



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Term 1, 2022
Newsletter 1

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Welcome to the start of 2022

Welcome to all our families to Mitcham Pre-school. We hope the festive season was enjoyable and you have had a relaxing holiday with your family.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child. We hope your time at Mitcham Pre-school is fun, enjoyable and rewarding.

Curriculum

Weeks 1 & 2, will be settling into kindy for children, staff & families. We will be focusing on

- Learning kindy routines and rules
- Learning cues for transition
- Coping with morning separation
- Packing up routines.

Once the children are settled (hopefully week 3), we will commence our focus of learning for the term.

"Cultures around the world underpinned by book-making"

Staff are finalizing the term curriculum this week and the

Term overviews and diary dates will be out later in week 2.

Look out for these notes via app / emails.

This week at kindy

We will have inside in the main room

- Home corner with a focus on Asian adjuncts (as this week it is Chinese New Year) (Dramatic play)
- Mark making table (literacy / fine motor)
- Story table with "Very hungry caterpillar" as our focus text (iteracy)
- Numeracy table—unifix blocks for counting & building (Numeracy)
- Australian animals & natural loose parts (dramatic play)
- Lego (problem solving)
- Dome with pets for quiet play (dramatic play)
- Palette—fairy world (dramatic play)
- Palette—rubber band fine motor challenge (fine motor)
- Quiet corner (sensory)
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Outside we will have in the creative corner

- Box construction (problem solving)
- Easels—painting (creativity)
- Magnetic tiles (problem solving)
- Cutting table—making paper soup (fine motor)
- Number hunt—searching for numbers 1-5 hidden outdoors (numeracy)
- Large trucks on the platform (social skills)
- Sandpit (sensory)
- Swings and climbing (gross motor)
- Tee pee with dinosaurs (dramatic play)
- Farm yard (dramatic play).

It is a special first week at kindy!

**PLEASE
REMEMBER
TO SEND A
HAT EVERY-
DAY
"NO HAT NO
OUTSIDE
PLAY"**

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Winter Olympics

The Winter Olympics commences this coming Friday February 4th. The Winter Olympics will provide a wonderful opportunity to explore "Cultures around the World"

Whilst we will commence our focus of learning in week 3, next week we will take a look at what is happening at the Olympics

We will explore

- The country where the Olympics are being held
- Flags of countries
- Olympic symbols
- Medals—1st, 2nd, 3rd / gold, silver, bronze

- What we see at the Winter Olympics

We will share next week about our plans. However, from Friday, you may support your child in finding out more about the Winter Olympics.. There is bound to be a lot of articles in the weekend newspapers and on line.

Happy investigating the Winter Olympics.

APP / Email

Last year I gave you some information about the "Skoolbag" phone APP for Android / iPhones. as a means of sending newsletters and notices to you. For those families without Android / iPhones, this information will be sent via email.

Can you please make sure the APP is downloaded to your phone to ensure that you receive the information.

Previous families found the APP / email a positive way of being informed, rather than hard copies. I hope you find it useful too.

Diary for pick ups

It is important that staff are informed of any changes in care arrangements such as your child being collected by another adult other than their usual parent / carer etc. We have a diary on the sign in table where you can record that your child is being picked up on a particular day by someone different. It's also important to inform a teacher of the different arrangements. If something unexpected occurs which means your child is going to be picked up by someone else, then just give the kindy a call.

We appreciate your support with this, as informing us avoids confusion for staff.

Volunteering at preschool

Volunteering at schools and preschools is so special. Being involved in supporting your child and others, in their learning, is such a wonderful experience.

However, to volunteer your time to attend excursions, help out with the funastics motor coordination program, attend walk & talks, be a member of the Governing Council etc, parents and care providers must

- have their 1st and 2nd dose of the COVID vaccine.
- Obtain a working with children's check (WWCC) and
- Access on line RRHAN-EC training. That is "Reporting, Responding to harm, abuse and Neglect—Education and Care Training".

This is a requirement for all DFE schools and preschools.

Without attending this training and having a WWCC you **CANNOT** help out on excursions etc, where you will be supervising children.

The RRHAN-EC training can be completed on line.

