



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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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, underpinned by bookmaking.

Last week we commenced celebrating our identity through a focus on Multiculturalism. (having focussed on Indigenous culture for the first few weeks)

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

- United Kingdom (Scotland, England, Wales)
 - Vietnamese
 - Malaysian
 - Chinese
 - Nepalese
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - French
 - New Zealand
- (Please let us know if your culture is not included in our list)
- Last week, we explored landmarks and some in-

teresting places & people in England such as the Queen, Buckingham Palace, London Eye, Fish and Chips, Paddington Bear, Soccer just to name a few.

So this week we will continue with our inquiry question -

What do we know about our community cultures? We will focus on Harmony Day and interesting places in Europe

To support our learning, we will have inside

- Buckingham Palace—(dramatic play)
- Mark making table—writing media, London words, London paper (Literacy / fine motor)
- Numeracy table—chance and data activity—dice rolling & recording (numeracy)
- Playdough—yellow and red to make orange for Harmony Day (sensory)
- Fine motor challenge—Harmony day people—to cut (fine motor)
- Art table—still life painting of sunflowers (creativity)
- Story table—Gruffalo (literacy)
- Palette 1—

dominoes (numeracy)

- Palette 2—flag matching game (numeracy / literacy)
- Quiet corner—fairies (dramatic play)
- STEM centre—STEM challenge—an estimation activity—"How many bears in the jar?"

Outside there will be

- Box making (problem solving)
- Aboriginal hand painting (understanding our world)
- Fine motor—leaf hole punching (fine motor)
- Special interest table—swordfish (understanding our world)
- Mud kitchen (sensory)
- Platform—dress ups and music (sensory)
- Hopper balls (gross motor)
- Black tray with orange pumpkins & pipettes (fine motor)
- Dome—finger puppets (dramatic play)

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- Easels—collage (creativity)
- Shed—outdoor building blocks (problem solving)
- Tee pee—campfire (dramatic play)

On Harmony Day we will be trying different foods from around the world! (vegemite sandwich, rice, naan bread, a scone)

It is another busy week at kindy!

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On Tuesday March 15th the Annual General Meeting was held where the Governing Council was elected for 2022. 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 Jones

Co Chairperson— Amy Hawke

Secretary— Emily Crosbie

Treasurer— Melissa Harch

Social members- Alice Whiteway, Sharon Atkinson, Pat Donaldson, Mitch Cramey, Mercy Chilobwa, Annina Cavelti Kee, Jackie Harrison, Dianne Haworth, Wei Jiang, Lynette Day and Tessa McColl.

If you couldn't attend the AGM but still wish to be part of the Governing Council, you will be most welcome.

The first meeting will be held at our preschool, at the school on

Monday March 28th

7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

I look forward to working with you this year.

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

Wheels Day

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.

One of our annual and much loved events, is "Wheels Day". On wheels day, we take our bikes or scooters to Mitcham Primary School and ride around the track, which surrounds the school oval. We have an iceblock, snack and finish the morning with a medal ceremony.

This usually occurs in term 1 and is much loved by children and adults.

This year, Mitcham Primary has been managing a high number of COVID cases. Added to that, the school is undertaking major works, with a new gym. As a result, it is not safe for us to access the track with trucks "coming and going". Also there is limited parking in the streets that surround the school.

We have looked at other options for wheels day, but they haven't been suitable. I have spoken with Scott Greenshields (Principal of Mitcham Primary) and we may be able to have our wheels day later in the year. (eg end of term 3) once the building work is completed. We will keep our fingers crossed!

inquiry question for the week and a range of experiences to support the learning.

What did you do at kindy today?

Parents have asked, how can you encourage a child to talk about their day at preschool. Most parents say their child when asked "What did you do at kindy today?" will say "Nothing" or "Played".

This is a very normal response by a 4–5 year old. At the end of the day, they are tired. They have been busy for 6 & 1/4 hours, playing, learning, listening, socializing, sharing, taking turns and participating in a wide range of experiences (just to name a few).

It is very unlikely they will be able to remember anything, immediately following kindy!

When I get home from work and when asked how was your day, my immediate response is "good". I just don't have the capacity until later to think about the things in the day. It is just usually that sense or feeling about how the day went. I need time to unwind, declutter my brain, get dinner, have some quiet time and then things come flooding back about my day.

Children are no different in needing the time and space to recover from their day. Once they have had dinner and bath, relaxed and had some quiet or home time, their memories of the day will emerge. Sometimes, it may take some time before they are recalling what has happened at kindy.

However, there are some prompts that you can use, to gain more insight into what they did at preschool. For example, rather than asking broad questions, use very specific questions.

The following questions are very broad and difficult for a tired 4 year old to answer.

- What did you do today?
- Who did you play with (as they may not even know everyone's name yet)

Each newsletter on the front page, is "This week at kindy". It provides you with information about our inquiry question for the week and a range of experiences to support the learning.

So you could use specific questions based on the information from the front page, such as...

"I am wondering,

- How high did you climb in the tree in nature play today?
- Did you and your friends use the big logs in nature play to build a cubby? How long are the logs?
- What numbers did you find on the number hunt? Where were the numbers hidden?
- What colour crown did you make?

Keeping question specific rather than broad, will help your child in providing information about their day. Don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff, if you want further support.

