

St John's Preschool – Newsletter

August 2017



We're quickly coming to the end of Term 3! We've had a very busy time here at preschool.

We started the term with activities to celebrate National Tree Day, with the children planting new plants in our vertical garden, and some classes heading out into the church grounds to identify different trees.

In week 3 we had a visit from the Taronga Zoo Zoomobile. The children enjoyed getting up close to lizards, a python, a turtle and a possum! They were very brave and gentle using two fingers to touch the animals.

Following on from our Emergency Services visits last term, the 4 year old classes got to experience a real campfire in week 5. One of the children even brought along his didgeridoo!

In week 6 we celebrated Book Week. It was fun to see the children (and the teachers!) dressed up as their favourite book characters. The Big Book Fair was also a big success! We were thankful to have lots of parents to help, and all the children took two books home to keep.

We had our biggest Father's Day celebrations ever in week 8! The children enjoyed having their dads at preschool and it was great to see everyone joining in the activities.

This week we had Angela visit for our Ecobug Incursion. We learned about the three "Rs"- reduce, reuse and recycle, along with how to keep our water clean for a healthier planet.

Today is Early Childhood Educators Day 2017, so please take the time to say "thank you" to all our wonderful teachers who do an amazing job with the children each and every day. There is a table set up at our entrance with flower and leaf crafts for you to do, and the we'll stick these on the tree in our foyer.

There's lots more happening before the end of term, including Grandparents Day next week – see the bottom of the newsletter for more details!

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Class Updates

Jacaranda 3-day class

We have seen the children's block buildings grow and develop with more and more sophistication this term. We printed photos of the children's buildings and this gave them the opportunity to revisit structures they had worked on in previous weeks. They are developing Mathematical Skills including how to understand length, measurement, comparison, number, estimation, symmetry, balance.



Jacaranda 2-day class

A Doctor set up in home corner encouraged lots of discussion around the human body and what is inside our bodies. We made a child sized skeleton picture and then talked about what different parts in our body do such as the heart, lungs, skin, bones.

Frangipani 3-day class

The Frangipani children have been having a great interest in animals. To enrich their learning, we have been investigating different groups of animals through research, books, hands on experiences and games.

We are now combining Music and Drama group learning to encourage children actively participate and learn a variety of ways expressing themselves.

Our home corner has been transformed into the shop and later into the café as the children enjoy ordering, preparing, serving and eating food as well as using money and bank cards to pay for their meal.



Frangipani 2-day class

We have some new friends that had started in Frangipani room this term and we have been making them feel welcome.

The children show interest in bugs and animals. Different hands on experiences have been provided to sustain and enrich this interest. We had 'worm' and bugs hunting learning area and the children really enjoyed looking for worms and were helping each other to find them.

Music/Drama time has been very enjoyable as the children were role playing their favourite rhymes, stories and songs.

Frangipani children have been showing great interest in board games. We continue provide them with different fun games which help them to build co-operation and friendship as well as develop early math skills.



Lilli Pilli 2-day class

Box collage continues to be a strong interest among the children. The children have used their imagination to create a variety of things such as boats, houses and telephones. To foster the children interest in numbers and telephones, we then provided with numbered small to represent digits on their phones.

Another interest among the children has been Ninja Warrior obstacle course. Throughout a few weeks the children have engaged in different obstacle courses that were set up outside. Obstacle courses are great for the children to develop their gross motor while exploring their senses.



Lilli Pilli 3-day class

Throughout this term the children have been very engaged in making magic potions and animal poison during outdoor play. We then provided with a science experience to extend their interest while promoting a range of skills such as experimentation, hypothesing and investigation. This experience involved mixing common ingredients that the children were familiar with such as dishwashing liquid, baking soda, water, vinegar and a sprinkle of glitter. The children then put in practice what they have learned and had a blast!

Another strong interest among the children have been Ninja Warrior obstacle courses. The children used their strong muscles to roll on gym mats, crawl up on the rope ladder and finally engage on the hanging rope traverse which was very popular.



St JOHN'S
PRE-SCHOOL ASHFIELD

Reminders:
ILLNESS

- Children who are unwell should not be sent to preschool. Children who have vomited or had diarrhoea are excluded until 24 hours since the last episode.
- If your child has a fever they should be kept home.
- For more information, please see our Infectious Disease Policy and here: http://www.imagineeducation.com.au/files/Gap_Training/Staying_Healthy_5th_Edition.pdf

BIRTHDAYS

- Birthdays are always a special event for children, and everyone's birthday is celebrated at Preschool. You are very welcome to bring cupcakes or something similar to preschool if you wish.
- Please ensure the cake you provide does not contain nuts
- No party bags or gifts should be handed out.



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

Enrolling now for 2018

Forms are going out this week for re-enrolment in 2018. Please return these by the end of Term 3 to have your place confirmed for next year.

If you have any questions about classes, please see Stephanie.

Preschool Photos

Orders are due by FRIDAY 15th September, with Kylie Montague. Please contact Stephanie if you did not receive the ordering information by email on 4/09.

September Dates

- EcoBug Incursion – Thursday 7/09
- Grandparents Day – Tuesday 12/09 & Thursday 14/09 at 2:30pm
- STEPS vision screening (for 4 year olds) – 6/09, 13/09 and 14/09.
- Working Bee – Saturday 16/09 from 9am – 12pm
- Term 3 Afternoon Tea & jumping castle – Tuesday 19/09 and Thursday 21/09
- Last Day of Term 3 – Friday 22/09

- First Day of Term 4 - Monday 9/10

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.

If you have any concerns about your child at preschool, please contact your Room Leader or the Director directly.