



**MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL**  
Kindergarten Incorporated

**March 2024 Edition**

# Mittagong Preschool Newsletter

## President Report March 2024

2023 was a wonderful year to be involved in the preschool. Goals were set (and exceeded), projects tackled, problems solved and decisions made. None of this would have been possible without the commitment, time and skills of the outgoing Parent Association members led by our dedicated President, Jess Winkler. We thank Jess and the entire committee for your incredible efforts in what are for everyone very busy lives. Your hard work has paid off!

I would also like to acknowledge the expertise and dedication of the team of educators and administrators at the preschool led by its passionate Director, Pauline. Thank you for filling the lives of all of our little ones with so much learning and so much joy!

I'd like to welcome all the new and returning families to Mittagong Preschool in 2024. Your roles in contributing to the viability and success of the Preschool for today and into the future is not just highly valued but also essential and we encourage you to get involved at every available opportunity. Options include joining our monthly meetings and being a part of the planning and decision making process, supporting our fundraising efforts, donating to our building fund, attending working bees or attending our social events. Most of these options are also the best possible way of meeting other parents and potentially making long lasting friendships.... A win win!!

Thank you to everyone involved in the great start to the year, especially in the involvement of the working bee and the cup cake stalls and for all who are here this evening. Looking forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead and for a year as successful as the last.

*Amber Griffiths*

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## Diary Dates

### March

Veggie Month – various program initiatives

Moss Vale Show:  
17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March

Harmony Week:  
18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Big Veggie Crunch:  
19/03 & 22/03

Holi & Easter Celebrations:  
25/03 – 28/03



Public Holidays 29/03 & 1/04

### April

Bush Preschool Program:  
Tues. 4/04 – Fri. 12/04

Association Meeting:  
9/04/24 @ 7 pm

Last day of Term 1:  
Friday 12/04/24

First day of Term 2:  
Tuesday 30/04/24  
(Note pupil-free day on  
Monday 29/04/24)

## Veggie Month

So far we have marked Veggie Month with our first two initiatives.

Week 1 was encouraging families to get their children involved in the preparation of vegies at home, sharing photos on our Closed Facebook Page.



Week 2 was about encouraging children to bring vegies in their lunch boxes.



We still have the Veggie Crunch & eating a rainbow of vegies to come as our last two initiatives.



# Service Report



## Welcoming Words:

Just a quick note of welcome to the new & returning Committee members, ready for a busy & rewarding year of involvement at Mittagong Preschool. I look forward to working with you all to create a wonderful learning environment for the children, families, and staff.



## Settling in ...

As I reflect on the term, I am amazed at 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 mainly quite settled and enjoying their days at Preschool .... well, there are a few slow-starters in the mornings but we're working on it!



## Housekeeping ....

Please remember to put your child's names on all belongings, as these things are very easily misplaced if un-named.

## From Pauline's Desk

**Wine & Cheese Night:**  
Our first association Meeting for the year began with an informal gathering. It was a great chance for our new families to understand more about our governance model and what it means to be part of a not-for-profit association-based organization ... A community-based Preschool!  
Thanks to all who were able to attend.



**Mittagong Preschool**  
Admin Group expert +1 · 22 February · 🌞  
Such a wholesome night at our welcome family picnic. Was wonderful to see the sunshine and our outdoor space buzzing with community spirit! Such a delight.  
We appreciate your attendance and thank Magic Daniel for the belly laughs!



## Family Night

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Preschool hosted a picnic-style Family Night. It was lovely to see so many families sitting around the Preschool yard, sharing a picnic meal and making connections with other families, through their children! We had promised a magical twist to the evening, with a show from Magic Daniel to bring the night to a close. There were roars of laughter around the room as the Preschoolers, along with their siblings and parents, enjoyed a range of tricks from Dan. It was a great start to the year as we build the Preschool community of 2024!

## Preschool's 48th Birthday:

We had a wonderful birthday celebration with dress-up days and Veggie Cakes on the Tuesday and Friday with cupcakes on Wednesday 6th March. The iced cupcakes were left over from our hugely successful Cupcake Fundraisers on 27/02 & 1/03.

The children enjoyed icing & decorating the cupcakes. Special thanks to everyone who baked cupcakes ... without your help & support, we couldn't have raised any money at all.

Over the week, more than 450 cupcakes were donated & we raised over \$700! Thanks so much to everyone who sold or purchased cupcakes – winning all around!

## Service Report continued ....



**Preschool Reunion for Class of 2023:** We are arranging a reunion gathering for all children who started school in 2024 and attended preschool in 2023.

We are hosting an afternoon tea on Wednesday 27th March, 3:30- 4:30pm on the Koala room verandah. We are asking for a plate of afternoon tea to share (nut free please).

An invitation and sign-up has been sent out via email.

### Holi – Festival Of Colours:

We will be inviting children to wear colourful clothes or a pop of colour to celebrate this Festival, linking with learning Hindi via the ELLA App. We will have a spray painting experience at the fence, symbolizing the splashing of colour!

### Easter:

We will have a few seasonally-related craft and learning experiences this week, as well as some egg hunts on Tuesday & Thursday of that week!

**Preschool's 48th birthday!**

**Dress up day**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

We are turning 48!  
To celebrate our birthday on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we are hosting a dress up day!

