

St John's Preschool – Newsletter

Term 3 2018



Nursing Home Visit



Eco Bug Incursion



Bear Cottage Superhero Fundraiser



Zoo mobile visit

Here we are half way through our year already!

It's been lovely to welcome lots of new families this term, and our classes are all currently full! We are accepting waiting list forms to fill any places that become available, in addition to all classes for 2019.

We finished up last term with our 4 year old classes visiting the Presbyterian Aged Care facility in Charlotte St. It was such a lovely experience, and I know the children, residents, staff and our volunteers really enjoyed it.

We also had our Eco bug incursions where the children learned to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle", in addition to giving them ways to conserve water and compost food scraps!

This term started with a big event – our first Superhero Days to raise money for Bear Cottage! Thank you for your participation and donations. The children absolutely loved it and we raised \$... to donate.

We also had the Zoomobile visit us from Taronga Zoo in Week 3 – Ashley and Shae introduced the children to lots of animals, many of which the children were able to touch. The Frangipani class has been very interested in learning more about Australian animals so it was especially exciting for them!

There is lots more coming up this term including celebrating dads with our Father's Day activities on Tuesday 28/08 and Thursday 30/08! Dads are very welcome to drop into preschool any time on those days to visit, and we will also be having afternoon tea from 2:45pm.

Dates for more events are at the end of the newsletter, including Book week Dress Up Days, Big Book Fair and Preschool Photos.

Also don't forget our Working Bee from 9-12pm on Saturday 15/09 - it would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

**Thank you for being part of
our community!**



Class Updates



Frangipani 3-day class

The children's interest in dramatic play and storytelling led to many weeks of exploring fairy tales and Aboriginal stories. The children enjoyed taking turns acting out fairy tales and creating their own props and puppets to retell the stories. From the stories, the children learnt beginning reading skills of predicting text, elements in a story, repetition and about characters. The interest in Aboriginal stories lead to discussions and classifications about different animals and where they live. Our visit from the zoo mobile allowed the children to touch and see these animals rather than just in pictures. We have also been singing lots of different animal and Aboriginal songs in music time too. "Red, Black and Yellow" is one our new favourite songs.

Frangipani 2-day class

Frangipanis have been developing new knowledge in literacy. Many children have been showing interest in letters and words in their environment. Frangipanis were provided with varies fun activities to explore letter formation and sound/letter recognition.

This term Frangipanis have been learning about Aboriginal people and their culture. We have learnt about Dreamtime stories: telling the stories around the 'campfire', pretended to be Australian animals through songs and created beautiful Aboriginal artwork using dots technique.

Frangipanis have been involved in numerous early math experiences. They have been learning about patterns: recognising and making; shapes and space; numbers and counting

The Cooking Club with Cristina is still very popular. The children have been exploring new ingredients, cooking techniques and of course, new tastes!



Lilli Pilli 3-day class

This term we have noticed the children engaging in writing and drawing activities with increasing confidence and skill.

A popular and successful way to promote drawing/writing skills is to incorporate materials such as clipboards, lead pencils and paper in pretend play areas such as at the hospital and police play. The children used their imagination along with their previous knowledge and skills to express their thoughts through drawing and writing.

Another strong interest among the children has been science experiments combined with art. We created volcanoes out of recycled materials that were later used in a science experiment. The gas and bubbles produced by the reaction of vinegar, baking soda and soap simulated a volcano erupting with lava!



Lilli Pilli 2-day class

At the end of term 2 and beginning of term 3, we have welcomed quite a few new friends in the Lilli Pilli room. Our focus this term is to promote positive relationships among the newcomers, older children and teachers. We have been doing lots of fun songs and games that support interactions among the children while also helping them learn each other's names. Reading books continues to be a strong interest. It is also a great way to develop strong relationships by sharing stories about ourselves and our preferences in these spontaneous moments.

This term the children have shown strong interest in learning more about alphabet letters and numbers. We have seen some of the children identifying the first letter of their name and developing understanding that letters have meaning.

