



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 1
Newsletter 6

This week at kindy

This week we will continue our focus with

"Literacy in the garden"

We will explore in our small groups "Why are mini beasts such as bees, worms etc important for our garden?"

To support our learning we will have inside

- Mini beast display table with books and adjuncts (understanding our world)
- Butterfly painting (creativity) - on the paintings an adult will scribe children's information on "What do you know about butterflies?" (literacy)
- Literacy corner with a range of adjuncts (literacy)
- Play dough with laminated insect cards (Literacy)
- Drawing table with mini beast name cards to copy (fine motor)
- Box construction (problem solving)
- Light table with mini beast skeleton pictures (understanding our world)
- Science table— seed growing (understanding our world)
- Caterpillar and spiny leaf insects to observe (understanding our world)
- Easels with bicycle images to copy (fine motor / creativity)
- Numeracy corner— a variety of numeracy games (numeracy / maths)
- Dolls & prams in the home corner (Dramatic play)
- Stepping stones, tunnel through the garden (gross motor)
- Camping with garden materials (gross motor)
- Butterfly garden under shade structure (dramatic play)
- Jumping ball challenge (gross motor / challenge task)
- Map drawing (creativity / numeracy / literacy)
- Australian animals dramatic play (social skills)

Outside there will be

- Digging for bones in the sandpit (sensory)
- Trampoline (gross motor)
- Swings (gross motor)
- Treasure map hunt— recognising symbols for landmarks (numeracy)

This week is also wheels day. So for the name board challenge this week we have the letter "Ww". Children need to observe whether they have the letter "w" in their name and put their name card on the Yes or No side.

It is a busy and exciting week at kindy

Calling all gardeners is back this week on the front verandah!

The children need to look at the picture of a caterpillar and estimate how many legs it has.

They need to write their name and the number of legs estimated on the sheet.

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Wheels Days

Wheels day at Mitcham Primary School is fast approaching. In fact it is this week

Gold Group—Wednesday March 22nd

Blue group—Thursday March 23rd

Our wheels day is a much loved day and is often remembered as one of the children's favourite activities in their year at preschool. In fact, children who have had older siblings at preschool (and know about wheels day) cant wait for their turn at this special event.

Over the past couple of weeks, there was a note in the pockets about wheels day and a sponsorship form for you to collect donations. These donations will go directly to upgrading ICT for children's use (Interactive screen, computer, printer)

Pizza lunch after wheels day.

Following wheels day we return to the preschool, where we enjoy pizza lunch from Dominos. If your child doesn't eat pizza, please make sure their have a lunch packed. We will encourage them to have a try of the pizza, but have a back up if they don't feel they can eat it.

Family Picnics

The family picnics held in week 6, were a wonderful success. For both groups, the evenings were really well attended and parents enjoyed the opportunities for meet other parents, whilst children enjoyed the freedom and time to play in such a beautiful park. Thankyou to everyone who attended. We hope you enjoyed the evening. It was a wonderful way to build community.

Pupil Free day

Just a reminder of our pupil free day coming up in week 10,

on Monday April 3rd.

There will not be any kindy on that day as staff will be participating in professional development.

Importance of rhyme

"Rhyme" is one of the keys to reading. If a child does not understand the concept of rhyme, they are likely to have difficulty learning to read. At preschool we focus on "phonological awareness" - in particular children's ability to understand rhyme and initial sounds. (that is the sound of letters at the beginning of words eg "t" for teddy)

From our assessing we noticed that many children were inconsistent in their understanding of rhyme. To support your child in understanding rhyme you can

- teach them that rhyme means when 2 words sound the same eg cat / hat, tree / bee
- read stories that include rhyme eg Dr Seuss stories / Pamela Allen stories. Find the words that rhyme in the story
- play rhyming games in the car. For example choose a word then find words that rhyme such as car, bar, star, par, far

Helping your child develop their understanding of rhyme now will assist with the concept of reading at school and beyond.

If you have any queries, please dont hesitate to speak with one of the staff

With this newsletter I have attached an article on rhyme.

Advanced Notice

I want to give you some advanced notice of some very special dates in term 4.

