

# St John's Preschool – Newsletter

Term 1 2019



Welcome back to preschool!

Practising going "outside the gate" ready for the Teddy Bear's Picnic



Lots of fun at preschool!



Munch & Move in the hall



Learning about worms.

Here we are up to week 5 already! It's been a fun and busy time with lots of new children here at preschool. We've really enjoyed getting to know them and their families, as well as welcoming back our friends from last year.

It was nice to spend some time with the parents at our Welcome Morning Tea in Week 3. As we have lots of new children starting throughout the term, we will hold another morning tea in Term 2. Please join us and feel free to bring along little siblings.

We have lots of excitement next week with our Teddy Bear's Picnic! The children can bring along their Teddy Bear (or other soft friend) for the day, and also a gold coin donation for the Children's Hospital Bandage Bear Appeal. Families are welcome to join us for the games and morning tea.

In a few weeks time, we will have our Harmony & Cultural celebration day activities. We would love for parents to come in and share their cultural backgrounds with us! Whether there is a dance, music, cooking experience or other traditions, we would love your involvement. Please see your Room Leader for further information. From 3pm on the Tuesday & Thursday, we will have our Term 1 afternoon tea on the grass outside the preschool, as well as the jumping castle. Please join us!

Also this term we have the Chicken Hatching program coming up, our Preschool AGM, and in Week 11 we will visit the church to hear about the Easter story with Ben.

Each week we're also making our bodies stronger at Munch & Move in the hall and learning Mandarin with Xiaoxi from the Lilli Pillis!

We really appreciate your involvement at preschool. Whether it's having a chat with other parents at drop off, volunteering or attending preschool activities, it all helps to build a community and gives the children a sense of belonging.



## Class Updates



### Frangipani 2-day class

Term 1 has been a big term for our new Frangipanis. It has been wonderful to see them settle in and a delight to discover their individual personalities. We started off the term by learning some sign language for simple words such as 'Finished', 'Thank you', 'Mum' and 'Dad'. This helps to provide the children with more confidence in their communication. It also presents the possibilities of how to express yourself in non-verbal methods.

Over the term, we have been learning about all that God has made including our families, animals, plants and everything else we can see in the world. The children have made some fantastic artwork to remind them of how creative and amazing God is.

The children have also shown a strong interest in cooking over this term, making a wide variety of foods and other mixtures, such as biscuits and playdough.

We have had a wonderful start with the children and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and learn this year.

### Frangipani 3-day class

Term 1 has been so enjoyable with our Frangipanis – both old and new. Over the term, there has been a strong interest in building with a variety of materials – blocks, boxes, recyclable materials, on the light table and blocks outside. The children have shown us their creativity and imagination through these experiences. We have also spent a lot of time working on large floor puzzles together. It has been great to see the children working together as a team and their excitement when they complete a puzzle.

During Bible Time we have been focusing on God's creation and all that He has made. They have considered the different features of animals and the differences in the plants outside. As we have done this together, we continue to come back to how amazing and creative God is!

We spent a few weeks looking at some of our favourite stories, including 'We're going on a bear hunt' and 'Wombat Stew'. We further brought these stories to life as we went on a bear hunt as a class and worked together to make Wombat Stew. Our Frangipani children love to read books and this is an interest that we want to continue to foster and encourage, to help develop their literacy and vocabulary skills.



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## Lilli Pilli 3-day class

It's been lovely to watch the Lilli Pillis welcome our new friends in the classroom and build strong relationships with one another. A lot of learning has been happening since week 1, with the focus on building skills to draw recognisable pictures so that each child can make a self-portrait to go on our Classroom Bus. Portrait themed activities that help the children develop stronger fingers and hand control have been provided throughout the program. For example, through Bible Time the children made drawings of themselves, family members and friends; at playdough table they manipulated dough to add facial features to a face template; and even through routine self-help skills such as applying sunscreen before afternoon outdoor play the children are learning about facial features.

