



Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 3
Newsletter 4

This week at kindy!

This week, is week 7 of the term. It is amazing that we now have only 4 weeks left of term 3.

I remember listening to Keith Conlin on the radio several years ago. He said "Once we get to the Royal Adelaide Show, it is a down hill slide till Christmas".

Whilst we don't have the show this year, it does feel that the year is "slipping by" very quickly.

This week at kindy, we will continue on with our focus of learning on "Measurement".

So far we have explored

- Linear measurement
- Weight

Over the next few weeks, we will explore Capacity.

Our inquiry will include

- What does capacity mean?
- Exploring tools to measure capacity.

To support our learning, we will have inside

- STEM centre (numeracy)
- Numeracy table with a focus on number / ordering exploration

(numeracy)

- Sensory table—playdough patty pans, baking trays, (Sensory)
- Still life painting of daisies (observation skills)
- Palette—initial sound "Kk" objects & pictures (literacy)
- Palette—threading wheels (place & space)
- Market stall with fruit & veg / scales / signs (dramatic play & literacy)
- 100+ piece puzzle (challenge task)
- Fine motor activity—peg & board (fine motor skills)

Outside we will have

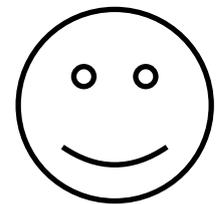
- Measuring bags (numeracy)
- Book making—make market books using photos / word cards (literacy / fine motor)
- Story table—Mr Archimedes Bath (literacy)
- Water trough—STEM champion—measuring tools with focus on capacity. Challenge questions—Which holds the most wa-

ter? Which holds the least water?" (STEM)

- Cutting table—fine motor champion task—cutting out numbers to make a number track (fine motor)
- Sandpit with vests, hard hats, construction signs, level crossing picture provocation (sensory / dramatic play / gross motor)
- Number hunt—multiples of 20 (numeracy / challenge task)
- Lizards in digging patch (dramatic play)
- Pulley in tree—basket of objects to lift (measurement)
- Potion stable (measurement)

Our letter of the week on the name board is "Kk". Do you have the letter "Kk" in your name?

It is another busy week at preschool.



Happy first day of spring!!

Inside this issue:

Market excursion	2
Staff absence	
Parent opinion survey	2
Kindy photos	3
Hats	3
Family nights	
Some good news	3
Pupil free days term 4	4
At kindy on Monday	4
Literacy Pyramid	

Market Excursion

What a busy week we had last week, heading to the market in small groups from Tuesday to Friday. It was a wonderful excursion where we could experience

- The taste
- The smells
- The sounds
- The variety of foods & stalls

Of our amazing Central Market.

As the children explored the market they were investigators and researchers looking for answers to 16 pictures / questions that related to our focus of learning on "Measurement". It certainly kept the children busy, finding all the answers.

Once we finished at the market, we went to the lawn in front of the Supreme Court (where we caught the bus) and let off some steam, running around & rolling down a small hill. The adults were the barriers to keep everyone safe!. Then we sat on the small mound and looked at some sites of the city such as a crane moving up and down from a height, the Victoria Square fountain etc.

Whilst we had planned to shop at the market to buy foods to cook with, we were too busy as researchers! So will shop locally for our cooking experience.

Thankyou to all our parents & grandparents who supported the excursion. It was very much appreciated and meant that we could support children primarily in groups of 2 or 3 children.

When we returned to kindy we asked what were the favourite things about the excursion. The children said

- Eating the treat (gingerbread person)
- Riding on the mini bus
- Having chocolate from Haighs (Some groups were lucky enough to get 2 chocolate buttons to eat!!)
- Funny, no one mentioned eating fruit at the market as a highlight!!

It was a wonderful excursion and learning opportunity.

Parent opinion survey

Each year, parents are invited to complete a survey from the Department for Education, titled "Parent Opinion Survey". In previous years, I would hand out a paper copy and then add the completed surveys to the survey site. This year, DFE have provided a new platform for the survey.

Parents may participate in the survey by accessing the following online link. This link is specific to our preschool, but individual responses will not be identifiable.

<http://tinyurl.com/y5o8rfu3>

All survey responses need to be submitted by the due date of **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th**. Any surveys completed after this date will not be included in our site summary report that the centre receives in November.

I will send out an email this week, with this link, so when you click on the link, it will take you to the survey. It will only take 10-15 minutes to complete.

We would appreciate your time in completing the survey as it provides information and feedback that is very useful in planning for 2021. Thankyou in anticipation.

Kindy photos

Last week, in your child's note pocket, we placed a permission form for you to sign and return. This will allow Kelly Champion to take your child's kindy portraits next week.

Photo dates are

Blue group—Tuesday September 8th and Thursday September 10th

Gold Group—Wednesday September 9th and Friday September 11th.

As we have so many children to photograph, and that Kelly takes her time, making each child feel special as she photographs them, it does take her the 2 days (for each group) to get through.

Please return the tear off slips by this coming Thursday (for blue group) and this coming Friday (for gold group). The photos cannot be taken, if the form isn't returned.

You will receive further information from Kelly directly, when your photos are ready for viewing. **So please write your email address clearly on the return slip.**

Staff absence

Robbie is now on long service leave, and will return for the start of term 4. Gibb will take Robbie's place during her absence.

Jan is taking leave on the last Friday of week 9 and Wednesday / Friday of week 10.

Both Jan and Robbie are travelling within South Australia on their leave.

I will be taking 3 days leave in week 10 (from Wednesday September 23rd) as I am having eye surgery. Sara will be our relief teacher in my absence. Maddie will be taking on the leadership role for the 3 days so if you have any queries please see Maddie, or any of the staff.

