



Newsletter No.2, Term 3, 2015

Dates to remember:

Monday 14/9/15: Governing Council meeting, 7pm.

Wednesday 16/9/15: Purple Group Walkathon.

Friday 18/9/15: Preschool Disco, 4-5.30 pm.

Tuesday 22/9/15: Last day of term, Purple Group.

Friday 25/9/15: Last day of term, Green Group: **2pm finish.**

Monday 12/10/15: First day of term 4, Purple Group.

Thursday 15/10/15: First day of term 4, Green Group

Curriculum news: Throughout this term children have been very engaged and interested in our term focus, learning about our bodies and looking after ourselves. Our Preschool Hospital has been very busy tending to patients with a variety of doctors, nurses and specialists. We borrowed the skeleton kit from Nature Education Centre, which provoked much intrigue. Many of our table top activities have supported learning about our bodies, for example the split pin skeletons which were carefully cut out and assembled. The Little Athletics Program was great fun and helped develop gross motor skills, and the Green Group Walkathon was fantastic fun (its Purple Group's turn this week!). We have greatly appreciated input from parents this term: Isaiah's Mum Kat shared dry ice experiments with Green Group in Science Week, Lara's Mum Bec brought an ambulance to Preschool for Purple Group, Santiago's Mum Marcela cooked Empanadas with Purple Group, and Diana and her Mummy brought 61 bananas for Green Group to enjoy after the Walkathon! If you have time to walk around inside the Preschool, you will see many displays and photographs highlighting children's engagement and learning. Next week our Term Overview will be available to take home and read.



National Quality Standards Assessment: Sally Barnes, our Assessor visited last Thursday 10th September. Whilst we don't know our rating yet, Sally had many positive things to say about our practices and about children's learning. We will let you know the outcome in due course.

Preschool Disco: We are holding our first Preschool Disco this Friday afternoon, 18th September, 4 pm -5.30pm. Please remember that our Disco is for Preschool children only: we cannot accommodate parents, or younger or older siblings. We have timed this to coincide with the school's Early Years Disco, to hopefully make arrangements easier for families with children at both events. Entry tickets are \$5.00, which includes a drink and popcorn. We are looking forward to lots of fun!

Fundraising: Thank you to the families who have been able to assist with our **Chocolate Drive**, the **People's Choice Lottery**, and with collecting money for our **Walkathons**. All money raised through fundraising contributes to the purchase of new resources and equipment for all children to use at Preschool, and your assistance is greatly appreciated. If you still need to return any money, chocolates or tickets, please do so by Friday 18th September to assist with finalising our accounts for this term, thank you.

Please remember... Hats! All children must have a hat to wear at Preschool from 1st September. Please provide your child with a Legionnaire or broad brimmed hat (not sports caps please) in accordance with our Sun Safe policy. Please also ensure that your child has **appropriate footwear** (not thongs or Crocs) to enable them to safely play, and clothes that cover shoulders (not singlet tops). Layers are great in the changeable weather. Please also pack **spare clothes**, as with the warmer weather we will have more water play. We would appreciate donations of unwanted clothing to add to our spare clothes supplies if you are able to assist. We will be applying **sunscreen** from now on after lunch; please provide a named sunscreen (to be kept at Preschool) for your child if you do not wish him or her to use the Preschool supplied sunscreen.

Advance notice for Term 4 excursions to Little Sprouts Kitchen Garden Visiting Program at the Botanic Gardens: We have been fortunate to secure bookings to the Little Sprouts Kitchen Gardens next term. The Purple Group excursion will be on Tuesday 3rd November, and the Green Group excursion will be on Thursday 5th November. These excursions will be a fantastic way to consolidate our interest in gardening this year. More details soon!

Preschool Opening: The Official Opening of our building extension will be held early next term. We are still waiting for the date to be confirmed by the Minister of Education, and will provide more details as soon as possible.



Preschool Logo iron-on transfers: These are available for purchase in black or white print for \$2.50 per transfer, for you to iron onto any T shirt you purchase for your child (e.g. a T shirt you buy at Target). Please see Chris or Jo if you need more details to order.

Governing Council gmail account:

If you wish to contact the Governing Council directly with concerns, queries, or feedback (positive or not so positive)...
mawsonlakes.PS.GC@gmail.com



Numeracy..

Although children's numeracy development starts in the home, a question that parents often ask is: *What is numeracy?* Numeracy is related to mathematics. It is how a child, or any other person, uses the mathematics that they know, to play, work and solve the problems that they encounter in their daily lives. Some examples of numeracy experiences relevant to preschool children are:

- Count the number of candles on a cake (number).
- Count out enough pencils so that a group of friends have one each (number).
- Select the first (or second or third ...) person in a line (ordinal number).
- Know when a container is full or empty (measurement).
- Know when an object is heavy or light (measurement).
- Know which object is longer or shorter (measurement).
- Know that time passes (measurement).
- Recognize simple shapes such as circles or triangles (spatial sense).
- Draw simple geometric shapes such as squares (spatial sense).
- Identify a regular geometric pattern (spatial sense).
- Understand that some events are certain or that some are impossible (chance and data).

At home you can do many things to develop your child's numeracy:

Play, *Which does not belong?*, with familiar objects when sorting the washing, toys and so on.

- As you compare two objects emphasize the terms bigger/smaller, longer/shorter, heavier/lighter, holds more/holds less.
- Group some toys or items and ask: How have I sorted these?
- Ask: Find a spoon for each plate, an egg for each eggcup ...
- When appropriate you use the expressions just as many, the same number of ...
- Count, compare and order aloud using the appropriate language: I need a *bigger* pot for this soup.

Numeracy learning, like literacy learning, is part of our everyday, and can be explicit, incidental and fun!

(Adapted from Project Good Start parent sheet, NSW Education Department).



...Balancing blocks,
... measuring play dough ingredients,
...estimating and measuring my train, toot,
toot!,
...which radish is bigger? Comparing... Counting
bananas... measuring growth in our garden...