.If you have attended this training at your local school, in the last year you will not need to do it again. I will just need a copy of your certificate.

If you would like more information, don't hesitate to speak with me. I realise currently, we cannot use volunteers in our program (Except Governing Council), due to the current COVID situation. However, hopefully we will in the coming weeks / terms.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to speak with me or send me an email. I will have further information available in the coming weeks.

Staff for 2022

Our staff team is

- Chris Catt (Director) full time

(Works both gold & blue groups)

- Maddie Hall (Teacher) full time.

(Works both gold & blue groups)

- Susie Westman (Teacher) - 0.5.

(Works with gold group)

- Lyn Kromer (ECW) full time

(Works both gold & blue groups)

- Robyn Hillier (ECW) 0.5 (Works with gold group)

Sara Dumican is one of our regular relief teachers and will support the staff and children for the first 3 days of term. But we will see Sara regularly throughout the year, filling in when staff are absent due to sickness or attending meetings etc.

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

Friendship list

Each year we put together a friendship list for both the gold & blue groups. These lists become a contact list for parents who may wish to set up play dates etc for their children. **It's not compulsory to have your name on the friendship list.** It is only if you want to.

The friendship list form is attached to this newsletter

Term 1 Fees

You will receive a fees account in your note pocket this week. Fees for term 1 are

- Kindergarten—\$230.00 (this includes a \$20.00 fundraising levy per family per term and a \$20.00 excursion / incursion / special events levy per term)

You have 3 weeks to pay the fees. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak with me. All conversations will be in strictest confidence.

Fees due by Friday February 25th

A thought!

Before becoming a parent I never knew you could ruin someone's day by giving them the wrong coloured cup!



BSB number / Paying fees

Payment of fees, excursions etc can occur through cash & cheque payments. We also have on line banking for your convenience in paying fees. You will also find the BSB number on your account

BSB no. 105084

Account no. 323231040

Whilst we have BSB for paying fees we prefer the smaller amounts for excursions etc to be paid to the centre (in cash) via the brown box. However, if it is more convenient to pay excursions via the online system, that will be fine. When making any payment via on line banking please make sure you record your name / the number on your fees account etc, and place the account in the brown box. This will allow easy identification by the treasurer.

If paying by cash please make sure you have the correct money.

Please note we do not give out change.

Place the money with the payment slip in an envelope, in the brown box located on the shelf near the kitchen. Please be aware that staff do not give out change, if you do not have correct money in the envelope,

Nutrition Policy

Last year, you received a nutrition policy in a pack of information. Below is a quick guide to suitable / unsuitable foods for lunch. The guide can also be used for snacks. However, we do not recommend sandwiches for snack & lunch on a full day as they are very filling. We find children who have a sandwich for snack are unlikely to eat a sandwich for lunch.

If you would like another copy of the nutrition policy, just ask one of the staff or I can send a copy via email. Alternatively a copy can be found on the website and phone APP.

Each day your child comes to kindy for lunch,
PLEASE PUT THEIR LUNCH BOX IN THE CLEAR BOXES ON THE VERANDAH.

Please look for their name on the box.
 Please **DO NOT** keep their lunch in their bag as the children tend to eat it for morning snack,
 Keep their snacks in their bag, but not their lunch.

Foods that <u>are</u> suitable for lunch time	Foods that are <u>not</u> suitable for lunch are
Fresh fruit	Cakes & sweet muffins
Dried fruit	Sweet biscuits & flavoured crackers
Vegetables	Roll ups
Cheese	museli & fruit bars
Savoury sandwich (eg vegemite, ham, cheese) "Roll up" with mountain bread, or other flat breads	Chips, chocolates & lollies
Rice cakes, plain crackers (Eg plain sakatas)	Packaged & processed food such as cheese & biscuits (eg cheese & dip packets, apple chips)
yoghurt, (Yogurt is permitted for lunch when children are accessing a full day, to ensure they receive their daily requirement of dairy)	Apple chips and other freeze dried fruits

Nut Free Policy

Just a reminder about our "NO NUT POLICY". There are children who have life threatening reactions to nuts. In fact some children can die from an anaphylaxis reaction to nuts, by simply touching them. It is our duty of care to keep everyone safe at kindy. Therefore we **DO NOT** allow foods that contain nuts such as peanut paste, nutella, muesli bars. If you forget and put a food into your child's lunch box, that contains nuts, we will ask your child to leave it in their lunch box and offer them an alternative.

