

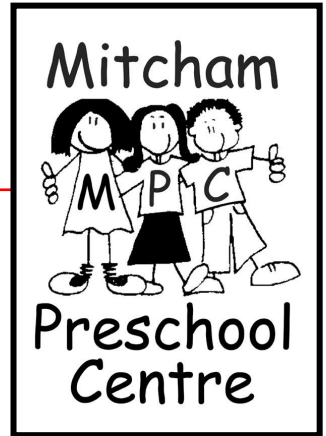


Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 1
Newsletter 4

This week at kindy

This week will be a hot week at kindy! But we have plenty to keep us cooler.

We will continue on with our focus of learning

"Literacy in the garden".

So far we have explored

- what is in a book (pages, numbers, words, pictures etc)
- Who writes books / draws the pictures (author & illustrator)
- How are books made
- The conventions of print (back, front, spine of books, reading from left to right etc)

This week we are exploring "What types of books are there?" with our emphasis this week on rhyming stories by Pamela Allen

To support our learning we will have inside

- Display of Pamela Allen stories -

rhyming stories (literacy)

- Story table of "Belinda" by Pamela Allen (dramatic play, language & literacy)
- Kids on the block (identity)
- Literacy corner with story felt boards & magnetic board (literacy)
- Rhyming words to observe & copy at the drawing table (fine motor / literacy)
- Water table with shells, gems & glitter (sensory)
- Posca textas at the easels (fine motor)
- Numeracy corner with floor puzzles & games (numeracy)
- Games table (numeracy)
- Palette painting at the table (creativity)
- Caterpillars and spiny leaf insects to observe

(understanding our world)

Outside there will be

- Book making with magazine pasting (literacy)
- Search and find letters in rice trays (literacy / sensory)
- Cooking in the sandpit (sensory / dramatic play)
- Cars & car mat (dramatic play)
- Water tray, water wheels, ice & jugs (sensory / numeracy)
- Home corner with pets (dramatic play)
- Construction set (problem solving)
- Tap tap (fine motor)
- Puzzles (problem solving)

It is another busy week at kindy

Challenge task

This week when putting their name on the board, the children will need to look at their name card and see if there is an "Aa" in their name. If they do, their name card goes on the "yes" side, if not it goes on the no side

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Calling all gardeners

Thank you to everyone who has supported their child with the "Calling all gardeners", on the verandah from Tuesday to Friday. It is a wonderful way of children

- developing literacy skills—I represent my world symbolically by practicing writing their name
- Developing numeracy / maths skills - I quantify my world by estimating size,

weight & number

- Developing problem solving skills—how can I work out which zucchini is the biggest / how many carrots in the bag

On Monday's we find out the answer to the question we have posed. So far we have found out

- the zucchini with number 2 was the heaviest

- There were 13 carrots in the bag.

There will be an activity outside the main door most weeks of term 1. I recommend that you allow your child to practice writing their own name. If they are unsure of how to write their name, you can write it and they have a go at copying it.

Thankyou.

Calendar to support literacy, numeracy & maths learning

Have you seen our calendar? It is on the white notice board where the teacher sits at the front for group time. The calendar shows days of the week, months, numbers and events for term 1. We will use the calendar to

- Recognize the pattern of the days of the week
- Number recognition
- Counting down, counting on

- Developing an understanding of months of the year
- celebrate birthdays
- Plus it will help us know & remember important kindy events

Calendars provide wonderful literacy & numeracy learning opportunities. Also children really work well when they are informed, know routines etc. !

For some children, changes in routines suddenly "sprung on" them, can be stressful.

Please come and check out our calendar!

Hats

Last week, DECD's sent each school & preschool a "hazard alert" about hats that have draw string cords under the chin, as there have been 2 incidents involving such hats.



"In one incident the student was using the junior primary play equipment and caught the hat that they were wearing in play equipment, resulting in a red welt on the child's throat due to friction/burn".

As a result of the incident, DECD have advised schools & preschools

- to immediately cease selling this style hat
- to remove all cards from this style hat.
- Ensure that all playgrounds are safe and free from entrapment.

At our preschool, we have bucket hats for sale, so do not need to change our style of hat. We have not cut cords from broad rimmed style hats, as we feel that decision needs to be made by parents. As these hats are not part of the clothing range specific to Mitcham

Preschool, we as educators cannot take the action to cut off cords. If you feel that it is a safer option to remove the cords and toggles, please do so.

Last week a primary school took the action to remove the cords from their school (logo) broad brimmed hat as per DECD instructions, only to have every child's hat blow off their head.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to speak with the staff.

Lots of information

The start of the year has seen lots of information go home through the APP/email and via notes in your child's note pockets. These have included

- Friendship lists
- AGM information (with RSVP slips)
- DECD new Vaccination policy
- Family Picnic notes (with RSVP slips)
- Permission for photos / filming (with RSVP slip)

Over the coming few weeks, you

will receive information about the RAN-EC training for volunteers, wheels day information, excursion notes and information about a parent evening explaining the Child Protection Curriculum, that will be our focus of learning in term 2.

