



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 2
Newsletter 4

My leave

I thought I would send you a short newsletter, before I head off on my leave. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, I will be on leave for the last 2 weeks of term 2. I am taking leave to travel with my family to Darwin, basing our holiday time on their university commitments. I am looking forward to having a break with my family. It has been a very busy and challenging 18 months, managing the centre through COVID, then managing all the work associated with relocating to Mitcham Primary, and back again to our preschool. Like many other people, COVID changed our overseas travel plans last year. But we are excited to be exploring a beautiful part of our country.

The centre will be in good hands in my absence. Maddie will take on the acting directors role, and will be supported by the staff team. Sara Dumican (our regular relief teacher) will be part of the staff team, whilst I am away.

Maddie can be contacted on the above email address and by phone. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Maddie or any of the staff.

I look forward to seeing everyone again for the start of term 3.

Head Lice

Please be aware that we have had 2 cases of head lice reported to me in the past week.

Please check your child's hair for any signs of head lice / eggs. Head lice is highly contagious and is so difficult to get rid of.

I have attached information on head-lice and appropriate treatment.

Special person's morning

What wonderful days we had for special person's morning across the week. It was such a special occasion and children and adults looked so happy together. The children certainly enjoyed

- sharing many experiences with their special person,
- showing their folder / baby photo / self portrait / kindy star
- Joining in songs and games
- Sharing in a story together

And of course, the children loved having "sometimes food" for morning tea! What a treat!!

A big thankyou goes out to the parents who helped serve morning tea—Jacqui Thomas, Makella Holden, Kirsty Bishop, Carly Way and Claire Harton. Your help and support was very much appreciated.

Thankyou also to Arthur Iliopoulos (dad of Leo) who donated some of the cakes for our morning tea.

Thankyou to all our very special visitors, for coming and sharing the morning with us. So many of the special visitors commented on how well behaved the children were, the beautiful work they had completed, the gorgeous environment that is our preschool and how busy the children were. We hope you had a lovely time.

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Weeks 9 & 10

Over the last 2 weeks, of term 2, we conclude our focus of learning

"All about me and people in my world"

Underpinned by the
Child Protection Curriculum.

The final 2 topics are

- Recognizing and reporting abuse
- Protective Strategies.

This area of the curriculum is a complex one. We draw on the knowledge and understanding we have learnt through previous topics such as

- Feelings
- Safe / unsafe
- Warning signs
- Relationships
- Trust & networks

We deliver this topic of the child protection curriculum using the book

"Everyone's got a bottom".

The book covers all these areas and also includes

- Safe touching
- Secrets (safe secrets / unsafe secrets)
- Anatomical names for body parts
- Private parts of our body
- Privacy—what does private mean? (this is your body. It belongs to you)
- Recognizing abuse

"Everyone's got a bottom" is a book aimed at 3 to 8 year olds and was the 2007 winner of the Child Protection Week Award for an Education Initiative.

"Everyone's got a bottom" is a collaboration between Family Planning Queensland, writer Tess Rowley, illustrator Jodi Edwards and experts from the early childhood and child protection sectors

We all have bodies and we all want to keep them safe.

"Everyone's got a bottom" is a story about Ben and his brother and sister learning and talking together about bodies. It is a tool for parents and carers to gently start a conversation with children about self protection. It's about children keeping safe in a style that is fun, positive and protective

If you would like to purchase this book go to www.fpq.com.au and follow the links.

I will put a copy of the book on the outside white board for you to look through.

This topic is a challenging one. However, if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to come and speak with one of the staff

Celebration Days.

Look out for a note in the children's note pockets early next week about our celebration days in week 10.

To end each term of learning, we have a special day for children and educators.

**Blue group—Tuesday
June 29th**

**Gold group—Wednesday
June 30th**

We have something special planned. So look out for the note!

Term 3 Curriculum

The educators are yet to finalise the curriculum for term 3. That will happen over the next couple of weeks.

However, our focus will be on **"Patterns"**

Understanding the concept of pattern is so important for children's numeracy / maths and literacy skills.

We find patterns in

- Nature—animals, insects, flowers etc
 - In words
 - In number lines
- In days of the week / months / seasons
- In songs / rhyme
 - In dancing
- In the environment
(Just to name a few)

Patterns are everywhere!!

So we are making "pattern" our focus of learning.

To support our learning we are planning

- An excursion
- An incursion with Trent Hill, Aboriginal story teller
 - Funtastics
- End of term celebration day

The children have been asking to go back to Mitcham Primary to play on the "colourful playground and in the nature playground. So that will be on our term calendar too.

COVID permitting, we will have a family evening at kindy.

Plus we will have kindy photos next term.

More details will be out early next term. But it promises to be a wonderful term of teaching and learning.

Tired children

The children are certainly tired. Parents have been commenting to staff, about their child's behaviour at home. We have certainly noticed that children aren't listening / following instructions etc, as well as they had been!!!

It has been a big term of change, coming back from Mitcham Primary and adjusting to another new environment. Added to that, we have had a busy program / curriculum, with the focus of learning, excursion, funtastics, special persons day etc.. There are now only 2 weeks left until holidays commence. The children (and educators) will enjoy a much needed rest, when holidays finally arrive!!

Thinking of your child as *behaving badly* disposes you to think of punishment.

Thinking of your child as *struggling to handle something difficult* encourages you to help them through their distress

Children's Artwork

Look out for the children's wonderful self portraits. We will take down art work in week 10, in preparation for term 3. So we are sending home these beautiful pieces of art as they are too special to be folded into the work folders. You might like to hang them at home!

Stars, Aboriginal Handprints and baby photos are also very special but will go into the children's folders.

Thankyou as always for your continued help and support.

Kind regards

Chris, Maddie, Suzi, Lyn, Robbie & Karen