

MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL NEWS

Service Report November 2016

From Pauline's Desk

We continue to progress through what always turns out to be a very busy Term 4.

Many thanks again to our helpers from the Working Bee. Our honour roll of helpers is as follows: Heidi Searle-Aalto, Joanna Lavell & Mark Morgan, Elouise McCallum, Ben Goulder, Kristy Clarke, Jim Good, Andrew Miskelly, Russell Endersby, Paula Knapp, Kamie, Sue & Colin, Friedel, Jenny & yours truly. Some families were unable to attend but we have some jobs left, to be completed at the end-of-year clean-up.

In the run up to the end of the year, we would also appreciate some help with cleaning: washing puzzles, oiling the fort, oiling blocks, tidying cupboards, wiping the fridges out, etc. So ... please unleash your inner urge to Spring clean & sign-up to the cleaning roster, coming soon for the week 5/12 – 9/12. Many thanks in anticipation.

Two weeks ago we had the Orientation Night & I thank Belinda Myles for representing the Committee at the night, delivering a welcoming & inviting presentation to the new parents, encouraging their involvement in the Preschool. So far, it seems we have a few people interested, so bravo Belinda! Last week we held the Orientation sessions for the new families. It is so nice to take the time to welcome the new families, helping families and children alike to develop a sense of belonging. I took time with each family to check paperwork and discuss any points of concern. The quote of the week came from one little boy who came in with his mum whilst she and I did the paperwork. He stood in front of the table & said in a very bewildered tone "I don't think I can do paperwork!" The

children and families responded very well to the sessions & the Children's Handbook made by the children for the newcomers.

Over the past few years, we have been completing a version of the Department's optional Transition to School Statement. We welcome the opportunity to provide schools with some information about each child's time at Preschool. We intend to continue with the use of these reports, as they were well-received by the schools, and they add important information to the Best Start assessment. This statement calls for summaries from the teachers, a drawing & interview with the child & a completed form from the parents/families. We are sending out a note asking all families to book in a time to sit & complete their part of the form. After the forms are completed, we will get them out to the schools.

I will be sending out invitations to the upcoming End-of-Year Calendar Events. Here below is an outline of all the activities we are having in the lead-up to the end of the year. All events are intended to farewell our children & families from the 2016 Preschool year: one has a Christmas theme but the most important other events are aimed at congratulating the children on a successful educational year.

Saturday 10th December – Carols at the Lake (6.30 pm start) – we have been invited to sing a few songs. We have been involved in this local community event for many years now & it is a great chance to maintain a profile in Mittagong. Besides that, the children are just gorgeous up on stage, causing a 'Paparazzi' frenzy of cameras. We will be singing 3 songs: "Ten Christmas Bells"; "Feliz Navidad" & "We wish you a Merry Christmas". We will be rehearsing these songs from 28/11/16 each day – permission note at the sign-in desk soon.

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DIARY DATES

CAROLS AT THE LAKE

Sat 10th Dec, 6:30pm start

FAMILY NIGHT

Monday 12th December

5:30 - 7pm (sausage sizzle + show)

GROUP FAREWELL LUNCHES

Last week of preschool (12-16 Dec)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed 7th December at 7pm.

LAST DAY OF PRECHOOL 2016

Friday 16th December

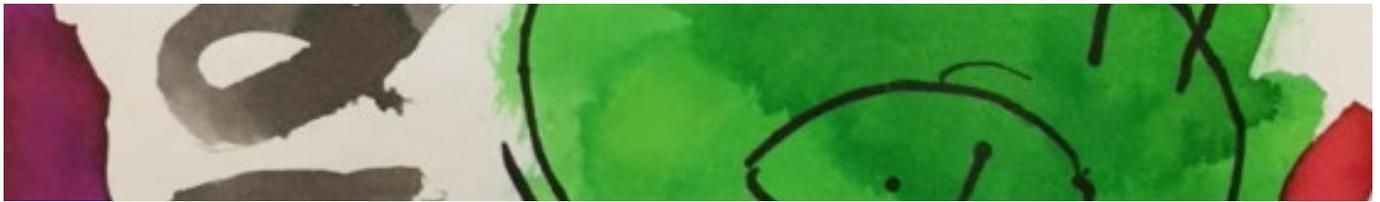
Group Farewell Lunches – during the last week of Preschool we will be having some special lunches with the children only – Tuesday (Koala), Wednesday (Possum) & Friday (Koala & Possum). The Preschool will cater the food on this last day for \$5 per child. If your child doesn't attend on these days, please speak to Pauline. More details to follow.

Family Night, Monday 12th December

– 5.30 – 7 pm. It will be a Sausage Sizzle, with a musical instrument show - "A Swagful of Instruments" and concluding with distributing certificates to our School Starters for 2017. More details to follow.

