

# Community engagement: welcoming family

Mei Hsin - Stevensville Primary School, VIC

Stevensville Primary School

# Transition Engagement

Hub Leader: Mei Hsin

Brimbank VIC



2014



2023



# Overview

- Stevensville PS is located in St Albans West / Kings Park
- Approximately 200 students
- We have a multicultural community – Pacific Islanders make up 20%



# Transition Team Members



- School leadership
- Foundation teachers
- Welfare officer
- Community Hub Leader

# Welcome parents!

- Invite parents to four sessions
- Our goals are:
  - Help parents understand the Australian primary school system
  - Meet the school leadership team and teachers
  - Support student readiness before entering school
  - Familiarise families with the school's policies/school values

# Transition activity

Invite parents to take part in an activity, and then discuss it.

- Literacy activity
- Numeracy activity
- Healthy lunch box - cooking activity
- BBQ sausage sizzle





# Class information

- Students will be evaluated in the first week of school
- Report cards and progress reports distribution
- Homework expectations. Reading nightly is a must
- Calendar of upcoming events - class excursions and parent-teacher conferences
- Explain importance of parents signing paperwork / permission slips in order for children to attend events.



# School Readiness



- How to help their child get ready for school
- Might include:
  - Go to sleep early
  - Getting ready for school – breakfast, teeth etc
  - School bag inclusions - lunch box, water bottle, hat and reading bag.



# Get involved!

- Parents can become involved in volunteer programs, advisory councils
- Provide sign-up sheets for parents who are interested in helping with excursions, gardening, or fundraising projects



# Handouts



- English as a second language – translation or interpreter
- Handouts might include:
  - A list of school phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and website addresses.
  - Copies of classroom and school policies.
  - A list of items students will need daily

# Learning Outcome

- Parents familiarise themselves with
  - the school's settings,
  - the leadership team,
  - meet the Foundation teachers
- First time parents...relationship building with other families = trust
- Parents – volunteering in the school garden, cooking demonstration, joining school council, participating in school activities.





# Recommendation for Hub Leaders

- Get involved with school transition process by getting to know families
- Engage with the leadership team and be involved with the transition planning
- Organise a chef for a session to discuss and healthy lunch box ideas for basic, inexpensive lunches and snacks for kids
- Organise morning tea for the new families and parents/carers with guest speakers or a chef.