



Mitcham



Preschool  
Centre

## Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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### My last newsletter

Well this is my final newsletter of the year and my final week of directing / teaching at Mitcham Preschool! After 17 wonderful years at Mitcham, and 42 years of directing / teaching, I will be "hanging up my boots" (and my whistle) and taking some long service leave, before retiring.

Once I have had a break, I will take on relief teaching at preschools in the Barossa and hope to mentor young directors in their role (where ever that may take me).

I have loved being the director of Mitcham Preschool and have been so proud of what I have achieved over the past 17 years. It has been the most special place to work.

I have always loved teaching young children and working with their families. It is such a special profession and the children just say and do the most amazing things. They make me laugh everyday. Children at preschool are such keen, interested and excited learners. Being part of their learning, watching them grow and develop, is an honour. They just amaze me everyday.

There are many  
thankyou's

- Thankyou to the most amazing children you could ever meet (past and present). They make coming to work everyday, so special
  - Thankyou to the families for their ongoing help, support and friendship. COVID has made managing the centre such a challenge over the past 3 years. Your support and understanding has been truly appreciated.
  - Thankyou to the Governing Council who this year have been so supportive and have been instrumental in making many decisions for the positive future of the preschool.
  - These have included the review of blue / gold group days and times (based on the survey results from families) and the decision to remain as we are now; they have reviewed all policies; they have trialled a new APP as a means of communication, that will be used by the staff and community in 2023
  - A very big thankyou goes to the staff team. You could not get a better group of people. Each and every one of them are dedicated to teaching your child. They are amazing educators, who are so skilled at teaching young children. Over and above that, they are the loveliest people who are so kind, caring and supportive of myself, as well as the children and families. I have felt so blessed to be their leader.
- I leave this community in their very capable hands. Thankyou to Maddie who has agreed to take on the directors position for term 1. Maddie is such a wonderful person and I know she will be so capable as the director.
- Thankyou to Suzi who is increasing her time, to be the full time teacher for term 1. Thankyou to Sara, (who has been our regular relief teacher) who is stepping into the 0.5 teaching position.
- Thankyou to Lyn, Robbie and Izzy, who are our Early Childhood Workers. Together, they will be such a wonderful team.

### Term 4 Newsletter 4

This week will be a happy / sad week, as I say farewell but I leave with my heart full of love; I feel fulfilled in my career, having taught so many children over a very long period of time, and have been honoured to have worked for the Department for Education for so long!

Thankyou for being part of my teaching career!

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## Term 4 in review

Where has the year gone to?

Term 4 has been a busy term, as we explored our focus of learning (for the first 5 weeks of term)

**"People plan wedding parties and we can too"**

It has been amazing to see how much the children have learnt.

Of course, our focus was on the wedding party for Maddie! We planned, prepared, organized, made decorations, wrote lists and invitations, made placemats ec. We voted on pinatas', wedding cake as well as Maddie's gift from the children. There was so much literacy and numeracy learning that took place, as well as making decisions, working collaboratively to get ourselves organized.

And the party day was so amazing!

We danced, played games, ate a pizza lunch, played the pinata game, had fruit and cake and finished the day with a guard of honour for Maddie / throwing of rose petals.

What an amazing day we had!

We had many wonderful experiences to support the curriculum including

- We went on a fabulous excursion to Marshmallow Park
- Had Christmas funtastics with the children completing some beautiful artwork which has decorated our room.
- We had the teachers from the Ruth Tuck Art school, who facilitated a wonderful art activity, that resulted in your beautiful Christmas gifts.
- Practiced many of our favourite songs & learnt some new Christmas songs for our celebration days
- Our celebration days were simply sensational!!
- We also had our special end of year family evenings where we were entertained by Marty McBubble

Of course, later in term 4 we had so many special Christmas activities to engage in. And the term calendar provided lots of excitement and curiosity as we have counted down the weeks to events, holidays and Christmas.

This term children have attended their school orientation visits and we have seen 60 children transition into preschool.

It has been a fabulous Term.

## Wonderful celebration days

What wonderful celebration days we had last week. The children were sensational singing 13 songs for us. Learning the words & actions for 14 songs is an incredible effort. I was so proud of them! I am sure you were too. Children do really amaze us—what they are capable of and how they go about their "work and play".

