

Newsletter Term 2, No. 1

This term has already been so busy, full of learning and fun! The children have been building new friendships, exploring the new learning environments, learning and investigating and developing new skills through various experiences at Preschool. Some of the recent learning has included...

Henny Penny Eggs

The children have been very excited watching the baby chicks grow over the past two weeks and eagerly curious if they'd be able to hold one. And yes, they did just that! During week 2 the children were given the opportunity to hold one of the chickens with their teachers - many of the children were amazed by this experience. The chickens are going off to a few of our families homes to grow even bigger.



Cooler Weather

With the cooler weather coming and with the weather being a little unpredictable of late, please be sure to pack a few sets of various clothing so they can fully experience all aspects of our curriculum. During week 2 when it was very wet the children had the opportunity to engage in messy mud play - the children had an amazing time with their peers laughing and exploring the sensory aspect when the puddles would splash everywhere!



If your child owns a pair of gumboots please remember to send them in, you may wish to place them in a plastic bag within their Preschool bag so they are able to change into when they are in the digging patch or engaging in creative experiences.

Nature Play

Within the school grounds of Mawson Lakes Primary School there is a Nature Play area with various climbing obstacles, sticks, tyres, cable reels and designated climbing trees. This experience allows children to explore their natural environment around them.



Child Protection Parent Information Night

On Thursday the 16th May at 7pm, Veronica Gossink will be presenting an information session about the Child Protection Curriculum. If you would like to attend please RSVP by Monday the 13th of May via email.

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is based around two main themes;

- The right to be safe
- Having safe networks and people we trust.

These two themes are interwoven throughout our program and all interactions with children.

Parent- Teacher Interviews

During week 4 the Teachers are offering the opportunity to have a brief meeting with them regarding your child's first term summary and if you have any concerns with what was written in the term 1 report. If you would like to arrange a time, please see your child's individual small group teacher to organise an appropriate time.

Upcoming Excursion

With our upcoming excursions to the theatre to see an on-stage performance the children have been engaging in various story retelling, craft experiences including painting, music, dance, multimedia video clips and drawing experiences. **Green Group's Excursion** will be in week 4 and forms need to be returned by Friday the 17th of May. **Purple Group's Excursion** will be in week 5 and forms need to be returned by Tuesday the 21st of May. Please get the excursion forms back to us so we are able to finalise numbers.



Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers

We are participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program where we will be eligible to purchase various equipment and resources so please bring your stickers into preschool or alternatively place them in our labelled box out the front of the Mawson Lakes Woolworths. The more stickers we collect the more we get to spend on resources for your children. The program starts on Wednesday 1st May and continues through till Tuesday 25th June.



Woolworths Discovery Tours

During week 6 and 7 the children will be going over to our local Woolworths to take part in the 'Discovery Tours'. These tours give the children the opportunity to interact with fruit and vegetables in a fun way where they will engage in a variety of sensory experiences through sight, touch and smell.



Preschool Closure Day...

The Governing Council has approved a preschool closure day on **Monday 1st July**. The staff team will be involved in a half yearly review of our Quality Improvement Plan, updating our QIP wall and professional development on the range of projects members of our staff team are involved with this year.

Numeracy Information for Families

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:

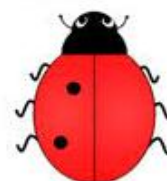
- Count the number of candles on a cake (number).
- Count out enough pencils so that a group of friends have one each (number).
- Select the first (or second or third ...) person in a line (ordinal number).
- Know when a container is full or empty (measurement).
- Know when an object is heavy or light (measurement).
- Know which object is longer or shorter (measurement).
- Know that time passes (measurement).
- Recognise 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 emphasise 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).

Mobile Dental Care SA

Healthy Smiles Bright Future Program

Mobile Dental Care service will be offering free dental checks for your child. We will be placing an information envelope in your parent pocket soon. The dental checks will be offered at The Pooraka Farm Community Centre, these dental checks are free of charge and will be offered from the 8th of July through until the 19th of July



Borrowing Library

Our borrowing library is restocked with new books and we encourage all our families to borrow often. Early literacy experiences expose children to develop their oral language, listening skills, imagination and storytelling.



Reminders

Thank you for your donations

Thank you for your tissues and toilet paper donations, at the moment we are well stocked and very much appreciate all your donations, thank you.

Fees

All term fees are due this week, you can either pay your fees with cash or cheque to the Preschool or via EFT, please be sure to include your child's name with any payment.

Account name: Mawson Lakes Preschool

BSB: 015-142

Account number: 1076-17107

Lost Property

Please check the lost property as the box is getting quite full, be sure to label every individual item including; drink bottle, containers, clothing and even socks. There has been lots of unnamed clothes at Preschool lately, so it is hard to get clothing back to the right owner.

Photoplay Studio Photos

The photos are due back around week 8 so keep an eye out later in the term for collection information.

Dates to remember:

The Gruffalo Excursion 23rd May

Panda's Home Excursion 28th May

Preschool Closure Day – 1st July

Thank you to Sneha, Gurinder and Pui who along with the children made some tasty potato puffs ... you may want to make them for Mum this Sunday!

Potato Puffs

Ingredients

1kg potatoes

1 puff pastry sheet

1 bunch of coriander

Mint leaves (optional) – to taste

Squeeze of lemon – to taste

Garam masala – to taste

Method

Boil potatoes, peel and mash. Then add salt, garam masala, coriander and mint leaves. Squeeze in lemon juice. Now the stuffing is ready

Take the pastry sheet and mark out 9 equal squares. Use water to put on the edges (this will glue the squares together). Take a spoonful of stuffing and put in the middle of the square. Fold on end over to make a triangle and press edges down.

Bake in the oven at 180

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Bake in the oven at 180°. When they become brown they are done.

Enjoy ... yum yum!

On behalf of all of us at Preschool, we hope you all enjoyed the first term at Preschool and look forward to the many upcoming exciting experiences planned throughout Term 2

Written by Kimberly