In addition to this information are my regular newsletters, which often include information about curriculum, child development etc.

I realise that there has been a large number of notes, over and above what usually goes out in

term 1 (The Vaccination Policy was new for 2017 as is the website upgrade & filming for our partnership day).

The number of notes will settle as we move into term 2. However, newsletters are always regular and a way I can inform you about what is happening at preschool, along with curriculum information etc.

A couple of reminders

From the information sent home recently, forms to be returned are

- Consent form for Photos for the website & filming for the Mitcham Plains partnership DVD—**RSVP Friday March 3rd**
- Family picnics—**RSVP by Monday March 6th**
- To ensure that your child is not scheduled from the pre-

school if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, you need to bring your child's current immunization schedule to be sighted and signed off, by the end of term 1 (**Thursday April 13th**)

Family Picnics

In week 6 we are having family picnics for gold & blue group families. The purpose of the picnic is for families to get to meet & socialise. The picnics will be held at Mitcham Reserve, Old Belair Rd, 5.30pm—7pm.

Blue group picnic will be held on Tuesday March 7th

Gold group picnic will be held on Wednesday March 8th

Last year, the picnics were a great success, with a large number of families attending. It provided a

wonderful opportunity for children to play, parents to meet & mingle. From this occasion, many strong friendships were formed both for children & parents, which remained throughout the year.

A note was placed in your child's note pocket last week. We hope you can make it to our family picnic.

Other diary dates

Week 7

Tuesday March 14th—RAN -EC training for volunteers to be held at the preschool from 7pm—9pm.

Week 8—

Wednesday March 22nd—Gold group wheels day TO BE HELD AT MITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday March 23rd—Blue group wheels day TO BE HELD AT MITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER)

Week 9

Wednesday March 29th—Botanical Gardens / Little Sprouts excursion for gold group

Week 10

Monday April 3rd—Information evening for parents / carers on the Child Protection Curriculum which is the focus of learning for term 2.

Tuesday April 4th—Botanical Gardens / Little Sprouts excursion for blue group

Week 11

Tuesday April 11th—end of term celebration for blue group—teddy bears picnic

Wednesday April 12th—end of term celebration for gold group—teddy bears picnic

Thursday April 13th—last day term 1.

Administration of medication

Children who require medication must have a health care plan signed off by their doctor. Staff can not administer medication without a health care plan. For example, if your child has an allergy to foods / bee stings etc and requires treatment via epi pen or medication, we must have a health care plan. If your child has asthma (even mild doses) we must have a health care plan. Also medication **MUST** be left at the centre for staff to administer, when required.

Where your child has an infection and requires antibiotics for short periods of time, we do not need a health care plan. However, we must have a letter signed by the doctor indicating the need for antibiotics, dosage and time of administering eg before lunch.

We **CANNOT** administer antibiotics without this information from the doctor. The label on the bottle is **NOT** sufficient information for staff to give your child their medication. With winter illnesses approaching (although hard to believe!!) please be aware of the requirements for staff in administering medication.

AGM / Governing Council

Last Monday night was the Annual General Meeting, where we elected the Governing Council for 2017.

We had a fabulous turn out, of retiring Governing Council members & our 2017 preschool community. As a result the following people were elected to the council

Chairperson—Alex Goldsworthy

Vice Chairperson—Cecily Calaby

Secretary— Julie Goodhart

Treasurer—Anna Temme

Social Members

Ross Perkins, Kate Fox, Megan Bennett, Sarah Upton, Linda Fidge, Kristy Jupe, Alex Djurasevich, Carol Shaw, Pennie Bradford, Shannon Kuchel, Kym Siddons, Sara Doughty, Norelle Edgecombe

If anyone else wishes to join the governing Council, you will be most welcome.

A sincere thanks to the outgoing Governing Council. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you. To our in coming Governing Council, thank you for your time in attending the AGM and commitment to the preschool for 2016. I look forward to working with you.

***The first meeting is
Monday March 6th
7.15pm for 7.30pm***

Absences

If your child is absent from preschool, please ring and let one of the staff know.

Staff are in attendance from 8.15am.

Alternatively, you can send me an email

Thank you

Many families have indicated they will be taking family holidays in 2017, during term time. If you are intending to take a family holiday would you be able to email me the dates your child will be absent. I will then record then on our system.

Last week a number of children came to kindy without their hat. Please remember our sunsmart policy

"NO HAT NO OUTSIDE PLAY"

We dont share hats due to head lice.

So please remember to send a hat everyday otherwise they have to play inside.

Staff News

During this year both Carol and myself will take long service leave. Carol will take 3 weeks leave from 13th June until the end of term 2, to travel with her family to the UK. Carol will be visiting relatives on her travels. Carol will be back to start term 3. Robbie and Lyn will cover Carol whilst she is away.

