



Newsletter No.2, Term 1, 2016

Dates to remember:

21/3/16: Harmony Day

Monday 4/4/16: Governing Council meeting
7pm.

Good Friday: 25/3/16

Easter Monday: 28/3/16

Wednesday 13/4/16: Last day of term for

Purple Group.

Friday 15/4/16: last day of term for Green group.

Monday 2/5/16: First day of Term 2 for Purple Group.

Thursday 5/4/16: First day of Term 2 for Green Group.

(The first Wednesday of each term will always be a Purple group session).

Curriculum news: We have been very busy, getting to know each other, establishing routines, supporting social skills and friendships, and exploring our Preschool environment. Our sand pit and mud kitchen have inspired many collaborative cooking projects, and we have enjoyed sensory experiences including gloop (cornflour and water) and shaving cream, which also assist in strengthening fine motor finger skills. Our 'Diving Octopus' magnetic/ sinking and floating experiment has provoked curiosity and investigation as children worked out how to get the octopus to the bottom of the jar. We are hoping to set up a 'tinker table', with interesting real-life objects to take apart, put together or work out, for example door handles, taps, old small machinery; please see staff if you



have any items which may be of interest. We have provided varied art materials to inspire creativity and self expression, and this will be ongoing throughout the year. All children have a self-portrait on display. Children have assisted with gardening tasks, and we are planning for our autumn planting. Purple group have made fruit salad to share, and **Green Group will make fruit salad on Thursday (please provide a piece of fruit to share)**. We are planning more cooking experiences, and would greatly appreciate parents' assistance, and especially enjoy recipes acknowledging our cultural diversity. Our 'Healthy Harold' sessions with Narelle were beneficial and informative. We learnt about healthy food, exercising, cleaning our teeth, and good sleep, and watched a video about Harold's day and shared a story, and helped choose good foods and sometimes foods. We also learnt new songs to sing while washing hands and did some dancing. We look forward to the next Healthy Harold session in Term 2. We still have some Healthy Harold payments outstanding so if you have not paid for the Healthy Harold visit, please do so as soon as possible.

We have special visitors arriving on Tuesday this week... incubating eggs from *Henny Penny Hatching*. Children will be able to observe the wonderment of chickens hatching from their eggs, and have an opportunity to hold the baby chickens. Harmony Day, which



promotes peace and diversity, is coming up on Monday 21st March. Orange is the colour of harmony, so we will have lots of orange around! We will also incorporate some experiences focussing on Easter around the world over the next fortnight. We have also been busy this term assessing children's gross motor and phonological skills as part of our base line data collection. These assessments will be reflected in our formative reports, which we will provide for all children by midway through Term 2. Each child also has a 'Learning Portfolio', where we place art work, photo stories and anecdotes throughout the year, and present to children at the end of the year. Purple group folders are located near the foyer while Green group folders are located in the big group room. You are welcome to look at your child's portfolio with them at any time.



Staffing updates: As we have many staff assisting at various times at Preschool (full-time core staff, regular part-time staff, relieving staff, and Bilingual Support Workers), we endeavour to write up staff names on the notice board to inform you of who is on site each day. Sue Cummings and Hengi Nazemi are two of our regular, highly valued relieving staff, who replace core staff when they are sick, attending meetings or on leave for family commitments.

We have now been allocated our Bilingual Support Workers: Marianna: here on Tuesday mornings to work with Spanish speaking children.

Pui: here Tuesday and Friday afternoons to work with Chinese and Vietnamese speaking children.

Su: here Monday and Tuesday mornings to work with Korean speaking children.

Gurinder: here Thursday and Friday mornings to work with Gujarati and Urdu speaking children.

Governing Council: Our 2016 Governing Council members are:

Chairperson: Scott Crew.

Vice Chairperson: Michelle Mather.

Secretary: Claire Mc Cance-Weir.

Treasurer: Kelly Adams.

Fundraising: Michelle O'Dea, Debra Van Zon, Anchen Auton.

General Committee: Suzanne Thompson, Judith Kupekj.

Staff representative: Sophie Marshall.

Our meetings are 'open' meetings, and all are welcome to attend and observe. If you would like to have voting rights, it's not too late to join the Governing Council; please see Sandra. Our next meeting is Monday 4th April ... you are most welcome to join us.

Welcome Barbeque...

We hope our Preschool families can join the staff and Governing Council at our 'Welcome BBQ'

Friday 1st April, 5pm to 7pm.

This is a great opportunity to get to know other families and have a look around the Preschool. Food and drinks will be provided free by the Preschool. Please return the RSVP note you previously received ASAP to assist us with catering.

Preschool Community Yard Sale: The Governing Council has organised our first fundraiser, to be held on Saturday 9th April, 8.30am-12.30pm, in the staff car park. Please bring in items you would like to donate to Preschool as soon as possible. As mentioned in the flyer you have already received, toys, books, kitchen items, knick-knacks and small furniture in good order will be greatly appreciated. Please make sure any items that you donate are in good working order. Any items left over after the sale will be donated to charity. If you would like to help on the day, please see Sandra or Sophie. Funds raised will go towards purchasing educational resources for your children.

