



MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL
Kindergarten Incorporated

June 2023 Edition

Mittagong Preschool

President Report

06 23

Diary Dates June

Refugee Week:
19th - 23rd June

Food Drive: 19th - 23rd June

Mud Week: 26th - 30th June
Last Day of Term 2:
Friday 30/06

July

First Day Term 3: Mon 17/07
(no pupil-free day)

Parent Association
Meeting:
Tuesday 18/07 @ 7pm

Tree Week: 24/07 – 28/07

National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Children's Week:
31st July - 1st August

August

Pupil-free Day - 4th August

National Dental Health
Week: 7th - 11th August

Trivia Night - 19/08 @ 8 pm

National Science Week:
14th – 18th August

Book Week:
21st – 25th August

I'd like to sincerely thank preschool staff and association members involved in hosting the wonderful Mother's Day event on 10 May. Attendees were treated to lovely posies of flowers, beautiful singing by the children, nibbles, the opportunity to peruse market stalls and time to chat and catch up with friends. It's a great privilege to be able to attend these events in person again, after years of restrictions, and we're so lucky to have the excellent team at Mittagong Preschool helping us create memories with the children in our lives.

I'd also like to thank everyone who supported the preschool's fundraising efforts this term. Together, the Mother's Day raffle and Pie Time pie drive raised over \$1000 which will go towards the construction resource upgrade as outlined in the last newsletter. We'll continue to work towards our target next term. Speaking of next term, I'd like to invite you to save the date:

Saturday 19 August - trivia night at Eden Brewery

Come along to enjoy dinner before our social trivia night and test out those brain cells against fellow preschool parents, carers and teachers. Proceeds from ticket sales will contribute towards our fundraising target. Further details to come.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable Winter holidays.

Jess Winkler

president.mittagongprescool@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.mittagongpreschool.org.au



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Bush Preschool Program

For four weeks starting on May 1, we ran the Bush Preschool Program.

This program relates to educational EYLF Outcome 2, where children: demonstrate an increasing knowledge of, and respect for natural environments; explore relationships with other living things, observing and responding to change; & develop an awareness of the impact of human activity on environments & the interdependence of living things.

Whilst in the bush, our Adventurers engaged in observation, listening for environmental sounds, games, research, recording, drawing, photography, drawing and other exciting pursuits.

We will be running another rotation of this valuable program in late Term 3.



Fundamental Movement Skills Sessions & PALS sessions:

We are in the process of wrapping up the first half of the FMS programs and will be halfway through PALS by the end of term. We are also completing progress summaries for each of the children. These summaries note participation, engagement, areas of strength and confidence, as well as areas requiring further practise or strategies for improvement.



You can view these summaries when the Portfolios are linked out to the families in the upcoming school break. We will then revisit these sessions in each of the programs in Term 3 so we can plan for, facilitate, encourage & record progress with these skills. I hope you are all enjoying the weekly emailed information sheets for PALS. I find the tips and strategies for practice very accessible and helpful. We are always here if you would like more suggestions for any skill covered.

Service Report

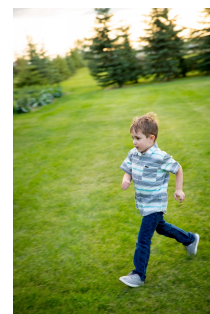
From Pauline's Desk

Important Pre-notice re. Pupil-Free Day – Friday 4th August

Mother's Night Wrap-up:

Well, a wonderful night was had by all in attendance! The flower posies were a success – thanks to Annette Flocco of Flowers by Annette, for sourcing the flowers and donating her time as our florist on the night! The markets were a lovely addition – thanks to Kristy Moerkerken, for the idea and organising the stall holders. The songs at the end were lovely and it was great to get the children participating so beautifully! The raffle was successful – thanks so much to the members of our Preschool community who donated prizes or who rustled up donations! We have included a list of all our kind contributors within this Newsletter! Special thanks to our Preschool staff who came along to facilitate the night and last, but not least, thanks to all our special Mums, Grandmas & mother-figures, for coming along!

