Almost from the moment your child is born, they will start to acquire social skills, and these grow and mature with the child, particularly as they begin to play alongside other children.

It’s usually at around the age of 3 years old - often coinciding with the time your child starts to attend a daycare or playgroup - that your child will really begin to make friends of their own. You can help your child to become someone whom other children like. Firstly, develop their confidence by talking and listening to them in a way that shows you really value what they are saying.

Secondly, teach them good manners - knowing when and how to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ and how to share or wait for their turn shows consideration for other people. This kind of politeness also helps children to feel safe and relaxed with each other.

Good friendships are based on trust, so it’s well worth talking to your child about big concepts, such as generosity, playing fairly and being kind. It’s often much easier to do this through a third party, such as a storybook character, with real-life situations that directly involve your child.

Teddy’s First Day:
Pretend that the Teddy is starting school and act out the sorts of things he might say to the other toys in order to make friends with them. Ask your child what sorts of things Teddy might say that the other toys wouldn’t like.

Mrs Cornelia Johnson
Director Pre-Prep Learning Centre
Hi everyone! I am GYRT
The Pre-Prep children will be seeing a lot of me this year as they take part in my GYRT Program. It is a one of a kind, patented system, designed for young children approaching the beginning stages of learning to write.

I will be using my traffic light colours of green, yellow and red as well as special symbols to teach the Pre-Prep children a unique tracking system. This tracking system will be part of the children’s play based activities and will encourage the development of their fine motor skills as well as many other skills essential for hand writing readiness. In a nut shell, my play activities will be preparing the children for writing.

It's going to be exciting when the children are introduced to the letters of the alphabet, using my special tracks, because once the children have mastered my logical tracking system (through play), they will be able to apply it to each of the letters - even if seeing them for the first time. My tracks will help the children to know where to start, where to finish and the sequence of movements required to form each of the letters correctly. Not only will my tracking system make it easier for the children to learn to write their names, it will also encourage them to use the correct letter formations right from the start – laying the foundations for good writing habits.

Learning through play, The Gyrt Man way!

Parent Teacher Meetings
We will be having our Parent/Teacher meetings on 19th & 20th April. This is a good opportunity to have a chat with your child’s teacher and raise any concerns or just get to know each other. Interviews will be held in:

PP1A (Koalas)
Miss Walter’s Classroom

PP2A (Wombats)
Mrs Johnson’s Office

PP2B (Kookaburras)
Staffroom

Please choose a suitable time and make an appointment through the Junior School Reception.

Life Savers
Laura from the Mackay Surf Life Saving Club came to talk to us about how to stay safe on the beach and what the different symbols are that we would find on the beach with their meaning.

We learnt that: It is best to always have sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and sun safe sunglasses when you go to the beach to keep yourself safe from the sun. Laura showed us the Life Savers uniform; a long sleeved yellow shirt and red boardies with a hat and sunnies - a great example for us!

We learnt where to swim when we go to the beach: between the red and yellow flags and never swim if there is a red flag up on the beach - it means that there is danger in the water, eg. sharks, jelly fish or crocodiles.

Children must always remember to go with an adult to the beach and if they need help in the water, to wave their arms and shout ‘HELP!’

Remember, stay safe at the beach!

Housekeeping
Please remember to keep saving all your CLEAN junk for us - boxes, bottle tops, etc.

Please put sunscreen on your child before coming to Pre-Prep.

Please remember to pack a healthy morning tea (fruit, yoghurt, cheese, crackers, boiled eggs, dried fruit) and lunch (fruit muffins, sandwiches, cold meat with salad, tuna, meat, tinned spaghetti and baked beans, wraps, quiche).

Please ensure that we only have water in the water bottles, no cordial.

Must have’s in your child’s bag: water bottle, hat, sheets, spare clothes.

If for any reason you want to withdraw from Pre-Prep you will need to complete a College Withdrawal Form and provide 4 weeks notice. A Withdrawal Form can be obtained from the College Office or Junior School Reception. You will continue to be billed until 4 weeks notice is received in writing.

We learnt where to swim when we go to the beach: between the red and yellow flags and never swim if there is a red flag up on the beach - it means that there is danger in the water, eg. sharks, jelly fish or crocodiles.

Children must always remember to go with an adult to the beach and if they need help in the water, to wave their arms and shout ‘HELP!’

Remember, stay safe at the beach!
It was great taking the eggs back to Pre-Prep where we made green scrambled eggs. We explained to the children that some farms just produce eggs and these are what our mums and dads buy at the shops. The children also had turns sitting on the tractor and tried to imagine really driving on a farm - although our legs have a bit of growing to go!

