

Playschool News

June/July



Term Dates

Term 3: July 19th - September 24th

Term 4: October 11th - December 17th

It's hard to believe it's already the end of term 2. Cold weather has settled in and it's only going to get colder!

I would like to thank all the parents who assisted with the veggie patch working bee at the end of term 2. The end result is fantastic, and the children are very excited to start planting in term 3.



Each child will get their own section of garden bed to plant out. We ask if each family could make a gold coin donation to use in the purchase of the seedlings. The children will get to choose a few different seedlings they would like to plant, water and watch grow. This will be a very rewarding experience for the children and may even produce something to take home. A reminder note will be sent home in week 1.

Playschool Program

The children have been very busy over the last couple of weeks!

Earlier in the term, we went on an Autumn walk to Duntroon maze. We had a picnic, blew bubbles, had an egg and spoon race, played with the parachute and had fun in the maze. We managed to find our way out of the maze and safely back to playschool. A big thank you to the parent helpers! There are photos on display in the foyer.

We have also been focusing on 'Our Names' and 'The Alphabet'. We have talked about the letters A B C D and currently discussing the letter E. Our names and the starting letter have been focused on this term and this will be an ongoing part of our program for terms 3 and 4. Some children are attempting to write their names and this is great. Every attempt is rewarded with positive feedback and encouragement. If your child isn't showing any interest in writing their name, that's perfectly normal. This is a skill that will develop over time. It's great to see the children recognising their names when they enter playschool.

We also had lots of fun counting different objects and singing many new songs about the alphabet, the fuzzy caterpillar, Miss Polly, and Autumn songs. We have been playing *Duck, Duck, Goose*, *Musical Chairs*, and *Frog on the Pond*, which have all been popular with the children.

This term we have focused on friendships! All children have been rewarded with a hand and placed on our friendship tree. Children are rewarded when they show positive interaction with other children. This could be in the way of sharing, taking turns, helping staff and other children, and using 'please' and 'thank you' when appropriate. Our friendship tree will be pruned at the end of this term. We expect that it will grow very quickly as we see children play and treat each other in a friendly and caring way.

Thursday's group decorated cup cakes and made pinch pots. I would like to thank Claire and Alicia for volunteering to do these activities with the children. If any other parents would like to bring a talent to our lessons, we welcome you! Just see Di or myself.

Next term the children will be introduced to the playschool bears. Each child will get a turn taking one home and reporting back to the class about their adventure. This will introduce the children to speaking in front of a group, helps build confidence and teaches them responsibility in a fun way.

Home Corner

So far this term, home corner has been a shop, a house and 'The Golden Dragon Chinese Restaurant'. All of these settings have been very popular with the children. The children have enjoyed walking around with their baskets and trolleys and selecting food to buy. The cashier has been working over time to keep up with all the customers and packing the food into bags.

In our restaurant, the children have discovered Asian cuisine, and learnt about the different utensils that are used to consume food (chop sticks). To expand on this experience, we made fried rice with the children and this was enjoyed by most.

Housekeeping

Snack. Playschool has a NO NUT policy. Please do not send any peanut products into Playschool. There are children at the centre who are allergic to nuts, so it is very important we adhere to the policy.

Thank you for packing healthy food in your child's lunch box.

Library. Our library is situated in the Playschool and children are very welcome to borrow books. There is a card system where parents can write down the name of the book they are borrowing. When the book is returned, another book can be taken home. We ask that children have a library bag to keep our books safe.

Parent books. There are some great books that the community centre has to loan out if you are interested. There are books about raising boys/girls, food, children's behaviour and many more. You are welcome to have a look and see Jenny if you would like to take one home.

Parent Helpers. There are many ways in which you can help in the Playschool. We always appreciate help in the room, taking washing home, covering books at home, or helping out at Fundraising events. To be reimbursed your parent participation levy at the end of the year, you are required to help out twice a term in Playschool, and also assist with two fundraising events per year.

Please remember to write your name on the parent roster form if you can help during the term. I encourage parents to flick through the Parent Helpers folder on the pigeon hole bench. There is a lot of information which will help you with Playschool routines and policies. We thank all the parents who have already assisted us in so many different ways.

Cold Weather. Please ensure your child brings a warm hat and coat to Playschool. We will continue to have outdoor play during winter and children will need appropriate clothing to keep warm. Di and I will assist children with their coats if they need it. Due to safety concerns, we would appreciate it if parents NOT send scarves or gloves/mittens to playschool. While climbing and playing, gloves restrict good grip, and scarves may become entangled and cause children to trip. Could you also ensure all children have a spare set of clothes in their bags, including socks and underwear.

Fundraising.

- Picture Plates- The children did an amazing job drawing on their picture plates. They tried so hard and families will enjoy receiving their plate. A delivery date will be announced next term.

Questionnaire

Thank you to all the parents who returned the questionnaires. This information has been very helpful in our programming. If you haven't returned it yet, it's not too late or if you need another copy please see Di or myself.

Folios

The children's folios are looking really good and it's great to see how they have progressed this year. I will have them on display near home corner. Feel free to have a look with your child and get them to explain what they are doing in the photos and how they did a particular craft.

Could you please keep them at the centre as we are constantly adding to them!

We are looking forward to a busy and fun Term 3

Danielle and Di