Pie Month: Our Pie Drive was finalised with deliveries on Wednesday 21st! Thanks to Katie for getting the "pies rolling"! This year we are once again supporting Meals on Wheels Southern Highlands. We look forward to some yummy pies and the fundraising dollars will help us towards our fundraising wishlist to upgrade our manipulative construction resources.



Upcoming Programming Highlights for next Term:

Week 2: Tree Week (24th – 28th July) – more info to follow about some gardening initiatives for this week.

Week 3 (31st July – 4th August): National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Week 2023 theme – Little Voices, Loud Futures'.

Week 4: National Dental Health Week (7th – 11th August): We are currently trying to organise some Dental Visits during this week, with information sessions about the importance of good dental health & practices. Watch out for a flyer early next term.

Week 5 (14th – 18th August): National Science Week 2023 schools' theme is 'Innovation: Powering Future Industries'.

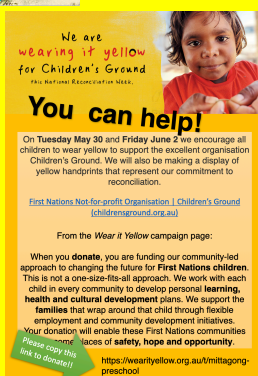
Week 6 (21st – 25th August): Book Week theme for 2023 is "Read, Grow, Inspire'. Excursions to Mittagong Library on Tuesday 22nd & Friday 25th August.

Reconciliation Week 2023

From Rose,

The theme of Reconciliation Week 2023 'Be a Voice for Generations', encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialize. For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, act today for a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. This Reconciliation Week we talked with children about culture, further embedding our knowledge and understanding through: Story and song; Fundraising for Children's Ground – Wear it Yellow (raising \$325); Yellow Handprints that reflect our support and commitment to reconciliation; Kyara will be teaching us an Emu dance!



Service Report

Children's Records & Reporting on Progress AKA Individual Portfolio

At Preschool we compile a digital portfolio of jottings, reflections, observations, planned experiences and developmental summaries for each child. This portfolio will be sent out to you early in the school holidays. You can view, download or print this individual file. You will also receive an email including a copy of your child's progress summary, outlining his/her individual developmental profile, with a list of goals, focusing our planning and learning directions for your child.

In this email, we will be asking for your feedback related to the summary and ask you to rank or prioritise the goals to assist us in planning a clear direction for the rest of the year for your child - focusing on enhancing strengths whilst also improving developing skills. If you have any other feedback regarding goals, please include these comments with your goal priority ranking by the date mentioned within the correspondence. Of course, you are always welcome to speak with your child's teacher about your child's progress, raise a concern, discuss school readiness or talk about your child's developmental summary and planning directions. If you would like an appointment, please contact the Office to book in a time.

2024 Preschool/School Attendance Survey:

We will be sending out a Survey to ascertain the Preschool position needs for our returning children for 2024. If your child is going to school, please complete the form as we want to know the schools the children are attending as part of the transition process. Thanks, in anticipation!

From Janel

Mud Week at Preschool: 26th - 30th July



International Mud Month happens in June and is a global movement which aims to encourage children and early childhood professionals to celebrate nature by getting outdoors to play in glorious gooey mud. Given that International Mud Month happens in Winter in Australia there is usually plenty of mud around.

For the past few years, we have celebrated Mud Week. It has been very successful ... so we will do it again this year! Outdoors we will be making clay sculptures & using our mud kitchen to make mudpies, mud-stews and potions. We will be painting with mud and enjoying various other messy activities. Most importantly, we remind you to dress your children in old clothes so they can enjoy the freedom of playing with mud.



Service Report

Staffing Changes:

At the beginning of Term 3, Rachel McKinnon returns from Maternity Leave and will be working as a Support Educator in the Koala Room Monday-Wednesday. At the end of Term 2, Chloe Verity is going on extended leave until the end of the year to travel with her family. We wish them all the best as they 'hit the road'!

