

News Letter



October 2021

This issue:

1. Introduction. Welcome back
2. What we were doing while you were away
3. Our calendar for term 4
4. Our program and transitioning to school
5. Office news



Introduction

Welcome back everyone! We have been so looking forward to the children returning, to motivate and inspire us with their enthusiasm, energy, and excitement for life. They are eagerly re-connecting with their friends, us, and the environment, which has changed in their absence, while still having familiar and much-loved spaces to return to.

We were very busy here during term 3 and early term 4, most importantly working with the children who needed to attend while researching and compiling our [KookaEmu Connect](#) to continue our program through remote learning.

So, what else were we doing while you were away?



➤ [thoroughly cleaning the whole preschool](#), re-arranging all our storerooms, and clearing clutter. It was amazing what we re-discovered!! This led to us doing an inventory of all stock too.

➤ [working on our QIP goals](#). The whole staff team researched [Child Safe](#) which was developed by the Office of the National Children's Commissioner. (A Child Safe Organisation creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is at the centre of thoughts, values and actions.) This involved unpacking the 10 standards to acknowledge the policies and practices that we have in place while also creating a follow up list of



areas to action in 2022. A service Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Code of Conduct were also developed.

The staff team also began to explore the concept of a **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)** which will be an ongoing project. Information about our previous and current association with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has been recorded, the next step being to create our service Vision for Reconciliation, which we are slowly pulling together to ensure it reflects our unique reasons for wanting to establish a service RAP.

- completing **enrolment procedures for 2022**.
- **professional learning** through online programs. The staff were often **working from home** and during this time were able to pursue professional learning opportunities along with other tasks that could be completed off-site
- **signs were made to display in our new garden spaces**, which included information about each garden space...oriental, cottage, tropical, yarning circle, and tepee...to be shared with the children during day-to-day play experiences.
- **Transition to School Statements** were completed by the teachers, (based on their time with your children in terms 1 and 2), who will be providing a copy to each family for their child over the next couple of weeks. This can then be shared with the school during your child's Orientation. **Children returning to preschool will also receive a summary of learning.**
- completely updating our **Material Safety Data Sheets** for products used at the preschool, and our **Hazardous Substance Register**.
- **organising for new turf to be laid** and well-established by the time the children returned, installing **new lighting** on the verandah, having the **air conditioning professionally cleaned** and performing **maintenance tasks** all while the children were not here, including during the term break.
- commencing planning for end of year activities and the children returning.



We were extremely busy in your absence and grateful we could take advantage of the opportunity to achieve so much which would benefit the children and maintain and further build a safer, brighter more interesting and inviting environment for them on their return.

Our term 4 Calendar

We are thrilled to be able to plan an interesting and fun end of the year calendar of events for the children during term 4! Even though we will be unable to have several of our favourite events such as our end of year family picnic, we have planned to end the children's year on a high note. We will also be welcoming the 2022 families through visits for orientation that have been planned with consideration of COVID-19 guidelines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In November...

Date	Event
Tuesday 2	Hearing tests catch up from term 2 (relevant families have been contacted)
Tuesday 9	Kellyville Public School Teacher will visit to talk with the children about what happens in a Kindy Day.
Thursday 11	Kellyville Public School Teacher will visit to talk with the children about what happens in a Kindy Day.
From Monday 15 to Thursday 26 November	Open Week visits for 2022 families
Tuesday 22	Vision Screening (more information to follow)
Thursday 25	Vision Screening (more information to follow)
Tuesday 30	Dress up party day for the children to celebrate the end of our year together (MT and MTW groups)

In December...

Thursday 2	Dress up party day for the children to celebrate the end of our year together (TF and WThF groups)
Friday 10	Bop 'Til You Drop disco at 1.30 (TF and WThF groups)
Monday 13	Bop 'Til You Drop disco at 1.30 (MT and MTW groups)
Tuesday 14	Last day of term and year MT group
Wednesday 15	Last day of term and year MTW group
Thursday 16	Last day of term and year TF and WThF groups
Friday 17	Pupil Free Day for staff

Don't forget to register, as **soccer** commences the week beginning November 1!



