

August 2019

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### 1. Introduction- Assessment & Rating Visit

Welcome back for Term 3. We are delighted to begin the term on a very positive note, having received our **Assessment and Rating Report** indicating exceeding results in all 7 quality areas. **Congratulations to all involved and to the magnificent staff team**, my sincere thanks. How fortunate and privileged I am to lead a team which provides quality education and care all of the time not just on Assessment and Rating visit days!

Now it is time to celebrate...party time!!!!

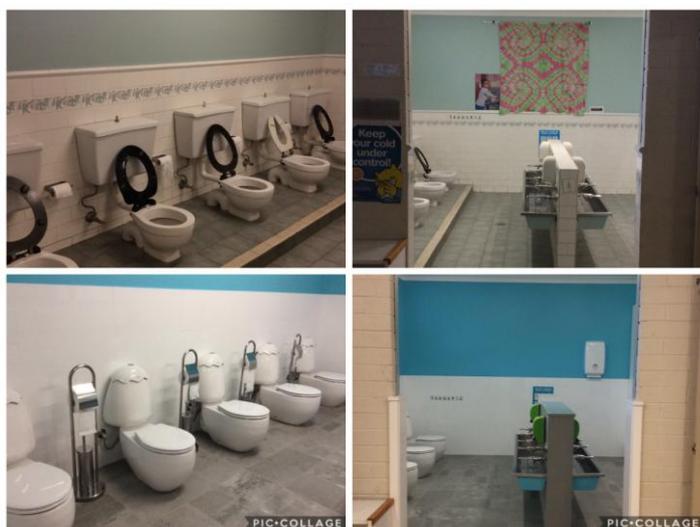


And our new **toilet facilities for the children**, don't they look bright, fresh and inviting? Another high point for this term. Our gratitude is expressed for the Department of Education \$15,000 grant that enabled us to finance this project, plus to Matt Pace and his team at Fred Rose Bathrooms for working

*Thank you to all our families for their patience over the last few weeks with completing and returning forms and permission slips. We understand and appreciate how challenging it can be at times to manage our requests.*



so efficiently with us to complete the work during the break.



Now it is back to the business of educating the children and enjoying moving from Winter to Spring.

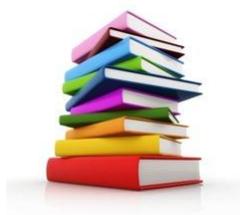
**Bye for now**  
**Rhonda**

2. **Progress with Quality Improvement Plan ( QIP) goals**

In the last newsletter I discussed progress with our Street Library/ music area/Educational Leader& Be You program.

Our next steps are.....

- To register our **Street Library** which is to be constructed by Castle Hill Men's Shed members.



Thanks to generous family donations, we have plenty of books to bring our Street Library to life!

- To consult with children as to **where to put the music area outside.**



- **Adriana** taking over the role of Educational Leader this term.
- The staff learning more about the **Be You Program** while *discussing their progress in staff meetings.*

**Team Building**, was included in our QIP because two new educators joined our team this year, Tracey and Daniela. We are learning about the 5 stages of team building as outlined by Bruce Tuckman, commencing with Forming, Storming & Norming. While our new team is coming together, nicely it is also important to

grow our understanding of team building process, so when we hit "the bumps" along the way, we will know this is normal, productive and positive.

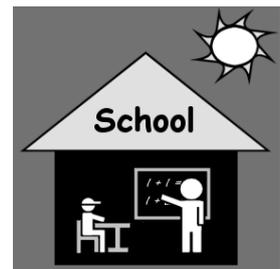
Finally, **no news on our \$10,000 grant application!** Fingers crossed for success!!

3. **Events**

The children are very happily settling back into life at preschool, excited to re-connect with friends.

Upcoming events are-

- **Transition to school visits** on August 13 & 15, information currently been distributed to families.



**Vision screening**, to be held August 20 & 23. We urge all families to include their children in this extremely valuable opportunity, which is free! Information packs and permission slips are to be distributed this week and due back by Friday Aug 16.

- Enrolments for 2020. Rhonda and Theresa will be working together over several weeks to notify new families, send out paperwork, organise meetings.

**If your child is returning in 2020, please complete paperwork distributed in week beginning July 29 and return by the due date Friday Aug 23.**

- Parent visits are welcome anytime. Refer to our calendar on the verandah outside the office and come and join us!! Please chat with your child's teacher to organise.



- **Reviewing our philosophy...QIP goals...for our next step,** forwarding a proforma to receive your **feedback on our service Mission Statement and Values**, plus your new ideas on what to include.

After reading your responses from Term 1, to our philosophy review request, I look forward to your next responses with great anticipation. Thank you!!!

#### 4. Room & Office News

##### 1. The **SAFE Series** program

The staff are now implementing the SAFE Series over 2 terms, according to the following schedule-

- \* Week beginning Aug 2: Book 1 *Sam the Safe Explorer*
- \* Week beginning Sept 2: Book 2 *Andy Learns the Undies Rule*
- \* Week beginning Oct 21: Book 3 *Fiona Finds Five Heros*
- \* Week beginning Nov 4: Book 4 *Eve Listens to Her Feelings*

We ask that families work collaboratively with us to ensure these important messages are reinforced with the children, to keep them safe.