QIP & Education & Care Quality Ratings:

Following our call-out for family input on our Quality Improvement Plan Working Party, I thank and welcome Jessica Winkler, Chris McGuigan and Michaela Snowdon to our group. We met last week with a selection of staff members to review Quality Area 1. After our discussion, we set on an Action Research Plan to support families to engage with their child's developmental profile and planning goals. Our strategies are outlined in the following piece about Children's reports and progress.



The NSW Department of Education places great importance on us communicating with the families about the National Quality Standards and our service's ranking in each of the seven quality areas. In the 2019 Assessment and Rating process Mittagong Preschool was assessed as Exceeding National Quality Standard in each area. Each month I will outline a quality area, giving some examples of how we achieved the Exceeding rating. In the June Newsletter I will focus on Standard 1. Educational program & practice, also the area we most recently focused upon in our QIP.

From Rose Refugee Week

This Refugee Week (19th – 23rd June), Mittagong Preschool will be promoting harmony and togetherness. The theme of 'Finding Freedom' unites individuals, communities and organisations from many different backgrounds behind a common cause. The common theme is a reminder that, regardless of our differences, we all share a common humanity. To mark the occasion, we will be hosting some art experiences focusing on creative freedom, representing the wonderful diversity of culture through artistic expression and colour!

Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant:

Great news ... we were successful with our \$1000 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant Application for 2023! Our project is 'From Seedling to Family Plate', with the aim of our project being to build a vegetable garden so that all children can participate in growing vegetables. The children will be involved in extending our current gardens, designing the new garden beds, growing the plants by seed, caring for the plants and of course harvesting and eating the produce! We will be sharing our produce with the families, where the children will make the market signs, etc. All money raised will be used to buy more seeds/seedlings for our market gardens! The expected outcomes of the project include our children learning the plant life cycle and where food comes from through hands on learning.

We aim to focus on the children's engagement in the process of taking plants from seedlings to their own family's plates at home (Outcome 2, EYLF). We will engage the children on setting up the produce as it is harvested, creating a market stall for the families to access. This will engage the families in the Preschool program (Standard 6 NQS - partnerships with families), also presenting the children with literacy & maths learning opportunities, making signs with prices for our market (Outcome 5, EYLF).

Mother's Day Raffle Prize Contributors

- * HELEN SAUNDERS: A Mid-week one night stay at a highly rated Air BnB "The Banksias" in Mittagong (wine and cheese on arrival)
- * NATALIE HUNFALVAY: A Motherhood Portraiture Photography Session
- * CUTE AS A BUTTON: Cute as a Button Voucher
- * LITTLE BUGG: Little Bugg Magnet and Succulent Arrangement
- * RUSTY ROSE: Rusty Rose Metal Fairy Garden Ornament
- * LARAINES CARDS: Laraines Cards Pack of Cards
- * SAMARAI BLUE: Samarai Blue Candle Melt Pack
- * THE HIGHLAND COTTAGE: The Highland Cottage Soap and Bath Bomb Pack
- * SNOW GUM: Snow Gum Baby Water Resistant Pod Bag
- * LARAINES IRONING: Laraines Ironing Basket of ironing
- * OLD MATES: Old Mates Family Pack Voucher \$100
- * SIVA BEAUTY BODY AND SOUL: Manicure/ Pedicure from Siva Beauty Body and Soul
- * MITTAGONG BOXING CLUB: Mittagong Boxing Club Single Class Vouchers x 2

Service Report

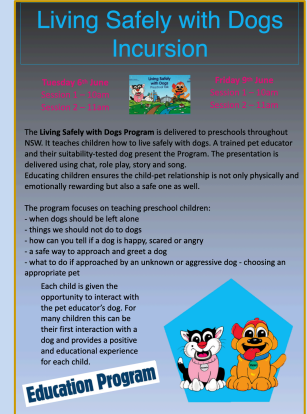
Living Safely with Dogs Incursion:

The Living Safely with Dogs Program teaches children how to live safely with dogs. The presentation was delivered using chat, role play, story and song.