We were so lucky with the weather. It was perfect temperature for the concert and the pizza lunch that followed, on the lawns after. It was just lovely seeing the children dressed for the occasion, performing a number of songs, some of which involved some "acting out", giving out their gift, sharing in lunch together and enjoying each others company. It was truly a wonderful day.

Thank you for supporting your child on this special occasion. We hope you enjoyed the day too. Thank you for such wonderful feedback following our celebration days. It was very much appreciated.

Thankyou also to the staff for their amazing efforts organizing the props for the songs, supporting and preparing children in the weeks prior to celebration days. Of course on the day, staff had to organize the interactive screen, give out props, organize children and monitor how children were coping, throughout the concert. It is a huge job for all staff, all taking their roles during the concert but also prior to the concert, then engaging with the community through lunch.

Many parents commented on the children's art work they received as their Christmas gift. Some families thought that we / the art teachers helped the children. However, the children did do it themselves. The art teacher demonstrated to the children first, then the children were given their piece of paper & commenced with drawing their self portrait. Once the drawing was completed they were each given some palette paints / brush & water.

The finished art work was truly amazing! The paper & the paints used are very high quality and that does make a difference to the children's work. But it definitely was their own work! We just put them on coloured card and had them laminated.

We hope you cherish the paintings for years to come. (Some families from previous years had them framed. Apparently Ikea sells large frames.)

2022 has been a wonderful year, despite its challenges with another year affected by COVID.

Despite the restrictions we had to follow, the children experienced many wonderful learning opportunities.

This year we saw 4 different focus' of learning,

- Term 1—*Cultures around the world*
- Term 2—*All about me and people in my world - encompassing the Child Protection Curriculum*
- Term 3— *"Outer Space"*
- Term 4— *People plan wedding parties and we can to"*

Each focus of learning was very different, but provided wonderful teaching & learning opportunities.

This year we had

### In term 1

- Harmony day
- End of term celebration—Teddy bears picnic

### In term 2

- Community play / gathering at the creek after kindy
- Special persons morning
- Excursion to the Living Kaurana Cultural Centre
- Kuitpo Forest excursion
- Mobile Junk and nature play day
- Celebration day to end the term

### In Term 3

- We had mobile junk and nature play day
- A visit by Trent Hill, Aboriginal story teller
- Family night at CLG RSL
- Dancify program
- Disco to celebrate our term of learning

### In Term 4

- We went to Marshmallow Park for a picnic
- Had our family evening
- Had dancify program
- Ruth Tuck Art School teach-

ers visited us and supported us to produce such beautiful pieces of art

- Christmas Funtastics
- Had a wedding party
- End of year concert

It has been an absolute pleasure working with your children. They have been wonderful learners, engaged, interested and involved in their learning. They have amazed us in just "how far they have come" this year.

Added to all this, is just how resilient, brave and courageous the children have been. They have experienced COVID lockdowns in term 1 and early term 2. Parents were not allowed to bring them into the centre even on their first day.

You should be so proud of your child! They have been amazing!!

I am sure they will be eager & enthusiastic learners in their new learning environments.

Our term and year concludes on

**Blue group— Thursday December 15th**

**Gold Group—Friday December 16th.**

Monday to Wednesday will be kindy as usual. The children will take home all their wonderful Christmas art early in the week.

On the last 2 mornings, the children will have a picnic at the creek, returning to the preschool for a final farewell.

**Please note the mornings will finish at 12noon.**

**A note will go out soon, with final details. We will be having a coffee van at preschool on that morning!**

## Children Are...

Amazing, acknowledge them. • Believable, trust them. Childlike, allow them. • Divine, honor them. • Energetic, nourish them. • Fallible, embrace them. • Gifts, treasure them. • Here Now, be with them. • Innocent, delight with them. • Joyful, appreciate them. • Kindhearted, learn from them. • Lovable, cherish them. • Magical, fly with them. • Noble, esteem them. • Open minded, respect them. • Precious, value them. • Questioners, encourage them. • Resourceful, support them. Spontaneous, enjoy them. • Talented, believe in them. Unique, affirm them. • Vulnerable, protect them. Whole, recognize them. • Xtraspecial, celebrate them. Yearning, notice them. • Zany, laugh with them.

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# Farewell to the children of 2022

This year we farewell all 77 very special children from preschool, as they head off to school.

