

News Letter



March 2021

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I don't mean to brag, but I put together a puzzle in 1 day and the box said 2-4 years.

Cool Funny Quotes.com

1. **Introduction.**

Congratulations to our two committees.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate our two newly elected committees for 2021. After a strong attendance, a new **Management Committee**, (to be responsible for working with the staff to administer the service whilst being a voice for families in decision making), was elected on March 3 and **Parent Club**, (which will organise some social events and the sourcing of funds to purchase equipment for the children), began to form on March 10. The Management Committee executive committee are:

- **President:** Rob Weisback
- **Vice President:** Peter Finch
- **Treasurer:** Venkatesh Narayanan
- **Secretary:** Janani Peiris



Although 4 parents joined us on March 10, Parent Club could certainly benefit from additional members. If you are interested, please email us of your interest and come along to the first Parent Club meeting here on **Wednesday, 22nd April at 7.30pm.**

Parent
C L U B

I look forward to collaborating with both groups to maintain and grow our program to benefit the children and their families.

Collaborating with families is critical to our success and very much valued in our preschool community, for bringing our philosophy to life and ensuring we honour our Mission Statement and Values. **Please read** the service handbook, provided to all families on their first day this term, to learn more about our preschool's history and commitment to working together, as reflected in our Mission Statement:

We connect, we imagine, we create, we grow.

Together we are Kellyville Preschool.

Looking forward to sharing 2021 with you all. And remember, to stay informed of service procedures and events please read your Conditions of Enrolment, received during enrolment, plus our weekly reminders, notices and newsletters.

Bye for now,
Rhonda

2. **Focus on:**

Routines and transitions. Everyday, we use transitions and routines, in family life, work, socially. When to get up, what to do first, how to be on time, when to have meals/ go to work/ school/ play sport/ do homework and housework/go to bed for a good night's sleep...

At preschool, routines and smooth transitions are critical to the way our days unfold for the children, families and staff. They provide stability and reassurance, predictability and comfort without being too restrictive, allowing opportunities for spontaneity with a secure base to return to.

When organising our days, we place great value and importance on planning smooth transitions and routines, especially in term 1, from the moment you arrive and hand your children into our care, until we say goodbye at the end of the day. The smooth transition from home to preschool and preschool to home is essential to providing comfort and security to the children, especially during their first days at preschool.

During first term in particular routines are at the top of our priority list when programming a successful day, as they provide a secure and reassuring place from which the children can predict the flow of the day and know how the day will unfold. Smooth transitions throughout the day are also significant as we support the children to move between activities, make positive play choices, move from play to rest to lunch and then back to play again, to move from inside to outside to inside again or into group time.

Transitions and routines provide wonderful opportunities for learning.

Children's lives are so commonplace transitions require changes and charged, from



filled with change and transitions that they often go unnoticed. However, all children to adapt or cope with the sometimes these can be emotionally exciting to happy to overwhelming and

difficult. So, it is important for us to understand these emotional ups and downs and be there to support the children as they negotiate the many transitions and routines of daily life.



For example, our **mealtimes at preschool** provide the opportunity to learn about why eating healthy foods benefits our health and wellbeing as we talk about **everyday and sometimes foods, plus nude foods**, while learning **mealtime behaviours** such as:

- Sitting down quietly to eat, for safety (eg reduce the risk of choking) and to also socialise and connect with others
- Making choices about what to eat first, taking small bites and chewing foods before swallowing, finishing one mouthful/food before commencing another
- Chewing food well to aid digestion and finishing chewing and swallowing before talking
- Talking and listening to others in between eating
- Only touching your own food
- Enjoying and respecting the company of others while eating
- Staying seated until the mealtime is finished before putting lids back on containers and packing away belongings
- Having a drink to the **swish and swallow**, a simple way of cleaning teeth
- Knowing which scraps to place in the compost or waste bins
- (and growing to) understand why these above behaviours are important.

So, value routines and transitions as they provide rich opportunities for learning while bringing security and comfort into our busy, everyday lives.

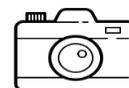
(available in our Parent Library...*Transitions in children's everyday lives*. By Linda J Harrison)

3. Events.

- Hills Football each week on Tuesday and Friday mornings. We are thrilled to see the children wearing their uniforms, while watching their ball skills develop in a fun way.
- March 9 and 12 (rescheduled to 6th May), thank you to Hills Council for enabling us to participate in the **Litter Litter Everywhere** program, through which we



learn about the 3 bins provided for rubbish collection and what each is for, why we put rubbish in the bin and what can happen if



we don't, and recycling. Lucy, a giant cockroach, was introduced to the children when learning that cockroaches play a part in keeping our rainforests clean.

