

News Letter



June 2021

BE the reason
SOMEONE
SMILES
TODAY.

This issue:

1. Introduction...Thank you for joining us
2. Current events
3. Parent/Teacher meetings
4. Our supporter's program...critical to our success and viability
5. News from the rooms
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1. Introduction...



Thank you to all the mums/grandparents who attended our **Mother's Afternoons**, the children being so very excited to have you here in "their space", many taking their mums on a guided tour of the playground to show them their favourite places to play. We were thrilled to have our mums back with us too as COVID restrictions were once again reduced.

Our **Working Bee** and **Parent Information Evening** on transitioning to school provided opportunities for our teachers, educators and families to come together in very different capacities to work towards achieving important outcomes for the children.

Our playground was a picture after all who could attend worked hard from 7.30am to 10.30am to add fresh sand to the sandpit and mulch to much of the play spaces and gardens, the verandah and verandah shed were gurneyed until both spaces



were sparkling, unwanted materials and items were thrown out into a skip, all the outdoor furniture was re-stained, gardening tasks such as pruning and weeding were attended to, the pole protectors were scrubbed back to almost new condition, plus the pebbles in the rock/boat area were topped up.

The parent evening organised by the teachers to share information about transitioning to school was well attended, providing the opportunity to discuss...how and why we plan our preschool program and then record the children's progress, the value of learning through play, the *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)* and the relevance of our program to preparing for school, what to consider when deciding if your child is ready for school (such as what practical skills they will need to manage the events of each day, the developmental areas that need to be considered, in particular social and emotional development), the relevance of literacy and numeracy in early education (this is more than being able to rote count to 10 and recite the alphabet), what we can do together to support a smooth transition and finding out from the school your child will be attending what their requirements are and how their orientation program will unfold.



Over the remainder of the year, we will be working with you to support a smooth transition to school which will include sharing resources and information through weekly reminders, newsletters and displays. Each child and family will have a different transition to school experience, and this will be very much accounted for in our planning with and for the children.

We will also be putting together a [Padlet](#) containing transition to school information which will be emailed to families to use as a reference during your transition to school journey. We sincerely thank everyone who was able to participate in these events for supporting our work to always benefit the children and their families.

Bye for now,
Rhonda



The preschool achieved exceeding in QA 6 collaborative partnerships with families and community, and will continue to ensure working with families and community groups such as schools will remain embedded in our practice and reflected in our service value, partnerships: working collaboratively with the children, their families, the members of staff and the wider community, to create an inclusive care and education environment in which all participate in decision making.

2. Current events and happenings

Always read our weekly reminders to keep up to date with preschool events and happenings...



- **SAFE series** commenced WB May 24. Please read the *About our week* information displayed outside each playroom for regular updates on what story each group is reading and use the information on each story, initially distributed with the permission slip, to discuss each topic with your child when completing the take home worksheets we will be providing.
- **Hearing testing** will take place on June 15 and 18, for those children whose parents have returned the permission slip and paid the \$35 fee for service.
- **The last day for term 2 will be June 25**, when we will open our doors in the evening for our **Movie Night**, which is being organised by our Parent Club committee. The preschoolers and one parent will be invited to attend our screening of "The Secret Life of Pets". Come along for a fun evening!
Payment is due by Friday, 18th June.



The first day for term 3 will be Monday, July 12.

- During the July term break we will be having the **playground developed to include multicultural garden spaces** representing the diversity of our preschool community. This project has been made possible by the receipt of QLE grant funds from the Department of Education and we cannot wait to see the final outcome! We thank Mark Cronshaw from "Scaped to Perfection" for undertaking the work for us.
- And in term 3, we are looking forward to a visit by a local dentist (to talk with the children about dental health and hygiene), vision screening, a walking excursion to Kellyville Public School for children going to school in 2022, an evening at preschool for our dads plus our annual obstacle-a-thon/games day.



3. Parent/teacher meetings

These meetings are organised to review the children's progress over the last 6 months to then plan together for their learning over the remainder of the year. Families have the option of a meeting in person or over the phone. Please be prepared with any questions so a comprehensive and meaningful 15 minute discussion can take place.



