



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Newsletter Term 3 No. 3

Another newsletter means another Term over... and only one term left until school! This term was a busy one which included our road safety school excursions, STEM mornings, lots of PD for the staff and lots of learning from the children!



Toys at Preschool

Whilst we know how exciting it is to share new and favourite toys with their friends and teachers, we ask that the children not bring any of their toys/possessions to preschool. Often this results in the toy being lost or damaged and some very upset little people.

Road Safety Centre

Early in the term the Purple group had a wonderful day at the Road Safety Centre but unfortunately due to inclement weather the Green group excursion had to be postponed until later in the term, however we got there in the end! Both groups had a great time filled with fun and learning!



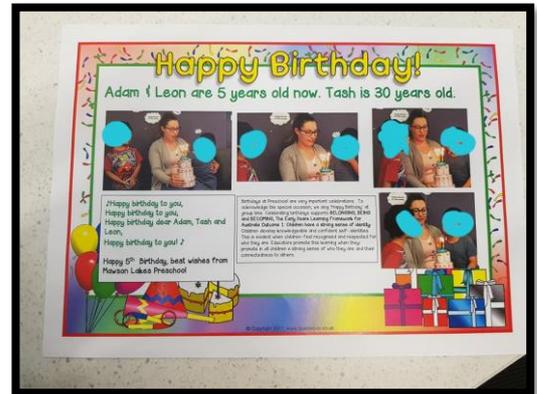
Holiday Time

We hope all our families have a wonderful and safe holiday period. We already know many of our families have some exciting plans and can't wait to hear about them all in two weeks. This holiday period is also a good time to check/repack your child's Kindy bag ready for term 4. Kindy bags should include;

- Change of clothes/underwear (weather appropriate/safe e.g. no singlets)
- Appropriate shoes (No crocs or thongs)
- A broad brimmed/legionnaire style hat

Birthdays

We are continuing to celebrate lots of birthdays including both children and staff! A reminder to all families to please not bring in goodie bags/cakes for the children as this does not adhere to our healthy eating policy. Families are more than welcome to bring in a shared fruit plate for all the children to enjoy but please don't feel obligated. If you are planning a party, please hand invitations to staff or put them in information pockets.



Leaving Preschool

If your child is leaving preschool to go to school or on holiday earlier than the end of term 4, please inform staff as soon as possible. This will give us enough time to prepare your child's Statement of Learning and ensure their portfolio is up to date before they leave!

Warmer weather

Moving into term 4, the weather will continue the transition to warmer days. Please ensure that your child is packing their appropriate hat each day for when the UV index is 3 or above and hats are required. It is also important to ensure your child comes to preschool with sunscreen on each morning. While the day may start out cool, the UV rises quickly.

We encourage you to talk to your children about the UV index and how important hats and sunscreen are for outside play when the UV is 3 or above. Staff are consistently checking the UV index each day and ensure the children reapply their sunscreen after lunch when required and wear their hats for outdoor play.



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Transition for school

By now we hope you have enrolled at your school of choice, if not please ensure you do as soon as possible. To the families who have enrolled at Mawson Lakes School you would have received notification of upcoming transition dates and the parent information evening.

The transition visits for children attending Mawson Lakes School are;

- Wednesday 30th October – 9am-10.30am
- Wednesday 6th November – 9am-11.30am
- Wednesday 13th November – 9am-2pm

The parent information session will be held on;

- Tuesday 29th October 6.30pm – 7.45pm

Please remember that you are responsible for taking your child to and from the transition visits!

Term 4 Excursion

If you don't already know, we are going to the Adelaide Zoo for our term 4 excursions! The zoo excursions are booked for

Tuesday 5th November for Purple Group

Friday 8th November for Green Group.

If you would like to attend, please let us know so we can begin organising the excursion.



Parent Helpers

A massive thankyou to our small band of parent helpers who devoted time to cleaning, tidying and assisting the preschool staff over the last few days. We really appreciate the time and effort that you provide, and the children love seeing their families helping at the preschool.

