NERANG STATE SCHOOL

OUR BEST ALWAYS

PARENT HANDBOOK

2016

NERANG STATE SCHOOL
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We would like to extend a sincere welcome to you and your family into the Nerang State School community. We aim to offer a supportive school environment that enables children to become capable and confident members of the community. Our school prides itself on developing unique and innovative programs to meet the needs of the range of students for whom we cater.

We hope that your association with this school will be a happy one and that your involvement in our activities will help to further a spirit of cooperation and cohesion within the school community. Our school community is a family and due to our size we offer a warm and caring environment for your child/children.

At Nerang State School we are committed to achieving positive outcomes for each and every student. We believe school should be fun, safe and supportive so that students can be proud of the achievements they have made on their individual journeys. We are committed to using our experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to ensure students can achieve their fullest potential.

Productive relationships with parents significantly contribute to students feeling valued and supported both at school and home, which ultimately impacts on their ability to achieve success. Being an active participant in your child’s education is one of the most valuable gifts you can give your child.

Nerang State School provides many opportunities for you to participate in your child’s education and in the life of the school. You might like to consider attending a P&C meeting, participating in a fundraising activity, assisting in the classroom, tuckshop or volunteering in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.

Once again, welcome to Nerang State School and we look forward to establishing a productive relationship with your family.

**Our School Philosophy**

Our school advocates the philosophy of developing lifelong learners and active, informed citizens who are amply prepared for a diverse range of futures. This is achieved through the provision of a seamless and integrated curriculum adopting values through inquiry and investigations. Our focus is to provide purposeful experiences that are connected to students’ real lives, thus ensuring academic engagement.

At Nerang State School, our priority is that students learn:

- the fundamentals of Literacy and Numeracy
- the processes and skills of learning
- how to apply knowledge
- values
Nerang State School Curriculum

Our curriculum policy was developed with a clear understanding of who our students are and what experiences they bring to school, along with an awareness that in the 21st century life will be very different. We have acknowledged a shift to an information-based society where the majority of jobs for students currently in Prep have not yet been created. Further, these students’ pathways will be non-linear as they move in and out of work, education and travel at several junctures in their lives.

Nerang State School delivers curriculum and learning opportunities for students based on the Australian Curriculum and Queensland Essential Learnings.

The Australian Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all Australian students. The Australian Curriculum describes the learning entitlement of students as a foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. It makes clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. It is the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all Australian students.

English

The Australian Curriculum, English aims to ensure that students:

- learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose
- appreciate, enjoy and use the English language in all its variations and develop a sense of its richness and power to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue
- understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in a combination with non-linguistic forms of communication to create meaning
- develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts and develop an informed appreciation of literature

We aim to develop informed citizens who are well prepared for a diverse range of futures.
Mathematics
The Australian Curriculum, Mathematics aims to ensure that students:

- are confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives and as active citizens
- develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts and fluency with processes, and are able to pose and solve problems and reason in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability
- recognise connections between the areas of mathematics and other disciplines and appreciate mathematics as an accessible and enjoyable discipline to study

History
The Australian Curriculum, History aims to ensure that students develop:

- interest in, and enjoyment of historical study for lifelong learning and work, including their capacity and willingness to be informed and active citizens
- knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the past and the forces that shape societies, including Australian society
- understanding and use of historical concepts, such as evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability
- capacity to undertake historical inquiry, including skills in the analysis and use of sources, and in explanation and communication
Science

The Australian Curriculum, Science aims to ensure that students develop:

- an interest in science as a means of expanding their curiosity and willingness to explore, ask questions about and speculate on the changing world in which they live

- an understanding of the vision that science provides of the nature of living things, of the Earth and its place in the cosmos, and of the physical and chemical processes that explain the behaviour of all material things

- an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry and the ability to use a range of scientific inquiry methods including: questioning, planning and conducting experiments and investigations based on ethical principles; collecting and analysing data; evaluating results; and drawing critical, evidence-based conclusions

- an ability to communicate scientific understanding and findings to a range of audiences, to justify ideas on the basis of evidence, and to evaluate and debate scientific arguments and claims

- an ability to solve problems and make informed, evidence-based decisions about current and future applications of science while taking into account ethical and social implications of decisions

