

News Letter



February 2021

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Handy hint... **Label everything** so we can ensure your child's belongings stay with them or can be returned to them if misplaced.

1. Welcome

We are delighted that you are all finally here and the children are beginning to settle and become part of our community, contributing in their own unique ways to our daily life and program.

An important word for us to remember now is ...patience...as we provide the children with the space and time to absorb and understand all that they are learning while they adjust to preschool life and what their place is within it. There is so much to learn, some they will remember and some they may need reminders and support to recall. I liken this time for them to us commencing a new job and all that this entails so we need to be realistic in our expectations for them.

Friendships take time to establish and nurture so do not anticipate your child having friends just yet but rather encourage them to play, ask others if they can join in and play, spend time alone exploring their interests while learning about each other, play with different people, be involved in all that happens at preschool. Ask, when your child is ready to talk, specific questions such as...what did you do outside or inside, was a story read and what was it about, did you join in group time or sing songs, was there

TIME SPENT
PLAYING
WITH CHILDREN
IS NEVER
WASTED
-DEW HERTZOG

dough or blocks, drawing or painting to explore.

A smooth transition from home to preschool is very much dependant on us collaborating to ensure the children's wellbeing, safety and security are maintained while they gain confidence away from home plus build relationships and develop attachments and trust with those who are caring for them. They will be tired and overwhelmed at times, happy to be here while also missing family, so we will share information with you about their days at preschool while appreciating your input from home so we can be aware of how they are feeling and managing their transition from home to preschool. Children can become upset around weeks 3 to 6 when they realise the permanency of preschool...yes, it is every week and not just a visit...including returning children too as they adjust to the changes, different educators, new children. Patience is our magic word as we remain in the present and let things unfold gradually.

A predictable and calm environment is essential to having a productive, interesting and enjoyable experience. Our time will be spent focusing fully on the children as individuals while nurturing the establishment and growth of the group of 21 special individuals that is forming, with each child being valued and respected as a part of the group to which they will belong.



With COVID-19 now very much a part of our lives, connecting with our families and building collaborative and respectful relationships will be more challenging but we will endeavour to connect with you all at drop off and pick up times, through weekly reminders and end of week

messages, newsletters and displays.

Please stay mindful of our COVID-19 messages as we share updates when they become available from NSW Health.

To stay in touch with preschool events and requests, please read all the information provided. We request that you go back and read over the information received during the enrolment process, in particular the Conditions of Enrolment, which address many important topics relevant to successful participation and understanding of your responsibilities.

Any questions or concerns can be discussed with your child's teacher or myself. Enjoy and embrace the rest of the term and please let me know if there is anything of interest you would like included in our newsletter.

Bye for now,
Rhonda



Thank you to all who have returned the *Belonging, Being Becoming* planning for our year together forms, provided on your first day this year, as the information is invaluable for planning our program, especially in term1. We also invite you to include a family photo to bring the children's families into the preschool for the children as they grow to belong to our community. Photos can be emailed to us. Please send them as an attachment, rather than embedding them into the email.

2. Meet our team



Rhonda Holland

Bachelor of Education
(Early Childhood) & Grad
Diploma Counselling
*38 years at Kellyville
Preschool*



Adriana Cester

Bachelor of Education
(Early Childhood), with many
years of experience in caring
for children in different
settings.
7th year at Kellyville Preschool



Robyn Ryan

Diploma of Teaching
*20 years at Kellyville
Preschool*



Tracey Griggs

Bachelor of Teaching (Early
Childhood), with many years'
experience in Australia and
England.
*3rd year at Kellyville
Preschool*



Rebecca O'Neill

Bachelor of Education
(Early Childhood)
*12 years at Kellyville
Preschool*



Maria Leonard

Certificate III Children's
Services
*17 years at Kellyville
Preschool*



Hazel Mason

Certificate III Children's
Services
*16 years at Kellyville
Preschool*



Ina Wylie

Certificate III Children's
Services
*20 years at Kellyville
Preschool*



Cheryl Capizzi

Certificate III Children's Services
27 years at Kellyville Preschool



Rita Sahlieh

Diploma of Children's Services
5 years at Kellyville Preschool (previous casual educator)



Tanja Ettehad

Diploma of Children's Services
2nd year at Kellyville Preschool



Daniela Cimino

Diploma of Children's Services
2 years at Kellyville Preschool



Melinda Bayly

25 years' experience in Administration, the last 12 years in Children's Services
1st year at Kellyville Preschool

3. Join our committees -

Yes, we have two of them!!