Closure Days

Our last two closure days for the year are coming up next term on Friday the 25th and Monday the 28th of October.

Closure days are important for the team as they give us time to undertake professional development as well as working on our Quality Improvement Plan Goals. At our closure day last week the team went through the process of reviewing our progression against our goals so far. Below is a summary of what we found;
Goal 1: A continued focus on play based learning which builds on children's prior knowledge, with a particular focus on numeracy and literacy and STEM

Progress to date:

- L *There has been more emphasis on making the environment and learning spaces more open ended, inviting and accessible for all children. This adjustment has supported children's deeper investigations collaboration and experimentation is evident. Children are helping each other - design and constructions are detailed*
- L *Educators are using their observations, data collected and engaging in more targeted reflection to review practice to provide more consistency*
- L *Children are more confident and independent – leading play episodes, transferring their learning across curriculum areas, engaging in group times. Children are confident to make contributions and be involved in*

program. Dramatic and imaginative play skills have improved

- L Children are engaged in bookmaking – transferring their skills to other areas and becoming confident with writing
- L Children have been involved in targeted literacy and numeracy small groups and educators are using data collected to inform their planning for individual children. There has been significant improvement in children's vocabulary development, phonological awareness and numeracy skills. Children are more confident to communicate verbally with their peers and teachers.

Goal 2: Critically reflect on how to authentically document children's learning and voice

Progress to date:

- L Shift in thinking for educators regarding how we provide and present learning opportunities for children.
- L Educators more confident to let children lead the learning
- L Team are better at following on from children's ideas in the moment and recording it in the program
- L Our visual program has been more engaging for children and families Children are adding to our program books ... looking for their photos and showing parents what they have done

Goal 3: To build an understanding and respect for the traditional owners of this land and engage in meaningful dialogue and learning with all our families

Progress to date:

- L Our Acknowledgement of Country is displayed in different areas of preschool. Children have a real ownership of practice eg reminding educators to do acknowledgement of country each day
- L Use of key word signs in acknowledgement
- L Many positive comments received from families about how our children presented the Acknowledgement of Country at family events
- L Aboriginal elements are more visible within learning environment
- L Mural reflecting our Acknowledgement of Country designed and created
- L Educator and child awareness of Aboriginal culture is more evident. Children displaying positive dispositions toward Aboriginal culture as evidenced by knowledge and attitudes

Goal 4: A continued commitment to establishing strong relationships with our children, so they feel valued and connected and demonstrate strong and positive dispositions for learning through appropriate social engagement.

Progress to date;

- L Educators have a strong focus on building relationships within their small group as well as getting to know all children. This has also allowed educators to more readily identify children needing more support with learning/using social skills
- L All educators using aspects of Child Protection Curriculum and You Can Do It programs to reinforce

building social relationships and belonging to our preschool

- L Introduced 'Cosy Cubes' for children with different calm down kits. Children have used them as a space to withdraw to or as a place to play quietly with a partner
- L Children's resilience is now more evident – more capable in solving problems, not getting as upset as previously and asserting their needs in appropriate ways
- L Educators have participated in a range of PD and have implemented a range of strategies to support children more effectively
- L The educator team has supported families in their role and provided opportunities to engage through conversations and parent information session - Managing big emotions

We have certainly made progress in each area, however we also used the day to reflect on how we can get even better ... and our next two closure days will give us the opportunity to plan for the future, based on our team's recommendations. If you have any feedback about what we can be doing better, please email Sandra or talk to one of the team.

Finally

Once again, we hope all families and friends have a happy and safe holiday and we all look forward to another busy final term starting on the 14th of October!



Dates to remember:

- Monday 14th October - Term starts for Purple Grp
- Thursday 17th October – Term starts for Green Grp
- Monday 21st October - Governing Council, 6.30pm
- Friday 25th October – Closure Day
- Monday 28th October – Closure Day
- Tuesday 5th November - Zoo Excursion Purple Group
- Friday 8th November - Zoo Excursion Green Group



Look out for your term planner which will be sent to all families with the first Kindy update in Term 4