<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/safe-series/safe-books-and-workshops>

Please **read our weekly reminders** to find out about each topic and what activities the children will be bringing home to complete with you.

By working over 2 terms we are aiming to focus on and reinforce the message in each story over **several weeks**. **Permission notes need to be completed for your child to participate.**

The first book *Sam The Explorer* will be read during the week beginning Aug 5.

2. Keeping **sick children** at home is working well. Thank you.



##### 3. **Tips for transition to school-**

###### **Tips for Independence**

Being able to do something by yourself promotes good self esteem! At meal times we encourage the children to manage their lunchboxes, undo their cling wrap, peel their fruit etc.

Here are some tips for you so that your child will become more independent especially if they are off to big school next year.

**Lunchboxes:** are they user friendly? Are little fingers strong enough



to undo the clip? Does your child know how to open it or their containers? Can they manage to pop up the lid of their drink bottle?

Maybe include a serviette in their lunchbox for juicy food, as school will probably not supply wet ones.

**What to pack?** too much food can be overwhelming, and at big school, play after lunch may be more important to your child than eating all their lunch. Perhaps packing half a sandwich as part of morning tea and half a sandwich with some extras at lunch may be an option to consider.

**Nude Food:** using smaller containers for snacks and sandwiches is being sustainable!

**Cling Wrap:** can your child find the end so they can unwrap their food?  
Hint: don't use too much and make a twist at the end or make a tab of sticky tape on the end, so it's easier to start

**Water:** is the healthy and preferred drink, can your child manage to open their drink bottle?

**Poppers:** Big poppers are often wasted – try the smaller ones. Can your child insert the straw by themselves?

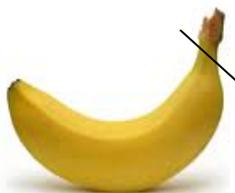


**Popcorn:** the cellophane packets often tear and spill everywhere, try putting some popcorn into a clip lock bag or a container.

**Fruit:**  
Apples are often wasted! Try sending half an apple, or look for apples in kilo bags which are usually smaller.



Bananas if they are large cut in half with the skin still on. Peeling a banana is much easier if you cut a little nick near the top.



Mandarins try Imperial mandarins as they are easier to peel and have few seeds. If you just break the skin near the top, then your child



can peel the remainder by themselves.

**Fruit Snacks:** are often hard to open and sometimes the juice spills, putting it into a smaller container and drain off a little juice makes it easier for child to eat without spills



**Yoghurt or Fruit Puree Pouches:** if you undo the lid (by breaking the seal) then re-do the lid up, your child can then twist it open.

Social Skills Kids Need is attached.

#### 4. **Staff News-**

Tracey will be returning from her travels during the week beginning Aug 12, while Hazel will be away from July 31 for 4 weeks. The Mon/Tue/Wed Kookas are embracing many changes this year with style and grace. Rita Sahlieh will replace Hazel and we thank Rebecca O'Neill for her dedicated support while Tracey has been away. I have thoroughly enjoyed my Wednesdays back with the Kookas (Rhonda) as has Rebecca.

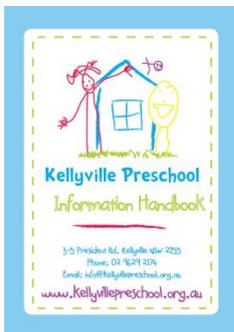
5. A massive thank you to Parent Club for organising and facilitating our movie night, to see "A Bug's Life". A very cosy, fun evening!

## 6. Mid-Year Survey

**Mid-year survey** will be distributed to families by the Management Committee and staff during August.

Your feedback is invaluable to us and will be used to guide future planning for the preschool. So, please, share your thoughts and ideas with us and return your surveys by Friday Sept 20.

## 7. Supporters Program



It is that time of the year when we want new supporters to consider joining our program for 2020.

To our current supporters, very grateful thanks for your contributions this year, which have enabled us to undertake improvement such as remodelling the locker room.

To continue our work in the community, ongoing support is necessary, so please consider your business supporting us so our families can support your business in return.

Application forms are available in the office.

Our current supporters are:

- ❖ Kellyville Optical
- ❖ Caper School of Performing Arts
- ❖ Betta Physio
- ❖ Dural Salts of the Earth
- ❖ MRB Building
- ❖ LJ Hooker

- ❖ TDIT Computer Support Services
- ❖ Sign & Image Australia

## 8. Book Week-

**BOOK WEEK** is the week beginning August 20, the theme this year being "Reading is my secret power", so we will focus on reading many stories during our story time to build our secret power.



**You're invited to visit our "Bookswap" library during book week** (or anytime) and take as many books as you would like to share the joy of reading with your children at home.



## 9. Department of Education Census

We have commenced the Department of Education Census, which requires collating requested information over two weeks, from July 29. Each year this information is used to calculate our

ongoing funding, so we thank you for consenting, during enrolment of your child, to including his or her information in the census.

## 10. **Early Learning Matters Week**

Early Learning Matters Week is on again from September 1 - 6. It's a nation-wide initiative to show how early childhood education supports the wellbeing of our children, families and society. This week includes Early Childhood Educator's Day on 4 September.

Find out more at:

[www.everyonebenefits.org.au](http://www.everyonebenefits.org.au)

## 11. **Dental Health Week**

August 5-11 to promote good dental health all the time. See attached.

