



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

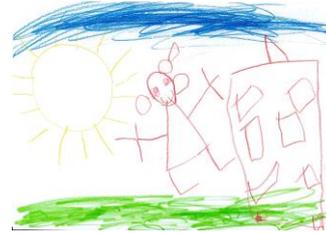
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Newsletter Term 1 No. 1

Dates to remember:

- ❖ Welcome Night: Friday 8th March
- ❖ Adelaide Cup Public Holiday: Monday 11th March
- ❖ Governing Council: 6.30pm Monday 25th March
- ❖ Go Purple for Epilepsy Day: Tuesday 26th March
- ❖ Obstacle-a-thon Green Group: Wednesday 3rd April
- ❖ Inspector Hector performance Purple Group: Tuesday 2nd April
- ❖ Inspector Hector performance Green Group: Thursday 4th April
- ❖ Obstacle-a-thon Purple Group: Wednesday 10th April. This is also the last day of the term for Purple Group
- ❖ Last day of term for Green Group: Friday 12th April (2pm early finish).

Curriculum: Over the last few weeks we have been busy getting to know our children and families. Many of our preschool experiences have supported 'getting to know each other' and establishing routines and friendships and feeling comfortable in the preschool environment. As Sandra mentioned in her 'Kindy Update', we will start our small group learning times soon, which will be a time for play based learning experiences, focusing on numeracy and literacy, social skills using the You Can Do it program and also the Child Protection Curriculum. Our small group times give all children a chance to contribute and develop their skills and confidence in a more intimate gathering, and are usually held in the morning for approximately 30 minutes. The teacher of your child's small group will be responsible for writing their First Term Summary and Statement of Learning. We have nearly finalised our groups, and will notify you of your child's small group teacher very soon.



Paula will also provide additional small literacy groups during the day, targeting specific phonological skills in a very popular and fun based way. Also this year we are focusing on using and learning Key Word signing, which supports inclusivity and enhances communication strategies. Sandra has compiled a sampler page of some of the signs we have already been learning for you to try at home. Please see your email for the attachment. We will be using the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* as a starting point for some of our learning experiences during the rest of the term. This book is a familiar favourite for children and provides many focus areas to investigate. Inspector Hector will also visit this term, to remind us of healthy eating through his almost magical show, and we will finish our term with our annual Obstacle-a-thon, which gives children a fun opportunity to participate in a gross motor challenge, with parents invite to watch.... More details to follow!

Welcome Night, Friday 8th March:

To help families get to know each other and the preschool environment, we are holding a 'Welcome Night' next Friday from 5.30pm until 7.30pm. If you are free please come along and join us, for all or some of the time. We are asking families to bring dinner/sweet dish to share, based on your favourite cultural dishes to highlight our wonderful multicultural community.

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE WERE
MAKING MEMORIES. WE JUST KNEW
WE WERE HAVING FUN



Harmony Day, Thursday 21st March:

To celebrate and acknowledge our cultural diversity, we participate each year in Harmony Day. Orange is the colour of peace, so Harmony Day will feature many orange based activities, and everyone is encouraged to wear orange. We hope to include shared fruit and cooking experiences on Harmony Day. More information to follow.



Inspector Hector and the case of the Vanishing Vegetables... Inspector Hector has a mystery to solve. It seems in recent times, healthy foods for the five food groups have disappeared without a trace, and they've been replaced with a whole swag of 'sometimes' food. This performance uses mystery, magic, special effects and plenty of laughs to highlight the importance of eating a variety of different foods from all of the food groups, and the importance of drinking water. We are greatly looking forward to meeting Inspector Hector! The show will begin at 10 am and lasts for approximately 40 minutes. The performance will take place during the preschool session and there is no charge for the performance. Inspector Hector will visit on **Tuesday 2nd April (Purple Group)**, and **Thursday 4th April (Green Group)**.



What is Purple Day?

Purple Day (26th March) is a global initiative dedicated to raising epilepsy awareness. Purple Day was founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada. Motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy, Cassidy started Purple Day in an effort to get people talking about the condition and to let those impacted by seizures know that they are not alone. She named the day Purple Day after the internationally recognised colour for epilepsy, lavender.

At Preschool we are acknowledging Purple Day in support of members of our Preschool community. We are encouraging children to wear purple, planning to make purple kites to fly and purple necklaces to wear, and other purple themed activities. A collection tin will be provided if you would like to donate a gold coin towards epilepsy research.

Photo consents: Thank you to everyone who has returned their child's photo consent form. This consent form allows the preschool team to take photos of your child and use them in a variety of ways including as part of learning stories and displays at preschool, in our program, in newsletters and on our website. All forms need to be returned; please see Sandra if you have any concerns.



Term 1
newsletters
are produced
by Margie.



A quote to ponder...
"Play is the highest form of
research."

Albert Einstein.

Meet your educator team

At our preschool there are lots of teachers who make up our team. In our first newsletter we would like to introduce you to ...



Margie Standen – Teacher

I have worked at Mawson Lakes Preschool since it began as a very little Preschool, and have enjoyed watching it grow and getting to know many children and families in the community. I feel very fortunate to be working in such a great diverse centre. Prior to this I have also enjoyed working in country and city locations in South Australia.

I am lucky to be Mum to my son Harry, and live near the beach with my family and cheeky little dog called Milo who I like taking for walks. I look forward to getting to know you all this year.



Paula Mattner – Early Childhood worker

Hello, my name is Paula Mattner. I am married with two children. I have a Diploma of Social Science (Child Care) and a Graduate Diploma in Special Education from the University of Melbourne. I have worked at Mawson Lakes Preschool for the last 9 years as a contract employee. My roles have included preschool support, targeted small groups in Language and Literacy and fine/gross motor skills, lunch care and playgroup coordinator. Last year I gained permanency and am now fulltime ECW at Mawson Lakes Preschool.

I am looking forward to getting to working with your children during the year.



Danielle Axisa – ECW/Preschool Support and Playgroup Coordinator

My name is Danielle Axisa, I have been lucky enough to be part of the Mawson Lakes Preschool community for 13 years!! My first "role" was as a parent, as both my children attended the Preschool. Currently my role as an ECW includes support work and Playgroup Coordinator. I live in Mawson Lakes with my husband two children and our much loved dog Archie. I enjoy going to the gym, and I love music and reading.

I would love to learn the piano and write a book one day.



Gurinder Kaur – Preschool Support

Hi .. My name is Gurinder Kaur. I am married and living with my husband and son who is 11 years old. I have been living in Mawson Lakes since 2010. I am working in different preschools as a bilingual assistant and ECW.

This year I am providing preschool support at Mawson Lakes.



Loretta Dixey – Preschool Support

Hello my name is Loretta Dixey I have had over 20 years experience working with children from birth to 12 years of age working across all different areas of child development. I have a term contract doing preschool support two days a week on Thursday and Friday.

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know all of the children.