Dear Parents,

The Transition to School program will occur over three consecutive Friday mornings. Your children will take part in activities with the present kindergarten teachers and some Year 5 student helpers in our Kindergarten classrooms. They will be in the classrooms for 75 minutes while parents are invited to attend information sessions in our hall followed by a delicious morning tea provided by our current kindergarten parents.

These Friday mornings are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Parent Information Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 31 October</td>
<td>Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 – 10.45am</td>
<td>OOSH Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7 November</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 – 10.45am</td>
<td>Social Readiness &amp; Student Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 November</td>
<td>Parent Experiences (P&amp;C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 – 10.45am</td>
<td>Food at School (Canteen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform Parade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These visits are an important aspect of your child’s transition to school as the children will have an opportunity to become familiar with the school and make new friends. They will participate in structured play in the school setting while kindergarten teachers and support staff take the opportunity to do preliminary observations of literacy, numeracy and social skills.

The three mornings facilitate a smooth transition to school. At the same time parents will get to know other parents and school personnel, and attend workshops on how to support their child’s learning and to develop a greater understanding of how the school and the system operate.

On each day of the Transition to School program please come to the school hall where your child will be given a name tag. This name tag designates the group your child is in (it is not their class for 2015). Your child will be in the same group each week and the groups will be rotated over the 3 Friday mornings, so the groups have a turn in several Kindergarten classrooms.

When you collect your child’s name tag each Friday morning you will be told what classroom they will be in for that session. There will also be posters outside each Kindergarten classroom to assist you in finding the correct room.

Your child will need to be collected at 10.45am prior to the busy morning tea break. Please ensure all your child’s belongings are labelled with their first name and surname.

Please return the questionnaire included in this information pack to the supervising teacher during one of the Transition to School days.

Kind Regards,

John Williams
Acting Deputy Principal

David Scotter
Principal
BEST START KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2015

Dear Parents,

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is designed to provide teachers with information about each student’s current understandings so that they can plan effective teaching and learning programs. Kindergarten teachers have always taken some time at the beginning of the year to see how each child works with books, letters, and numbers. However, in Best Start, all Kindergarten teachers will use the same set of observation tasks across NSW public schools.

The Best Start is not a traditional test. It is a process where your child’s teacher observes them individually completing a range of specially designed assessments tasks to guide ongoing literacy and numeracy planning for teaching. The teacher will look at your child’s early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns. The assessment takes about 30 minutes per student.

To complete these assessments, Kindergarten teachers will use the first three days of the school year in 2015, that is, Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 January.

In the letter you will receive in December, you will be given an online link to select a time for your child’s Best Start assessment on one of those three days. For the assessment day, you bring your child up to school for a 30 - 40 minute session and then take them back home again.

Your child’s first day of school will be on Monday 2 February 2015.

We look forward to working closely with our new Kindergarten families to assist you and your child during this exciting transition to school period.

Yours sincerely,

John Williams
Acting Deputy Principal

David Scotter
Principal
Dear Parent or Caregiver,

This letter is to inform you about the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment that will take place at our school in Term 1.

**What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?**
Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters, even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

Our Kindergarten teachers have always observed their new students and used different methods to find out what each child knows and can do so that they can plan and teach what their students need to learn next.

Each year, new Kindergarten Students take part in Best Start, which has been developed by early learning experts in the Department of Education and Training. Best Start is giving our teachers, and those teaching Kindergarten across New South Wales, a common set of high quality assessment tools and professional training.

We believe that Best Start builds on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

**Your child and the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment**
It is very important to emphasise that Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

The teacher will observe each child and use tasks, such as talking about a book that has been read, and record what their students know and can do. The teaching of your child will be based on the information gathered in these ways.

You’ll be given feedback about what your child’s teacher has learned about your child, which you are welcome to discuss, if you wish, in keeping with our usual practice.

**What is being assessed?**
The teacher will look at your child’s early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.

**Telephone Interpreter Service**
If you would like further information please contact me.

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact me please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call me and will stay on the line to assist you with our conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

With all good wishes for the best possible start for your child’s education,

*David Scotter*
Principal
Wheeler Heights Public School
Dear Parents/Carers,

You are currently in a very exciting phase of your child’s life! We aim to make your child’s Transition to School as successful as possible, to ensure they are happy and ready to learn when they arrive in 2015. Wheeler Heights Public School is aiming to learn as much as we can about your child from you and your child before they start. You can assist us by completing the questionnaire below.

In order to collect additional information from your child’s pre-school/day care, if they attended one, we also ask you to give permission for us to gather this information to assist your child’s smooth transition.

**PLEASE RETURN TO TEACHERS DURING THE FRIDAY MORNING TRANSITION TO SCHOOL SESSIONS**

Child’s Name: ___________________________________________________ Male/Female
Date of Birth: ____________________________ Phone: ________________________
Parent’s Names: ____________________________________________________________________

What is your family background? (family members, languages spoken at home)
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Has your child attended pre-school? Yes/No
If so, Which centre? ______________________________________ How many days/week? ______

Does your child have any medical conditions eg anaphylaxis, diabetes etc?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Has your child received speech therapy or occupational therapy? If so, where/when/why?
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any comments to add about your child’s ability with:

Literacy (reading, writing) ______________________________________________________________

Numeracy (numbers) ________________________________________________________________

Communication skills (listening and talking) _____________________________________________

Social skills (friendships) _____________________________________________________________

**Permission to share information**

☐ I give permission for ______________________________________________________(your child’s preschool/day care/prior to school service) to share information about my child with Wheeler Heights Public School to assist with his/her Transition to School.

Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________ Date: ________