Some of us planted a tomato plant and took it home while others were able to look at the cows (and the angry bull). The children had a wonderful time at the farm learning about the production of food and vegetables and having a hands on experience for themselves.

Veggie Garden

Early in Term 2 we will start to plant our veggie garden. But we will need some help to prepare our garden. If you have green fingers and want to help, please let your class teacher know as soon as possible, and also what times and days suit you to come in.

Once our garden beds are ready, we ask that each family bring in a seedling and plant it with their child. We will let you know when our garden is ready for planting what type of seedling to bring.

Farm Visit

Thank you to all our parents that came with us to visit the Farm. Although some of our little ones found it a bit tiring, we all enjoyed the excursion.

In the chicken coop, the agriculture team gave the children some chicken food so they could feed the hens and collect their eggs. They also enjoyed collecting feathers.

Our aim at MCC Pre-Prep...

Mackay Christian College Pre-Prep Learning Centre is a place where each child in its care can develop a love of learning. The College’s vision is ‘becoming all God wants us to be.’

In order to set each child up for success in their formal schooling (when they begin Prep), we are aiming to familiarise our students with letter concepts in a friendly, fun and play based manner. Each week we will be learning about a different letter of the alphabet through story, song, play and craft.

We will send home a Letterland take home sheet outlining the key concepts and activities covered at Pre-Prep each week. On the reverse side of the sheet will be a number of optional activities you can do at home with your child to reinforce the learning taking place. We hope you enjoy this journey through Letterland with us!

(Excerpt from Letterland Early Years Handbook, 2003)
Recycling with Miss Fiona
In week 5, Miss Fiona came to visit us. She taught us about recycling - how you make something new from old things. She showed us what we can and cannot recycle. We also learnt a lot about worms - did you know they have 6 hearts?

We have two bins - a yucky bin (green/red lid) and a recycling bin (yellow lid).

Never put your plastic bags in the recycle bin or let them fly away in the wind.

Worms breathe through their skin; they need a moist home and love eating banana peels.

Worms hide from the sun so that they don’t dry out.

All plastic bottles have a number in a triangle on them. Numbers 1-6 can be recycled, but not their lids.

We can also recycle glass, tin and paper.
Under the NQF, services are asked to not only meet these minimum requirements but to continually improve towards exemplary quality and the higher standards as set out in the NQS.

While the overall rating provided to a service gives an overall picture of the quality of education and care provided, it is important to look at the rating provided against each Quality Area.

A service that is rated as Working Towards National Quality Standard is providing a safe learning environment for children and has one or more areas identified for improvement.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the ratings across the seven quality areas with the Pre-Prep Director and the plans we have in place to improve practice.

Services Meeting National Quality Standard or Exceeding National Quality Standard are achieving the higher quality benchmark.

What information is available for families?
Families want the best for their children and as the ratings are published, many families will be eager to learn more about the NQF and what it means for them.

Families can subscribe to ACECQA’s Family News e-newsletter for more information and regular updates at www.acecqa.gov.au.

Coming Up in Term 2
Excursions
Visiting Woolworths/Bunnings

Visitors
ANZAC Talk, Doctor/Dentist Talk

Regular Outings
Resthaven and Gooseponds

Programs
HPE, Music Lessons, Letterland (Letter a week), and GRYT Program.
# Save the Date - Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th April</td>
<td>First Day Back of Term 2: <strong>PP1A &amp; PP2A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th April</td>
<td>First Day Back of Term 2: <strong>PP2B</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday/Wednesday 19th - 20th April</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th May</td>
<td>Founders Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea at Pre-Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7th May</td>
<td>ZACH MACH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 8th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th May</td>
<td>Mike Jackson Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 21st - Saturday 28th May</td>
<td>Under 8’s Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th June</td>
<td>Grandparent’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2: <strong>PP2A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2: <strong>PP1A &amp; PP2B</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Available Now for iPhone, iPad & Android

**Vacation Care**

We have planned an exciting two weeks based on three decades of Box Office success! Star Wars is our theme and we will be visiting all 7 episodes as well as the spin off animated and Lego series. In addition to the themed craft activities and outdoor games, we will also be visiting Mackay Gymnastics, holding a bear stuffing party, working out with Personal Trainer Mia from Snap Fitness Mackay and being painted up by our resident face paint artist Ms Terri-Lee. It’s sure to be a galactic blast!

For all Vacation Care enquiries please contact the Outside School Hours Care (OSHCare) Director, Mrs Kris Harland at kharland@mccmky.qld.edu.au or phone the College Office on 4963 1100.