- an understanding of historical and cultural contributions to science as well as contemporary science issues and activities and an understanding of the diversity of careers related to science

- a solid foundation of knowledge of the biological, chemical, physical, Earth and Space sciences, including being able to select and integrate the scientific knowledge and methods needed to explain and predict phenomena, to apply that understanding to new situations and events, and to appreciate the dynamic nature of science knowledge
Geography

In 2014 we implemented the Geography component of the Australian Curriculum The Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum, Geography aims to ensure that students develop:

- a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect about places, people, cultures and environments throughout the world
- a deep geographical knowledge of their own locality, Australia, the Asia region and the World
- the ability to think geographically, using geographical concepts
- the capacity to be competent, critical and creative users of geographical inquiry methods and skills
- as informed, responsible and active citizens who can contribute to the development of an environmentally and economically sustainable, and socially just world

Other Key Learning Areas

The remaining Key Learning Areas of Art, Technology and Health and Physical Education are all planned from the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework. As ACARA releases new phases of curriculum we will transition these subjects to the Australian Curriculum. Our Prep students will also cover the early learning areas of Social and Personal Learning, Health and Physical Learning and Active Learning Processes (Early Years Curriculum Guidelines).

Religious Education

Religious Education is available to students in Qld schools. Instruction is provided by approved instructors in the classrooms. All students are enrolled in RE instruction unless noted otherwise on the enrolment form. Parents wishing to withdraw their child from instruction should provide written direction of this request.

Stephanie Alexander Garden and Cooking Classes

The Stephanie Alexander Garden Foundation is a not for profit organisation assisting schools to incorporate the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen garden programs in schools. Nerang SS has an extensive garden from which produce is collected and used in the cooking classes. This program has many links to the National Curriculum and provides opportunities for lifelong learning. We encourage volunteers to assist with the upkeep of our garden as well as in the cooking class.
Homework

At Nerang State School homework can be set by teachers as it is felt that students should learn the habits of unsupervised study early. Not all children in a class may be given the same task. Parents can best help by ensuring that children have a time and place in which they can study quietly. If homework becomes a family issue or difficulties arise, it is vital parents communicate with the teacher to ensure students reach their full potential.

For our younger students, it is important that parents get involved by reading books to them and encouraging them in a range of interactive learning experiences.

Extra-Curricula Activities

A range of extra-curricula activities are offered to students during lunch breaks as well as before and after school. These activities vary throughout the year and include:

- Environmental Club
- Cultural Clubs
- Debating and Public speaking
- Dance Club
- Reading Club
- Running and fitness Club
- Band and String ensemble
- Lego Club
- Active School sports
- Table Tennis

Student Leadership

Leadership opportunities are offered to students in their Senior Primary years. Students undergo a rigorous selection process and must demonstrate appropriate traits to be considered for leadership positions.

Leadership positions that are offered include:

- School Captains
- House Captains
- Senior Leaders
- Playground Leaders – the playground leadership program is designed to give students the skills to help make our school environment a warm, friendly one. The students work with the Prep to Year 3 students in their lunch hour. Playground leaders are taught group management skills, communication skills and conflict management skills.
Responsible Behaviour

The Nerang State School rules have been developed to help protect the rights of each person in the school community and to encourage responsibility. Our rules are fair, written in a positive way and owned by everyone.

Positive School Strategies

The intent of this policy is to encourage students to display appropriate behaviour. The flow of the policy is to maximise opportunities for students to receive positive feedback about appropriate behaviour and then if required to remind students if they start making inappropriate choices.

The school manages behaviour positively through:

- lunch time organised activities for students by teachers and community groups
- teachers’ self reflection about how they manage situations
- ongoing professional development
- a vibrant and relevant curriculum
- warm and personal relationships by staff with students and parents

This aim is reinforced throughout the school and teachers reward individuals or groups through such actions as:

- teachers giving verbal positive reinforcement
- Star Students recognised and awarded on assembly
- incentive stickers
- Happy Hour phone calls to parents
- achievements on display in office and class rewards
- “Students of the week” recognised and awarded on assembly
- End of term “Rewards Day” activities
- Attendance awards

