



**MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL**  
Kindergarten Incorporated

**December 2023**

# Mittagong Preschool Newsletter

## President Report – December 2023

As another year comes to a close, I'd like to wish departing families all the very best as your children continue their schooling journeys.

I hope your experience at Mittagong Preschool as been a rewarding one and that your family has enjoyed the benefits of being part of our preschool community.

Thank you to each and every person who makes up the staff team at preschool. Your dedication, enthusiasm, skills and experience combined make Mittagong Preschool an exceptional place for young people to develop.

Echoing my comments last month, sincere thanks to all who have been involved in both association and preschool run social, community and fundraising activities, working bees, committee and working group meetings and sharing personal or business connections and resources – your support has been wonderful.

We are looking forward to welcoming both new and returning students in the new year, and are excited by the engagement we've already had with new families. Can I encourage returning families to remain or become involved – it truly benefits both your family and the preschool in many positive ways.

Wishing you a happy and safe summer holiday period – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best regards,  
Jess Winkler

[president.mittagongpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:president.mittagongpreschool@gmail.com)

### From Pauline's Desk

This is just a quick report to say "Happy End-of-Year" to all the families at Preschool from all the staff. We would like to say good luck and best wishes to those children who are leaving the Preschool.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us as we value this reciprocal relationship. Looking back on my December reports from the past few years, I am once again reminded of the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child'. This still rings true and is worth repeating, as children certainly grow up as a part of their community!

Also, special mention to those families who are ending their association with the Preschool – it has been wonderful to know you all. Our relationships with you and your children have been greatly valued and will be missed. We hope to see you around town to keep us 'posted' regarding progress.

For those children and families returning next year, we are looking forward to another fantastic year after the break with all as our Preschool Leaders – see you then!



12 23

## Diary Dates December

Last day of Preschool:

15/12/23





This leads me on to saying thanks to the parents and extended members of our Preschool community for their help & support – from the smallest task, right through to coordinating a fundraising event.

All help is noticed, appreciated & valued as pivotal in the way this service runs as a community-based Preschool!

# Service Report

From Pauline's Desk

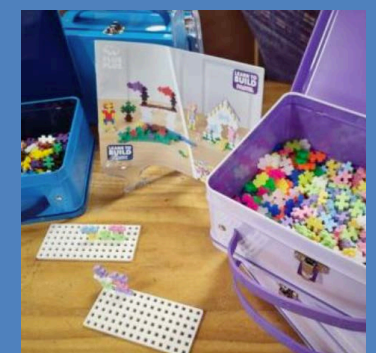
## THANKS

I must take this opportunity to thank the Office-bearing Committee members for all their hard work this year. This has been a busy year from a decisions viewpoint, with a range of fundraisers, new funding programs to negotiate, recruitment and much more .... so, thanks for that! A special vote of thanks goes to Jessica Winkler McGuigan for her contribution as President and hands-on support; Katie McGuigan for her role as Vice-President & 'Intell Agent'; Michelle Beard for her role as Treasurer & Michaela Snowdon as Secretary.

Thanks also to the General Members (Helen Saunders, Amber Griffiths & Jasmine Talbert) for their active roles as part of the Parent Committee, with Natalie Hunfalvay also contributing as our Publicity/ Newsletter Officer, Kristy Moerkerken as Fundraising Officer & Natalie Bahls as Library Co-ordinator.

We thank Cath Reeves, Dickson Yan & Levi Hick for their roles on the Building Fund Committee, along with yours truly. This year we saw the major upgrade of our Sensory Room with cupboards, new paint & air conditioning. It is such an important and well-used space. We are ever thankful for the support of this project! It will be great to see a new project for 2024!

Also special thanks to Jessica Winkler, Michaela Snowdon & Chris McGuigan for their contributions to our QIP Working Party over the year.



## Fundraising Tally ....

Great news about our Fundraising Target – we made it! We purchased the resources off our wish list ... plus a few more, due to some special deals. We have had the Squigz, Plus-Plus Construction and Mobilo out over the past few weeks.

The children have been really enjoying these resources and the open-ended play opportunities they afford – thanks to everyone who participated in any of our 2023 fundraisers!

2023 Fundraising Target: Construction Resource Upgrade	
Magnetic Tiles Solid Colours - 164 pieces - \$385	Magnetic Marble Run - 268 pieces - \$295
Translucent Magnetic Car base (2) x 4 - \$175	Plus Plus Construction 600 pcs x 4 - \$240
Magnetic Polydron - Transparent Shapes - 140 pieces - \$292	Translucent Magnetic Tiles Construction Set - 32 pieces x 4 - \$484
Mobilo Eco Construction 564 Piece Set - \$462	Mobilo Flow STEM Construction Set - 194 pcs x 2 - \$434
Mobilo Super Value Construction Set - \$771	Edublocks Large - 50 pieces x 2 sets - \$1600
Squigz Suction Construction x 8 - \$280	
	<b>Total - \$5895</b>





The Family Presentation Nights went amazingly well, with many in attendance and a great community feel! We thoroughly enjoyed the singing, dancing, smiles and certificates. Thanks to all in attendance! The parties are proving to be great celebrations, with games, party food and our Mini Music Adventures incursions!

