a small apple and celery / carrot pack OR a piece of fruit or vegetable (washed, cut and simply wrapped). **Please note the yoghurt in a tube is difficult to open and can become messy.**
Lunch

Our school is a NUT FREE ZONE
One wholemeal sandwich with fillings such as vegemite, cheese and lettuce, egg plus a piece of fruit. **OR**

One tub of yoghurt (with a spoon) plus a piece of fruit or vegetable.

Plastic bottle of drink – unsweetened fruit or vegetable juice, or water.
No glass bottles or cans.

HEAD LICE

Head lice are a problem which arises anywhere where there are groups of children. We would appreciate it greatly if you could be vigilant in checking your child’s hair and treating appropriately if needed (treatment products can be purchased from the chemist).

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!

In Kindergarten some children forget to ask if they can go to the toilet, and subsequently they have ‘accidents’. It would help us greatly if parents could pop an extra set of clothes (shirt, shorts, underwear, socks) in their bag so children could change if needed. **If your child has a mishap and a change of clothes has not been provided we shall have to contact you to bring a set to the school.**

BE A FRIEND TO KINDER TEACHERS!

- labeling all your child’s belongings
- returning school notes promptly
- sending a note when your child returns from an absence
- placing all money in an envelope with your child’s name, class and the purpose for the money marked on the front
- A donation of a box of tissues, or wet ones and a glue stick would be appreciated each term
- Clear contact will be needed when you cover your children’s folder
- If you wish for your child to celebrate their birthday at school please only send in cupcakes or donuts.

We all benefit when school and home work together. Please feel free to discuss any problems or concerns you may have with us at any time.

S. Rosen / V. Karahaliou/ T. Awadalla