We will have a celebration day (a concert followed by lunch) in week 7 of term 4. (*blue group Tuesday November 28th / gold group Wednesday November 29th*).

It is a wonderful day where the children sing a number of songs, give you the present they have made and then we share in a lunch. It is a busy day and we finish by 1.30pm. (No kindy after 1.30pm)

On the children's last morning of kindy we have a graduation morning.

(*Blue group Thursday December 14th and Gold Group Friday December 15th*).

We have a morning tea for children & family members and then a graduation ceremony. The morning concludes at 12noon. There is no kindy in the afternoon. Staff are on site cleaning the centre, but there are no programs for children.

I know these dates seem such a long way off. However, feedback from some parents in previous years, was they wanted more notice when finishing times of sessions varied.

During the year, we have 3 after hour events where children have the opportunity to attend, therefore they still access the required number of hours.

For now put the dates in your diary and keep them free for these very special events.

Feedback on children's progress

Laura, Amber and myself have now finished our informal assessing of children in key literacy, numeracy and fine motor skills (relevant for their stage of learning).

We are now making appointments with parents to provide feedback on the informal assessing, discuss each child's individual learning plan and share briefly how they have settled into preschool.

Please understand that we have very limited times for these appointments. As we are always working with children, and cannot be "off the floor" during the day, we are limited to making times at either 8.45am or 2.30pm, 2.45pm or 3pm. These times are also based on whether we are taking large group at the beginning or the end of the day. We can make ap-

pointments at 8.15am if that suits your work times.

We realise that it is difficult to fit times around work, dropping & picking up children from school. However, please understand that these are the only times we have available to tie in with working with the children.

Please be aware that if you change your appointment time or forget to attend, it may be difficult to find an alternative time to suit both you and the educator, as our bookings are filling up. If this occurs, the feedback may need to occur early term 2.

We value providing you with feedback on your child's progress and look forward to our conversations.

Excursion Note & permission form

I realise that we have had lots of notices in the pockets this term, for you to complete. Next term, there wont many!!

This week there is the excursion note to the Botanical Gardens / Little Sprouts Kitchen Garden. We could not book the excursions for both blue and gold in the same week so the excursion dates are

Gold group—week 9, Wednesday March 29th

Blue Group—week 10, Tuesday April 4th.

My apologies for the short time frame with putting out this note (especially for gold group) but I didn't want to confuse it with wheels day notices. I had hoped to have both groups go in week 10, which would have made information sharing easier.

Please check your child's pockets

for the excursion information and permission form.

We are looking forward to visiting the Botanical Gardens and especially Little Sprouts kitchen garden to support our learning, "*Literacy in the garden*"

Head lice

I need to let you know I have now had a second case of head lice reported to me. Please can you check your child's hair for any signs of head lice (eggs or nits). If your child has head lice there are a range of shampoos to treat your child's hair. Once treated, they can return to preschool. A sign of head lice is an itchy head!!

Child Protection Curriculum Term 2

The Child Protection Curriculum, is a compulsory curriculum, which we will implement term 3 under the focus of learning,

"All about me and people in my world"

The curriculum has 2 themes and 4 focus areas, which will be covered under the focus of learning.

The 2 themes are,

We all have the right to be safe

We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust

The 4 focus areas

The right to be safe

Relationships

Recognising and reporting abuse

Protective Strategies

Whilst the curriculum can be confronting, we cover it with care, consideration and compassion.

Every child has to be involved. (This is determined by the State Government & DECD).

So to give you more information on the Child Protection Curriculum and how we will explore it, within our focus of learning, I will be holding an information night on

Monday April 3rd

6.45pm for a 7pm start.

(Please note this is the Monday evening of the pupil free day)

A note was put in your child's note pocket on Monday, and will be out soon via APP / Email about the evening. There is a tear off slip to return to indicate your attendance.

It is an important information session as

it will give you an opportunity to hear about the curriculum and ask questions.

(PLEASE NOTE THE CHILD PROTECTION CURRICULUM IS DIFFERENT TO THE RAN-EC TRAINING)

Finally

Finally, thank you as always for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Kind regards Chris, Laura, Amber, Carol, Robyn, Lyn and Pat