



# Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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## Welcome back!

Welcome back to the start of term 3. We hope your holiday was restful and enjoyable.

Do you know that your child now has only 19 weeks of preschool until the end of the school year. Amazing!!

### Term 3 Curriculum

Our focus for term 3 is **"What is outer space?"**

It will be a wonderful term of teaching and learning as we explore outer space, through information texts, videos / You tube clips, dramatic play, creative experiences, literacy and numeracy, challenge tasks and science experiments.

The term of learning will include special events such as

- Mobile junk and Nature play day (in week 2)
- Funtastics
- Trent Hill— Aboriginal Story teller
- Family nights with a pizza dinner and a Bubble show
- End of term crazy / mixed up, inside out or Space Day.
- We will also be going to the Planetarium at Mawson Lakes

(Please note with this excursion, there are only enough seats for children and educators, so we **WILL NOT** be asking for parent help)

The term calendar, term overview and program will be in note pockets at the beginning of week 1. Of course, we will also have our term calendar of events in the main room, which you can check out with your child.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of teaching and learning about Outer space.

### Mobile Junk and Nature Play Day

A note about Mobile Junk and Nature Play day, will be sent to the APP/Email early week 1.

- Blue group -Nature Play day Thursday August 2nd
- Gold group -Nature Play day Friday August 3rd

## Term 4

Term 4 is only 12 weeks away, so wanted to remind you of 2 special events / dates.

As mentioned in previous news-letters there are 2 very special events in term 4 to keep free.

Our celebration days (end of year concerts)

- Tuesday November 27th for blue group &
- Wednesday November 29th for gold group.
- We will finish by 1.30pm on those dates

Graduation mornings—

- Blue group Thursday December 13th
- Gold group Friday December 14th.
- This is the last 2 days of term 4 and we will finish at 12noon.

Please put these 2 important dates in your diary and keep them free.

## Term 3 Newsletter 1

### Pupil Free Day

There is a pupil free day on

**Tuesday August 14th,**

where staff from all preschools in our partnership will

participate in professional development.

There will be **NO** kindy on that day.

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## Work folders

The children's work folders were updated at the end of term 2. Art work that had been placed around our room were added to the folders as we were learning stories about special persons morning which included some fabulous photos. Please come and have a look with your child.

## Take home kits

The lending kits will be back ready for borrowing this Thursday July 26th for blue group. Thankyou to Bec Richards for her help in lending and checking the kits.

Gold group children would love to take home the kits, but we need someone to check them each week. Jennifer Wilckens can lend them out on Fridays but we need someone to check them.

Please let me know if you can help out for gold group.

## CYH Screening

The next CYH Screening day will be **Monday August 13th**. If you would like an appointment to have your child's hearing / eye sight and general development checked, please see me / email me for a spot. There are 6 places for gold group and 6 for blue group. A parent / carer must be present at the Screening.

## Groups for drink bottles and lunch boxes

Please check the lists when your child puts their drink bottles & lunch boxes in the containers. They may be in a different group from term 3

### Wowie and Rosie

Wowie and Rosie our take home (and much loved) teddy bears are back in action this term. Each week 2 children from each group, get to take a bear home and have a wonderful adventure. Everyone will have a turn, but the children

## Term 3 Fees

You will soon receive an account for your term 3 fees in your child's name pocket. Fees are \$210.00 (this includes a \$20.00 fund raising levy and a \$20.00 excursion / incursion levy)

### *Fees are due for payment by Friday August 10th*

Fees can be paid by cash or cheque deposited into the brown box near the kitchen, or by direct debit

BSB 105084

Account 323231040

We appreciate your fees being paid on time to ensure that we can meet our running costs and expenses. If you have any queries in paying the fees, please come and see me. All conversations will be in strictest confidence.

## Kindy Photos

Kelly Champion will be taking our kindy photos again this year. Kelly takes beautiful photos of the children, (one at a time) whilst outside playing. Kelly usually takes the photos over 2 days for each group. This year the photos will be taken in week 4, week beginning Monday August 13th. As we have a pupil free day on Tuesday August 14th, the following days will be photo days

**Blue group**—Monday August 13th & Thursday August 16th

**Gold group**—Wednesday August 15th & Friday 17th.

There are up no front fees, but you will need to complete a form prior to week 4. Watch out for further details out soon.

## Funtastics

The first funtastics of the term is in week 3,

### Monday August 6th

for blue & gold group.

Funtastics is our very special motor coordination program, where children participate in a range of activities. It is a very structured program, but supports children's development in gross & fine motor, ball skills, sensory skills, listening, social skills, numeracy & literacy skills.