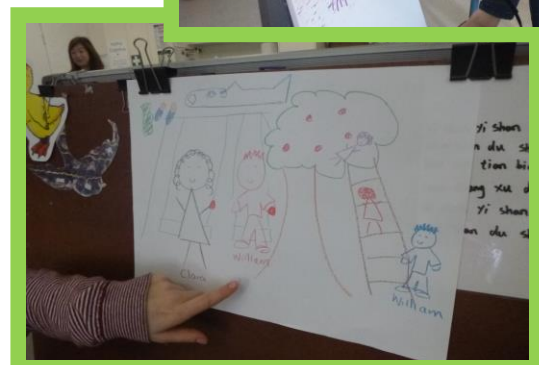




Jacaranda 3-day class

It has been a very busy term indeed! We started off with the baby chickens coming to visit. The Jacarandas' loved meeting the baby chickens, especially when they spent time in our room. This was great for the children to help take on the responsibility of caring for the natural environment. This flowed into a wider interest in the natural world and how to look after it, specifically composting and how we dispose of rubbish. The children have been very conscientious about making sure that our fruit and vegetable scraps go in the compost bin and our plastic rubbish goes in the rubbish bin, which has brought about great discussions amongst the children to make sure we are caring for the environment.

We also have spent time looking at numbers and how to bring mathematical ideas in our everyday experiences through playing games of 'Memory', tracing numbers with paint and measuring ingredients in cooking.



Jacaranda 2-day class

We have had a few ongoing projects happening in the Thursday – Friday class over the term. We started off with focusing on a letter of the Alphabet each day and brought in sign language for each letter. The children have become quite confident in their sign language letters and this is fantastic for providing them with a different form of communication.

Over the term, we also spent a series of weeks conducting different science experiments. This has helped to expand our understanding of the world as we have learnt about chemical reactions, water coming as a solid, liquid and gas, as well as the melting point of crayons!

Towards the end of the term, we started to write our own stories together as a large group, with each of the children adding their own ideas and suggestions for what might happen next in the story. We are looking forward to extending on this next term as the children start to create stories in smaller groups and then start to illustrate the stories for themselves.

Reminders:

IMMUNISATIONS

- As children receive more vaccinations (as lots of the children will be as they turn 4), please ensure that an updated Immunisation History Report from Medicare is provided to preschool. This can be emailed or brought in to copy.

ILLNESS

- Children who are unwell should not come to preschool. Children who have vomited or have had diarrhea CANNOT attend until 24 hours since the last episode.
- If your child has a fever they should be kept home.
- Please see our Infectious Disease Policy, available in all classrooms and see here for further information:
http://www.imagineeducation.com.au/files/GapTraining/Staying_Healthy_5th_Edition.pdf

BIRTHDAYS

- The children love to celebrate their birthdays at preschool! You are very welcome to bring cupcakes or something similar 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

Vacancies

We are currently operating a waiting list for all of our classes for 2018 to fill places as they become available.

We are already accepting enrolments for 3 year olds and 4 year olds for 2019 so please let any friends or neighbours know to apply soon!

Dates

- Term 3 Church visits Tuesday 14/08 and Friday 17/08
- Book week Dress Up Day Monday 20/08 and Friday 24/08
- Big Book Fair Tuesday 21/08 and Thursday 23/08.
- Father's Day Celebrations Tuesday 28/08 and Thursday 30/08
- Early Childhood Educators Day Wednesday 5/09
- Preschool Photo Week 10/09 – 14/09
- Seminar - God's big story: explaining the Bible to under 5s – for tickets see facebook or email Stephanie
- Working Bee, 9-12pm Saturday 15/09
- Grandparents Day & Term 3 Afternoon Tea Tuesday 18/09 and Thursday 20/09
- Dental Students Visit Tuesday 18/09 and Thursday 27/09
- Parent Teacher Interviews Week for 4-year-old classes 24/09 – 28/09

Storypark

We are continuing to use Storypark to share the children's daily activities with families. There is now a Storypark App ("Storypark Families") that makes it a lot easier to view and comment on stories.

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.