



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Welcome back to the start of term 2

Welcome back to the start of term 2. We hope your holiday was restful and enjoyable.

Term 2 started superbly last Thursday and Friday.

There was a "buzz" of excitement and nervousness amongst the children, as they waited for the educators to open the gates.

Coming into such a large environment, with so many extra learning spaces and experiences, was awe inspiring for the children. They were excited throughout the day, busying themselves in new experiences and exploring the environment.

As educators, we were very excited to share the new preschool environment with them. We couldn't wait to see them. It was wonderful to watch the children as they played, explored, and discovered the wonderful learning opportunities at our "new old" preschool.

Two comments that we heard on Thursday and Friday, summed up the thoughts and feelings of the children

On Thursday we heard one child say
"This is the best day of my life".

On Friday, we were packing up in the sandpit and one boy said to me
"What are we doing next?"

I told him we would pack our bags, have mat time and then it would be time to go home.

He replied "Oh, I don't want to (go home). Can we have a sleepover one day?"

All the hard times we have experienced, as educators over the past few months, have made it worth it, to hear the comments of children and see just how excited they were.

Thankyou's

We began the process of packing up term 4, 2020, amongst running a preschool program, preparing for the Christmas Concerts, graduation days, writing reports and managing COVID restrictions. We then had to send some things to Mitcham Primary, some into storage. We unpacked at Mitcham Primary at the end of 2020.

We began 2021 at Mitcham Primary, setting up our new environment, planning and preparing for the commencement of the school year.

At the end of term 1, we packed up again and

During the April holidays, everything was moved back to the preschool, from the school and storage.

Over the past week we have unpacked everything, set up our environment (inside and outside), planned for the children's return and planned the curriculum for the term.

It has been a very busy time for the staff.

I would like to thank the staff (Maddie, Suzi, Lyn, Robbie and Karen) for all their hard work and dedication, throughout this long process. It was a wonderful team effort, to ensure that we were ready for the commencement of term 1 and term 2. We have a wonderful staff team who are dedicated to the teaching and learning of the children and families of the Mitcham Preschool Community. I couldn't have done it with out them!

Some other thankyou's go out to

- Julie Offord our Early Childhood leader, who came and helped us on the last 2 days of term 1. Julie also helped us unpack last Tuesday
- Sara Dumican—our regular relief teacher, who supports our children

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And the staff team, on a very regular basis.

- The Mitcham Preschool families for their ongoing help and support during this busy time. We have really appreciated your encouragement and positive thoughts, in what has been a challenging time for you too.

I feel very privileged to work in such a wonderful community and with such an amazing staff team.

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Building works

Our building looks amazing. Not only did we gain a new roof, ceiling and amazing heating / cooling,

- the building has been painted throughout
- There are new carpet tiles in the 4 front rooms due to the old carpets being damaged during the works
- We have a new kitchen
- New storerooms
- New laundry

It looks absolutely fabulous.

Once these works were completed, other issues arose so we have currently gained quotes for the following works

- Vinyl placed in the storerooms (replacing carpet that is 40+ years old)
- New floor covering in the laundry
- Laundry & storerooms to be painted.
- Remove old sink in the front room (many years ago CaYH's used this room)
- Built in cupboards in the front room.
- An additional cupboard in the kitchen.

We had to buy a new fridge as our old one in storage became mouldy!

All these minor works will happen over the term / next school holidays.

Last week, the landscaper came and upgraded the equipment and wooden surfaces. The gardener came and tidied up the yard. He took away four bags of grass cuttings and fallen bark!! There is still lots of bark to take away on his next visit!!

We cant wait to share our wonderful facilities with you.

Term 2 Curriculum

Term 2 will be a busy one as we explore our focus

" All about me and people in my world"

Underpinned by the "Child Protection Curriculum" which is a mandated curriculum.

A term overview, a term calendar and a note explaining the Child Protection Curriculum, will be out early this week.

It will be a busy term, with many aspects to be covered, but it will be a term of fun activities including

- Walks to the creek
- Incursion—Mobile Junk and Nature Play Day

- funtastics
- Special person's morning
- A special celebration to end our focus of learning.
- Challenge tasks

Look out for regular updates of what is happening at kindy through newsletters, articles and the outside white board.