4. Our Supporter's program

Each year our Parent Club public to contribute to our which involves paying an advertise their business ways. This program connects bringing funds into the

Supporting



Others

on our families to raise all the funds required to provide equipment for the children and to maintain the premises and grounds. We are extremely grateful for their support in providing quality early childhood education and encourage you to access their services if suited to your needs. Our current supporters are:

committee invites members of the service by becoming a sponsor, annual or 6-monthly fee to through the preschool, in various us to the local community while preschool, alleviating the pressure

- Pure Plumbing Professionals
- Tattersalls Real Estate
- Coulter Swimming
- Caper School of Performing Arts
- Ace Body Corporate Management
- H & C Professional Cleaning
- Kellyville Supersonics
- Lux Dental, North Kellyville
- SJJA JiuJitsu Academy
- Starr Partners Kellyville
- The Temple Skin Care and Spa
- Kellyville Pets
- Abrakadoodle Beaumont Hills
- Sign + Image Australia
- Little Kickers Hills District

5. News from the rooms

In QA 1, educational program and practice, we achieved a rating of exceeding, reflecting our commitment to maintaining and now extending on, our current practice to ensure best outcomes for the children based on programming for their ideas, interests, strengths and challenges.



"About our week" is available to families outside each playroom, as one way to stay in touch with daily events and activities. Let us know if the information is relevant to you!
Thank you for contributing!!



More than a word. Reconciliation takes action.



In recognition of National Reconciliation Week, we ask families to take special note of the Aboriginal art that was created by Uncle Paul to represent the preschool community and its place within the local community. Aunty Jeannie's drawing of our preschool story is displayed in the cabinet to the left of the front door.



NEWS FROM THE KOOKAS

(Thur/Fri Group)

The Kookaburras have quickly settled this term and are forming friendships with other children who share their interests.

Our Pre-school routines are becoming part of the day and we have seen a growth in the children's independence. We are encouraging this in all aspects of the day, including at mealtimes, in their play where they can make their own choices and to 'have a go' at activities and opportunities, especially those that present as challenging.

During the day, the Kookaburras have enjoyed constructing and working with friends. Sharing ideas, co-operating and negotiating happens frequently. Block play has seen fantastic roads, buildings and cities. Loose parts, such as coloured stones, natural wooden logs and our rainbow have enhanced their play. At our art and craft areas, interest has been in drawing and box collage. Provision of individual palettes for painting at the easel and the table has allowed the children to select their paint and their brushes. Some children even enjoy working together on the same artwork where again a sharing of ideas is evident.

With the perfect weather we have been having, the children are making the most of our wonderful playground and spending time exploring the garden for insects and small creatures, especially worms! The sandpit continues to be a popular choice and with



the introduction of more pipes, we have seen experimentation, trial and error and much problem solving as the children endeavour to run water through the pipes to make a pool. They have also been discovering different types of seed pods, noticing the leaves which are beginning to change colour, challenging themselves with the climbing equipment, their own designed obstacle courses or with the crash mats.

In small groups we have been working with the children in areas of gross motor development, as part of our Fundamental Movement Skills program. This program is part of our Munch and Move program and is when individual skills are targeted and taught. Also in small groups, we have been focusing on turn taking skills, visual discrimination, fine motor skills and always - language and communication.

In large group times, we love to warm up with our exercise app...our "alien" encourages us to run, jump and shadow box among other things. We are learning our Acknowledgement of Country and have lots of discussions about Australia. It is amazing to engage in these conversations with the children as they already know so much! Our favourite songs are "Happy as Larry" and "The Goldfish" and we all enjoy dancing to songs where we "Bop till You Drop". We look forward to more musical experiences with the children.

We are enjoying following the children's interests and look forward to further exploring these interests and opportunities.

Bye for now...Robyn, Rita and Cheryl.



News from the
Emu Room

Play is our
favourite way of
LEARNING
Diane Ackerman

A child's drawing of a girl with a large, smiling face, wearing a pink flower crown and a purple top. The drawing is simple and colorful.

The children have increasingly displayed their continued independence as they have been verbally instructed, encouraged and guided by their Teachers and Educators to unpack and pack their belongings at preschool from day one, term 1. We have noticed a sense of pride and accomplishment as most children now need no prompting when they arrive at preschool to unpack their belongings, unzip their bags, place their food containers and

hat where they need to go and proceed to wash their hands before they enter the playroom to start their day. Children who started the year unable to unzip their bags, are now able to manoeuvre that tricky zipper, and they have worked out how to hold their bag steady with their free hand. Watching this unfold over the terms 1 and 2 has proven that every child has the ability to succeed when given the chance to, at their own pace.

We have noticed that some of the children are carrying their food containers into the class room and parents are taking their water bottles from their bags and placing them onto the water trolley. Can we please ask that you allow your child to place their water bottle onto the water trolley and that their food containers stay in their bags. As the children are preparing to transition to primary school, it will be very helpful if they LEARN to differentiate what containers are for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea and LEARN where these containers are to be placed. Their confidence in doing this will be a small yet significant step towards a great outcome of independence and readiness for school.

