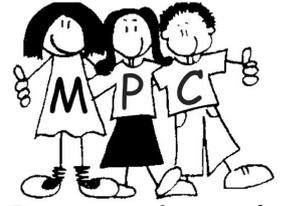




Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

Tel: 82712042 Fax: 82728272

email: Chris.Catt906@schools.sa.edu.au

web: www.mitchampre.sa.edu.au

A quick newsletter

Dear Parents,

This newsletter is a very brief one, with some important updates. I hope this note finds you all well and managing this long winded heat wave.

Tired Children

The children have found this week a challenge at preschool. They have been very tired, hot and bothered. It is not unusual that they feel very tired in their first few weeks as they adjust to being here for 2 & $\frac{1}{2}$ days, developing relationships with the teachers, learning new routines, rules, developing new friendships and of course adjusting to being away from you. The extreme hot weather adds to their exhaustion, as they often do not sleep well.

We have had a few teary children Thursday and Friday, as parents left but they all settled well. On Thursday, many children fatigued by 2pm and just wanted "their mum". If your child is exhausted in the first few weeks, it is fine to pick them up early, especially when the weather is so hot. If you feel you would like to pick them up early, after lunch is ideal, so any time after 1.15pm. Come and have a chat with one of the staff, if you feel that your child "needs an early minute". Let me assure you, they will adjust. They become more resilient, cope in a range of situations, and manage the separation with greater confidence. It is only early days and they are only 3 or 4 years of age.

Resting at kindy

At preschool, there is no opportunity for sleeping. Preschool is a year of transitioning out of day time sleeps / rests, building resilience and stamina in preparation for school. We do have a relaxation time before lunch time in our small groups, but it is only for 10-15 minutes.

We have several quiet areas for children to go to, if they are needing some quiet, restful play. This includes the literacy room, couch / library area, shelving in the corner of the main room (which currently has sensory toys), and puzzle shelf. Our activities vary each week, but there are quiet experiences such as play dough, sensory tables etc, where they again can have some very quiet time.

We also have 3 group experiences in the day at 9am, 11am and 2.30pm, plus there is lunch at 12.20pm. Whilst these groups involve learning and listening, they are sitting quietly and resting their body, not running around or playing in other experiences.

Rest up over the weekend

Sunday and next week are cooler, so hopefully the children will recover from this hot and exhausting week.

Some rest and relaxation over the weekend, will help them too.

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Hot days at kindy

Hot days in our country are unavoidable. So when at kindy we will ensure that

- We only play outside in the morning (we have all been inside by 12noon over the past 4 days).
- With free play in the morning (between the 9am group time and our 11am group time) children choose if they want to play inside or out.
- If they have been out most of that time, we will ask them to go inside to cool and rest.

- When outside for the morning, the children will only play in the shaded areas
- We have water play activities to keep them cool
- We have their water bottles accessible all day. They can have a drink at any time
- Children are reminded frequently to have a drink

There are many strategies that we put in place on hot to very hot days.

Air conditioning

The kindy air conditioner is old and can sometimes be ineffective. There are 2 rooms that are not air conditioned. However, DECD have approved a new air conditioner system, which will service all rooms. We are looking forward to having our new system installed soon.

Library, car park, Brownhill Creek redevelopment

During 2018, the Mitcham Library, our car park and Brownhill creek will undergo a major redevelopment.

The project is expected to finish by Carols by the Creek in December. The outcome will be amazing for our community. We will have a large library with modern facilities. We will have additional car parking spaces. We will have a widened creek to reduce flooding. The redeveloped creek and surrounding areas will also incorporate many nature play areas, for the children and their families to access.

It is going to be wonderful.

However, it is going to be an inconvenience to our preschool for the duration of the project. There will be trucks coming and going. There will be construction work occurring which will create dust and noise, especially as they remove trees from along the creek and widen it. The library will be partially demolished which again, will create dust and noise.

It is going to be exciting for the

children watching the work occur and the progress of the project.

But..... Families are going to have to be patient with car parking. Our car parking spaces will be reduced throughout the project. Families are going to have to be mindful of safety in the car park with trucks moving in and out, as children & adults leave / access cars. (They will try and make the most of the movement of trucks occur outside of our arrival at kindy and leaving kindy times.) However, there may be times when this can not be avoided.

My advice would be to park in the surrounding streets and walk in as often as possible. We will have a priority parking place for the Hawthorn Child Care bus.

The company working on the project will liaise with me everyday. I will keep you informed via the APP / email when there will be interruptions to the car park.

Whilst we wont wish the year away, (because we have so many

exciting things planned)

We will be glad, when the car park / library and creek redevelopment is completed.

So true!



Curriculum / Winter Olympics

We will commence our focus of learning next week. Information has been placed in your note pockets this week, including a calendar of events. Look out for

"This week at kindy" which will provide information about our weekly activities and inquiry questions.

Winter Olympics

The Wonderful winter Olympics start tonight. We have been talking about the Winter Olympics with the children, discussing

- the Olympic rings,

- where the games are being held,
- what they might see at the Olympic games
- the weather in South Korea,
- The medals they might win
- We can watch it on Channel 7.

You might like to allow your child to watch some of the Winter Olympics (as the time zones are similar to Australia), collect articles from the weekend newspapers, research about South Korea and the games on the Internet.

It is an exciting time in world sport. It also provides us an opportunity to look at concepts such as challenge and persistence, which is a large focus in our learning at preschool. (The sports are a challenge but they cant give up, they have to persist)

Enjoy watching the Winter Olympics. It will be wonderful (OH to be that cold right now!!)

Finally

Have a wonderful weekend. Stay cool. Rest up.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Laura, Amber, Carol,

Robyn, Lyn