



Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 1 Newsletter 4

This week at kindy

This week we will continue on with our focus of learning

"My place in the world"
A focus on Cultures around the world.

Over the past two weeks we celebrated our Australian Identity with a particular focus on Indigenous Culture.

This week we commence celebrating our identity through a focus on Multiculturalism.

Australia is now such a multicultural country, with so many families from a range of cultures, calling Australia home.

Our preschool has many families from a wide range of cultures as part of our community. This includes

- French
- Persian
- English
- Sri Lankan
- Pakistani
- Indian
- Chinese
- New Zealand
- American
- Nepalese
- Mexican

(Please let us know if your culture is not included in our list)

So we will commence by exploring a world map / read the book "Whoever

you are" / look at Cultures of the world video, to find out "Where our families are from.

To support our learning we will have inside

- Flag hunt (numeracy / understanding about the world)
- Mark making table—with a range of papers & writing tools, brown paper books (literacy / fine motor)
- Home corner with babies (dramatic play)
- STEM challenge / STEM champion—Can you design a tall building (STEM)
- STEM centre—Where do you find numbers? - a range of resources to explore numbers (STEM)
- Numeracy table—exploring patterns (numeracy)
- Palette 1—number matching game (numeracy)
- Palette 2—mirror blocks & people (numeracy)
- Palette 3—cube puzzle (numeracy)
- Story table—Stick Man (Literacy)
- Challenge Puzzle—60 piece puzzle

(numeracy)

- Fine motor table — Tricky tree (fine motor)
- Book corner (literacy)
- Quiet corner—range of sensory resources (sensory)
- Topmarks game on interactive screen—teddy counting (numeracy)

In the creative room, we have

- Easels with world map to copy using paint (observation / fine motor skills)
- Play dough with cooking adjuncts (sensory / dramatic play)
- Craft table with mark making table—dot painting (creativity)
- Box construction (problem solving)
- Small table with simple cutting—(fine motor)

Outside there will be

- Black tray with wild / jungle animals (dramatic play)
- Construction—mobilo

Plus there is the sandpit, nature play and colourful playground to explore.

Our literacy focus will be

- identifying rhyme, through game, stories & songs
- fine motor development through a range of tasks

Our numeracy focus will be

- Number recognition
- Counting by 1:1 correspondence

Challenge tasks are

- STEM challenge
- Flag hunt
- Mark making challenge
- Challenge puzzles

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On Monday February 15th, the Annual General Meeting was held where the Governing Council was elected for 2021. It was wonderful to see so many families, past and current, attend this very important event. As a result, we were able to form a Governing council for the coming year.

A very big thankyou goes out to the following people who have volunteered to be part of the Governing Council.

Chairperson— Claire Harton

Vice Chairperson—Kirsty Bishop

Secretary—Lucie Lawrence-Wall

Treasurer—Matthew Gordge

Social members- Airlie Smith, Carly Way, Claire Warnes, David Chan, Di Haworth, Jacqui Thomas, Jill Moss, Kirsty Rutherford, Makella Holden, Ram Simkhada, Nicholas Whealy, Sarah Georgeff, Sam Hignett, Trevor Thomas

The first meeting will be held at our preschool, at the school on
Monday March 15th

7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Please meet at the kindy room and we will go through to the staff room or innovation centre.

Everyone is welcome to attend. I look forward to working with you in 2021

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. I hope you find it useful.

Immunisations

T shirts

Last year, at the time of enrolling, you provided information on your child's immunisations .

If your child has since received their 4 year old immunisations can you please provide me with a copy of your updated MyGov record.

In 2020, the Health Department & Department for Education, established a "No jab, no play" policy. This means that if your child does not receive their 4 year vaccination, by the time they are 4 years and 8 months, they cannot attend preschool. This means they will have to withdraw.

I know that some children are yet to turn 4, and therefore are still to have their vaccinations.

It is really important that you provide the preschool, with a copy of their MyGov immunisation update, stating that your child is up to date, once the vaccinations have occurred.

