

Newsletter No.1, Term 1, 2016

Welcome to preschool for 2016. We look forward to getting to know our new families and children, as we share this special time and learning journey.

During Term 1 we plan to focus our learning on **"Getting to know each other, our families and our environment"**. This will particularly support **BELONGING, BEING and BECOMING: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (ELYF), Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity- Children feel safe, secure and supported, Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency, Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities, Children learn to interact in relation to others with care empathy and respect.** Learning experiences are chosen as a reflection of our observations of individual children's needs and interests, feedback and suggestions from children and families, and to support our planned intentional teaching. Our program allows for spontaneity and flexibility and values both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

To support our learning we plan to discuss our families and our interests, as children feel more comfortable and confident when talking about topics they are familiar with, and this will help us get to know each other. We value and celebrate our cultural diversity at Mawson Lakes and have focused on Chinese and Vietnamese New Year celebrations and customs, and during the term we will acknowledge Harmony Day. Establishing routines and expectations and supporting social skills and confidence will be a major focus initially, and we will utilise ideas and resources from the 'You Can Do It!' program to support this learning. *Connie Confidence, Pete Persistence, Ricky Resilience, Gaby Get-Along, and Oscar Organisation* are puppets that are used at group times and incidentally to assist with learning important skills and strategies.

***Belonging, being and becoming* are integral parts of identity... When children feel safe, secure and supported they grow in confidence to explore and learn... (ELYF p.20)**

We aim to provide regular curriculum updates in our newsletters to share our learning at Preschool. Our newsletters will also be accessible on our webpage. Each term we provide a term planner to assist you to keep track of Preschool events. This term's planner is attached here and is great to keep on your fridge!



Our Staff team:

Director: Sandra Cattel.

Teachers: Margie Standen, Sophie Marshall, Amy Fromm (full-time), Ash Keskar (.7), Sue Cummings (Wednesday a.m.).

Early Childhood Workers: Chris Evans, Jo Mibus (full-time), Danielle Axisa (Wednesday a.m.).

Preschool Support Worker: Paula Mattner.

Lunch Care Workers: Paula Mattner, Su Hwang.

Finance Officer: Sharon Mendrin.

Bilingual Support Workers: Our allocation is still to be finalised for this term.

We will at times have relief staff, students and volunteers at Preschool. Please check the notice board next to the double doors for the daily staff.

Information Pockets: All families at preschool have an information pocket. Please remember to regularly check your child's pocket so you can be up to date with what's happening at preschool. Also, please ensure that you take the contents out of the correct pocket. If you need help finding your pocket or you don't receive some information, please see a staff member.



Annual General Meeting

The Preschool will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 17th February** at 7.00pm, at the Preschool. All families and interested persons are invited to attend. At this meeting reports detailing our activities in 2015 will be tabled. We will also need to form the 2016 Governing Council. Being on Governing Council is a great way to make new friends, become active in the life of the preschool and most importantly - have a say in your child's education. Involvement on the Governing Council does mean making a commitment - to attend meetings, make decisions about the running of the preschool, fundraising and supporting preschool functions. Please consider becoming part of our Governing Council for 2016, as your children will benefit from your commitment.

If you are interested in taking on a Governing Council role, nomination forms are available at Preschool and have been placed in notice pockets.

... Our Preschool is only successful if everyone plays a part!

Fees: Fee notices have been placed in each child's notice pocket. All fees are due by the end of Week 3 – Friday 13th February. Our fees are \$120 per term. Thank you to the families who have already paid their fees for this term. Fees can be paid in cash or by cheque (made out to Mawson Lakes Preschool). If you would prefer to pay by electronic bank transfer, the details are on your fees notice. Fees can be paid for the term, half yearly or for the whole year in advance. When making any payments to the Preschool e.g. fees, excursion payments, book club etc., please **do not pay at the school office**. If you do we have no way of tracking your payment, and you may be asked to pay again.



No Hat ... No Play and Hot Weather: In line with the Cancer Council guidelines the preschool has in place a 'no hat, no play' policy from September to May. During Term 1 all children must bring a broad brimmed or legionnaire style hat to preschool to wear outside when playing. If your child does not bring a hat they will only be allowed to play inside or on the verandah. Staff will

monitor when and if it is safe to play outside in extreme hot weather, to keep everyone safe.



Sunscreen: Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before Preschool. We will assist your child to re-apply sunscreen at lunchtime to provide protection in the afternoon. If you wish to provide your own sunscreen, please inform staff. Also please note our Sun smart policy states that ... *'Appropriate sun protective clothing is to be worn – no singlet or midriff tops are allowed. ...'*



Messy play: Please remember that children participate in 'messy play' at Preschool as part of their learning, experimenting and sensory awareness. We provide smocks however paint will at times get on clothes, as will sand and water, so please dress your child accordingly with clothes that wash easily, and please provide spare clothes for your child in his/her preschool bag. Please also remember that children need footwear to support their climbing and exploring adventures; thongs are not suitable for wear at Preschool.



Drinks at Preschool: Please provide a named plastic drinking cup for your child to use while at preschool for drinks. Please do not send 'popper' or 'sports drink' bottles. These bottles can damage teeth and gums, as children tend to pull up the popper with their teeth. Drinking from a cup is also a skill that many children need to practice. We will have fresh cold water for children to access at all times from our drinking container. With each child having their own cup to use we will also be complying with WHS regulations in regards to minimising cross infection.

