

St John's Preschool – Newsletter

May 2017



We are halfway through term 2! And it's time for an update on what we have been doing here at preschool.

We had a very productive start to the term with around 25 families coming to help at our first Working Bee for the year! We really appreciate your help and the children are very much enjoying the fruits of your labour! Our next working bee is scheduled for Saturday 9th September, so be sure to put that in your diary.

We then had the arrival of our chickens and eggs from Henny Penny Hatching. The children were very excited to see them each morning and throughout the days, and we found it was hard to drag them away at the end of the day as well! Due to a problem with the first batch of eggs, we were lucky to have an extension to our program for an additional 2 weeks. We have kept 3 hens, and they will be spending a week at a time with each class. The Frangipani class are caring for them this week, and have named one "Ginger".

We had two lovely afternoons celebrating our mothers in May. Thank you for coming to join us!

Over the past week, we have had Constable Jim from Ashfield Police Station come to visit our classes. The children heard about safe people and safe places, road safety and how to be safe around cars. Be sure to ask your child what they learnt. They also had the opportunity to see the police car and hear the siren!

We have been enjoying exploring our surrounds again this term, with the 4-year old classes taking a walk around the block, in addition to many of the classes visiting the playground near the church.

There's lots more fun planned for the rest of Term 2... Bring Your Bike (& helmet!!) to Preschool Day, Movie Night at St John's, the Fire Engine visit and our end of Term 2 Afternoon Tea with the jumping castle (weather permitting). See the dates at the end of this newsletter.



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Class Updates

Jacaranda 3-day class

The children are fascinated by all the insects and grubs they have discovered in our playground. We learnt about what a creature needs to be classified as an insect, and sorted mini beasts into insects, spiders and grubs. We have made lots of insects using different collage material. We will also soon be receiving our new class 'pet', a spiny leaf insect!



Jacaranda 2-day class

To coincide with the Police visit and our children's interest with cars, we have been exploring road safety. The children explored road signs during play and then we discussed how to walk safely near the road. We put it into practice when we went for our walk around the block.

Frangipani 3-day class

We have been investigating road safety – how to cross roads safely: looking for pedestrian crossings; holding an adult's hand; stopping at the curb; looking and listening for cars; and walking quickly across the road. We have been practicing some of our knowledge by walking down to the park beside the church, and last week we walked partway around the block looking at the signage on the way. We have also looked at common road signs and reading what they say.

We have also been very pleased to have Jared play the keyboard for us during music sessions.



Frangipani 2-day class

The 2 Day group have been interested in emergency vehicles and the role of emergency workers. We added ambulances to the hospital/clinic area, and we have had big discussions about emergency workers fixing problems and saving the day.

We have also had some new children start with us this term and we have been making them feel welcome in our room.

We have particularly enjoyed caring for the hatching chicks over the last month. Having the chicks out the front of our room has been a source of great discussions and observation. We are currently taking our turn to look after the three hen chicks, and learning about how to care for their needs. Our home corner area, which was originally set up as a hospital, quickly evolved into a veterinary clinic. The children have been quite interested in taking care of both human and animal patients.



Lilli Pilli 2-day class

The Lilli Pilli children have been investigating dinosaurs through a variety of activities in both indoor and outdoor settings. Here are some examples of these experiences:

Group Times: The children are proud to share stories of visits to the museum and the names of dinosaurs that they are familiar with when we read books about dinosaurs.

Light table and water play: The children immerse themselves in an imaginative play as they bury dinosaur skeletons and make gigantic volcanos with sand. Through imaginative play the children are making sense and expressing what they have learned about dinosaurs while also talking about their attributes (big, scary, spikey, green, etc).

Lilli Pilli 3-day class

Since the Mother's Day cooking experience the children have shown increasing interest in the process of making cupcakes. The Lilli Pilli Café turned into a pretend bakery where food packages and a dairy-free cupcake recipe

were provided. We encouraged the children to think of the different recipes and ingredients that we can be used to make cupcakes. While playing we pointed out to the children that we can use either cow milk or rice milk, for example. The children demonstrated great ability to identify a variety of food packages by their pictures while also using literacy and numeracy skills to identify numbers and predict words from the cupcake recipe.





Sydney Local Health District has a new central access point for referral, appointments, information and support for local families to our Child and Family Health Services. It is for anyone looking after children.

This includes parents and carers, health professionals, service providers and child development experts.

To access the Child Health Information Link, please call 9562 5400, Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Sydney Local Health District Child and Family Health Services provides a range of health and developmental support to local children and families including:

- Child and Family Health Nursing
- Community Paediatric (Medical)
- Social Work and Psychology
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Speech Pathology
- Vision and Hearing Assessments
- Child Nutrition Services



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

June & July Dates

- Bring Your Bike to Preschool Day – Week 7
Monday 5/06 – Jacaranda (3 day class)
Tuesday 6/06 – Lilli Pilli (2 day class)
Wednesday 7/06 – Frangipani (3 day class)
Thursday 8/06 – Jacaranda & Frangipani (2 day classes)
Friday 9/06 – Lilli Pilli (3 day class)
- Movie Night at St John’s Church – “Trolls”
Starting 5pm for fun, Movie at 6pm. Saturday 10/06
- Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday (preschool closed) – Monday 12/06
- Fire Engine visit @ 10am – Thursday 22/06 and Monday 26/06
- Term 2 Church visit – Tuesday 27/06 and Thursday 29/06
- Term 2 Afternoon Tea – Tuesday 27/06 and Thursday 29/06
- Last day of Term 2 – Friday 30/06
- First day of Term 3 – Monday 17/07

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.