Management Committee, which is responsible for administering the service, and

Parent Club, which organises social events for families plus activities to raise the funds we need to purchase equipment for the children. Collaboration with families is an essential aspect of maintaining the community spirit for which the preschool is well known with both committees working closely with the staff to ensure families and the community are involved in decision making and program delivery.

*Elections for our new committees are held in **March** each year.*

Become an active contributor to Preschool life and join one of our Committees, such a worthwhile way to share your child's preschool experience. **How?** By coming along to the election nights in March-

Management Committee

AGM on Wednesday 3rd March at 8pm

Parent Club

Election night on Wednesday 10th March at 8pm

All are welcome, the staff will also be attending . **See you there!**

Want to know more? Information will be emailed separately.

4. Our days with the children

At the beginning of the year, our days are very much about getting to know each other while supporting the children as they adjust to preschool life and learn all that needs to be known to manage and enjoy life at preschool. It is challenging and tiring to feel safe and secure away from family with new people in a new setting. **Our days are based on a predictable routine** so the children can anticipate what will be happening and when.

We also use a wall "time chart" to visually show how the day is unfolding. For many children, this is a reassuring task that can be referred to at any time of the day as they learn to use it independently to meet their own needs.

We anticipate that each child's experience will be different and work towards accommodating individual needs while bringing the group of children together, acknowledging the uniqueness and specialness of each group as it grows and develops.

Each playroom has similar play areas available to the children to inspire open ended interaction and involvement. As the educators grow to know the children, their interests, strengths and areas to work on, new activities and provocations will be added to reflect this.

The play spaces available are:

- Book/reading area
- Blocks, construction and manipulative play
- Puzzles and games
- Art/craft and writing
- Dough and sensory play
- Imaginative play
- Outdoors experiences including gardening, sandplay, water play, gross motor tasks, home corner/dramatic play



Our special event recognised in both rooms has been the Lunar New Year. We wish you all happiness and prosperity for the year of the ox.



Information will be provided each day in various ways, outside the rooms, to keep you informed of daily happenings and experiences. Presently, photos are displayed of various aspects of the program along with written information on the *about our week* format. You are invited to take a photo of the *monthly program* and *about our week* format if you do not have time to read them, to chat about and share with your child at home.

Keep in touch by staying in touch.

If possible, please arrive by 9am to enable the children to settle into the day without rushing, to connect with others and to be part of the whole day.

The teachers are available to talk through any concerns or to answer your questions at drop off and pickup times, so we can work together to ensure each child's experience of preschool this year is the best it can be.

Working
Better
Together



5. Office News

Special requests as stated in our *Conditions of Enrolment* provided to you all during enrolment:

Meals: please label all meals as...lunch...morning tea...afternoon tea...to assist the educators in making sure your children are eating well when with us. We thank you for supporting our healthy meals and nude food program. If you are not sure what to pack for meals, chat with the staff or refer to *meal suggestions* in your enrolment information pack. There is additional information on healthy eating detailed in the *Munch and Move Padlet* which was emailed to new families in November.

Information sharing will occur regularly in various ways. We request that families read our *weekly reminder and end of week emails* to keep up to date with important information. Also refer to our newsletters/notes/displays and noticeboards for further details.

Spare clothes to be provided every day, just in case they are needed.

Invoices will be emailed to families at the beginning of each term, via Hubworks. Please read carefully and contact Melinda in the office if you have any queries or require further clarification.

"WHEN LIFE SHUTS A
DOOR ... OPEN IT AGAIN.
IT'S A DOOR. THAT'S
HOW THEY WORK."