

# St John's Preschool – Newsletter

August / September 2016



We're nearing the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Term at preschool and it's been a busy time!

At the beginning of the winter holidays we had great success with our Election Day BBQ & cake stall, raising \$1306 which will go towards our front playground renovation! Thanks to all the volunteers, both staff and parents, who baked things to sell and helped on the day.

We received the results from the Assessment & Accreditation process earlier this year and we are exceeding the National Quality Standards in both the areas of "Collaborative partnerships with families and communities", and also for our Staffing arrangements. Overall we are meeting the National Quality Standards, which is a fantastic result. The full report and results are available to read in our Parent information section in the foyer.

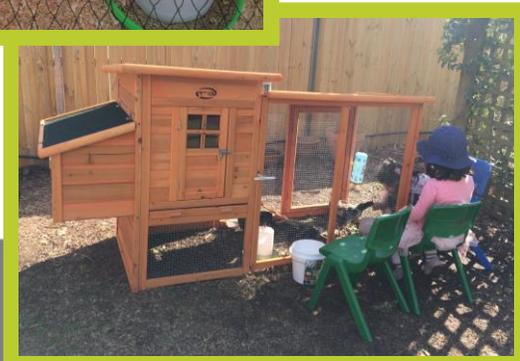
Thank you to the large number of volunteers who attended our Working Bee on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Many jobs were done and we enjoyed a BBQ together afterwards. I'm sure you'll agree that our playground and gardens are looking fantastic! We also removed the fences so that we have one large playground where all the children are free to spend time making friends from other classes. They have really enjoyed the change!

We have also had a great time this term with dressing up as our favourite characters for Book Week, borrowing books from our new "Duck Library", watching our chicken and duck eggs hatch and grow, and celebrating Father's Day.

The children have been curious about where the chickens will sleep and what they can eat. Each room now has a container where lunch scraps can be put aside for the chickens. We have been talking about what foods are healthy for the chickens, what are special treats and what foods can make the chickens sick. If you are interested in what foods are suitable for the chickens, please speak to Deborah, Els or Xiaoxi.

Upcoming events–

- **Grandparents Day celebrations and Community Afternoon Tea** – Tuesday 20/09 and Thursday 22/09. The jumping castle will be up and if you're able, please bring a plate of food to share. All of the community is invited, so feel free to bring some friends!



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# St John's Preschool Ashfield

## Class Updates

### Jacaranda 3-day class

We have been working on the skills of retelling and comprehension of stories by spending lots of time in different fairy tales. The children have been retelling the stories through acting, drawing pictures, using props and felt boards.



### Jacaranda 2-day class

Several of the children have an interest in space and planets so we have been exploring this topic in many ways throughout the classroom. We learnt how the earth and other planets go around the sun and the children enjoyed pretending to blast off into different parts of space.

### Frangipani 3-day class

With the arrival of Spring both the 2 Day and 3 Day Frangipani groups have taken an increased interest in the garden area. The 3-day group are hoping to plant some sunflowers in the garden.

We have been very busy with various scientific exploration experiences. We have been discussing healthy food and sometimes food in conjunction with the 'Munch & Move' sessions. We have been talking about why sometimes foods are not so good for us; we discovered how much sugar is in some of our favourite sometimes foods!

Teresa, our prac student, has been exploring different properties of light with the children: light and colour, and how light can pass through different materials. The children have also been interested in experimenting with the air pressure rocket.



# St John's Preschool Ashfield

## Frangipani 2-day class

Now that we are in the Spring season, we have been interested in plants and gardening. The 2-day group planted strawberries and herbs with EIs. We have been investigating the different parts of a plant and we drew a diagram showing these parts, as well as the things that plants need to grow. We will continue to investigate plants over the next few weeks.



## Lilli Pilli 2-day class

The hospital play area was set up after the children showed great interest in learning about human body when looking at books from our book shelf. The children were familiar with some of the medical instruments such as stethoscopes and syringes and enjoyed examining patients. Even the teachers were invited in their play! Through hospital play the children have the opportunity to role play previous experiences of visiting clinics and hospitals. It also promotes empathy as they take the role of a doctor or nurse that looks after someone who is sick. The hospital reception was also a popular choice with many children developing their literacy and numeracy skills when identifying letters and numbers from the laptop and telephone.



## Lilli Pilli 3-day class

The children were fully engaged in the writing activity that Amy set up in the past few weeks. She brought Chinese traditional writing tools which included an ink stick, a brush, blank paper and an ink slab. The children chose the words that they would like to write down from the templates that Amy had written down. They then asked Amy if they could learn how to write down their names in Mandarin. Everyone had a turn to write down their names showing great hand control and observation skills. They also learned how to rub the ink stick on the slab to produce the black paint. This experience provided opportunities for the children to talk about different cultures while sharing their knowledge on Chinese culture. Some of the children were proud to show that they had already learned to write down their names in their home environment. It was wonderful to watch how the children were focused in learning to copy each character to form Chinese words.



# St John's Preschool Ashfield

## Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

All childcares and preschool nationally are required to base their programming on the Early Years Learning Framework. The vision is for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life.

It is a guide for early childhood educators who work with children from birth to five years. They use the Framework in partnership with families - children's first and most influential educators - to develop learning programs responsive to children's ideas, interests, strengths and abilities, and recognise that children learn through their play.

If you would like to learn more about either the EYLF or the NQF and how this is implemented at St John's Preschool please speak with your room leaders or Stephanie.



Please "like" our facebook page – St John's Preschool Ashfield for more regular updates of our days.

## Feedback

At St John's Preschool we are always trying to improve our process and performance and would value any feedback that you have. There is a letterbox in the foyer for any comments, or alternatively please speak with any of the staff at St John's Preschool

We are very excited about the new chicken coop. The children have been curious about where the chickens will sleep and what they can eat. Each room now has a container where lunch scraps can be put aside for the chickens. We have been talking about what foods are healthy for the chickens, what are special treats and what foods can make the chickens sick. If you are interested in what foods are suitable for the chickens, please speak to Deborah, Els or Xiaoxi.

## September Dates

- 30<sup>th</sup> August & 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Father's Day Celebrations
- 7<sup>th</sup> September – Early Childhood Educators Day 2016
- 20<sup>th</sup> September & 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Grandparents Day Celebrations
- 20<sup>th</sup> September & 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Community Afternoon Tea
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Last day of Term 3
- 10<sup>th</sup> October – First day of Term 4

## Storypark

Just a reminder that we are using Storypark to share the children's daily activities with families and also for families to share stories and information with teachers. Please let us know if you have any trouble accessing this, and we can resend the invitation to join. This website is a secure website and can only be accessed through a login. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your classroom educators.