Show and tell: At Preschool we don't have a formal 'show and tell' time, however, we welcome any items or news that children would like to share e.g. about holiday adventures, family news, or items of interest collected from nature. Please leave toys at home to keep them safe; whilst hugely important to your child, we do not include these in 'show and tell' and children can get very upset if their special toy is lost or broken. Sometimes children like to share a book from home with their peers and teachers; please make sure it is named, and left in the care of a staff member.



Birthday celebrations: As mentioned in the Parent Information Booklet, we celebrate and acknowledge children's birthdays by singing *Happy Birthday* as they wear our special cape and birthday hat at group time. **Please do not send lollies, chocolates or cakes to Preschool** for your child's birthday, as not all of our children are able to have these for health, cultural or dietary reasons. Thank you for your assistance.

Fees: Thank you to all of the families who have paid their fees. Fees for each term are \$120, payable by the end of week three. Some families have opted to pay for half or the whole year already using our electronic payment option. Fees and other money can still be paid in cash or cheque to the Preschool (not school). Please ensure you include your child's name with any payment. If you are paying via electronic banking our bank details are:

Account name: Mawson Lakes Preschool
 Account number: 1076-17107
 BSB: 015-142

Reminders:

- ◆ Please remember to **name all items** brought to Preschool. i.e., clothes, hats, cups, lunch boxes, bags. This will help your child to access their belongings more independently, and help staff assist them more expediently! Our lost property basket has been overflowing. All items left at Preschool at the end of each term will be washed and donated to charity.
- ◆ Please remember to provide your child with a **named cup** (not water bottle), to ensure they can independently access our drinking water.



Your child's day at Preschool...

We realise that at the end of a busy day at Preschool, some children don't remember straight away what they did during the day, when parents are keen to know (bed time or bath time seem to be the times that many children will remember!). A tip once given at a seminar, which applies to all age groups, is to ask *"What was enjoyable for you today?"* To help you gain a picture of 'A Preschool day', we have outlined our planned daily timetable. It allows for flexibility for special events, going for a walk around the school or visiting a classroom, and finishing off special projects etc., and for changing group times around if the needs of the day inspires it...

Please note that during times marked as 'free play', your child could be busy building a highway, river way or special building in the sandpit, going on an intergalactic mission involving the log and garden area, climbing through a jungle full of wild animals with the climbing equipment, attending a birthday party in the gazebo, feeding babies or running a restaurant or hospital in our 'home corner' area, role playing their future career as a teacher with a group of friends at 'group time', painting a treasured masterpiece for Grandma at the easels, writing an important letter or card to someone special, developing their fine motor skills, imagination and eye hand coordination with play dough and constructions sets, developing logic, estimation, problem solving skills and diplomatic skills when sharing puzzles or block construction, sharing stories and puzzles with staff and with their friends, extending literacy and numeracy skills... Independence, resilience, confidence, persistence, imagination, wellbeing, and social skills are all strengthened during these times of 'free play', when children decide which learning experiences to access. Part of our role as educators is to guide children with their choices at times, and offer scaffolding, encouragement and support to all children as they go about their day. During our formal group times we select games to support conceptual knowledge, turn taking, sharing and developing confidence. We sing songs, read and share stories and learn dances, which supports the development of communication, creativity and literacy. We also discuss routines and expectations and brainstorm topics to learn about, which help to develop children's thinking skills. Children also have the opportunity to share information and items reflecting their home culture or important events (holidays or a family outing).

Daily Timetable...

8.30am: Preschool begins. Free play time inside and outside. Snack can be eaten during this time.

9.30am: Group time (we may break into small groups or visit the Book Nook, or demonstrate some of our activities, try a science experiment, and chat about who's at Preschool.)

10.15am: Free play time inside and outside again, for children to explore more experiences, and to play. Play is the business of childhood. Play is how children learn. Snack can be eaten at this time.

11.15am: pack up of inside tables for lunch time begins, with children assisting by choice.

11.30am – 1pm: Children have their lunch. Hand washing occurs prior to lunch, and staff assist children with applying sun block after lunch. Relaxation music is played and children are encouraged to take a break and relax for a short time.

1pm - 2.10pm: Free play time, during which small group times may occur, or short walks exploring the school environment. Snack can again be eaten.

2.10pm – 2.30pm: All staff and children assist with cleaning up and tidying resources, developing life skills, responsibility and a 'sense of community'.

2.30pm – 3pm: Group time, which may include relaxation, reading books, group time games. Some children go home during this time to collect older children from other schools.

3pm: Group time concludes, and children are farewelled as parents arrive (saying good bye to a staff member to ensure safety and practice good manners). Children and staff share books until the end of the Preschool day at **3.15pm**.