- Tuesday March 16 and Friday March 19 **school photos**. The children were invited to wear their preschool shirt or their football uniform for individual and group photos, which will be available to families in early Term 2. Payment is made after receiving your photo pack. Refer to attached information regarding when you will receive your photos, when payment is due and how payment can be made.
- **Munch and Move Adventure Book**, which is being organised by Hazel, Daniela and Rita and involves families participating in our healthy lifestyle program.
- **Harmony Day** celebrations on Monday March 22 and Thursday March 25. **Don't forget, the children can wear orange on these days!!**
- Learning about **Holi, Iranian New Year, Easter** and how people celebrate these events.
- **Preschool term break**. The last day for term 1 will be Thursday April 1 (Good Friday being April 2) with preschool to resume for term 2 on April 19.
- The first special event for term 2 will be the **Magic Craig Show** on Tuesday April 20 and Thursday April 22, a fun and magical way to learn about life at preschool.
- Library will commence in term 2 as well and we will give you further details then.



4. **Learning emergency procedures**

As discussed with Rhonda during your enrolment meeting, **emergency procedures are rehearsed** with the children at least 4 times a year, to ensure the educators can work with the children promptly and efficiently to stay safe should an emergency event occur. Specific policies and procedures are in place to provide consistency for all in what actions to take in such circumstances. Over several weeks in term 1 the educators will be working with the children to learn the procedures we follow to protect all who are on the premises should an emergency arise. Specific techniques will be taught, and terms discussed, such as

- **get down low and go go go** to crawl out of the building under the smoke should there be a fire, plus
- **drop and roll** to put out fire on clothing.
- **evacuation and lockdown**
- **emergency assembly point**, our safe meeting places outside



Please find attached **learning emergency procedures**, so you can follow along with us.

5. News from the playrooms

Kookaburra Room

(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Group)



It has been lovely getting to know our new friends in the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Kookaburra group.

One of the things we have noticed our group really enjoy is dancing! We usually start our group times with some music and movement. Some songs we really enjoy are from the Munch and Move program and they have actions we need to follow focussing on fundamental movements. We have decided to learn a different song and a movement each week and so far, we have practiced marching, twisting, big arm movements and jumping.

We have used our group times to get to know each other. One activity was singing the Bumble Bee song. We passed a bee toy around the circle and as we held it, we told the group our name. It was a great opportunity to learn each other's names but also encouraged us to talk in front of the group.

In the past few weeks, we have been busy exploring our beautiful outdoor area. One interest we have observed is in the variety of wildlife living there. After noticing some spiders and webs, we had a group time looking at the spider chart and discussed how some spiders can be dangerous, so it is best to look and not touch any of them. Recently we have discovered another creature living in our garden - worms! A lot of our time outdoors is spent looking for worms and observing them closely. We talked about why worms are good for our soil and gardens and how it is very important that after we have looked at them, we put them back in the garden and wash our hands.

As well as worms, we have been looking at other ways to be sustainable and care for our environment. We have been making sure we use all of our paper before taking it home or recycling it. We have also been sorting our food and fruit scraps to put into our compost bins to later feed to our garden - and worms!

We have been preparing for some gardening in our outdoor area. Tracey brought in some sunflower heads from her garden, and we have used tweezers to pull out the seeds. It's been a fantastic fine motor and hand muscle strengthening activity. We will be planting the seeds and we are keen to see what will happen to them.

Another topic we have been discussing has been about everyday, and sometimes foods. We have read stories and done sorting activities deciding what foods are good for us and helpful for our bodies to grow and be strong. We have also talked about the importance of drinking water. A lot of our conversations at meal times have been about healthy eating.

So far, a lovely start to the year. We are looking forward to more discoveries and developing interests and ideas together.

Tracey, Hazel and Maria.

NEWS FROM THE KOOKAS (Thursday/Friday Group)



Welcome to our families for 2021. We are enjoying getting to know you and your children and are looking forward to sharing the experiences and development of your children with you. The children are settling in well and have been actively discovering the pre-school environment. We have noticed a growth in their independence and encourage them to 'have a go' and to do things for themselves. Caring for their belongings, putting their artwork on the drying racks, and learning to pack away after play are only some important areas of independence.

Friendships are beginning to develop as the children become more confident in the preschool environment. Play situations allow for much interaction but at this early stage, friendships can change according to play interests. We have been chatting with the children about ways to join in play and displaying kindness towards others.

During the term we have enjoyed watching and working with the children to provide experiences which support and extend on their interests, their ideas, and their needs. The children have shown much interest in painting including painting their hands for handprints! Discovering various items on our collage shelf has also led to much cutting and pasting, with an interest in making lily pads! Play dough has been a social area of the room, where the children chat, share ideas with each other and get to know one another. Construction activities are very popular, with Duplo, Mobilo, Clever Sticks and Magnatile construction seeing our Kookaburras having to work together, share and negotiate. Being respectful of another person's construction and learning to be considerate of each other has been a focus, particularly in our construction area.