In the interests of everyone's health & safety, please do not send foods that contain nuts.

Our nutrition policy supports children's learning through the philosophy that we eat everyday / healthy foods to support our learning. We acknowledge "sometimes" food is fun and enjoyable to eat but not to eat everyday at preschool.

The nutrition policy is approved by the Governing Council and is in line with the National Quality Standards.

Yoghurts

Due to choking hazards we **do not** allow yoghurts in the squeeze packs with screw top lids. We had an incident whereby a child removed the lid with their teeth, which resulted in the child choking. Please send yoghurts in the tubs with a spoon. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak with the staff.

Clothing for sale

We have a range of clothing for sale which have the Mitcham Preschool logo as part of their design. It is not compulsory to wear the clothing. It's totally up to you and your child.

The range includes

- Navy t shirts with hot pink logo in sizes 4 & 6 (cost is \$10.00 each)
- Navy t shirts with white logo in sizes 4 & 6 (cost is \$10.00 each)
- Navy jumper (fleecy) with white logo in sizes 4 & 6 (cost is \$25.00 each)
- Navy bucket hat with white logo, one size fits all (cost is \$10.00 each)

There is a display of the clothing in the passageway above the lockers.

Clothing must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash or cheque. Please have the correct money as we do not have change.

Please see one of the staff if you are interested in purchasing any items of clothing.

Boxes, Boxes, Boxes

We are in need of boxes of all shapes and sizes for the box construction. Children love making with boxes. It is an activity that develops children's

- problem solving skills (how will I put these boxes together / how will they stick),
- numeracy skills (what sizes will I need, how many boxes do I need, how long will it measure)
- Creative skills (what will I make with the boxes?)
- Social skills (sharing, turn taking, working cooperatively)

So please start collecting boxes for us as soon as possible. They can include cereal, biscuit, toothpaste, tea bag, packet mixes etc, etc. Please DO NOT send washing powder boxes, personal hygiene or medication boxes or milk containers. We can't use them.

Thank you. All our constructionists will love the boxes you bring in. You may get them back home again, in a creative masterpiece!

Term Dates

Term 1:

January 31st — April 14th

Term 2:

May 2nd—July 8th

Term 3:

July 25th — September 30th

Term 4:

October 17th —December 16th

Each year, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held to elect a new Governing Council for the coming year. This year the Annual General Meeting will be held on

Monday February 28th

Being involved on a Governing Council is very rewarding. It is a way to meet new friends and find out what happens behind the scenes at kindy. You are also involved in making decisions and setting policies, that support your child's education. Without a Governing

Council, we can not make these decisions or operate financially.

Our governing council meets twice per term in the evening. We only have one fund raising event per year and 2 social events. Therefore time involved on the Governing Council,

outside of meetings is limited.

You can be involved in a position on the Governing Council, such as Chairperson, secretary or treasurer, or as a social member.

Information about the evening, and the role of the Governing Council will be available soon.

If you are interested in finding out more or would be interested in joining the 2022 Governing Council, please come and speak with one of the staff.

COVID / Health requirements

Sending photos

Please remember

- To social distance when at preschool
- To keep your child at home if they are unwell, even with a cold. If your child becomes unwell at kindy, we will call you / emergency contacts to collect them.
- Hand sanitiser is provided for your use
- If a family member tests positive to COVID, it does mean you whole family must isolate. Your preschool child will not be able to attend preschool
- Please inform us if your child does test positive to COVID.

