



**Newsletter No.2, Term 1, 2015**

**Dates to remember:**

**21/3/15:** Harmony Day

**Monday 23/3/15:** Governing Council meeting  
7pm.

**Good Friday: 3/4/15**

**Easter Monday: 6/4/15**

**Wednesday 8/4/15:** Last day of term for Purple Group.

**Friday 10/4/15:** last day of term for Green group (at this stage).

**Monday 27/4/15:** First day of Term 2 for Purple Group (at this stage).

**Thursday 30/4/15:** First day of Term 2 for Green Group.

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

We will inform you **ASAP** if any of these dates change, as we may need to have closure days to facilitate the final stages of our building work. We will inform you as soon as we have details confirmed.

**Curriculum news:** We have been very busy, getting to know each other, establishing routines and supporting social skills and friendships, and learning about *Getting Along, Persistence, Resilience, Confidence and Organisation* (You Can Do It! Program). Pete the Cat has still been very popular, and helped us remember our hats when we went for a walk and picnic, while Grannie Annie is a regular guest at the home corner table.

We have celebrated Chinese and Vietnamese New Year with various art experiences, and held our own 'Dragon dance'. The song 'Slippery Fish' has been very popular all term (still being requested daily!), and has been a basis of many learning opportunities- initial sounds awareness (literacy), size comparisons (numeracy)



discussions about manners (wellbeing), our 'Diving Octopus' magnetic/ sinking and floating experiment (science), and many art activities (creativity). Many books based on sea creatures have been accessed, shared and enjoyed regularly, both fact and fiction, and Sandra has emailed us photographs of interesting fish she has seen on her overseas holiday, including Beluga Whales! The children are very proud of the great white shark and the humongous whale they made together as cooperative projects. In week 9, which begins on Monday 23rd March, we will have special visitors at Preschool... 'Living Eggs' from the Henny Penny Company. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for children to hopefully observe the chickens emerging from the eggs, and observe their initial growth. As Harmony Day, which promotes peace and diversity, falls on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we will also make week 9 our 'Harmony Week', with activities chosen to reflect this. Orange is the colour of harmony, so we will have lots of orange around!

We have also been busy this term assessing children's gross motor 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. You are welcome to look at your child's portfolio with them at any time.

**Staffing matters:** Sandra is now halfway through her well-deserved Long Service Leave, and she will return on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Chris will leave for her also well-deserved Long Service Leave on 18<sup>th</sup> March, returning next term. 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.

**Building progress:** We are very excited that the building works are progressing on time! Chris and his team from Northern Industries have been working very hard, and children have been very interested in the progress. Each morning when we have our morning group time get-together, we introduce the day's staff and activities, and talk about what the builders might be doing 'behind the wall' or near the shed, with many children very interested in this, and reminding us when we forget to tell them!. We have also gone for walks to safely observe the progress from the school's grassed area, and saw last week we now have a roof! As mentioned earlier, there will be some closure days to enable the builders to access all areas in the holidays... floors for new carpets and lino, walls to paint, and storm water drainage to be sorted under the container pod (meaning it needs to be removed!), which holds most of our resources. This means there will be a lot of moving of equipment and furniture to do in a short space of time into a restricted area, and then moving, unpacking and sorting again, for us to operate in term 2! As soon as we have details available we will let you know, and remember the saying "short term pain for long term gain"!



**Governing Council:** Our 2015 Governing Council members are:

Chairperson: Scott Crew.

Vice Chairperson: Hamid Laga.

Secretary: Claire McCance-Weir.

Treasurer: Kelly Adams.

Fundraising: Michelle Mather, Debra Van Zon, Bec Feltus, Anchen Auton.

General Committee: Shelbe McGregor, Judith Kupekyj.

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.

**Welcome Barbeque...**

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

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm to 7pm.**

**This is a great opportunity to get to know other families and have a look around the Preschool. Food is provided free by the Preschool, and we will have some drinks for sale. Please return the separate note ASAP to assist us with catering.**



**People's Choice Credit Union Community Lottery:** We are fortunate to be included in the allocation of ticket books for this great fundraiser: last year we raised approximately \$1,500! Look out for your book ... coming to your information pocket soon! We will receive 100% of ticket sales... we really appreciate your assistance, and 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 (we have been very interested in observing Ella's caterpillars and the cocoons!). 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 \$100, 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! 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.
- Please remember to **sign your child in and out** of Preschool each day. It is essential that you notify us if someone else is collecting your child. Also, please notify if your contact details change so we can update our records.

**'Stuck on You' fundraiser:** We have included with this newsletter a flyer for a great range of products to help name your child's belongings, with a percentage of the sales going back to the Preschool!

**Welcome Barbeque:** To assist us with our catering for our free barbeque, please return this tear off slip by 20/3/15. Drinks will be available to purchase.

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Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

We will / will not be attending the Welcome BBQ.

We would like \_\_\_\_\_ sausages and bread.

We would like \_\_\_\_\_ vegetable patties.

**Learning and engagement at Preschool...**