They have also been learning about sustainable practices with Carmel (Ben and Lewis' mum) while putting them in practice here at preschool. They are currently curious to learn more about worms so we will provide with hands on experiences such as digging dirt to look for worms as well as class discussions and group experiences where the children share their knowledge on their findings.



## Lilli Pilli 2-day class

We were excited to welcome so many new friends in the Lilli Pilli room! The focus of this term is promote a sense of belonging to help the new comers settle in by developing strong relationships with teachers and peers. We have been providing daily experiences that help the children learn each other's names and get to know each other such as Bug in a Rug and Sandy girl/boy. Meal times are also great to promote social skills, as teachers sit with the group encouraging conversations. It is also during meal times when the children can put in practice the skills learned in the weekly PALS lessons which include making eye contact when talking to someone and taking turns in conversations; all in a spontaneous and informal setting.

Imaginative play with wild animals has shown to be a strong interest among all the Lilli Pillis, especially when any sensory material is added to this play. At outdoor play the children loved exploring the sea creatures in the water trough which was then brought to the indoor setting in a tray with sand.



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## Jacaranda 3-day class

Everyone has settled quickly into the Jacaranda room. For everyone there was lots of new things to adjust to, classroom, teachers, routines and friends. Lovely friendships are starting to develop with co-operative play in building and construction, the home corner, outside play and at the playdough table. Many skills have been practised including problem solving, maths concept of height, length, mass and balance, creativity and imagination. Our PALS social skills programme has assisted children in developing the skills of negotiation, turn taking and greeting to enable them to make new friends and play together. Each week they are enjoying helping our puppet friends Anna and Jack learn these skills too.

We can't wait to see where the children's interests and play leads us this year.



## Jacaranda 2-day class

It has been an absolute pleasure to see how the children have been settling in very nicely in the Jacaranda class. Having longer hours class, with more time to explore and learn, the children have become very familiar with the daily routine, made new friends and developed a sense of belonging to our preschool community.

This term the children have been showing interest in construction (especially extra-long), collage and dramatic family play. At group learning we have learnt about family diversity, creating a family collage display. During our music times, the children have started learning musical concepts through new songs, games and playing percussion instruments! Jacarandas enjoyed our cultural celebration of Chinese New Year and have even begun learning Chinese words with Mei.



## Reminders:

### ILLNESS

- Children who are unwell should not come to preschool. Children who have vomited or have had diarrhea are not permitted to 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](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 for them to share if you wish.
- Please ensure the cake you provide does not contain nuts
- PLEASE NOTE: Party bags or gifts should not be handed out at preschool



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 or ideas that you have.. Please speak with or email Stephanie, Sue, or any of the Educators.

Stephanie is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Sue is in on Monday morning, Tuesday and Thursday.

## Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 5/03 & Thursday 7/09: Teddy Bears Picnic (Children's Hospital fundraiser). Games at 10:30am, morning tea at 11:00.
- Tuesday 19/03 & Thursday 21/03 Harmony & Cultural Celebration Day! (& afternoon tea from 3pm)
- Saturday 23/03 State Election - Polling Booth at St John's - BBQ fundraiser. Volunteers needed!
- Monday 25/03 (for 2 weeks) Chicken Hatching Program
- Wednesday 27/03 at 6pm Preschool Annual General Meeting (all welcome)
- Friday 5/04 at 3:30pm Return to Preschool Kindy Visit at the church playground
- Monday 8/04 Responsible Pet Ownership visit (4 year olds)
- Tuesday 9/04 & Friday 12/04 Easter Church Visit
- Friday 12/04 Last Day of Term 1
- Monday 29/04 - First day of Term 2

## Vacancies

Our 4 year old classes are all currently full, and 3 year old classes set to fill in the coming weeks.

We are still running tours and we will accept waiting list forms for vacancies as they occur.

## Storypark

We 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.