

# St John's Preschool – Newsletter

Term 3 2019

Taronga Zoo came to visit and brought lots of animals to share!



We have had a fun start to Term 3 with the Taronga Zoomobile coming to visit us. The children were very interested to meet the animals, although a few were a bit nervous about which animals would be arriving!

Next we had Dental Health Week, with one of our parents (Shannon, Lucy's mum), joining us to teach the children about looking after their teeth.

Book Week is always a big week in our preschool calendar, and this year was no exception! We had dress up days when the children came in character and shared their chosen book, and also our Big Book Fair where everyone went home with two books! We really appreciated our parent helpers too.

We were also lucky enough to be invited to St Vincent's Primary School to see their Book Parade this year! It was a lot of fun seeing what "Big School" is like, and our children were so well behaved! Our M/T Jacaranda class went to visit Haberfield Public School this week too!

We really loved having so many Dads, and other special friends, join us for Father's Day this year! We hope you enjoyed your treats.

We also had our Parent/Teacher interviews for our 4-year-old classes earlier this term. Interviews for the 3-year-old classes will be scheduled for in early Term 4. If ever you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please feel free to chat with them at drop off of pick up or arrange a meeting at any time.

Over the next few weeks we will be having our Spring Working Bee, preschool photos with Kylie Montague, Grandparents Day and a Transition to School Afternoon where children and parents can meet up with other families going to the same school!

For those not going to school in 2020, we are currently placing children into classes for next year. If you haven't returned your child's form, please do so as soon as possible.

Offers will go out to new enrolments in about 2 weeks time. If you know anyone who is interested in a place for next year, please ask them to get into contact with us right away.



Book Week at preschool



Father's Day afternoon tea

Visiting St Vincent's Primary School



## Class Updates



### Frangipani 3-day class

Throughout this term, the children have continued to explore more about the world around them and coming to a deeper understanding of how it works. Over the past few weeks, there has been a strong focus on eggs, following the children collecting a few of our own eggs from the chicken coop.

With Els, the children have investigated the different ways that eggs can be used – both in cooking and for more chickens to be born. They have investigated this through music, drama, information technology and visual arts.

Our highlight of the term so far has been the visit from Taronga Zoo in Week 2. The children thoroughly enjoyed the different animals that visited, and we explored the different types of Australian animals in group times with Grace. A few weeks later, some of the children revisited their interest in the different animals by creating a pet shop filled with wild animals outside.

In Bible time, the children have been looking at the different characteristics of God. They have had group discussions and read stories together from the Bible to discover how God is great, kind, good, always with us.

### Frangipani 2-day class

This term, we have continued to explore how we use our senses to understand and interact with the world around us. Over the past few weeks, Grace and the children have spent time focusing on each of our different senses (sight, touch, taste, hearing and smell), looking at how we can use them individually and together. The children enjoyed the different experiences – especially the tasting of strawberries, lemons and popcorn!

Our class have a deep interest in books and reading, so it was no surprise that they loved the Book Fair we held in Week 5. They were delighted to buy their own books and were very excited to dress up the following day as their favourite book characters.

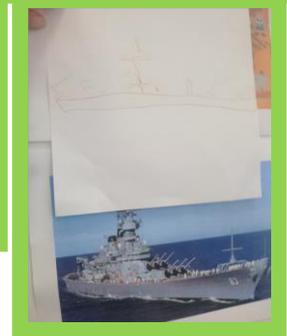
In Bible time, Els and the children have been looking at what God is like – how He is good, kind, great, always with us and our loving Father in heaven. We also visited the church, where we continued to learn about how God is always with us, with the children from the other classes and Ben from the church.



## Lilli Pilli 3-day class

The children have been working hard on their fine motor and drawing skills throughout the whole year and we are so proud of their great progress. Interest in drawing has blossomed from their ability to make more sophisticated drawings by copying drawings from templates. Making calendars promoted hand control and coordination of both dominant and non-dominant hands as the children used a ruler to trace columns. Ships and vehicles in general inspired many children to make their own drawings of pirates, superheroes, police, etc. The pictures and templates provided motivated some of the children to copy and follow specific features which allowed them to further challenge and improve their drawing skills. Recently we included outlined pictures on the light table to facilitate and further encourage the children to trace their favourite picture.