Our time outside has allowed the children the opportunity to explore the environment, discovering the sandpit, role-playing in home corner, and challenging themselves with climbing and balancing activities. We have had helpers watering our gardens and planting flowers in our fairy garden...a request from some of our children. We are looking forward to starting our vegetable planting very soon. Our Friday soccer program is keenly looked forward to by most of the children and we are enjoying learning new skills and joining in the games as the Kookaburra team!

At group time we have sung some favourite songs and learned some new ones. The children are enjoying dancing and movement. "The Counting Song" and our "Wombat Wobble" dances are great for us to actively join in, and our funny song "Happy as Larry" is often being sung throughout the day as the children are playing. We are learning some finger plays as well - little rhymes which help us to strengthen and learn to isolate our fingers. Big books with visual aids are enjoyed at story time.

At this stage we are concentrating on encouraging the children to feel secure at Pre-school, to become familiar with the routines of the day and to cope with the transitions and the actual length of the day. We are looking forward to sharing experiences and learning with your children...

Robyn, Rita and Cheryl.

Emu Room News

What an exciting time of the year. Welcoming new families to Kellyville Preschool and welcoming returning families too. We have been so happy getting to know you all and spending time and getting to know your children. The children have settled well and are getting used to the routines and program of their day. There is so much to learn and to remember that we are sure they are coming home exhausted 😊

Due to COVID-19 and guidelines from NSW Health, families have not been able to enter the playrooms. This has not stopped the children from taking that big step forward, saying bye to you and walking into the Emu room to start their day. Learning self-help skills commenced on day 1 with the unpacking of bags, putting belongings where they belong and learning to wash hands effectively using our "magic taps" (they turn off by themselves after 2 mins). It continued with the children learning to pack their belongings throughout the day, remembering their very own locker and sorting their lunch from their morning tea and from their afternoon tea. So much to remember. All the while, the teachers have been there, standing by your child's side, supporting, and guiding them through this huge transition in their little lives. We are, as I am sure you are, so very proud of what they have achieved in only a few short weeks.

The visual board has been a great resource, used daily to go through what we do in a day at Kellyville Preschool. It outlines the routine and helps the children prepare for what is ahead. Many of the children use it to help them understand how far mummy is, or if their tummies are a little rumbly, how soon is lunch!

We enjoy starting our day getting together and singing some songs and talking about what we will be doing. Showing the children what resources are available and how to use them in a respectful and caring way. We sing "hello and how are you," and say each of our names as we greet each other, helping the children (and educators 😊) learn each other's names. We then count how many friends are with us. All the children are encouraged to count along, while listening and learning the name of numbers, rote counting and addition/subtraction as we work out if any friends are not with us for the day.

Games are set up for children to learn co-operative play, turn taking and learning rules of play. A matching game has been used which is helping the children with their memory skills, and the pictures used for discussions on fruit, vegetables, colours, and positioning. The easel has been a buzz of creativity with the children choosing their own paint colours, mixing paints, and painting expressive and beautiful paintings. We have had fun making playdough each Monday and Wednesday, using mathematical concepts when measuring, estimating quantities, and dividing the playdough between friends. Puzzles have been a wonderful way for the children to collaborate and work together, and the Duplo table has seen houses, buildings and dinosaur parks being built.



Outside we have had fun learning how to throw a frisbee. This has seen many children get to know each other, and also children from the Kookaburra room. We have been challenging our throwing ball skills, trying to get a ball in a hoop up high, and the mixing of water and dirt in the mud kitchen sees the children getting a bit muddy but having so much fun at the same time 😊

What a way to start the year! We look forward to the remainder of the year and the fun we will continue to have in playing, learning and growing 😊

Adriana, Ina, Daniela, and Rebecca (Thursday teacher)

6. Office News

- Scholastic Book Club catalogues are being handed out this week. We encourage you to have a look through the catalogue with your child and even older siblings, as they may benefit in finding new and exciting books that they would like to read. For every order that is placed by our families with Scholastic Book Club, our preschool is rewarded with free books and resources which benefit all of the children. The catalogues also contain resources for upcoming celebrations, and there are also lots of wonderful gift ideas to be found. Should you wish to place an order, please pay online via credit card as per the instructions on the last page of the catalogue, and please place your orders by Monday, 22nd March at the latest. Items ordered will be delivered directly to the preschool and will be handed out to families during drop off or pick up. We usually have a couple of catalogues per term, so keep an eye out in your child's bag!



NO ONE HAS MORE
ON THEIR TO-DO LIST
THAN A TODDLER
AT BEDTIME