It is possible that I will have further eye surgery next term. But dates haven't been set as yet.

Hats

The UV rating has now climbed steadily to 3 and on some days last week, has been as high as 4 for longer periods of time during the day.

As a result, we will transition back into wearing hats over the this week. We will transition into hats over next week, as it can take time for children to remember to bring hats and to get use to wearing them.

However, from

Monday September 7th,

our Sun smart policy comes into affect

"No hat no outside play"

So please start sending a sunhat everyday for your child.

Sunhats include

- Bucket hat
- Broad rimmed hat

Hats that are not suitable as they don't provide adequate sun protection include

- Beanies
- Caps

If you have any queries about the sun smart policy don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff. The policy can be found on our website and on the Skoolbag APP.

It is hard to believe winter is over and spring is here. It means the year is flying by!!

Family nights

After much discussion at last weeks Governing Council meeting, we have decided not to go ahead with family night in term 3. (scheduled for Tuesday September 15th & Wednesday September 16th). The reason being, is the gathering of adults inside does not meet COVID rulings of 1 adult per 2 square metres (requirements of SA Health & the Department for Education) Whilst we had thought the adults could gather outside for the event it is still too cold at night. With the numbers of adults that would attend and the indoor space available, the adults would not fit inside "safely".

As part of the family evening, the children were going to watch an amazing bubble show with "Marty McBubble". To ensure they don't miss out on this special experience, I have organised to have the Bubbleshow at kindy during the day, but we will need to wait until term 4 (Due Marty's commitments). Details will be available next term.

We will have family nights in term 4 as it will be day light saving and the evenings warmer (hopefully). The dates for the family evenings in term 4 are

Blue group—Thursday October 29th

Gold group—Friday October 30th.

Whilst in previous years, the community would come together for this event (both gold and blue groups), this year we will need to have it as 2 separate nights to meet the numbers of adults that can gather.

More information will be available early term 4, but keep those nights free. They will definitely go ahead unless COVID cases increase in our state and we go back into lockdown. It is a forever changing "landscape" and things can change rapidly. Fingers crossed for a positive end to the year with events!!

Some good news

Last week, schools and preschools received permission from the Department for Education, for end of year concerts and graduations to go ahead. We have strict guidelines to follow re social distancing, managing numbers of adults, catering etc. But it is wonderful to know that these special events are permitted. Again, the information that came out, did say that we have to be prepared for a sudden & swift shut down of these events, if there was a COVID outbreak.

Dates for these events had been in previous newsletters.

End of year celebrations (Concert) - Blue group—Tuesday November 24th

- Gold Group—Wednesday November 25th

Graduation mornings—Blue group—Thursday December 10th

- Gold Group—Friday December 11th

Details of these events will be available early term 4 These are wonderful occasions so for now, keep the dates free.

Pupil free days term 4

Finally

Some advanced notice about pupil free days in term 4. Governing Council have approved 2 days in term 4, which will give us our allocated total for the year.

They will occur on
Monday November 2nd and
Tuesday November 10th.

There be no preschool on those dates.
More information will be out in term 4.

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

Kind regards
Chris, Maddie, Suzi, Lyn, Robbie, Karen, Jan & Nat

At kindy on Monday.

On Monday August 31st, (yesterday) we had an incident at preschool that I needed to report to the police and my Education Director. It was about 9.15am, when a man in his mid 20's was looking through the window on the southern side of the building, into the main room. He was unknown to the staff and when asked he "wanted to look at the children". He was instructed to leave and the blinds were then shut into the main room to refuse him any vision of us. Whilst it did appear that he had left, a short time later, the staff saw him standing away from the kitchen window but appearing to look in towards the building.

We immediately did an evacuation with the children, blowing the whistle and bringing them into the passageway to eat their snack. We also locked the doors and the gate. Whilst this occurred, the police were contacted and they attended not long after. During this process we were able to get a photo of the man (rear view) and had an accurate description of him, which was provided to the police. After talking with a staff member, the police searched the area, including the library. However, this man was not found.

During this whole process, the children "were none the wiser" of what was happening. (They were a bit annoyed about having to come inside as we had just gone out for the morning!!). Let me reassure you, that appropriate procedures were carried out by all staff to keep your children safe and protected. For the children, it was just like a normal morning of playing and having fun.

This is the first time in my 15 years at Mitcham Preschool, that I have had to report someone to the police for such actions. So it is a very rare incident. With our building facing away from the car park, it protects us from the public.

If at anytime, you see anyone in the carpark or adjacent park acting suspiciously, please let me know. If you are concerned about the incident, please don't hesitate to talk with the staff, **but please don't chat in front of the children**. Again, we were safe and secure in our beautiful preschool and the children were oblivious to what was going on. Oh to be a 4 (or 5) year old!!

Literacy Pyramid

Parents have been asking about how to teach their child to read. Reading is a very complex process that involves many skills such as oral language skills, phonological awareness (eg rhyme), phonics skills (eg identifying letter sounds and letter names). At preschool, we spend the year, supporting children to develop many skills so that when they are ready (for most children, it will be at school), they will learn to read. For example we

- Have a consistent focus on rhyming
- Work on initial sounds—the sound at the beginning of words / names
- Alliteration—finding words that start with the same sound eg apple, arm, alphabet, arrow, alarm
- Identify syllables—breaking words down into parts (or syllables)
- Use of oral language skills—including listening skills / speech & language skills; conversation skills
- Letter hunts—finding & identifying letters
- Teach letters are in words, words are in sentences / model writing

I have attached the literacy pyramid. It demonstrates where each skill "sits" and what is needed for your child to move to the next stage (and eventually on to reading, writing and spelling).