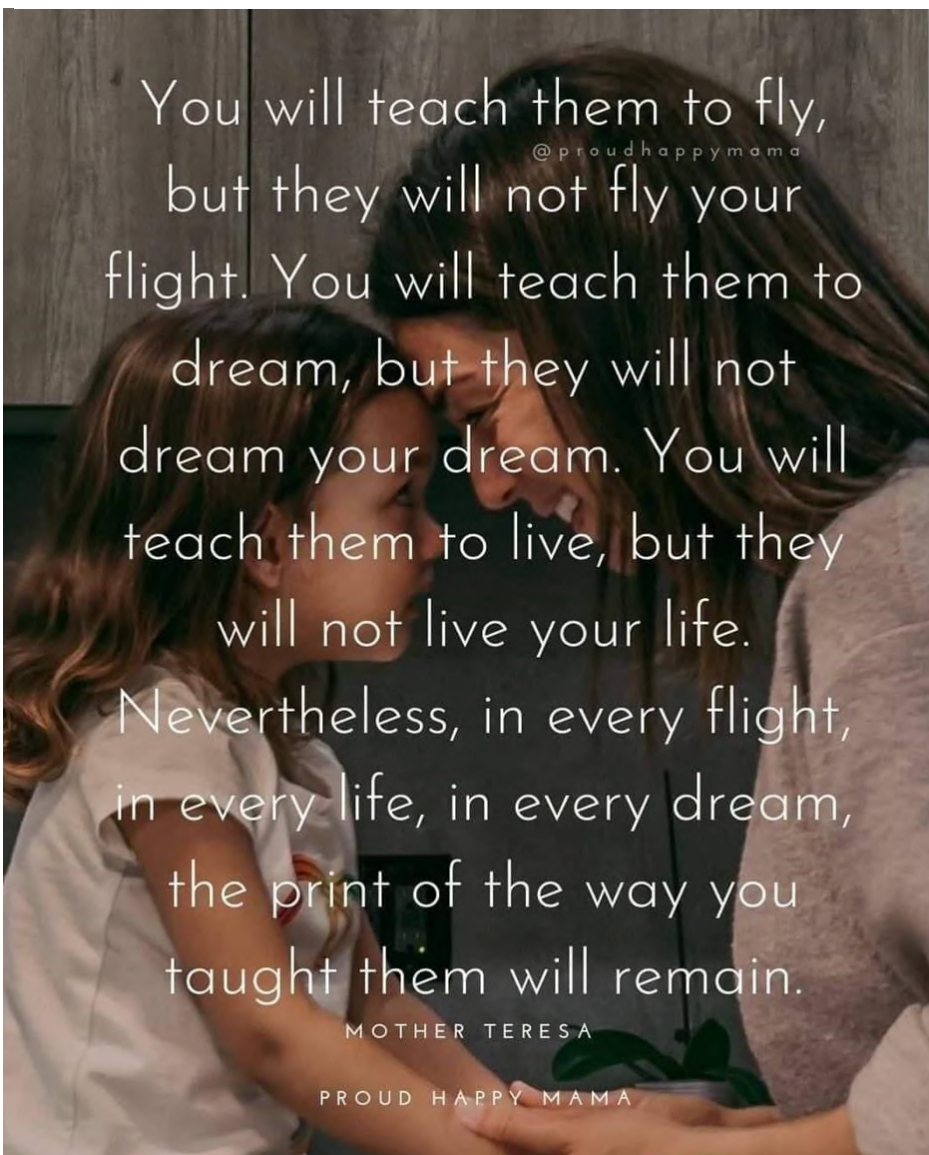
By following the regulations of SA Health, we will continue to keep our community safe and healthy

Families have asked whether we have an APP such as Seesaw, to share regular photos of their child. The previous Governing Councils have preferred that we prioritise the every day curriculum and learning for each child, rather than spend time away from children, sending out photos to families. I realise that currently adults cant access the classrooms and therefore, cant check through children's work folders where photos and work are kept / see displays of children's work. However, we are reviewing our information sharing processes in 2022.

For now, we do have the Skoolbag APP where I send out newsletters etc. Please keep an look out for information sent to APP & email. This information is not about specific children, but general in nature

A quote

Finally



This has been a lengthy newsletter to start the year. Please keep newsletters, diary dates, excursion notes etc in a safe place so that you are aware of what is happening at kindergarten. It is going to be a busy but exciting year at Mitcham Preschool

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Maddie, Suzie, Sara, Lyn, Robyn,