

Bush Baby News

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TERM 3 WEEK 10 2020



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The last week of Term 3 brings us one of the highlights on the preschool calendar - WALKATHON WEEK! Whilst Walkathon Week looks a little different this year without families being able to come along and support the children, I hope your little one enjoys the fun and challenge of our Walkathon obstacle course, and may I extend the sincere thanks of the Board and staff for the sponsorship money that has been raised for Walkathon. With many of our usual fundraisers having to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19, those fundraisers that we are still able to run become even more important as a means to bolster funds for new resources and equipment for preschool.

This week also marks the beginning of Mrs Downie's long service leave ahead of her planned retirement at the beginning of next year. In farewelling Mrs Downie on her well-earned long service leave we welcome Mrs Simone White as our new Early Childhood Teacher (ECT). Mrs White comes to us with two decades of experience in early childhood education, a passion for child-led learning and will no doubt be an asset to our preschool. Mrs White will be at preschool on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Willow Room, while Mrs Sayre will take on the Director role, spending time in both rooms, and of course some extra time in the office to take care of business so to speak! Mrs White commenced her time at preschool last Thursday and from speaking to her that afternoon I know she felt welcomed and at home from day one, so a big thank you to our wonderful preschool community for the warm welcome. I am sure Mrs White will be keen to meet as many families as she can at drop off and pick up times this week and when we return in Term 4.

DATES TO REMEMBER Term 4



- Class photos 12th, 14th, 16th October 2020.

We do hope and plan to hold a 'farewell and thank you' for Mrs Downie (as well as a belated 20 year anniversary celebration!) however we have decided to hold off until early next year when we hope restrictions will have eased a little bit more and a fitting celebration can take place. Regardless of when the event takes place, all former families (for whom we have email addresses) will be contacted and invited, so even if you are leaving preschool this year, you will not miss out your opportunity to thank Mrs Downie and to wish her well in her retirement.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and staff can I wish all our families a wonderful and of course healthy and safe school holiday break! The teachers will be looking forward to hearing about all the adventures and memories that were made during the break when the children return to preschool next term.

Stay safe, and see you next term!

Kind regards,

Bec Pollard

IMPORTANT REMINDER

COVID UPDATE

The current guidelines for arrival and pickup at Preschool remain the same for term 4. We will continue to keep you updated of any changes as we are advised of them. Since we will now be commencing our Summer Program from term 4, it would be appreciated if all families could try to be at Preschool by 9.30, as we are supposed to begin our day outdoors, and we cannot do this until all children have arrived, to minimise contacts. This also means it is important to ring Preschool if you are not attending for that day, so we are not waiting for you to arrive before going outdoors.

We need to go outdoors as soon as possible to minimise exposure to harmful UV rays between 11 and 3pm. This is our policy, and the current recommendations from the Cancer Council. Please assist us to run our program by arriving before 9.30am.

ROOM REPORTS

WATTLE ROOM:

The Wattle room have been very busy leading up to the end of term 3. The children have enjoyed learning about space and the planets. We discovered some short videos on you tube of astronauts in space reading children's stories, the children really enjoyed listening to the stories and discovering what life is like as an astronaut. We have also been learning about seasons and the weather, leading to interesting activities and learning discoveries.

We have been practicing some important things ready for our transition to big school such as making sure our bags and our belongings are all together at the end of the day, making sure we eat our lunch within a reasonable time and using our 5 L's at group time (looking, listening, legs crossed, lips closed, hands in lap).

We are looking forward to finishing term 3 with our very exciting walk-a-thon, we hope that all of our friends have a happy and safe holiday break ready to return for a busy term 4.

WILLOW ROOM:

The Willow Room are in full Spring Swing. There has been plenty of discussion regarding the changes in weather and how we are able to get out and enjoy the garden. The children have been learning about how and where their food come from and have commenced planting seeds in their milk containers (finally). The seeds they have been planting have been coming both from the purchased seeds and from the children collecting their own. Some have been bringing them in from home whilst others have been collecting seeds from their fruit. We are all eager and excited to see what comes from the plantings.

This week we have welcomed Mrs White to the Willow Room and the children were excited to introduce themselves to her, I'm sure they all won't be able to wait until next term to be able to play with her everyday.

The walkathon is next week and the children are all excited to participate.

We would like to wish all of our friends a happy and safe holidays and we look forward to a fun filled add busy term 4.

DONATIONS

Thank you to all families that have already brought their donations in, however we are asking Families with surname L-Z for donations of toilet paper and tissues.

A collection box will be left at both sign in areas for placement of items.

We thank all of our families for your assistance in this donation as it allows Preschool to keep fees low for all.

WALKATHON

Walkathon will be held this week. It is a changed format due to COVID. The children will complete the walkathon in the company of educators only. We will still begin the walkathon at 2pm. We have three great prizes that encourage physical activity, so please remember to gain many sponsors and return sponsorship cards and money before Friday 25 September 2020.