**From blue group we say  
goodbye**

Annabel Donaldson  
Anneke Bollen  
Caroline Muir  
Charlie Day  
Charlie Denton  
Charlie Illman  
Charlotte Wong  
Clarry Clarke  
Elsie Morris  
Elliott Whiteway  
Emilia Dennis  
Georgia O'Connor  
Hannah Tan  
Harry Hawke  
Harry McEwin  
Imogen Dunn  
Isaac Wallace  
Jude Hollands  
Lachlan Kee  
Leo Dew  
Lochlan McColl  
Lucy Daniels  
Maeve Walch  
Manya Kaur  
Oscar Atkinson  
Rosie Day  
Samuel Kalebuka  
Scarlett Fernie  
Scout Forman  
William Longhurst  
Winnie Borchard  
Xavier Robertson  
Zak Dixon

**From gold group we say  
goodbye**

Alex Haworth  
Alexandra Webster  
Amelia Crosbie  
April Withers  
Ava Simson  
Aviva McBurnie  
Beau Dawson  
Boston Hayes  
Charlie Penfold  
Dakota Wandin  
Eddie Bode  
Eva Smallcader  
Evie Sporn  
Fletcher Harch  
Gabby Groves  
Grace O'CADIN  
Isla Heritage  
Jack Ravesi  
Joyce Hou  
Jun Pham  
Kevin Le  
Ladd Hill  
Layla Simson  
Luca Flora

Maddison Westbrook  
Marlow Gwee  
Max Cawley  
Max LaBrooy  
Mishal Fatima  
Sophie Nguyen  
Nia Clarke  
Nikinuji Gulati  
Parker Morris  
Poppy Ioannou  
Preston Gooden  
Reid Stancliffe-White  
Riley Mutton  
Rowe Cramey  
Ruby Morton  
Samuel de Jong  
Shimon Chaudhary  
Trinity Gaban  
Violet Channon  
Winter Solunovic

We wish you all lots of happiness, fun and exciting times in your new learning environments. We will miss you all.

**"Every child  
IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FLOWER,  
AND ALTOGETHER MAKE THIS WORLD  
a beautiful garden."**

— ANONYMOUS —



## **Graduation Afternoons**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Governing Council brought forward this years graduations to ensure the children graduated from preschool, in my last week at Mitcham Preschool. Therefore,

To celebrate a wonderful year of teaching and learning we will hold a special graduation afternoon at the preschool on

**Blue group—Thursday December 8th**  
**Gold group—Friday December 9th**

To celebrate their journey at preschool our graduation day will be as follows

- 8.45am—session starts as usual
  - Kindy as normal
- Children will have their last lunch together at kindy! We will have an early lunch!
  - **12.45pm—parents return for afternoon tea**
  - **1.30pm —Graduation commences**
  - **2.30pm—Graduation concludes**
  - **3pm—kindy finishes for the day**

The afternoon tea provides a wonderful opportunity for parents, staff & children to mingle, farewells to be said and photos to be taken. As you can appreciate, with 44 children in gold group / 33 children in blue group to farewell, the afternoon tea provides a wonderful opportunity prior to the ceremony, to say farewell.

The staff will provide the afternoon tea. “Café a go go” will be here to purchase coffee or tea.

We will hold the graduation outside, due to the request to have more than one adult from each family.

Toddlers and babies are welcome to join you at the graduation day but we will ask that they sit with you & not join the children on the mat.

**Please make sure your child has their snack, lunch, drink bottle and kindy hat.**

The children of 2022 have been such a delight to teach. Their enthusiasm, eagerness, excitement and engagement in all that has been offered, has been amazing. They are a special group of children and it has been wonderful to be part of their learning journey.

***It will be a busy but very special afternoon***  
***We hope you can join us.***

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**Please note, this is not the last day of term 4. There is one more week to follow this one.**

**December 12th—December 16th**

**A note will be out this week regarding our last 2 mornings (December 15th & 16th)**

*.From all the staff at Mitcham Preschool,  
We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a  
wonderful New Year.*

*We hope you have an extra special time over the festive & holiday season. It is such a  
special time of year.*

*Treasure every moment with your children and family.  
They are our most treasured possessions and priceless gifts.  
Have a restful and fun  
holiday.*

*If you are travelling please take care on the roads.*

*kindest regards*

*Chris, Maddie, Suzi, Sara, Lyn, Robyn, Izzy*