Thankyou, if you have already provided this information.

More size 4 t-shirts have now arrived. We have a large number of

- Navy t-shirts with white print
- Navy t-shirts with pink print

T-shirts cost \$10.00 each and are payable by cash.

Please let one of the staff know if you are wanting to purchase a t-shirt

(we also have plenty of size 6 t-shirts, size 4 & 6 fleecy jumpers and hats)

Update on our building

Last Friday, I rang the project manager of the building works for Mitcham Preschool. He informed me that at this stage, the scheduled works are still on time. He is meeting with the Department Facilities people this coming Tuesday, to look at the planning of the installation of the air conditioner. The roof and ceiling should be in place, soon. Once the roof, ceiling and air conditioner works are completed, then the minor projects will occur (kitchen, storeroom & laundry upgrades). This is likely to be mid April, as long as the major work keeps progressing well. (Fingers crossed, rain and excessive hot weather is limited over the next month).

We have an excursion planned to the park / creek / library next to our preschool, later in the term. The aim is to prepare the children for our move back to the preschool. More details will be out in a couple of weeks.

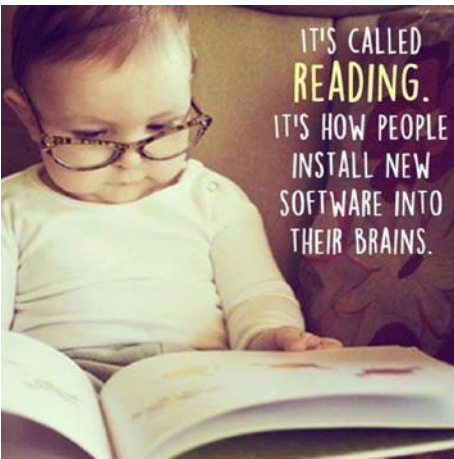
Family picnics

Last week we gathered at Mitcham Reserve for our family picnics (blue group Tuesday & gold group Wednesday). It was wonderful to see so many families on both evenings attend the picnic. Both evenings got very cold with the gully winds, but we stayed until just after 7pm, playing, chatting and socializing.

It is always a wonderful way for children to play and adults to meet and chat. Often friendships develop from these picnics for both adult and children.

We hope you had a lovely time.

Thankyou to the staff for attending the picnics after a long day at work. It was very much appreciated by the community.



Harmony day

Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, based on the successful integration of migrants into our community. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values. It is held every year on 21st March. The Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony day this year on a Sunday. As a result, we are going to

A couple of reminders

The acquaintance nights are this week

- Blue group - Tuesday March 9th
- Gold group -Wednesday March 10th

From 7pm—8pm.

The purpose of the evening is for you

- To see our rooms
- Look at your child's work folder
- To find out what is happening at preschool with our learning focus, literacy & numeracy.

Due to COVID restrictions, one adult per family is invited to attend. Children cannot attend the evening due to the restriction of numbers in indoor spaces.

Please meet me at the kindy gate. You will be required to sign in using QR code / phone or by signing the register.

I look forward to sharing the children's learning with you. (Please note, that this evening is not aimed at sharing information on individual children. That will happen in our upcoming parent interviews)

Next week is our wonderful wheels days.

- Blue group—Tuesday March 16th
- Gold Group—Wednesday March 17th

An initial note and sponsorship form went home two weeks ago.

Last week, a final note with updated information and permission form, was in your child's note pocket.

Even though we are on school grounds where the wheels days occur, it is classed as an Excursion. **Therefore, a permission form needs to be completed and returned to me, by this Thursday (blue group) and Friday (gold group).**

Two weeks ago, we took the children and walked the bike track, to prepare them for wheels day. Many children have let us know they have been practicing for the special day!

Wheels day is such an exciting event. We are really looking forward to this special occasion.

celebrate Harmony day at preschool on

- Tuesday March 23rd (blue group) and
- Wednesday March 24th (gold group).