The program focused on teaching the children:

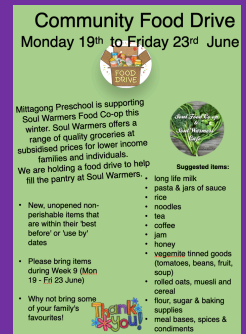
- when dogs should be left alone
- things we should not do to dogs
- how can you tell if a dog is happy, scared or angry
- a safe way to approach and greet a dog
- what to do if approached by an unknown or aggressive dog - choosing an appropriate pet

Each child was given the opportunity to interact with the pet educator's Miniature Schnauzer, Tig. Educating children ensures the child-pet relationship is not only physically and emotionally rewarding, but also a safe one as well. It was a positive educational experience for each child.



Community Food Drive (Monday 19th to Friday 23rd June):

Mittagong Preschool is supporting Soul Warmers Food Co-op this winter. Soul Warmers offers a range of quality groceries at subsidised prices for lower income families and individuals. We will be holding a food drive to help fill the pantry at Soul Warmers. We are looking for donations of new, unopened non-perishable items that are within their 'best before' or 'use by' dates. Why not bring some of your family's favourites!



From Helen

World Environment Day & World Oceans Day:

World Environment Day is celebrated on the 5th June and this year the theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution". The day encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

World Oceans Day is celebrated on the 8th June and this year the theme is Planet Ocean: tides are changing. The ocean covers over 70% of the planet. It is our life source, supporting humanity's sustenance and that of every other organism on earth. Even though all its benefits, the ocean is now in need of support. With 90% of big fish populations depleted, and 50% of coral reefs destroyed, we are taking more from the ocean than can be replenished. We need to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life.

That week our program included some content in relation to World Environment Day and World Oceans Day, through discussions, stories & videos. Children are supported to take an active role in caring for the environment and to think about ways they can contribute to a sustainable future. We share information and provide children with access to resources about the environment and the impact of human activities on environments (EYLF V2.0, 2022)



Quality Ratings Certificate Unpacking the Standards

June Newsletter: Standard 1 - Educational Program & Practice



The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

1 Educational program and practice



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	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard
2 Children's health and safety	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard
3 Physical environment	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard
4 Staffing arrangements	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard
5 Relationships with children	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard
6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard
7 Governance and Leadership	Working Towards National Quality Standard	Meeting National Quality Standard	Exceeding National Quality Standard

This service was last assessed in October 2019 against the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care and these ratings have been 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 ASR-00027489 SE-0008429

education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-quality

Standard 1.1 Program
The educational program enhances each child's learning & development.

Standard 1.2 Practice
Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning & development.

Standard 1.3 Assessment & Planning
Educators are deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions & actions.

As an Exceeding service, what strategies does Mittagong Preschool use in Program, Practice, Assessment & Planning?

Mid-Year Summary of Learning and Development for **Azaaza Bbbbbb**
Date: 18 June 2021
Completed by: Pauline Iacono

Outcome 1 Children have a strong sense of identity
He builds a secure relationship with one, and then more, trusted educators. He is more responsive to ideas and suggestions from others, still needing a verbal and physical prompt to investigate and explore new ideas, happy to spend his time experimenting with soap.

Outcome 2 Children are connected with and contribute to their world
He shows a sense of belonging and control at Mittagong Preschool, entering happily and joining to participate in a reciprocal learning relationship with his support educator, looking engaged in the task time routine, sitting amongst peers to read his book, content to investigate and explore new ideas, happy to spend his time experimenting with soap.

Outcome 3 Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
He is able to participate in reciprocal learning relationships with his support educator, looking engaged in the task time routine, sitting amongst peers to read his book, content to investigate and explore new ideas, happy to spend his time experimenting with soap.

Outcome 4 Children are confident and have a sense of achievement
He shows energy, concentration and enthusiasm, enjoying the task time routine, sitting amongst peers to read his book, content to investigate and explore new ideas, happy to spend his time experimenting with soap.

