



## NEWSLETTER

March 2011

### Dates for the Diary

<b>21-25 March</b>	Harmony Week at Preschool, celebrating Australia's cultural diversity
<b>22 March (Tue)</b>	Family Night at Preschool – 5.30-7.00pm
<b>26 March (Sat)</b>	State Election Cake Stall – drop-off or buy some treats while you vote
<b>3 April (Sun)</b>	Working Bee at Preschool – weeding, poisoning weed-growth, oiling fort, stage, bridge, tree seat. Sign up sheet will be up soon.
<b>5 April (Tue)</b>	Parent Committee Meeting at Preschool – 7.00pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to be involved with the running of the preschool. Come and get involved – it would be great to see some new faces!
<b>8 April (Fri)</b>	End of Term 1
<b>27 April (Wed)</b>	Start of Term 2
<b>4 May (Wed)</b>	Mother's Night at Preschool – 5.30-7.00pm. More information to follow soon.

### Director's Report

As we near the end of Term 1, I look back and see how it has just flown. We have been so busy getting to know the children.

I note as I walk around the preschool each day that the children are, by-and-large, settled in and enjoying their days. We look forward to the next couple of weeks, enjoying Harmony Week next week to celebrate diversity, followed by Easter celebrations in the last week before the holidays. We will be focusing on celebrations from around the world so if you have any specific Easter traditions from your family or culture that you wish to share with us, please let us know as we would love to incorporate them where possible.

On the topic of lending a helping hand, I would like to thank Kathy Batt, Bettina Warne, Sharone French, Mel Sweeney & Lauren Evans for covering books. Thanks again to Mark Woszczalski for his inspiring artwork, Mike Contre for his carpentry work and Heather James for her ongoing monitoring of our recently erected "World Stage" outdoor learning area. This newly created area really reflects something from the Early Childhood Australia National Conference last year where one outdoor teacher said: "children have to be in places where the environment and people enrich them." Considering our ever evolving

environment, a committed staff, a supportive Parent Committee and a creative/talented body of parents, we certainly have the resources to enrich your child's learning life. Thanks to all involved!

Talking about parent/family involvement, I would like to thank those parents who came along to the informal gathering at The Briar's Inn and those who stayed for a cuppa during the Morning Tea week. Don't forget that the Family Night has been postponed to Tuesday, 22 March 5.30 – 7 pm. Come along to meet the other families and staff. Bring a picnic dinner or use our BBQ. A sing-along will be held at the conclusion. Sign up on the sheet in each room this week.

Most staff will be attending an in-service conference at Sydney University on Saturday, 2 April. It is based on building quality practice related to the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Framework. We hope to learn more so that we can incorporate most current practice into the daily program for your children.

Thanks, *Pauline Iacono*

## President's Report (as presented at the Annual General Meeting, 15 March 2011)

Welcome to the first meeting of the newly elected 2011 parent management committee. Thank you to everyone who has taken on roles on the committee – I hope you find being involved with the preschool as rewarding as I do and I look forward to working with you all.

Parent meetings aren't only for committee members, however. They're for everybody who would like to hear what's happening at the preschool, who would like to have input into the decisions that get made, who would like to meet other parents and who'd like to have some delicious homemade cakes and treats!

Please join us at the rescheduled Family Night on 22 March – the children love coming to preschool outside "normal" times and to introduce you to the friends they've made. It's also a great chance to meet the staff.

I hope everyone will be able to help us out with our State Election cake stall fundraiser on 26 March – you'll be getting some instructions and a cake/slice box soon to fill with tasty treats. It's a great chance for the community to support the preschool by buying something yummy when they come to vote. If you prefer to bake something savory rather than sweet, please do so. Remember to always include a list of the ingredients you've used.

Thanks for bearing with us during the construction phase of the outdoor shelter – it's taken much longer than originally planned, but I hope you'll agree that the wait has been worth it.

On behalf of the preschool, I'd like to thank:

- Our director Pauline Iacono for the initial concept of turning what was an eyesore into a beautiful outdoor learning area.
- Our vice president Heather James, for taking charge of the project on behalf of the preschool
- One of our dads Mike Contre, for his carpentry work that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the construction got finished.
- Another one of our dads Mark Woszczalski, who designed and painted the panels

I'd like to leave you with Mark's design concept for the structure, based on Pauline's idea for having artwork that reflected the natural environment:

Cheers, Deanna Pagnini

*The proposed design was inspired by the beauty and diversity of our planet. I wanted to draw attention to the contrasting climates that make up our living world and to introduce, or further acknowledge, the relationship between night and day, and the earth's rotation.*

*In short, the proposed design is about opposites and extremes. While a frilled neck lizard basks in the heat of the Australian outback, a penguin is diving into the freezing waters of Antarctica. When the sun rises over the Australian desert, night falls over a jungle in South America. While penguin chicks are enjoying the Antarctic summer, polar bears are enduring months of winter in darkness, at the North Pole.*

## Community Information



### **Busy Bees Uniting Playgroup**

When: Fridays 9.30-11.30am

Where: Mittagong Uniting Church – Albert St, Mittagong

For more information, contact: Barbara Buchanan – 02 4878 5330