FROM OFFICE

1. Please return your blue exit/ re-enrolment forms as soon as possible. If you are leaving it is important, as this releases your enrolment deposit! Also important to be quick to be assured of your choice of days if you are returning.
2. Please ensure you have paid your term 1 fees. There will be no fees payable for the rest of the year due to the NSW Government's generous support of Preschools. We do, however, need payment to be made for term 1, and there are several families who have not paid their amount owing. Please see Brooke as soon as possible to discuss your amount or any questions you have.
3. Encourage any families you know who may want to enrol a 4 year old to do it as soon as possible so they can be included in our orientation, whatever that will look like this year.

Orientations for big school in 2021

To ensure we are keeping you informed staff have had further conversations with the local schools in the area to ensure we are able to transition the children the best way possible with the current situation.

At present the best advice we are able to offer is to ensure if you are sending your child to school next year, you make contact with the school and complete enrolment information, this ensures the school has your details to provide all the relevant information to you and keep you informed of their ever changing practices.

The schools will also stay in touch with Preschool and as soon as we are able to arrange visits, this will also happen to ensure the best transition possible for the children.

CLASS PHOTOS

A reminder that Preschool photos will be the first week back for term 4. Monday 12th October, Wednesday 14th October, Friday 16th October.

Children will participate in class photos on their day/s of attendance, individual photos will be on a day to be indicated to you (also on a day of their attendance.)

Payment for these photos will not be required until the viewing of the photos a few weeks after the event.

Sadly this year, DUE TO COVID procedures of Fotek, our photographers, sibling photos will be limited only to children that attend Preschool. If you require sibling photos please speak to Brooke in the office or Mrs Sayre for further clarification, payment for these will be required before the day.

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

As you will have been aware Preschool advertised and has now employed, a new staff member to complete extra COVID cleans, be our "Parent helper" and many other support jobs until the end of the year. We welcome Mrs Laura Chinchio. Her personal introduction follows:

Hi, my name is Laura Chinchio. I have recently been employed by the preschool as an Early Childhood support worker/Educator. I hold a current Diploma in Children's Services and have 10 years' experience in the field. I enjoy working with children and am looking forward to meeting and getting to know each and every one of the children and families over the coming weeks. I will be at the Preschool Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week from 9:30am – 3pm each day.

I am a mother of 4 amazing children, my stepson Justin (19), Kaden (8), Ashton (5) and Sienna (1). My son Ashton currently attends the preschool and Kaden previously attended before heading off to Kindergarten in 2018. I am sure Sienna is already counting down the years until she too can join in all the fun to be had here at the Preschool.

Along with being a parent of a current attending child, I have also spent some time on the Board, volunteering as the Deputy Chairperson. I have a good understanding of the Preschools values and philosophy and will endeavor to uphold these as an Educator at the Preschool. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future. Mrs Chinchio

We also welcome Mrs Simone White as an Early Childhood Teacher replacement for Mrs Downie. Mrs White will be in the Willow room on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday while Mrs Sayre moves into the Director role. Please say hello if you see her at the door.

INTRODUCTION SIMONE WHITE

Hi, my name is Simone White and I am excited to have been employed at The Oaks Preschool as an Early Childhood Teacher. I have been in the industry for over 20 years working with children from 0-5 and still thoroughly enjoy my work, finding it rewarding to see children develop and grow each day. I will be here four days a week having Thursdays off and looking forward to meeting all the children here over the next term. I have grown up and still live in Picton which is a close nit community just like The Oaks. I have strong family values

and two children of my own, Isaac who is 15 and Eliza who is 13 who are my world, and a little sausage dog called Marshall who is just 1. Both my children enjoy sports which takes up a lot of my spare time and I squeeze in some F45 gym sessions a few times a week to try keep fit and healthy myself. We love going away camping to spend quality time together away from busy day to day life and enjoy lots of outdoor activities. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to meet you soon and look forward to getting to know all the children here.

Simone White

From Mrs Downie

I cant believe this is my last week at The Oaks Preschool ever! I have had the absolute pleasure of being here for a very long time, seeing many changes in Early Childhood, the Preschool environment and staff. This preschool has been a major part of my life, as there is always something to attend to, buy, source, fix or organise even out of hours. This is part of the reason I feel the time is right to hand over the reigns to another who can devote the time to our most deserving Preschool community. My family both young and old need to be my priority now, as well as moving into our new home in the Southern Highlands.

The staff I have worked with have been an inspration, and Im happy to be leaving the Preschool in their capable and passionate hands. I will miss each and every one of them, we have been a family.

I would like to wish everyone the very best for starting school, and enjoying the last term of 2020 whatever it brings. It certainly has been a mixed up year. I will miss the Preschoolers so much, watching and helping them grow, and enjoying the unique way they see the world. They are all so special. Thank you for sharing them !!

Keep an eye out for me in "Dirty Janes" in Bowral, my second home!!!

With happiness, sadness, excitement and best of all a lifetime of memories, Mrs Downie.