Bullying

Nerang State School adopts a zero tolerance to bullying in line with Education Queensland policy and the provisions of the Child Protection Act. Our school community endorses:

- each teachers right to teach
- each students right to learn
- everyone’s right to safety

Bullying undermines such values and prevents students reaching their full potential. Students who are bullied or observe bullying are encouraged to use the school’s “High 5” strategies of: Ignore, Speak Nicely, Speak Firmly, Walk Away, Report to a teacher.
Dress Code
Nerang State School is a uniformed school and the uniform policy is designed to meet the needs of the community. As a sun smart concern for the welfare of our students we have a “NO HAT, NO PLAY” policy. Students without a broad rimmed hat go to a designated shaded area where they can be seen by the teacher on duty. Students can be asked to change out of non-school uniform and wear a spare uniform for the day.

Home-School Communication
Communication between home and school is actively encouraged. There are avenues available to both parents and staff.

- Phone calls, notes or personal contact. Phone numbers, contacts and addresses should be kept current in the school records. Parents are urged to attend to these matters if necessary.
- Voluntary assistance in the school is sincerely appreciated and we’re sure you accept the need to act with discretion and confidentiality at all times.
- Excursion notes are sent home in hard copy form, do not hesitate to contact the office for another note if yours is lost or damaged.
- Newsletters are sent out fortnightly electronically, with some hard copies available from the office.
- Interviews between parents and teachers or parents and a member of the Administration can be arranged by appointment, as this is the surest way that sufficient time can be given to both parties for discussion, and the teacher’s other professional obligations are not affected.
- Formal parent/teacher interviews occur twice a year.
- Assemblies are held Friday afternoon on a fortnightly basis in the school hall.

The School Day

School Hours                      School Routine
First Bell rings at 8.30am        Children can move around the school
  8.47am                           Get ready for school
  8.50am                           School day commences
10.50am                           Eating time
  11.00am                          Playtime
  11.27am                          End of playtime
  11.30am                          Class recommences
  1.30pm                           Eating time
  1.35pm                           Playtime
  1.57pm                           End of playtime
  2.00pm                           Class recommences
  2.55pm                           End of day

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL
Payment Processing
Payments for excursions and levies can be made at the school office on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays mornings from 8.00-10.30am. Payments can be made by cash, eftpos, internet banking or if eligible Centrepay. Please note:
- All payments must be made by the due date, students will not participate if payment is not received
- If you have any concerns or financial hardship please contact the office to discuss

Excursions, Incursions and Camps
Excursions and incursions form an important part of a students curriculum. All organisers of excursions and incursions are required to provide parents and caregivers with full details before the excursion date. Any student who has not returned a permission slip or who is not in full school uniform or dressed as required, will not be allowed to participate in the excursion. In order for students to be eligible to attend excursions or incursions payment of the Student Resource scheme must have been made or arrangements must have been made for you to participate in a payment plan.

Safety and Welfare of our Students
In the interests of safety we would like parents to support and reinforce efforts in insisting that:
- children know the basic traffic rules
- cyclists wear helmets
- parents park legally when dropping off and picking up children
- parents do not park in the staff car park
- children ‘walk’ their bikes and carry their skateboards into and out of the school grounds
- children do not loiter on the way to school or home from school
- children do not leave the school premises after arrival at school
- children be aware of the ‘stranger danger’ concept

The school does not carry Personal Accident Insurance. All medical cases will be referred to the Ambulance and parents and or caregivers contacted.

Teacher’s official playground supervision duties can only be rostered for the lunch periods. There is no supervision before or after school, hence children are not allowed to play on the playground equipment during this time. Children should arrive at school from 8.30am. However if they arrive earlier students need to go to Breakfast Club or be booked into Before and After school care run by Nerang PCYC.

Visitors to the school
Any adult who intends to remain in the school grounds for a period of time longer than to drop off or pick up their child, need to report to the office to sign the visitor register. Children are instructed not to talk to adults who they are not familiar with.

Court Orders
Students are only allowed to be collected by adults listed on the system. If there are custody issues parents/caregivers must supply the school with current paperwork. If a person denied access attempts to see or make contact with your child we will ring you immediately and if the person is in breach of court orders the police will be rung.

