



MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL
Kindergarten Incorporated

April 2024 Edition

Mittagong Preschool Newsletter

President Report April 2024

The April Newsletter is a time of reflection at the end of what is always an exciting term for our preschoolers and their families. It is a time where new bonds are being made between classmates and educators, families are getting to know each other and the new preschool committee finds their feet. We can be very proud of where we are at so far this year and I hope that you as a family are feeling connected to our community.

One of the roles of the committee is in fundraising, and we appreciate the continued creative efforts gone into achieving our goals on this front. Last month through the efforts of many of the staff and generosity of our families we managed to raise a total of \$2101.99. This was a combination of money raised from the cupcakes, the harmony day t-shirts and the easter bunny art packs. It also included efforts from the children at the preschool who contributed through their prize winnings at the Moss Vale show and through sales of produce from the garden at the preschool and the chickens! You may see from time to time at the sign in and out desks such produce with handwritten pricing attached. Your pantries will be grateful for your purchase, I am just scraping out the last of the delicious plum jam made by the children as I write this note. Best \$5 spent this term! The money has been put towards educational and play based resources including the sand and the rocks purchased for topping up the sand pit and building a sturdier creek. We have also made the purchase of some new and exciting puppets which you will no doubt view more of when the children return after the break.

On that note, I would like to thank to Michelle Hinton who has been busy updating our social media presence to make you feel more visually connected and informed via our social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram.

We wish you a safe and happy break and look forward to another great term ahead.

Best regards,
Amber Griffiths
president.mittagongpreschool@gmail.com

Fundraising Success!

We had some successful fundraising events as outlined in Amber's report. Special thanks to Rhiannon, Michelle & Sandra for their involvement with the t-shirts and bunny fundraisers. I would also like to send a special vote of thanks to Sarahjane from Saige N Thyme, for donating her time to do the printing of the t-shirts, barely charging enough for the materials! We love to support local businesses, especially when they help us. If you would like to learn more about Sarahjane's work, please check out her website: <https://saigenthyme.com/>



PALS Sessions

Weeks 6-10 with a revision week & a new Reconciliation Week session & an Anti-bullying session

We will run the second half of the PALS group sessions in term 2, focusing developing emotional literacy - identifying feelings, empathy, overcoming fear & anxiety, managing frustration and calming down. We will start in Week 3 with a revision week and move on from there. More information next Newsletter.

04

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Diary Dates

April

Term 2 starts:

Pupil-free Day 29/04/24
Tuesday 30th April

May

Mother's Night:

Monday 6/05 - 5-6.30pm

Bush Preschool

Excursions 10am-12noon:

Mon. 6/05 – M/T group
Wed. 8/05 – M-W group
Thurs. 9/05 – W-F group
Fri. 10/05 – T/F group

Parent Association Meeting:

Wednesday 8/05 @7pm

PALS sessions:

Starting with revision
Week 3, from 13/05

Emergency Drill Week:

13/05 – 17/05

June

Public Holiday:

Monday 10/06

Last day of term:

Pupil-free Day 5/07/24
Thursday 4th July

National Road Safety Week

During Week 2 we will be including program content around pedestrian safety & car safety within the program. We will distribute (in Week 1 in your child's file) our I Spy game for completion during Week 2.



Every completed sheet will be an entry in our competition to win a Road Safety Pack. During the week, we will also be using our Preschool book resource "We went Walking" to combine the walking excursion with road safety messages, including some Key Word Sign. Thanks, Michelle, for your work on this project!



We will have our Bush Preschool Excursion during Road Safety Week, with the permission page available in Week 1 for signing. This excursion will focus on road safety messages and provide each child with an Indigenous perspective of our local Fauna and Flora with our amazing Indigenous gardener, Greg. This experience will take place at our regular bush preschool space (on Spencer Street).

Service Report

From Pauline's Desk

Autumn/Winter Program: As we finish Term 1 and look forward to starting Term 2 after the school holiday break, we are making plans for the Autumn/Winter Program. We start off in the indoor environment & go outside later in the morning when it has warmed up a bit. We will be maintaining the indoor/outdoor environment choice with rotation, beginning in the Creative & Literacy Room, moving into the STEM Room after lunch & literacy groups. Thinking of cooler weather for this term – please remember to send in warm beanies & coats as it can be windy & cold outside ... however, we will always have the sunhats here as well, if the warmth of these April days continue!