My son has been living in the UK since April 2016, so my husband and I are going to visit him. Whilst I leave during the July holidays, I will be absent for the first 3 weeks of term 3. In my absence Laura will be the director, Amber will be the full time teacher and Sara Dumican will be the 0.5 teacher. So the centre will be in good hands. It is an exciting time for Carol and myself (although I will miss a few Crows games!!)

Developing independence skills

One important learning outcome for children in their year at preschool is developing independence. Not just independence in leaving their family each day and remaining & coping in the care of staff at preschool, but developing independence skills. That is, developing skills to manage everyday tasks with out the support of adults. For example, putting on their own socks and shoes, washing their hands before eating, wiping their own bottom, finding their own snack in their bag, hanging up their painting, putting on a smock, getting their own jumper on or off etc, etc. We know they are only 4 years old (and some are still 3years old). However, at school there is high expectations by teachers that they are independent and manage these "life skills" without support of adults. So the kindy year, is the perfect time to encourage your child's independence.

We have found many children have limited skills in managing tasks independently. Lots of children are expecting adults "to do everything" for them. So we have started the process of encouraging independence. That is, with prompts & gentle persuasion we have expected them to "have a go" and try some everyday tasks such as putting on their socks & shoes. We talk them the process, remind them they are "big kindy kids" and generally, they complete the tasks (even if some help is still required).

Being independent is empowering for your child. Believing in themselves, that they "can do it" and succeed in everyday tasks (and in other situations). Believing that adults feel they are worthwhile and capable, helps develop a positive self esteem. That is, a positive belief in themselves.

If your child relies on you to complete tasks, try and encourage independence starting with putting their pyjamas on by themselves. This time of the day is usually more relaxed rather than hustle of getting out of the house each morning. The weekend is also a good time to practice these tasks, where you generally have more time. Remember to give them plenty of time, lots of encouragement and praise and hints to step them through the process.

Independence skills are life skills. Skills your child will not only need at preschool, but at school, at work and in life. 4 years of age is the perfect time to help your child develop these skills. If you need any help & support, don't hesitate to speak with any on the staff. We are here to help.

Zucchini muffin recipe

As requested I have included the Zucchini muffin recipe we made recently. They were absolutely delicious and made from the vegies from our kindy garden. Whilst we do not have muffins on our nutrition policy, it is a way that we can use the zucchinis and something children will at least try. Enjoy cooking!!!

1.5 Self raising flour
3/4 cup sugar (brown or white is fine)
1.5 cups grated zucchini (about 2 small to medium)
1/2 tsp salt
2 eggs
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp vanilla
1/3 cup canola oil
2tsp baking powder

Preheat oven to 180c. In large bowl whisk flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg. Set aside

In medium bowl, combine grated zucchini, eggs, vanilla, oil. Stir well to combine.

Stir gently into flour mixture. Do not overwork as it will lead to dense muffins

Fill lined muffin tins about 3/4 full

Can sprinkle with extra cinnamon and sugar (we don't)

Bake for 30 minutes or until golden.

Delicious!!!

Advanced Notice about Wheels Day

Wheels day will be held in week 8. (4 weeks times) and it is our only fundraiser for the year. I am giving you advanced notice as you will need to arrange to take your child & their bike or scooter to Mitcham Primary School. We will start our day at the school (not at kindy) and return to the preschool later in the morning.

At the end of the morning, your child's bike / scooter will need to be collected. For those families who can not get their children back to kindy after wheels day, we will walk them back, but we cannot take bikes & scooters with us.

Some details are below, but further information, permission forms & sponsorship forms will be out in 2 weeks.

Gold group—Wednesday March 22nd

Blue group—Tuesday March 23rd

Wheels day is held at

- Mitcham Primary School Ashbourne Ave, Kingswood.
- 9am—11.30am
- Session back at kindy at 12noon. (the session is an official preschool session for kindy children only)
- Pizza for lunch at 12.30pm for kindy children only
- Session finishes as normal at 3pm

It is a great event, much loved each year by the children and remembered long into the year. Children ride their bikes / scooters around the bike track at Mitcham Primary School, followed by snack and a special ceremony. We hope your child will be able to join us.

Practicing for wheels day

Our very special and much loved Wheels Days will be held in week 8 at Mitcham Primary School bike track. Did you know that you can use the bike track on weekends or after school? The school is a public place. It is the perfect place to teach your child how to ride a bike / or move from a bike with trainer wheels to a 2 wheeler.

Over the next few weeks, you may wish to take your child to the school with their bike, to practice for wheels day, especially if they are not a confident rider. Each lap of the bike track is 0.5 of a kilometer. So for some children, it is a challenge to complete multiple laps.

Practicing beforehand, will help them to know the track and feel more confident on the day.

Kids on the block

Last week, Laura took a photo of every child for our "kids on the block" activities. Each child's photo was cut out, laminated and attached to a small wooden block. They will be used throughout the year for various activities. In the last week of term 4, 2016 they will get to take their block home. Come and have a look at the "kids on the block". They look fantastic and the children are very proud of their own block (The teachers have one too!!)

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Laura, Amber, Carol, Robyn, Lyn, Pat