



# Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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## Term 1 in review

Term 1 was a busy one as 87 children commenced at Mitcham Preschool for the first time. There were new routines & rules to learn, children and teachers to get to know. It was a very busy time for everyone, but the children were exceptional in how they adjusted and coped with their new learning environment. At the end of week 2, we were ready to commence our focus of learning.

And what a wonderful term of teaching and learning it has been. We have been very busy over the past 10 weeks as we explored our focus of learning

### *"Literacy in the garden"*

Here are just a few snippets from the term

- We brainstormed our ideas on "what is a book?" and what do you notice about books?" which were our first inquiry questions.
- From there we have explored fiction books and in-

formation texts identifying how both types of books differ

- We have talked about authors and illustrators
- We have read rhyming books
- We have explored how books are made
- We have found out about the conventions of print (eg reading left to write, back & front of books, spines of books, full stops & question marks etc)
- We have found out about mini beasts and how they are important or a pest in the garden
- We have observed so many monarch caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies
- We have observed the spiny leaf insects
- We have developed a literacy corner with activities fo-

cus on literacy

- We have flash cards on the drawing table for children to copy
- There have been a large number of creative activities
- We have cooked zucchini muffins from the zucchini's we harvested from the garden
- We cooked roast and mashed pumpkin and collected data on how many children preferred each type of cooked pumpkin
- We have collected a range of data such as how many children were born in the year of the dragon / year of the snake
- We had "calling all gardeners" where children had to estimate / predict answers to questions related to the garden. We then looked at the data and found out the

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### Wanted

Would a loving, kind family like to look after our spiny leaf insects over the school holidays? They are easy maintenance and can even be handled with care.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to adopt our spiny leaf insects for the holidays.

Thank you

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## Term 1 in review (cont)

- We had number hunts and rhyming word hunts in the garden. The children had to find the number and mark it off on their sheet
- There has been a large range of dramatic play experiences inside and outside for the children to engage in social interactions, whilst sharing and acting out roles. Some have included the home corner; hat shop; Bunnings shop; camping; pipes/vest/ hard hats/ signs in the sand pit; fire fighters etc
- We have introduced the concept of challenge tasks - tasks that can be a bit tricky or difficult - but you have to persist and not give up. If it is too challenging ask a friend or adult to help you. Challenge tasks are always indicated by a yellow star
- Challenge tasks have included "Is the letter ....in your name? If it is put your name on the yes side. If it doesn't, your name goes on the no side.
- There have been challenge puzzles, Calling all Gardeners, balancing on the slack line, jumping and hitting a ball in a sack just to name a few
- We have had wonderful wheels day at Mitcham Primary where we had our own special ceremony and celebration of success.
- We visited the Botanical Gardens and Little sprouts kitchen Garden
- There have been family picnics
- we have learnt many new

songs and games

- There have been many numeracy experiences including recognising numbers, sorting, subitising, counting and a numeracy corner where the experiences support children's skills in numeracy.

These are just a few snippets from term 1's teaching and learning. What a busy term it has been! No wonder the children (and educators) are tired and ready for a restful 2 weeks.

Your children are such amazing learners. They are interested, engaged and eager to be involved. It is indeed a pleasure to be part of their learning.

We look forward to another wonderful term of teaching and learning, in term 2.

## Teddy Bears Picnic

To celebrate our wonderful term of learning we are having a teddy bears picnic this week, just for the kindy children and educators.

**Blue group—Tuesday April 11th**

**Gold group—Wednesday April 12th**

The picnic will occur during normal session time. Please remember your child needs to bring

- Healthy snack
- Healthy lunch
- Water bottle
- Teddy bear or soft toy (not too large as they will need to carry it with their lunch to the park)
- **HAT**

It will be a lovely way to end our term of teaching and learning.

## Term 2 Program

The focus of learning for term 2 will be

*"All about me and people in my world"*

*Underpinned by the Child Protection Curriculum*

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.

Within the child protection curriculum, we will include many special experiences such as

- Walks to our local bush Kindy
- an excursion to Kuitpo Forest,
  - funtastics
  - Special persons day
  - An incursion
- Celebration to end the term of learning

We will also continue on with our focus on challenge tasks, persistence, risk taking and growth mind sets.

Watch out for the term plan, term overview and term calendar out next term.

# Vocabulary

## *Did you know.....*

The size of vocabulary, that is number and variety of words that children know in preschool and initial years of schooling, is a significant predictor of reading comprehension in the middle and secondary years of schooling.

"The more words you know, the more clearly and powerfully you will think... and the more ideas you will invite into your mind" (Wilfred Funk, 1986)

## *How can we extend children's vocabulary?*

- Talk with them
- Incorporate new words and explain their meaning. For example if talking about lions you could say "*Lions are carnivores, that means they eat meat*". You have used an interesting word to describe something about lions and explained its meaning
- Don't be afraid to use interesting words as children love to hear them. They will usually "catch on" and use the word too.
- Try not to "dumb down" conversations with children. There is no need to use "baby or toddler talk". They are amazing learners, they love to learn and love to hear words that adults use
- Read lots to your child / children—read story books, information texts, read appropriate articles from the newspaper and magazines, read signs, messages in cards etc. The greater number of words, the variety and complexity of words they hear, will mean better outcomes in reading at school.
- Go on a word hunt looking for long words, or words that look interesting (eg shape of a word). Explain what the word is and what it means. For example at a plant nursery you may find the word "Deciduous". You could say, "this is an interesting sounding word....deciduous and it means that this type of tree loose their leaves. They are getting ready to rest in winter". You can then also let your child know that there are other trees that are "evergreens" - they keep their leaves all year round. You could go on a walk looking for deciduous trees and evergreen trees.