Wet Weather

While discussing the weather, on wet days or when going to the bush space, the children are encouraged to bring along their gumboots, so they can still venture out into the playground, even if it is a bit drizzly!

We have wet weather 'puddle' suits & are happy to help the children into the suits. There is so much investigation potential in a puddle!



Term 1 Program Highlights

So looking back over last term, we had many programming highlights including: Vegie Month with vegie prep at home, lunchbox inspiration and the Big Vegie Crunch; Preschool's 48th Birthday with cupcakes, dress-ups and a fruit/vegie cake; preparations for & success at the Moss Vale Show; Harmony Week t-shirts, cooking & program content; a celebration of Holi (Festival of Colours) with a pop of colour in our clothes & across the program, including spray painting at the fence; celebration of Easter with stories, hot cross buns and an egg hunt for each group; a rotation of our Bush Preschool Program & we had a week of emergency drills/lockdowns. We look forward to an equally rewarding and busy term 2, creating learning opportunities with, and for, you and your children.



Mother's Day 2024

You're *the bomb* Mum

Please join us to Celebrate Mother's Day with a range of activities, finger food and some songs!

6.00pm to 6.30pm	Monday 6 th May	\$10 per Adult
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To attend – please use the signup link below!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EA9AE2EA5F94-48906337-mothers>

PRESCHOOL GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Quality Improvement Plan

As part of the National Quality Framework and regulatory requirements, we engage with a cyclical review process of our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) and our Policy/Procedures. We value family engagement, and we would love to have representation from members of our Committee and our families. We would also like to reflect our children's voices in the document with increasing authenticity. To that end, we have several members of the Committee and another interested parent who have agreed to participate. If you would also be interested in this working party, please contact me before 20/05 as our first meeting is the next day, with three 1-hour meetings planned for this term.

RAP Working Party

Like our QIP working party, we have some Committee members joining us to work through our Reconciliation Action Plan. We are hopeful that we can launch & publish our draft RAP this year!

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a strategic document with practical plans to show our commitment to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples for the benefit of all Australians. Our RAP provides a structured, nationally recognised, tried and tested model that formalises our commitment to our indigenous communities. We incorporate awareness and understanding in both in our staffing and our teaching practices to the children who attend our service.

If you are interested, please contact me by 27/05 as our first meeting is the next day, with two 1-hour meetings planned for this term.

Service Report continued

Staffing

Natalie Putland finished at Preschool at the end of term 1 to take on a full-time support position at a local school. We thank her for her time at the Preschool and wish her all the best as her career progresses. We are in the process of recruiting and will introduce our new staff member next term. We thank Fenella, Noriko, Georgie & Helen for agreeing to cover Amanda's hours in term 2 as she continues to investigate and resolve her injury from late last year. As always, we wish Amanda a speedy and complete recovery.



Working Bee 2

Thanks so much to our small band of helpers who came along to complete the working bee jobs for Term 1. We had a Sandpit Crew barrowing sand into place & a crew on the creek, rejigging the reservoir covering and mortaring stones into place! Thanks to Steve & Finley Hinde; Cameron & Rachel McKinnon; Noriko Tunnell-Jones; Rhiannon & Rowan Ingenhoff; Peter Snowdon; Jonathan, Alethea & Orlando Woods; Sarah Knights; Damian & Ingrid Leonard; Michelle & Lucia Hinton; Dom Meli; Pauline & Frank Iacono.

When you are not-for-profit, all monies raised go towards program inclusions, environment upgrades, resources, professional development and quality improvement. Thanks to our very successful cupcake fundraiser, we were able to purchase sand and river rocks.

These additions are not only practical but necessary.



We were able to purchase 4 tonnes of sand and river rocks to enhance the children's play and improve safety.



Additional rocks for our creek!



We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.mittagongpreschool.org.au



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