It promises to be a wonderful term.

Notices will be in note pockets in the passageway, later this week.

Thank you's

The building works would not have happened without the help and support of many people.

- The Department of Education and The Mitcham Council have liaised to coordinate the project. The Department funded this project.
- MYKRA have undertaken the work on the roof, ceiling (painting and carpet replacement). It has been managed by Silas O'Hara who was wonderful to work with
- Andrew Bi Bacco is our facilities manager and he has worked tirelessly, liaising with Silas to ensure that we got back to the preschool for term 2. He has worked with me, to get all the projects completed, including the installation of the reverse cycle air conditioner. Andrew has been superb to work with.
- Gareth Arentz—who has organised the kitchen, storeroom and laundry up grades. It has been wonderful having Gareth's support and expertise throughout the process.
- Our Education Director Richard Costi, has also been an advocate for many years, to ensure that our centre, achieved the appropriate air conditioning we have needed for so many years
- Scott Greenshields, Principal ; Sue Blight Deputy Principle of Mitcham Primary for allowing us to be part of their community whilst our building work occurred.

We are very happy to be back at our "new old preschool". However, I am very grateful to all the people who made this mighty effort possible!

Please note, in a year when we don't have numerous changes & interruptions, I would have an information evening for parents, to talk about the Child Protection Curriculum and how we teach it.

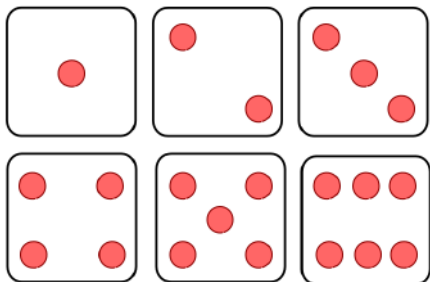
This year with the move, I have not been able to schedule this information evening. Making it difficult to organise is our current cleaner. We have a temporary cleaner for the next 4 weeks, who can only clean after 7pm. It means that we can't use the main room for the meeting. The other rooms do not meet COVID rules, ensuring there is enough space for adults.

As a result, each week I will provide you with detailed information about the Child Protection Curriculum and what we are teaching that week

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.

Subitising

What is subitising? Subitising is being able to recognise a pattern of dots and know its value without counting. For example looking at a dice and recognising the pattern of dots without having to count each dot. Playing dice games is a great way of developing this important mathematical skill.



Wheels day update

Thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsorship money from our wheels day in term 1 .

To date we have raised \$4025.50

However, there is still a few donations still outstanding (families who attended on the day)

If you have overlooked returning your sponsorship money, can you please do so as soon as possible.

We appreciate your support.

Remember you can pay sponsorship money via BSB banking or by returning the cash collected, with the sponsorship form. If you pay via BSB banking, please return the sponsorship form to the brown box, to indicate the money has been paid directly into our account.

Now we are back at kindy, we will allocate our wheels day funds to Resources for the children. We will keep you informed what we allocate our funds to.

Term 2 Fees

You will soon receive an account for your term 2 fees in your child's name pocket. Fees are

- Kindergarten—\$220.00 (this includes a fundraising levy & an excursion levy)

Please pay the fees by Friday May 21st.

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.

Groups term 2

Please check carefully children's names on cards for drink and lunch containers, as you arrive at kindy this week. Each term we swap the groups around for lunch and story groups. This provides children with the opportunity

- to extend their social skills, working & eating with different peers
- work with a different staff member in a small group situation, experiencing different teaching styles
- build relationships with a staff member through group experiences
- develop confidence in managing change

So please check with your child for their name on drink & lunch container cards. Their drink bottle & lunch box may go in a different shape container this term.

Baby photos

As part of our focus of learning we are having a special activity, "Guess the baby". So we are asking that each child brings a photo of themselves as a baby. Please put it in an envelope with your child's name on the back of the photo. These photos will be placed on card using blu-tak (and returned to you later in the term), with clues about your child as described by them.

We need all photos by Friday May 14th

Look out for our baby board and try and guess the baby.

(This experience helps children learn more about themselves, develop descriptive language skills, develop observation skills, plus is lots of fun)

Adults who attend special person's day later in the term, will love reading about. Start bringing them in from the beginning of week 2.