Thanks for reading our preschool news!

Turn the page for one more message from Shannon's desk that could be very helpful ...



From Shannon:

As the end of the year fast approaches, many families will be starting to organise their child/ren for their next adventure in life at "BIG" School. Below are some tips/ideas to make that transition a little easier for EVERYONE.

Getting ready for "BIG" School

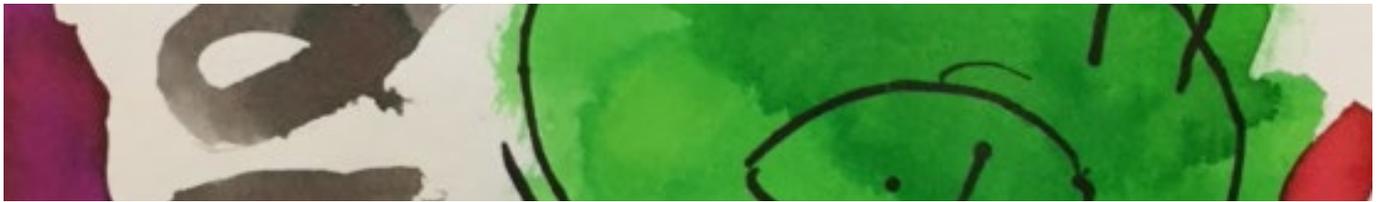
Label absolutely EVERYTHING. Clothing, shoes, bags, drink bottles, lunch boxes. Anything and everything that they will need for school. Children should be able to recognise their own name, don't get labels in fancy prints, it makes it harder for them to recognise their name.
<https://www.tinyme.com.au/>

Selecting the right backpack can be a challenge, keep in mind that a backpack should weigh no more than 10% of a child's total body weight (for a 40 kilo child that's 4 kilos total packed weight (lunch box, drink bottle etc.)
<http://www.kidspot.com.au/school/stuff-for-school/school-supplies/5-tips-for-buying-the-best-school-bag>
Your child will need to be able to look after their own belongings, practice with them how to pack and unpack their own school bag, help them to remember what they have taken to school each day.



Choosing the right Lunchbox and containers.
Children will need to be able to open their own lunchboxes, containers, drink bottles and packaged foods on their own at school.
Select a lunchbox that is easy to open, as many schools now practice the "Nude Food or Wrapper Free" policies, a Bento style lunchbox works well.
<https://theorganisedhousewife.com.au/lunchbox.../a-guide-to-choosing-the-best-lunch>
Practice with your child at home first, ensure that they can open everything before sending it in their lunch for the first time. Some pouch yoghurts can be very difficult to manipulate open, you may need to break the seal first, before placing in lunchboxes (even educators have a hard time with some of these, so imagine how hard it can be for small children).

Children should be able to take off and put on their own shoes, whether they have laces, buckles or Velcro. Encourage your child to dress themselves, this fosters self help skills and satisfaction in achieving a task on their own.
http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/getting_dressed.html



President's Report, November 2016

It only feels like yesterday I was delivering my October report, and here we are now half way through November! I hope all those pre-schoolers leaving for Kindy next year completed a successful orientation. You may have noticed some new faces in our preschool playground, with orientation also being held here! I'm sure those attending were happy and content with their first taste of preschool!

For those families who are returning next year, I would like you to consider being part of the committee for 2017; a vital part of the preschool and its success. If you have any questions about the committee or what your role could be, please speak to Pauline or myself!

Coming up in the next few weeks; our end of year Family Night - put it down on your calendar - the 12th of December!

Also, keep an eye out for information regarding our upcoming Bunnings BBQ, to be held on the 10th December. There will be a call out for the donation of various BBQ items, but more importantly, we need your help to man the stall! It's very easy, and a couple of hours is all that is required to make the day a success!

Orders for tea towels have now closed, it will be great to see the finished product. We also have plans to compile a 40th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook, to compliment the tea-towel fundraiser. Please get yours or your children's favourite recipe to preschool ASAP to be included!

Looking forward to seeing you in and around preschool in the coming weeks. If there are any comments, queries or suggestions I can be emailed at president.mittagongpreschool@gmail.com and am happy to hear from you!

**All the best,
Belinda Myles**



MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL
Kindergarten Incorporated



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PRESCHOOL IS ON
FACEBOOK?**

Be sure to follow us so we appear in your newsfeed to keep up to date with news and reminders.

[www.facebook.com/
MittagongPreschool](http://www.facebook.com/MittagongPreschool)



PRESCHOOL COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER



It's still not too late to contribute a favourite family recipe!

Please get your recipes in and don't forget to order your copy by the 2nd December.
(At just \$10 each!)

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