The session runs from about 9am—10.15am (blue group) 12.45pm—2pm (gold group)

If you can help out, please put your name on the board. Please remember

**YOU MUST HAVE ATTENDED A RAN-EC TRAINING TO HELP OUT**

# History of our Outdoor area

The idea of the outdoor redevelopment commenced way back in late 2012, when our permapine structures eg slippery dip, vegie garden and bench around the sand-pit, were deemed as rotting and unsuitable. Permapine cannot be replaced in school / preschool sites so, we decided that a yard redevelopment would be the best action, since a lot of the space involved permapine structures.

In 2013–2014 the staff team, undertook a research project which involved reading & researching, visiting other preschools to see new play spaces, interviewing parents and children about what they valued outdoors. From this information, we developed a wish list.

The Governing Council also agreed to the outdoor upgrade and set a budget at initially \$50,000. Whilst we had one landscaper design an outdoor play space, it was significantly over budget.

Jaquie Hagan (mum of Tait in blue group) was on the Governing Council at the time (2015), and after negotiating with the initial landscaper to cease her involvement, Jaquie took on designing a play space for us based on our wish list

## Some thank you's

A very big thankyou and acknowledgement to Jaquie Hagan for her time, effort and expertise in putting the plans together and then continuing the work of liaising with Andrew Frazer, throughout the redevelopment process. It has involved countless hours of work. (and in years when her children were not at kindy).

Jaquie, the staff, parents, children and community, want to thankyou sincerely, for your dedication to this project and the wonderful outcome we have been able to achieve.

To Frazer Landscape and Gardens, in particular Andrew (owner of the business) for his expertise in managing our project. Andrew has always been available and excellent in communicating with Jaquie and me throughout the project.

To James and Gus, who have completed the work at our site. Both

and photos from other sites we had visited.

Jaquie also liaised with prospective landscapers until we finally agreed upon using "Frazer Garden & Landscapes" to complete our project. By this time it was early 2017 and our budget had been steadily growing. We submitted the plans to DECD and Mitcham Council for approval which was granted in late March 2017.

However, we were not allowed to proceed with the project until, the fencing on the northern and western fence was completed. This was finally completed in the last Christmas holidays. At the same time, the Mitcham Council undertook major renovation of the exterior of our building.

February 2018, we were ready to go! Andrew (from Frazer Gardens & Landscapes) set a starting date of April school holidays 2018.

Whilst the project has hit many hurdles over the years, we were able to save \$100,000 for the project which has meant a significant redevelopment and a beautiful play space for the children today and in the future.

men have been fantastic to work with. They have kept me informed throughout the project of issues / updates. They have been patient and thoughtful with the children, always willing to answer their questions, retrieve a ball or toy that had gone under / over the fence. At all times, they have been very mindful of safety of the children and themselves. Both James and Gus have mentioned that they have really enjoyed working at our site, with staff and the children.

Thankyou to the children, who have patiently waited for the opportunity to play in our new play space. Whilst at times, there has been a feeling of "cabin fever", overall, I feel they have managed the restrictive outdoor play spaces well.

To the community, (past and present) thank you for your support to ensure this project is complet-

# To do

There are a few minor things that are still to happen such as

- new shade cloths over the sand pit and soft fall area are to be erected (they were ordered late term 2)
- Screens will be erected along the western fence
- Succulents (that were along our entry way) are to be replanted into pots. I am currently babysitting them in my vegie garden at home.
- Vegie garden needs to be planted
- Materials purchased to decorate the stage / tee pee.

Of course, there may be some hiccups with things in the playground, that don't become obvious until we actually start playing.

It will be wonderful to see the children playing, and engaging in our new outdoor play space.

ed. Families over the years, have helped raise funds through the fund raising levy in the fees, participating in wheels day etc.

Finally to the staff, thankyou for your support throughout the duration of the project, from our early days of researching through to current times, when we continued to implement a high quality curriculum, in a limited play space.

We will all look forward to the children, exploring, playing, taking risks, enjoying the space and having fun, in our redeveloped outdoor area.

## Assessment and reporting

In term 1, you may recall that staff assessed each child on literacy & numeracy and fine motor skill development, to gauge their level of development at the commencement of preschool. Following the informal assessment, a teacher provided feedback on their development in these key areas.

Over the year, we have continued to observe & monitor your child's progress in all areas of their development and in line with our curriculum "The Early Years Learning Framework" and the literacy and numeracy indicators. Now in term 3, we will reassess your child's progress in literacy, numeracy, fine motor, gross motor, etc.

We aim to have all children assessed by the end of term 3. (latest week 1 of term 4) Once your child has been assessed, a teacher will make a time with you for an interview to provide feedback on your child's progress. Interview times will generally be scheduled for the beginning or end of the day.