Our dress up party day will involve the two groups enjoying an end of year celebratory morning tea and then a special show in the afternoon. The children can choose whether they wish to dress up and what they would like to wear, which could include dressing up for Christmas. We will provide morning tea treats to go with the children's own morning teas. Parent Club will be working with us to provide special treats for this day plus our **Bop' Til you Drop** disco day too. Due to COVID-19 restrictions for gatherings and advice from the Department of Education on visitors to services /large gatherings, we will be unable to hold events for families this year, our focus being on having fun with the children, safely.



Our program for term 4



Re-connecting with the children and supporting their learning, after a long absence for most, will be central to all our decision-making and planning this term. Even for those children who needed to attend during lockdown, the preschool environment was very different to when all the children are here, so they had adjustments to make before now returning to our regular program.

We are intentionally guiding them through the return, reinforcing and re-establishing guidelines for safe and considerate play, ensuring each individual child feels safe and secure once more in the preschool environment away from their families, while being mindful of how they are re-establishing their friendships and relationships with each other. They are small steps, day by day.

After being members, group will be Drawing on indicates children **freeplay**, we the children engage in on a task



at home with only family being back in a large daunting for some. research that repeatedly that play is how young best learn, through will encourage and guide to make decisions , self-directed play, focus until complete, to work independently or cooperatively in a small group, express their thoughts and ideas respectfully to others, listen to and accept the opinions of others, negotiate and problem solve, turn-take and share, be considerate and thoughtful, plus extend and enhance their own learning with prompts and challenges from Educators. Being able to think for themselves and work through their own challenges with minimal adult support are

essential skills to learn, especially for going off to school when there will be one Teacher and 20 to 30 children in a Class. We will promote exploring their own ideas and expressing their thoughts creatively through their work, whether art and Craft, block construction, gross and outdoor play, science, maths, role play or dramatic play. For example, if someone is interested in making a flower, we will explore what sort of flower they want to make and what materials are available to achieve the goal, rather than saying “this is how you make a flower”. This is referred to as child initiated, adult guided play.

We will work with them to resolve conflict in their play and to be respectful towards others and resilient when things don't go exactly as they had planned, which will be beneficial when in a large playground at school.

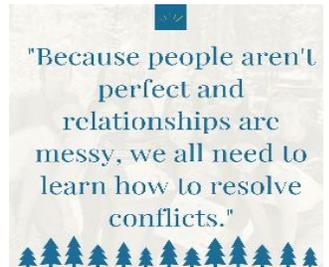
While supporting the children emotionally and socially through this significant transition back into a large group, we will also be mindful of reinforcing and developing the skills they will need when at school.

We will re-commence the SAFE series while also working in small groups to develop and practice skills across all developmental and learning areas.

Transition to school discussions will take place which will be reinforced by our visits from Kellyville Public School teachers. We will create photo displays with the children so they can see who is going to which school and who might be going to the same school as them. The children returning to preschool will be included in the

display. School props will be added to the play environment such as school uniforms in dress ups, pens, and paper at desks, set up as in a Classroom.

Being confident, independent, resilient, and enthusiastic learners will be critical to a positive start to school and return to preschool in 2022. That is why developing social and emotional skills during the preschool years is so important.



From the office

- The Scholastic Book Club issue 7 catalogue is being handed out this week to all families at afternoon pick up. This is a bumper issue with lots of great ideas for Christmas gifts, including cook books and craft. Orders can be done online at home and the books will be delivered to the preschool and distributed to the families when they arrive.
- Term 4 fee invoices are due to be paid in full by this Friday, 29th October. Please let Melinda in the office know if you have any queries or concerns regarding your invoice.