Healthy Eating at Preschool: The Preschool has a 'healthy foods' policy, which promotes healthy eating practices for children. Our healthy eating policy **does not include** items such as cakes/pastries, chips/corn chips, lollies, sweet biscuits, cordial/soft drinks. All of these items are high in sugars, salt, and saturated fats. If your child brings a non-allowable item they will not be permitted to eat it at Preschool. If your child has any special dietary needs, they need to be discussed with the Director. As part of our cooking program we will at times make a range of foods, including sweet dishes for the children to try, and we will discuss which foods are everyday foods, and which are treat foods.

At the start of the day, please place lunchboxes in the crates provided on the verandah, which staff transfer to the refrigerator. Please place snack time food (fruit and vegetable) in a separate container, which needs to stay in your child's bag with their cup. Please remember that our **snack time policy is for fruit and vegetables only**.

Cheese, yoghurts, crackers, can be included in the **lunchbox for lunchtime**. Lunch boxes will be kept inside after lunch, until the end of the day, and will be placed on a table for you to collect.

Please help us to keep our Preschool a safe environment for all of our children, and do not send food containing eggs or nuts, as we have children who have anaphylactic reactions to these products. Please also avoid sending broad beans to preschool, as some of our children have severe allergic reactions to these as well. Thank you.



Session Times:

Just a reminder about our session times, which remain the same throughout the year:

**Purple group: Monday/Tuesday: 8.30am - 3.15pm
Wednesday (WK 1,3,5,7,9,11): 8.30am – 11.30am**

**Green group: Thursday/Friday: 8.30am – 3.15pm
Wednesday (WK 2,4,6,8,10): 8.30am – 11.30am**

Please remember to **sign your child in and out** of Preschool each day. This is a legal requirement under the National Quality Standards, and can be audited at any time. Also, it is essential that you notify us if someone else is collecting your child. We appreciate your punctuality at the end of the day and our late fee is \$5.00 per 15 minutes.

One of the skills we aim to teach children during their time at preschool is independence and responsibility. Ways in which we do this include encouraging children to do tasks for themselves and looking after their own belongings. This includes finding a space for their bags when they come into Preschool. So when you arrive at preschool encourage your child to place their bag in one of our lockers – not on top of them, and when leaving at the end of the day encourage your child to find their work and other belongings to take home. This helps establish self-esteem and confidence as children discover they are competent and independent learners! From week 5 all lockers will be named to make this process easier.

Group time and farewells ... Group time at preschool is an important learning time where your child is practising skills including listening, waiting, taking turns, cooperation, including others, using manners and working in a group. At the end of the day, children can be tired from working so hard, so when you come to pick your child up, we will dismiss them to you as soon as there is a natural break in the group – e.g. after a song, or activity. If you need to take your child immediately, please see one of the educators supporting group time so that they can quietly farewell your child. We also need your help – one of our most important jobs is to keep all the children safe. So, if your child sees you and leaves the group before we have said goodbye, could you please bring them back so we can farewell them and know that they are with the right parent. Also, please do not motion for your child to come to you, before we have said goodbye to them as this is disruptive for the group ... and saying goodbye is an important and respectful way of ending the day with your child.

Collage Materials: If you have any of the following items we would love to have them at Preschool, to support creative projects at our collage table:

- ★ boxes – all shapes and sizes
- ★ paper, wrapping paper, cards, pictures, calendars
- ★ ribbons, buttons, cotton reels, sparkly spangles, vinyl, leather, wool, material, felt
- ★ shells, bottle tops etc., etc., etc. ...

Please remember that we do not accept toilet rolls, medicine packets, washing powder boxes, egg cartons, polystyrene packaging, plastic bottles (milk bottles/soft drink bottles etc.) or milk/juice cartons.

Toilet paper donations: We would greatly appreciate all families donating two rolls of toilet paper, to help keep our daily running costs down. Thank you.

Book Borrowing Library: The Preschool provides books for reading at home; the borrowing rack is located on the verandah. We ask that adults choose a maximum of two books with their children, and fill in the borrowing sheet when borrowing and when returning books. Happy reading!



Healthy Harold Healthy Me!

During Terms 1 -3 Life Education will be here at preschool to present their program called 'Healthy Harold Healthy Me'. The program consists of three workshops - *Being Safe*, *Becoming Healthy* and *Belonging and Connecting*. Our first workshop will be held on **March 8th for the Purple Group** and **March 10th for the Green Group**. The session focusses on being healthy and is called *Harold's Healthy Play Day*. The session will include stories, songs, puppetry and music and movement. The cost for this workshop is \$10 per child. A consent form for the first session is below. **Please cut out and return your consent form and payment by Friday March 4th**. If you have any questions about the program, please come and see Sandra.

Please cut out and return to Preschool by 4th March...

Harold's Healthy Play Day:
I do / do not consent to my child:
.....
participating in the Healthy Harold workshop at Mawson Lakes Preschool. (Purple Group session: March 8th, Green Group session: March 10th).
I have enclosed \$10.00 being payment for the first session.
Signed:
Parent /Guardian.
Date: