



Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 2 in review

We are now in our last week of term 2. It is hard to believe that Term 2 is at an end and your child is half way through their year at kindy.

Term 2 has certainly been a busy one with our focus of learning.

***“All about me and the people in my world”* underpinned by the Child Protection Curriculum.**

Looking back over the term, there have been lots of highlights including:

Guess the baby game where children brought in their baby photos kindy stars—where children described what they persist at completing a portrait of themselves we participated in funtastics
We went to the creek in preparation for our excursion to Kuitpo Forest
We had 2 wonderful days out in the forest, exploring, taking risks, trying new challenges
We had a campfire and cooked marshmallows

we participated in a wide range of creative tasks we participated in a trust activity and completed our trust balloons.
We have continued on with our challenges to support children in developing persistence, risk taking and having a go at “hard work”.
These have included 35—100 piece puzzles, hunts outside and cutting tasks.
We have had the letter challenge on the name card board where children have to look for a different letter each week, in their name
We have included loose parts and things from nature, such as plastic crates, sticks, logs, wooden planks etc, into our play particularly in the sandpit
We have had many activities that have encouraged children to be “Fine motor champions” and “Mark making champions”
We had our very special person’s mornings

We have created STEM challenges to stretch children’s measurement skills and ability to hypothesise and predict.

In numeracy we have built our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes as well as patterns.

We participated in brainstorming & discussions on our focus of learning such as

- feelings
- safe / unsafe
- Warning signs
- relationships

fair / unfair

Trust & networks

recognising & reporting abuse through the use of the story “Everyone’s got a bottom”

- strategies for keeping safe

Persistence

This week we have our celebration days to celebrate a wonderful term of teaching and learning. As well as having a whole term back at our Mitcham Preschool Centre site (with great airconditioning and heating)! We are having a hot chips lunch followed by a special cake/ treat to celebrate being back.

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These are just a few highlights of our learning in a very busy term of teaching and learning.

The children are definitely ready for a break . They are certainly very tired—especially after the move back into the ‘old, new’ kindy. So much needed rest and relaxation could be in order for the holidays!! (maybe even a pyjama and movie day).

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Term 3 focus of learning

Our focus of learning for term 3 will explore

“STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics” through an inquiry on

“What is a pattern?”

Patterning is a very important aspect of numeracy. The ability to recognize and create patterns help us make predictions based on our observations.

Understanding patterns help prepare children for learning complex number concepts and mathematical operations.. Patterns allow us to see relationships and develop generalizations.

The staff are yet to finalise our plans for term 3. However, we will focus on 2 key questions to guide our inquiry:

What is a pattern? -

Concept of repetition

-Distinguishing patterns from designs/ pictures

-Simple linear patterns- colour/shape/ size -

Using range of objects to explore patterning

manipulatives/natural materials –

Where do we find patterns in our world?

- 1) Patterns in the environment (nature/built environment)
- 2) Patterns on fabrics/decorations/art:
- 3) Patterns in the number system
- 4) Patterns in our language

6 key patterning skills will be developed:

- 1) Identifying/distinguishing patterns
- 2) Defining/describing patterns
- 3) Copying patterns
- 4) Continuing patterns
- 5) Creating patterns
- 6) Extending patterns

To support our focus of learning we will have many exciting learning and teaching opportunities. For example, we will:

- Set up a STEM centre and continue with STEM challenges
- Carry out many exciting experiments
- Have lots of patterning tools and re-sources available
- Have funastics
- Continue with our mark making & fine motor challenges and champions.
- Have campfires

Visit the creek / park

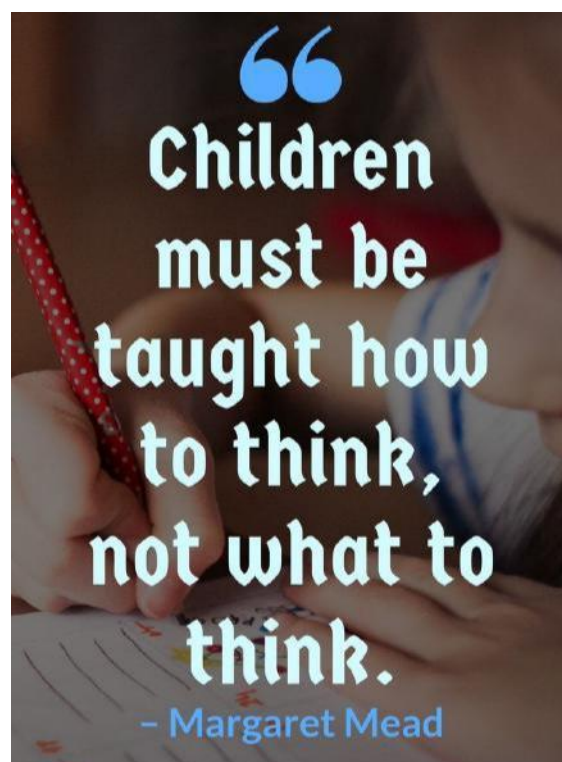
Have Trent Hill come for an incursion and share his knowledge of local Aboriginal culture and Dreaming Stories

- Go on an excursion to the Adelaide Zoo to search and discover patterns on animals and buildings.
- We will have our end of term celebration day with ‘Crazy, Mixed Up, Upside Down’ Day

We also have a family night in the planning but this may be influenced by the COVID-19 Restrictions.

We are finalising our plans this week and will have a term plan, term overview and term calendar out in week 1. We will commence our learning in week 1.

It is going to be a wonderful term of teaching and learning!



Did you know...

When children play in nature, they develop skills such as

- Respect for natural environments
- Enjoyment of the natural environment
- Resilience
- Persistence
- Risk taking
- Assessing risks
- Developing their senses
- Awareness of themselves in relation to others
- Team work
- Independent thinking

There are 4 areas of children's play that benefit from time spent out in nature

- Physical play—developing their gross motor skills
- Constructive play—being independent thinkers and constructing their own play with the resources around them
- Imaginative play—using their imagination to develop play and games without the need for toys etc.
- Sensory play—their sight, smell, hearing, taste senses are further developed as well as senses such as their proprioceptive sense (sense of movement and body position) and our vestibular sense (body balance and movement)

Groups next term

Each term the children are placed in different lunch groups. This supports the children in broadening their friendship groups, cope and manage with change and experience the different teaching styles of the educators. If we always keep everything the same, children never get to learn how to manage and cope in different situations.

So make sure your child checks the lunch box and drink bottle lists, to see if they are in another group (different shape)

Research says

- that preschool children use richer language in a natural environment than in indoor classrooms.
- learning in the outdoors improves students ability to focus and engage with school
- mud helps children be healthy and happy.

I have included with this newsletter a handout from "Nature Play SA" 25 Things to do in winter"

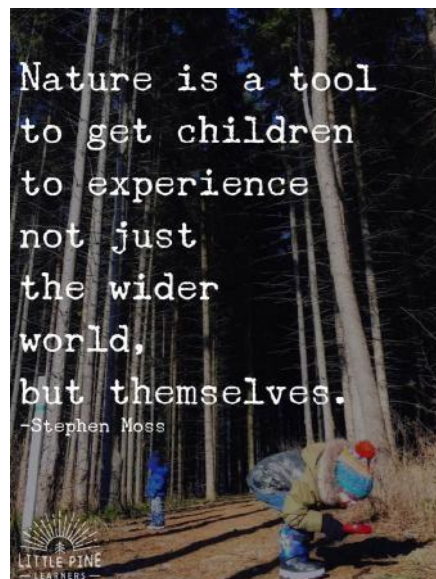
I know winter is cold and sometimes wet, but rugging up in hats, gloves / mittens, gum boots and coats and getting out in nature has so many benefits for your child (and you).

I hope you can find time to explore somewhere special in nature in the July school holidays. It may be for a couple of hours or maybe the day. There are so many wonderful places around Adelaide to get out and have fun in nature and it is free. If so, you will be supporting your child to develop many of the skills described. Feel free to send a photo if you do.

Happy exploring in nature!

Children's Work

Look out for the children's wonderful self portraits. We will take down art work this week, 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 and baby photos are also very special but will go into the children's folders.



Thank you's

There are many thank you's to end our term of learning.

Thank you to everyone for their support with the excursion to Kuitpo Forest and the Special Persons Morning Tea volunteers.

Thank you to the Governing Council for their ongoing support in managing the kindy.

Thank you to Claire and Kirsty for organising the gift hampers for our nominated special project and building people. Also a BIG thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the hamper, what a lovely and generous community we have!

No matter how you help out, we really appreciate your support. It ensures that we can continue to offer all the wonderful learning experiences at our preschool.

Chris' Trip to the NT

Chris has been having a wonderful time in the Northern Territory exploring the natural wonders and relaxing with her family! We have been sharing some of her photos and experiences with the children. She is boarding a plane home today, we can't wait to hear about her experiences and listen to her stories next term!



A tall termite mound that is 50 years old!



The beautiful Florence Falls in the Litchfield Park



A crocodile Chris spotted while on the Yellow River Cruise!



Chris' crow bear relaxing by the pool after a swim in the warm, sunny weather!

Farewell

This term we say farewell to Victoria Schwarz from gold group, who is starting at St Joseph's Primary School, in the mid year intake.

We hope you have a wonderful and exciting time in your new learning environment Victoria. We will miss you .

Finally

Thankyou for your wonderful help and support in what has been a very busy term—especially with our big movie back! It has truly been appreciated. Enjoy the holiday break with your child.

Your children are your most precious asset. Enjoy spending time with them over the holidays. If you are travelling, stay safe on the roads.

See you next term. We return on July 19th

Kind regards

Chris (from Darwin), Maddie,
Suzi, Lyn, Robbie, Karen and Sara.