PACK AWAY YOUR PLAY BEFORE YOU MOVE AWAY – is what the children have been LEARNING and hearing, encouraging the children to clean their area of play when they have finished, leaving it respectfully for their peers to use. During these past few weeks we have seen the children make this decision and also remind each other to do so. Small groups have been used since term 1 to instil this practice of respecting our environment, our resources and each other. Well done Emus.



Thank you for joining us at our Mother's Afternoon. The children were excited to show you their Football skills and their areas of play in our garden. We were so grateful to be able to welcome you into the preschool. It has been so long due to COVID-19. Hills Football has been a weekly lesson that the children have embraced. It has taught the children to listen to others, to play in a team, to LEARN new skills of balance, spatial awareness, hand-eye co-ordination and ball skills.

Acknowledgement is a part of our LEARNING. Being grateful to play and learn on Darug land and caring for and respecting Mother

Here is the land, and here is the sky. Here are my friends and here am I. We thank the Darug people for the land on which we play and learn. Hands up, hands down, we're on Darug ground.

Earth. An Emu friend has taught us an Acknowledgement of Country that she was taught elsewhere. We have made this a part of our day, reciting it each morning.

We continue to start our day with the Cha Cha Slide. When the children hear the music, they are invited to join in. We have slowly LEARNT the Cha Cha and steps to this song, listening to the instructions and following the beat and tempo. We are also LEARNING left and right, and forward and backward.

After discussions on how to decorate the verandah, we explored paper craft and the technique of papier mâché. Following the steps, and realising it takes many weeks for the final outcome of our decoration to be finished. Covering a balloon with paper dipped in glue, waiting for it to dry, adding many layers and painting our paper craft and finally hanging our decoration under the verandah! We have continued this idea with making paper bowls, and now we are collecting used paper for another paper craft technique that we will explore in the coming weeks and into term 3.

The children have been introduced to their name cards. Enabling the children to LEARN to recognise their name, LEARN the letters in their name, and LEARN how to write their name, with the first letter being a capital letter and the remaining letters being in lower case. The name cards are used during transitions to direct each child's attention to the Teacher who is speaking, to encourage listening and processing skills.

Outside the children have taken control of their play areas by designing obstacle courses, using beams, balance boards, ladders, stepping stones and mats. Each day the area has looked different, with the children using their developing verbal skills as they interact and LEARN to negotiate their play spaces and LEARN how to contribute to the design, its purpose and their play. The children have been challenging themselves, and their developing abilities to climb and balance.



*"Play gives children the chance to practice what they are LEARNING."
Fred Rodgers*

Puzzles, building, science, and craft activities continue to arouse the children's curiosity as well as music, songs, dance and books. We focus on RESPECT, listening, inclusiveness, acceptance and "speaking with kindness in your voice."

As we step into term 3 our focus will be on the children's continued LEARNING and their transition to school. Working with you to support your child on their path of continued development and growth.



Adriana, Ina, Daniela and Rebecca (Thursday Teacher).

News from the Kookaburra Room (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday)



It is so fantastic to see our Kookaburra group all settled into Preschool life. Friendships have been formed and we are all used to, and are following, the daily routine - showing awareness of what will be happening next. We are so proud of how independent the children have become with looking after their belongings and putting them where they need to be, all on their own. What a brilliant skill to have in preparation for big school. Let's keep it going Kooka's!

Recently we have been exploring and investigating space. After joining in with the Simultaneous story time read to us from an astronaut on the International Space Station, we investigated and discovered lots of Space facts. These included the planets in the Solar System, rockets, the Moon and watching astronauts floating and walking in Space. We pretended we were astronauts too, taking giant steps across the garden.

You may have noticed our afternoon dance party that has become very popular in the bottom corner of the garden at the end of the day. The children have been very keen to join in with their dance moves to some of their favourite songs, which has been a fun way to finish our day.

We have also been enjoying a variety of games with rules. These have included: memory games, lotto, snap, noughts and crosses, snakes and ladders, head bands and more. We often play these in the afternoon, in small groups and when there is wet weather. We always have many keen participants, and it is a good way to encourage turn taking,

working together, discussion, problem solving, counting, fine motor skills, following rules, negotiating and accepting the fact that sometimes in these games we might lose. Maybe we could show you some of the games we play at preschool.

In term 1 we were very interested in using tweezers to pull out seeds from a sunflower head. In a group time discussion, we came up with the suggestion to plant some seeds that would grow in the Winter and we came up with beans. We planted some bean seeds in one of our garden beds and have been amazed at how quickly they have grown! It has become a measurement experience as we observe and compare how much our bean plants have grown since the last time we looked at them. Hopefully we'll have some beans soon too.



Tracey, Hazel and Maria