THERE'S NOTHING IN MY BAG TODAY

*Today I did my Maths and Science
I toasted bread,
I halved and quartered, counted, measured,
Used my eyes and ears and head.
I added and subtracted on the way,
I used the magnet blocks and memory tray.
I learnt about a rainbow and how to weigh.
So - please don't say
Anything in your bag today?"*

*You see I'm sharing as I play,
I learn to listen and speak clearly when I talk,
To wait my turn, and when inside to walk,
To put my thoughts into a phrase,
To guide a crayon through a maze,
To find my name and write it down,
To do it with a smile and not a frown,
To put my pasting brush away.
So please don't say
"What! Nothing in your bag today?"*

*I've learnt about a snail and a worm,
Remembered how to take my turn,
Helped a friend when he was stuck,
Learnt that water runs off a duck,*

*Looked at words from left to right,
Agreed to differ, not to fight.
So please, don't say
"Did you only play today?"*

*Yes, I played the whole day through.
I played to learn the things I do.
I seek a problem, find a clue,
And work out for myself just what to do.
My teachers set the scene and stay nearby
To help me when I really try.
They are there to pose the problems
And to help me think;
I hope they'll keep me floating
And never let me sink.
All this is in my head, and not my bag.
It makes me sad to hear you say
"Haven't you done anything today?"*

*When you attend your meetings
And do your work today
I will remember not to say to you
"What, nothing in your bag? What did you do?"*

Anonymous
Reprinted from "Communication Child Care"
July 1989

Excursions in term 2

This term, we have not taken any excursions, to compliment our curriculum, due to the COVID restrictions placed on us, in the first 5 weeks of the term. Whilst we are now able to take excursions, many places have been heavily booked.

Therefore we will take 2 excursions in term 2.

- Living Kurna Cultural Centre at Warriparinga—Blue group Tuesday May 17th & Gold group Wednesday May 18th
- Kuitpo Forest—dates to be confirmed.

We always ask for parent volunteers to support children and staff on excursions (if the days / time etc suit you). Your help and support is truly valued.

To volunteer, you will need to have

- Participated in RRHAN-EC, online training (Recognising and responding to harm and neglect in education and care for volunteers)
- Have a current Working with Children's Check (WWCC)
- Be double vaccinated.

If you would like to support us on the above excursions, or excursions in terms 3 & 4, you will need to provide proof of the above. If not, I can provide information on how to access WWCC & RRHAN-EC.

Due to the busyness of excursions and the need for supervision of the kindy age children, we do not invite babies and toddlers to join us.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Creek walk

Next week, we will take our first walk to the creek and park (for kindy children and educators)

Blue group will go on Tuesday March 29th

Gold group will go on Wednesday March 30th.

We will have an early lunch and head over to the creek for some wonderful exploration of the creek bed, the banks of the creek and park.

I will send out a reminder later in the week, but children will need to wear suitable footwear and clothing. For example,

- Closed in shoes and socks such as sneakers
NO ballet flats or open sandals.
- Shorts or pants—NO dresses or skirts.

The creek bed is full of rocks so the children will need safe and sturdy footwear to negotiate the rocks. Dresses and skirts are not suitable for playing in the creek bed.

We are looking forward to many wonderful creek adventures this year.

Family catch up at the creek

In "normal times" we would have had a family picnic for families to get to know each other. This would have occurred mid term 1 at Mitcham Reserve. COVID has prevented that occurring so far in 2022, but I am hoping to organise a coffee van and have a play at the creek after kindy, for those families who can attend. Once I have been able to organise a coffee van, I will send out a note about dates and times. I know after kindy will not suit everyone. But it will be one way, that families (children and adults) can build that sense of community. If COVID allows, we will have other events in 2022. Look out for information on a play at the creek after kindy, in the coming weeks.

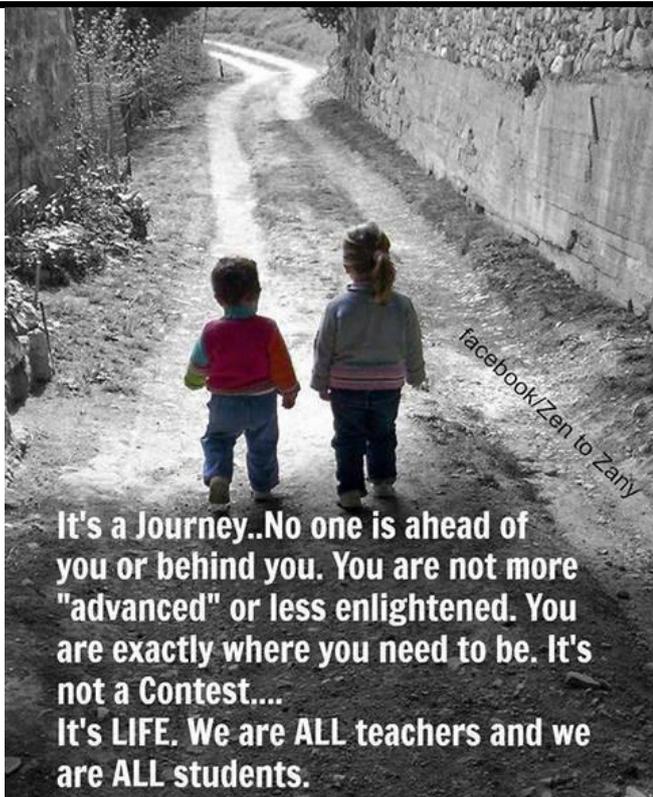
Finally

We have a regular relief teacher, Sara. Sara works at our site if any of the teachers are unwell or attending meetings or professional development. Whilst Sara is not a permanent member of our team, she is seen by us as a staff member. The children have got to know her well and just love her. So I have added her name to our staff team below.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Maddie, Suzi,
Lyn, Robyn, Sara



**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.**