**When:**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March & Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Dress up:**  
Come wearing party attire.  
Whether it is a dress up costumes, fancy dress or colourful clothes!  
Please no swords, guns or lightsabers

### Harmony Week:

We have organized a wonderful fundraiser to celebrate Harmony Day this year, with designed T-shirts. We are asking everyone to wear their shirts or a pop of orange, to mark the focus on honouring diversity that this week affords us! We will also be offering food experiences from around the globe. A few parents are coming in to share their cultural heritage with us.

# Working Bee Thanks

We had a busy and very productive day on Sunday 3rd March ... our own Clean Up Australia Campaign! We achieved most of the jobs, so I wish to give a huge vote of thanks to the following honour roll of helpers (85 in total):

Jonathan & Alethea Woods; Emma Spence; Christopher, Tiffany, Sage & Romeo Camilleri; Patrick, Rhilippa, Hamish & Maggie Matthews; Sarah Hamilton & Will Thomas; Michelle, Lucia & Florence Hinton; Emily Ross & Adelaide Hurkett; Mallory Smart; Vincent, Georgia, Elijah & Jude Iacono; Alice Hinde; Catherines Oakes, Kevin & Saoirse Geoghegan; Ethan Lamont; Matt & Hudson Arnull; Helen Saunders, Imogen & Jasper Sloan; Nick, Jo & Xanthe Plokstys; Mandy, Alexander, Arthur & Edmund Bodley; Catherine, Jeremy, Daisy & Lachlan Loveridge; Emilie, James, Thomas, Sophie, Matilda, Eloise & Heidi Sivak; Sandeep & Jazzlyn Garcha; Paul, Claire, Joshua & Addison Jurd; Rene, Henry & AJ Fouche; Erin Foley, August & Beau Seivenpiper; Sandra & Estelle Galea; Rhiannon, Luke, Emmett & Rowan Ingenhoff; Rose & Grace Hoskins; Jen Gilroy; Fenella Duxfield; Friedel Gorman; Georgie Spong; Noriko Tunnell-Jones; Janel Burns; Helen McDonald; Niki, Willie, Eilidh & Maddie Colling & Pauline & Frank Iacono.



## Moss Vale Show

We all enjoyed being involved in preparing for the Moss Vale Show - making our group handcrafts, jam, relish and cake, using apples from our Preschool tree. We also displayed a Preschool squash, some chicken eggs and some of our Preschool apples. This year we put in two Scarecrows, one traditional in style & one made of painted pots. We did really well in the judging stakes - winning several firsts & seconds, as well as a few highly commended! It was also wonderful to see some of our families at the Show, proudly looking at our entries, snapping a photo to share on our Closed Facebook page.





## Road safety

We have been quite concerned about the traffic around the Preschool and the speeds cars travel down Oxford Street in particular ... not to mention the many cars that don't stop at the stop sign on Waverley Parade. We have also had some comments from concerned Preschool community members about children, cars, and roads. Please remember to be vigilant with supervision outside the gates when getting in and out of cars.

For some helpful hints and reminders, please look at "A Parent's Guide to Kidsafe Roads": [http://www.kidsafensw.org/images/B/wysiwyg/AParentsGuidetoKidsafeRoadsFINAL2016Feb\\_1.pdf](http://www.kidsafensw.org/images/B/wysiwyg/AParentsGuidetoKidsafeRoadsFINAL2016Feb_1.pdf) & "Driveway Safety: Are your kids at Risk". <https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/publications/2012/pdf/INFRA1498.pdf>

**Safe Journeys  
Safe Communities**

## Child development and road safety

### Why are young children at risk around traffic?

#### Social/Emotional Development

Young children are

- Sociable and want to be 'Where the action is'
- All different, so what works with one child may not work with another

They also

- See themselves as 'big boys' or 'big girls' and want to do things by themselves



#### Physical Development

Young children are

- Fast and can quickly move from safety into danger
- Small and difficult for drivers to see, especially behind a reversing vehicle
- Still developing reflexes and reactions so stopping can take longer
- Fragile so injuries are likely to be severe



#### Cognitive Development

Young children are

- Curious and keen to explore and learn about their surroundings
- Yet to understand 'danger' and what to do to keep safe
- Often easily distracted but can also be really focused on what is important to them
- Still developing their ability to judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles and what these mean
- Inexperienced as road users and can be confused by sudden changes in the traffic environment
- Still developing their understanding of sound and direction and what these mean

They also

- Understand cause and effect differently to adults when in traffic
- Interpret what they may see in their peripheral vision differently to adults
- Can say safety words and slogans but are not yet able to apply them independently

Children's behaviour can't be explained in terms of just one developmental area. It is the **interaction** of the cognitive, social/emotional and physical aspects of their development that puts young children at risk in and around traffic.

**Adults are responsible for the safety of young children!**

**KIDS and TRAFFIC**  
Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
TRANSPORT FOR NSW AND  
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

[www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au](http://www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au)

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## '40' School Zone News:

We are often asked about being a '40' zone. We have been advised by the Traffic Engineer at Council that we cannot have a designated '40' zone immediately around the Preschool.

This is because children at Preschool are accompanied by parents/adults at all times when coming to/leaving Preschool.

On the other hand, children at school are walking unaccompanied into or away from school to buses, cars, etc. This is why it is called a School Zone and applicable only around schools.

In 2019 Council renewed the School Zone & Holding Hands sign to increase the road safety for our precious Preschoolers.



**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/>

## Bush Preschool:

We are starting our first rotation of the Bush Preschool Program on 2nd April .... Watch out for the email, permission slip & roster so you know when your child will be an Adventurer.