This information (and any information requiring updating in term 4) will then be written in a report, with a copy being for families and a copy for the school your child will attend. You will receive the reports in the beginning of week 7 of term 4.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey again with you in term 3 / 4.

## Car park update

Whilst our outdoor project has been completed, the library and car park work continues. The car park work has seen some delays and is still several weeks away from being completed. Therefore, car parking spaces are very limited. During the school holidays, trucks frequented the car park, as the library work has progressed with foundations being laid. So please take care in the car park. I would continue to park in the surrounding streets and walk in, as there are very few parks available.

We will look forward to having the car park available to us.

## Enrolling for school / Friendship lists

Have you enrolled your child for school yet? If you not, it would be advisable to do so ASAP.

If you have an older child at school, please be aware you still need to enrol your child currently at preschool. Schools are currently reviewing who is on their list and planning visits for term 4. Schools are also planning numbers for classes for 2019 and need to know how many children will be enrolled to start 2019.

Most people have now informed me, which school their child will be attending in 2019. I have now added this updated information to the friendship lists. I will soon put a copy of the friendship list in your note pockets so that you can see which children are going off together to school. It could be a way of having play dates and forming friendships, prior to starting school

Finally, we welcome Lucy Pearce to blue group. We hope you enjoy your time at Mitcham Preschool

Thankyou as always for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

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

## Attending Mondays

During term 2, I noticed that attendances were low on Mondays. I know some children were away due to illness and several were on holidays during the term. We also have 4 children who do not attend on Mondays as they attend child care.

However, there were often several children absent on Mondays, for unknown reasons. (That is, I wasn't informed they were sick or on holiday etc). For example, on the last Monday of term, there were 8 children absent from gold group and 5 from blue group. This was over and above the children who I knew were on holidays or were sick.

If children regularly miss days at preschool (and school), they miss out on valuable learning experiences. This learning can be difficult to catch up. Whilst Monday is only 2 1/2 hours, lots of wonderful learning opportunities are provided, children reconnect with each other after the weekend and the learning focus for the week commences / continued over from the previous week.

We don't expect children to attend if they are unwell. And Family holidays are valuable learning opportunities. But if they are well, then children should be at kindy.

Establishing good attendance habits during preschool, will carry onto school. So please ensure your child attends regularly, including Mondays.

Poor attendance will also affect our staffing funding. Whilst attendance is always high on the full days, poor attendance on Mondays will lower our average attendances and therefore lower staffing numbers.

If you have any queries about attending preschool, please don't hesitate to speak with me.

### Statements that show your children that you appreciate them:

- I'm lucky to know you
- You are a pleasure to know
- You are important
- You are unique
- I like to see/hug/hold/rock/kiss you
- I love you
- It's good to see you
- Good morning
- I'm glad I'm getting to know you
- I am glad to share this time with you
- I'm glad you are here
- I'm glad you live in our house
- I'm glad you came today
- I enjoy being with you
- I like to sit by you
- I'm glad we are riding/walking/playing/ working together
- I thought about you during the week
- I like you
- I'm glad you are in my house/class/group/life
- I think you are a great kid
- I'm glad you are my friend
- Will you play with me?
- Thanks for being you.

*I found this article you might be interested in.*

### Actions that show your children that you care about them:

- Smile
- Hugs, pats, kisses (if they are comfortable with this)
- Handshakes
- Listening to your child
- Sharing something important
- Spending time with your child
- Being the one who calls/starts conversations/suggest things
- Using your child's name.

### Statements that show your children that you approve of their behaviour:

- 'I like the way you handled that'
- 'I like the way you tackled that problem'
- 'I'm glad you enjoy learning'
- 'I'm glad you're pleased with it'
- 'Since you're not satisfied, what do you think you can do so that you will be pleased with it?'
- 'It looks as if you enjoyed that!'
- 'How do you feel about it?'

### Statements that show your children that you have confidence in them:

- 'Knowing you, I am sure you will do fine'
- 'You will make it'
- 'I have confidence in your judgement'
- 'That's a rough one, but I am sure you will work it out'
- 'You will figure it out.'

### Statements that recognise your child's efforts and improvement

- 'It seems to me that you really worked hard on that'
- 'It seems to me that you have spent a lot of time thinking that through'
- 'It seems to me that you are improving'
- 'It seems to me that you may not feel you have reached your goal, but look how far you have come'
- 'Look at the progress you have made.'

### Phrases that focus on your child's contributions and abilities:

- 'Thanks, that helped a lot'
- 'It was thoughtful of you'
- 'Thanks, I really appreciated that because it makes my job much easier'
- 'I know you are really good at that, I was wondering if you could help me with it'
- 'I really enjoyed today. Thanks!'