We hope that you all love the little presents from the children and that the children enjoy their gifts from Preschool. On that note, we wish everyone a happy holiday period & to quote (as I always do) the famous 1822 Christmas story and poem by C. C. Moore, 'Twas the Night before Christmas .... "Merry Christmas to all ... and to all a Good Night!"



*Pauline Iacono*  
(Director)

We're on the Web!  
Visit us at:

[www.mittagongpreschool.org.au](http://www.mittagongpreschool.org.au)



Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MittagongPreschool/>

## Transition To School Report

This year-end saw us completing the Transition to School Reports on the Departmental portal, first introduced at our Preschool eight years ago and now compulsory for all Early Childhood Services. Thanks to Friedel, Helen, Rose and Georgie for their hard work and expertise in completing the reports, reflecting their professionalism and their knowledge of each and every child. These reports have been forwarded to the schools last week. Once again, in order to further support each child's transition to school, we have prepared social stories of the schools, which were distributed around Orientation time!

## "Angels in Our Town" Parade - Saturday 2nd December

Angels in our town don't always wear wings... Empowering Southern Highlands Communities & Thanking Our Heroes. Angels in Our Town is a cultural community event acknowledging and celebrating our first responders, volunteers and service organisations — the Angels in our Town. Angels in Our Town brings an energy and palpable sense of joy, fun, connection and love throughout the community. It will involve first responders, RFS/SES, Fire & Rescue, the NSW police, Paramedics, nurses, health workers, primary and secondary children, school teachers; service groups such as CWA, OZ Harvest, First Nations groups, performing arts groups, musicians, choirs, creative artists, horses, stilt walkers..... and us!

"Hail, storms ... nothing could rain on our parade. A small but mighty group gathered to participate in the Angels in our Town parade. A beautiful sentiment surrounding community and applauding our unsung heroes. Mittagong Preschool was thrilled to partake and support this initiative. Our little preschoolers looked heavenly in their wings and halos. So brave walking with the banner and waving to the people-lined main street. Three cheers for the organisers plus huge thanks to all our first responders!"



## Special Thanks to the Staff



I would like to also acknowledge the work of the staff this year - thanks to each of you for your commitment to excellence, professionalism & expertise - thanks everyone and congratulations on a job well done! We will see everyone back to the Preschool in 2024, with some staff taking on new roles at the Preschool. Special thanks to Jennifer Bridekirk who is retiring at the end of 2023! Once again, we thank her for her years of dedicated service, for her professionalism, her collegiate nature and her friendship. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

3 Physical environment

Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard

The NSW Department of Education  
Education and Care Quality Ratings

Mittagong Pre-school Kindergarten

goes beyond the requirements of the National Quality Standard in at least four of the seven quality areas.

The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

1 Educational program and practice				
2 Children's health and safety				
3 Physical environment				
4 Staffing arrangements				
5 Relationships with children				
6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities				
7 Governance and Leadership				

This service was last assessed in October 20<sup>21</sup> Care and School Age Care and these ratings awarded in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Date of issue: 24 May 2021      \*0027489      SE-00008429

**Standard 7.1 Governance**

Governance supports the operation of a quality service.

**Standard 3.2 Leadership**

Effective leadership builds & promotes a positive organisational culture & professional learning community

As an Exceeding service, what strategies does Mittagong Preschool use in terms of Governance & Leadership?

- 7.1.1 Service philosophy & purpose
- 7.1.2 Management systems
- 7.1.3 Roles & responsibilities
- 7.2.1 Continuous improvement
- 7.2.2 Educational leadership
- 7.2.3 Development of professionals

Our Preschool Philosophy re-written in 2021 in consultation with staff, children, families & Committee

Role of Educational is clearly understood & enacted, supporting & leading the development & implementation of the program, assessment & planning cycle

Quality Improvement Plan revised in consultation with staff & families

Shared leadership model with all Early Childhood Teachers having a role

Annually revised organigram, defining roles & responsibilities

Staff members are supported with professional development opportunities, through mentoring, in house training & externally sourced courses & Webinars

Service RAP Working Party meets termly. QIP Working Party meets monthly.

360-degree review process with reflection on processes & practices. Involving all stakeholders. Teacher/Educator Professional Development Plans written & modified informally & via individual mentoring.

A raft of policies & procedures, covering:

Strong governance with membership to the Association for all current families. An elected Committee of Office Bearers & General Committee Members from voluntary association members. Association Meetings each month (February to December) & Committee Meetings as required.

Risk identification & management

Service practices

Service processes & protocols

Educational reflection & decision-making