Sunsmart Policy

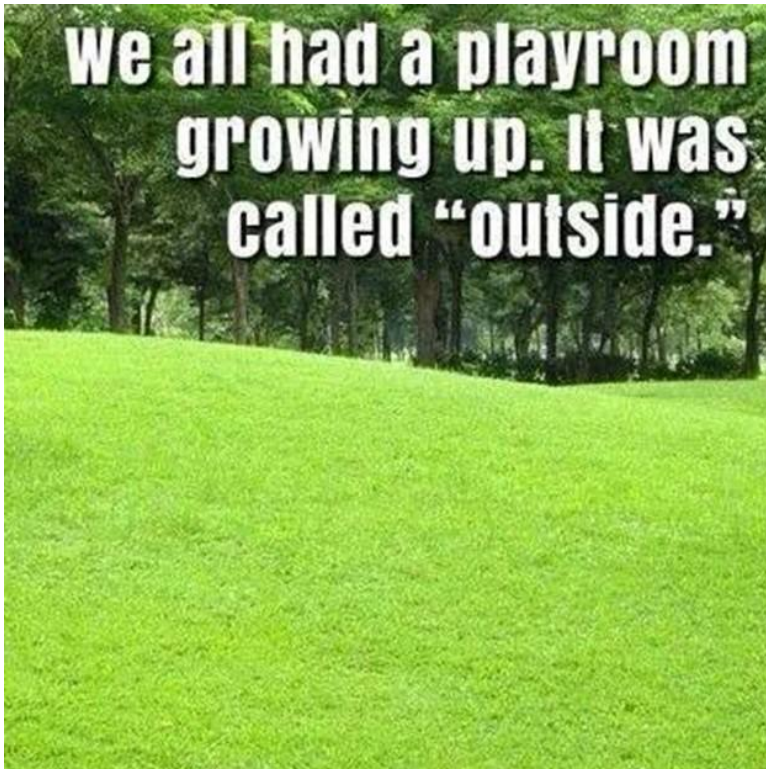
Even though the weather is now cloudy & cool, the UV rating is still 5 and remaining at 4 or 5 from 10am to 2.30pm.

The Cancer Council still recommends that children continue to wear sunhats for protection. (Until the UV drops to 3)

So please send a sun hat every day, even if it looks cool and cloudy.

Beanies and woolen hats are not classed as sunhats.

The UV rating is gradually changing. I will keep you posted about when we can take off our sunhats!



Food for thought"

Our children spend less than 2 hours a day outside and 87 percent of children spend more time playing indoors than outdoors. In South Australia, children spend an average of 4.5 hours a day in front of a screen, exceeding the national average by half an hour!

Boxes

We are ready for more boxes again, for our box construction activity. We need boxes of all sizes, (no larger than a shoe box) such as biscuit, toothpaste, cereal boxes. No plastic milk or juice bottles or washing powder boxes.

We also need toilet rolls (no toilet paper please) and bottle top lids)

Thankyou for collecting boxes etc for our amazing engineers.

Advanced notice

I want to give you some advanced notice of some very special dates in term 4.

We will have a celebration day (a concert followed by lunch) in week 7 of term 4. **(blue group Tuesday November 23rd / gold group Wednesday November 24th).**

It is a wonderful day where the children sing a number of songs, give you the present they have made and then we share in a lunch. It is a busy day and we finish by 1.30pm. (No kindy after 1.30pm)

On the children's last morning of kindy we have a graduation morning.

(Blue group Thursday December 9th and Gold Group Friday December 10th).

We have a morning tea for children & family members and then a graduation ceremony. The morning concludes at 12noon. There is no kindy in the afternoon. Staff are on site cleaning the centre, but there are no programs for children.

I know these dates seem such a long way off. However, feedback from some parents in previous years, was they wanted more notice when finishing times of sessions varied.

During the year, we have 3 after hour events where children have the opportunity to attend, therefore they still access the required number of hours.

For now put the dates in your diary and keep them free for these very special events.