Treasure hunts have also been another strong interest. This type of play promotes a wide range of skills such as science, teamwork, pencil grip and drawing skills, maths, and creativity. By reading a map the children are developing a sense of direction and spatial awareness. By looking for the treasure the children are using teamwork and maths to count how many rocks (treasure!) they have found.



## Lilli Pilli 2-day class

These children have a wide range of interest! It is amazing to watch them extend their interests by bringing new ideas and resourcing their own learning.

Investigating bugs at the light table continues to be very popular. The children are completely immersed in science and in investigating the world through magnifying lenses. The books available on the table have been a great way to enrich this experience as the children look at the pictures while also sharing with peers what they know about insects.

The office play has been providing with a range of opportunities for the children to use their emerging literacy and pre-reading skills in a fun way. It also promotes language skills as they make up creative (and hilarious) dialogues on the phone. Phone calls to their mums, dads, or a sibling are the most common.

Outdoors, they are enjoying the waffle blocks. Through building with waffle blocks the children are developing cognitive skills as it requires them to connect the correct ends together to make cubes or symmetric constructions. It also promotes teamwork as its big size usually invites other children to help one another which then brings them to work together towards a common goal.



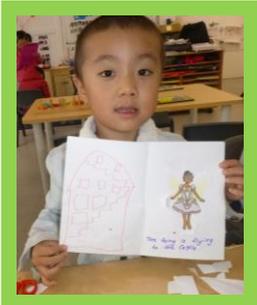
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## Jacaranda 3-day class

This term the Jacaranda's have been interested in books and telling stories. As a class we have enjoyed some Australian books; Wombat Stew and Possum Magic. We enjoyed reading the books over several days, observing more about the story each time. The children started to join in predicting what would happen next and identifying some familiar words on the page. The children's enjoyment of these stories has led to revisiting these books through dramatic play, puppets and making our own Wombat stew and other recipes!



The interest in books led to creating our own stories in little books and using puppets to tell our stories. There are many creative children in the Jacarandas with such imaginative stories. As the puppeteer, the children discovered that the more imaginative and crazier their story, the more the audience laughed. We can't wait to see what stories they will create next!



## Jacaranda 2-day class

This term the Jacarandas continued exploring Aboriginal culture through Dreamtime stories, interpreting the meaning of Aboriginal symbols and creating their own stories on 'kangaroo skin' shaped paper.

The children have been learning about Australian animals, with hands on learning areas encouraged children to share their ideas and explore animals and their habitat. We had visitors from Taronga Zoo with real Australian animals to see and touch!

With Spring approaching, Jacarandas have planted chickpeas and sunflower seeds in cups to observe them grow and document changes in Observational journals. The seeds will be planted in our garden.

We had Dental Health week where through stories and dramatic play, we were building on our knowledge about what happens at the dentist, healthy food choices as well as practising how to clean teeth.

During Book Week, the children were very excited to dress up as their favourite book character and to buy books from our Book Fair.



## 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.

We would also be very pleased if you could leave us a review!

### 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 might 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

- Haberfield Public School Visit (Jacarandas) Monday 2/09
- Evening Parenting Seminar – Big School Info night Wednesday 4/09 6pm
- Preschool Working Bee 9-12pm Saturday 7/09
- Preschool Photo Week 9/09 – 13/09
- Grandparents Day & Term 3 Afternoon Tea Tuesday 17/09 and Thursday 19/09 from 2:45pm
- Transition to School Afternoon and 2020 school starters meet up – 3:30pm Wednesday 25/09
- Last Day of Term 3 Friday 27/09
- First Day of Term 4 Monday 14/10

## 2020 Enrolments

We are currently placing children into classes for 2020. If you haven't returned your child's form, please do so as soon as possible.

Offers will go out to new enrolments in 2 weeks time. If you know anyone who is interested in a place for next year, please ask them to get into contact with us as soon as possible!

We run tours of the preschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30am.

## 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. However, some of the features (such as "All About Me" page) can only be accessed via a computer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your classroom educators.

Please note, once your child leaves preschool, we no longer have access to their Storypark profile. You will continue to have access, and it is up to you to delete it if you wish.