Harmony day ties in with our focus of learning for term 1. Whilst staff are still to plan how we focus on harmony day (and our program) wearing something orange is synonymous with Harmony Day. It may be an orange t-shirt, or an article of clothing that includes orange, an orange ribbon in your hair,

having orange spray in your hair or wearing orange socks. It is not compulsory to wear orange. It is up to you and your child.

Watch out for details, closer to Harmony Day, about our celebration of this special occasion.

Parent Interviews

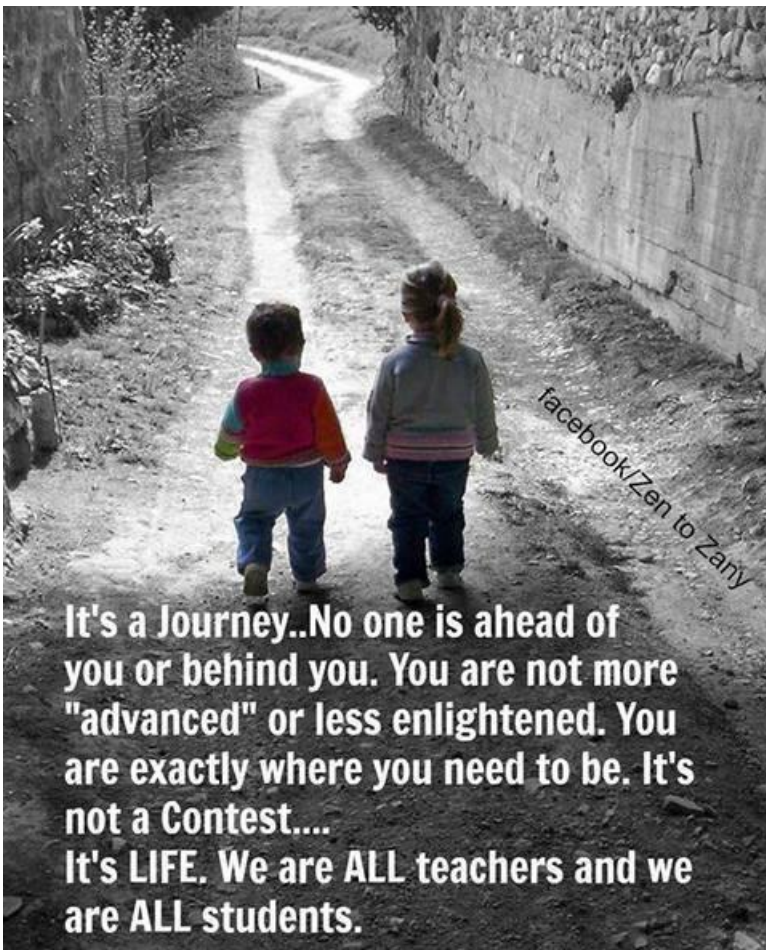
Maddie, Suzi and I have now completed all the informal assessing of the children in key areas of literacy, numeracy and fine motor development. Over the remaining weeks of term 1, we are offering the opportunity to meet with one parent from each family, to provide feedback on your child's skills (in these areas) and how they have settled into preschool.

In the school environment we have limited spaces for an interview but value the opportunity to meet and share information. Therefore we can offer a meeting time however, it could mean we need to be outside in front of our building or in front of the junior primary building or in our creative room. Alternatively, we can also chat via phone. When we are back at our preschool, we will have office space and rooms available for such conversations. So please bear with us through this process. At all times, we will ensure that conversations we have with you are kept confidential and we are seated away from other parents (if meeting outside).

Maddie, Suzi and I will schedule interview at times, when we are not taking group times. The person who assessed your child, will contact you by email, to set up an interview time. We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you.

Just a thought!

Finally



**It's a Journey..No one is ahead of you or behind you. You are not more "advanced" or less enlightened. You are exactly where you need to be. It's not a Contest....
It's LIFE. We are ALL teachers and we are ALL students.**

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Maddie, Suzi,

Lyn, Robyn, Karen