Absent

If your child is absent from preschool, please ring and let one of the staff know. Staff are in attendance from 8.15am. Alternatively, you can email. Thank you

Administering medication

Children who require medication must have a health care plan signed off by their doctor. Staff can not administer medication without a health care plan. For example, if your child has an allergy to foods / bee stings etc and requires treatment via epi pen or medication, we must have a health care plan. If your child has asthma (even mild doses) we must have a health care plan. Also medication **MUST** be left at the centre for staff to administer, when required.

When your child has an infection and requires antibiotics for short periods of time, we do not need a health care plan. However, we must have a letter signed by the doctor indicating the need for antibiotics, dosage and time of administering eg before lunch.

We **CANNOT** administer antibiotics without this information from the doctor. The label on the bottle is **NOT** sufficient information for staff to give your child their medication.

With winter illnesses approaching please be aware of the requirements for staff in administering medication.

Regular attendance

Weeks 2 & 3

Regular attendance at preschool is so important for a number of reasons.

- Children benefit from the maximum education opportunities by attending preschool for their entitled 15 hours each week
- There is continuity of learning
- Continuity of friendships—more time to form friendships
- They access all programs, experiences and activities. They don't miss out on valuable learning opportunities
- Good practices in attendance are established whilst at preschool, in readiness for school

Of course when children are unwell or a family holiday is scheduled this impacts on your child's attendance at preschool. Children do need to be at home when sick to rest and recover & not spread infections to other children and adults. Family holidays are important and there are times when they do need to be scheduled during term time.

Sometimes children just need a rest day especially if you have had a busy weekend or they are "juggling" child care and preschool. However it is important for your child to attend regularly, even on the half days.

This will ensure that your child accesses all their entitled hours and benefits from all the learning opportunities available to them.

If you need any further information about attendance at preschool, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.

Weeks 2 & 3 of each term are our data collection weeks. That means we submit our attendances for weeks 2 & 3, to DECD. Staffing is based on our attendances. Last term we had high enrolments & attendances, which allowed us to have an increase in staffing. Again in term 2, we maintain high numbers in both blue & gold group.

For the additional staffing hours, it is important that we maintain high levels of attendance. So please make sure that your child attends regularly, unless your child is unwell, (or you are on a family holiday).

Not only does regular attendance support children in their learning & development, it ensures that we maintain high levels of staffing, which benefits your child.

QR Code sign in

Please remember to use the QR code as you enter the preschool grounds / building. If you don't have your phone, there is a sign in sheet

Back at the preschool.

We know families are keen to come into the centre in the morning, to see the learning environment and look at what their children have been doing.

With so many changes for the children, we decided that we would keep the drop off at the gate the same as Mitcham Primary, until the children are settled.

The children were amazing on Thursday / Friday so hopefully it won't be long until families have the option of coming in, in the morning.

We can't wait for you to see the centre too!!

As part of our return to the "new old" preschool, we talked with the children about having a special cake to celebrate our wonderful efforts at Mitcham Primary and our move to Mitcham Preschool.

The children have already reminded us of this promise!!

We will have a special welcome to Mitcham Preschool cake for the children, very soon. I will keep you informed

I will also work with the Governing Council to have an event, as a community welcome back to our preschool.

Upcoming excursion

In week 5, we will be going on our first bus excursion. We are off to Kuitpo Forest. A note will go home soon. We will be seeking volunteers to join us on the excursion. To help out on excursions etc, you will need to have completed the RAN-EC Training and obtained the Working With Children's Check. If you want more information about these 2 requirements, please come and see me.

(No need to let me know now you wish to volunteer for the excursion, a note will be out soon)

Bike / scooter parking.

Many children love to ride their bikes and scooters to preschool. All bikes and scooters need to be tied up against the fence (and locked) just outside our entry gate.

Please don't leave them in the space between the 2 gates. It makes the entry way too crowded for children, adults & prams to get through and creates a hazard.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.

“

Behind every child
who believes
in themselves is
a mum who
believed first.

”



To all our special Mums, Grandma's and Aunties, we hope you have a very special Mother's Day next Sunday!

I hope you are spoilt with lots of love, laughter and happy memories.

Finally

Thankyou as always for your continued help and support.

Kind regards

Chris, Maddie, Suzi,
Lyn, Robbie & Karen.