Buses
The school is not responsible for the bus services. Surfside Buslines operates all the bus services to and from the school. They can be contacted on 55716555.
Early Departures
Should it be necessary for a child to leave the school early, parents must go in to the office and have their child signed out and then go to the class to collect their child from the class.

Absences
If your child is unable to attend school, please phone the Student Absence Line 55 814760. If you anticipate your child will be absent for an extended period of time please ring the school on 55 814777 and advise verbally of the reason and length of absence.

Health Problems
Parents are requested to keep the school informed about serious health problems of their children. Such problems would include:
- recurrent illnesses – diabetes, epilepsy etc
- other problems – allergies, respiratory disorders, hearing, speech, heart etc.
It is important that the school be advised in writing of the problem and the treatment by completing the Medical Form available from the office.

Headlice
It is the parents’ responsibility to obtain treatment promptly and maintain regular checks. We encourage all parents to make Sunday night a “Headlice Check Night”. Your pharmacist will advise you on treatment.

Student Banking
The Commonwealth Bank operates an authorised school banking service for all students of our school. Student banking is conducted electronically each week on a Thursday.

Outside School Hours Care
This service is operated by Nerang PCYC in the school campus each day from 6.30-8.45am and 3.00-6.00pm, as well as running vacation care. For further details please contact 0437 733663.

P&C Meetings
P&C meetings are held every Third Thursday of the month at 6.30pm held in the Staff Room in the Administration Block.

Can you help
Your help with the tuckshop, P&C, cooking, gardening or assisting students in the class is always greatly appreciated.
Contact Details:

Office Hours 8.00am to 3.30pm
Postal Address 3 Nerang Street Nerang Qld 4211
Phone 55 814777
Fax 55 814700
Student Absence Line 55 814760
Internet www.nerangss.eq.edu.au
Email admin@nerangss.eq.edu.au

Finance Payments:

Cash or Credit card payments can be made at the front office

- Wednesday 8.00am to 10.30am
- Thursday 8.00am to 10.30am
- Friday 8.00am to 10.30am

Internet banking details

- Account name Nerang State School General Account
- BSB 064 430
- Account Number 00090411
- Reference Number your child’s school computer log in code (for example JJJJJ1@eq.edu.au)
- Description what the excursion is (for example swimming/resource/camp)

Centrepay

- Centrepay is a free direct bill-paying service offered to customers receiving Centrelink payments. Through Centrepay you can choose to pay bills by having a regular amount deducted from your payments and transferred electronically to Nerang State School.
- You can apply for Centrepay deductions either
  - Online at humanservices.gov.au/onlineservices
  - By calling centrelink
  - By completing the Centrepay deduction form at Centrelink

- Nerang State School’s Centrepay reference number is 555 092 295X

Uniform Shop:

Monday to Thursdays afternoons: 1.30 to 2.30pm

Tuckshop:

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.00pm
Lunch orders to be written on brown paper bags with child’s name, class and their order and total of order and please state whether order is for first or second break. Lunch bags can be handed to the tuckshop directly or placed in the classroom tuckshop box. First break orders will be sent to the class in the class tuckshop box and second break orders students must go and collect from the tuckshop.
The Nerang district was settled in 1863 and soon became a trading and coach route. Nerang’s first school was opened in 1875 with an enrolment of 47 pupils and Thomas Johnson as the first teacher. The principal highway up until 1889 was the river and many timer cutters plied between Nerang and Brisbane bringing provisions and taking back produce.

The Manchester Cotton Company was the first major business to be established in the area back in 1863 when they received a grant of 1280 acres on Nerang Creek with a river frontage of about 4 miles. The plantation was established at Carrara. In 1877 the first bridge over the Nerang River was built which allowed residents to cross the river to the Post Office and stores during the highest floods.

For more than 90 years the community remained small, as did the school. At its peak the school grew to nearly 800 students but has remained on the very same site all this time. Currently we are the smallest state primary school in the area. Where some schools have enrolments between 800-1000, our enrolment remains just below 450.

Despite all the changes in the district over the years, Nerang State School has survived and continues to prosper. The Nerang River gently flows by and the McPherson Ranges still look down from their heights as they have done for so long. Nerang Primary today is a warm school, but not too large, and has embraced the need to develop children into the technological age.