Helping your child to extend their vocabulary, (the number and variety of words) will assist them in the complex skill of reading in the early years and primary years at school. If you want any further ideas, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.

## **THERE'S NOTHING IN MY BAG TODAY**

*Today I did my Maths and Science  
I toasted bread,  
I halved and quartered, counted, measured,  
Used my eyes and ears and head.  
I added and subtracted on the way,  
I used the magnet blocks and memory tray.  
I learnt about a rainbow and how to weigh.  
So - please don't say  
Anything in your bag today?"*

*You see I'm sharing as I play,  
I learn to listen and speak clearly when I talk,  
To wait my turn, and when inside to walk,  
To put my thoughts into a phrase,  
To guide a crayon through a maze,  
To find my name and write it down,  
To do it with a smile and not a frown,  
To put my pasting brush away.  
So please don't say  
"What! Nothing in your bag today?"*

*I've learnt about a snail and a worm,  
Remembered how to take may turn,  
Helped a friend when he was stuck,  
Learnt that water runs off a duck,*

*Looked at words from left to right,  
Agreed to differ, not to fight.  
So please, don't say  
"Did you only play today?"*

*Yes, I played the whole day through.  
I played to learn the things I do.  
I seek a problem, find a clue,  
And work out for myself just what to do.  
My teachers set the scene and stay nearby  
To help me when I really try.  
They are there to pose the problems  
And to help me think;  
I hope they'll keep me floating  
And never let me sink.  
All this is in my head, and not my bag.  
It makes me sad to hear you say  
"Haven't you done anything today?"*

*When you attend your meetings  
And do your work today  
I will remember not to say to you  
"What, nothing in your bag? What did you do?"*

Anonymous  
Reprinted from "Communication Child Care"  
July 1989

There are still a number of families who have not provided staff with proof of their up to date vaccination schedule. It isn't compulsory to provide evidence. However, DECD have a new policy and from term 2, if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease eg measles, chicken pox, your child will be excluded from the centre.

If you need more information please see one of the staff.

## Different groups in term 2

Over the past term, your child has put their drink bottle and lunch box in the same shape box. Your child has been with the same children in their lunch group & story group. They have also been with the same teacher in their small story group. Each term I mix the groups up as this provides the children the opportunity to

- work with different children
- form new friendships
- experience a different educators, teaching style
- develop strong relationships with a different teacher

## Rosie and Wowie

Rosie and Wowie, our take home teddy bears are now on holidays. They have had many wonderful adventures so far. Thank you for your support with our bears. We look forward to many more adventures when we return next term. (Please note, every child will have a turn with one of the bears before the end of the year)

## Lending kits

Many thanks to Kirsty Jupe who has volunteered to lend out kits for gold group commencing term 2. Is there anyone who can help check the kits on Mondays and/or Wednesday for gold group.

Are there any families who would like to volunteer for blue group, to lend out kits on Thursday mornings and then check kits Monday and/or Tuesdays. If you would like more information, please come and see me. Please remember you will

- take risks
- cope with new situations

So when the children return next term, they will need to check the lists on the drink & lunch box containers. They may be in a different shape container.

We will let the children know they may be in a different story group / drink / lunch box container. If you have any queries please come and speak with me.

### Baba Ghanoush Dip Recipe

1kg eggplant  
1/2 cop Greek yoghurt  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
2 tablespoons tahini  
1 glove garlic crushed  
1/4 teaspoon sea salt  
Parsley  
Cook eggplant until brown & tender  
Remove skin from eggplant and chop  
Add eggplant and all other ingredients to bowl, stir  
Serve with biscuits, carrot & celery sticks. Delicious!!

need to attend the RAN-EC training to volunteer.

The kits are much loved and enjoyed by children and their families. We can commence lending, once we volunteers to carry out the lending & checking.

Many thanks

## Friendship lists

I will update the friendship list to commence term 2. If you would like your name added to the friendship list, please fill in a blue form located on the sign in table. Please place it in the brown box by the end of week 1, term 2

### Wheels Day Update

There is still a large number of outstanding wheels day sponsorship money. PLEASE PAY by the end of this week so that we can finalise our books. Thank you to everyone for their support.

**So far we have raised  
\$2711.00.**

**What a fabulous effort.**

### Finally

I can't believe that we are at the end of your child's first term at preschool. Where has that time gone to. The children are certainly tired after a very busy term and are ready for a rest. (This may even include a day spent in their pyjamas watching a DVD or 2)

We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing break with your child. Remember they are your most precious assets and time spent together is "gold". Enjoy every special moment. If you are travelling stay safe on the roads. We look forward to seeing you on May 1st for the start of term 2.

Kind regards

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