

Bush Baby News

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TERM 1 WEEK 1 2020



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

I would like to kick our first newsletter of the year off with a big HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to a new year, a new decade and welcome to what promises to be a wonderful year of learning and play at The Oaks Preschool in 2020.

I trust that you all had enjoyable (if not exhausting) Christmas holidays - how great was the rain when it finally started to fall! I am sure our educators will enjoy hearing all the stories from everyone's holiday adventures over the next few weeks.

As I return to preschool with Finn next week I look forward to seeing many familiar little faces in the playground, and equally I look forward to seeing the many new faces that will be in the playground as well. On behalf of the Board I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families. It only feels like yesterday when I was one of those 'new' mums and of course it can seem slightly daunting or overwhelming, but please know that our little preschool community is a friendly and welcoming one and you won't need to look far to have a question answered or to get some feedback on how your child is settling in. Our staff and families are only too happy to help so don't be afraid to ask!

As a community-based preschool we prosper through the contribution of our preschool families and our wider community. With a new term starting it is a great time for all families to think about how you can assist our preschool to continue to deliver the high standards in care and education that our children currently enjoy. One of the best ways for your family to contribute is to volunteer to be a Parent Helper (Grandparent Helpers are always extra special too!). Being a parent helper not only frees up our educators to get on with the more important aspects of their work (engaging, inspiring and educating our kids!), but it also gives you a chance to see how the preschool program works, what your

DATES TO REMEMBER 2020

Term 1

Tuesday 28th January - Thursday 9th April

- 17th – 21st
February, Blue
and Yellow week
- 24th – 28th
February, Red and
Green week
- 16th – 20th March,
Harmony week
- Friday 3rd April,
Easter Hat Parade
- Monday 6th April,
Easter Hat Parade
- Wednesday 8th
April, Easter Hat
Parade
- Thursday 9th
April, Easter Hat
Parade at The
Oaks Public

child gets up to while at preschool, and if your kids are anything like mine, you always get BIG brownie points after a Parent Helper day (extra points if you organise for Grandma to be the Parent Helper!).

A parent helper roster will be posted on the Wattle Room door, so please take a moment when you are at preschool next week to choose a day that best suits you - first in is always best dressed!

Understandably, not everyone is available for Parent Helper days, but the good news is there are many opportunities to help with fundraising initiatives, maintenance, working bees and so on throughout the year, so keep an eye on upcoming newsletters for opportunities to contribute.

As we start up a new year and with our AGM to be held this term, I would also encourage you to consider whether you might be placed to contribute to the governance of our preschool by nominating for a Board position in 2020. A number of our 2019 Board Members have had their youngest child move on to big school this year so there will be a number of positions to be filled. Prior experience serving on a Board is most certainly not required, you simply need to have a commitment to the ongoing and future success of your preschool. If you are interested in nominating in 2020 please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Downie or myself for some more information.

As always, if you have any feedback, questions or queries please don't hesitate to chat to myself, another board member, Mrs Downie, or of course, pop it in the Suggestion Box at the sign in desk.

Looking forward to a cracking 2020 at The Oaks Preschool with you all!

Kind regards,

Bec Pollard



DATES TO REMEMBER 2020

Term 2

**Monday 27th April –
Friday 3rd July**

Term 3

**Monday 20th July –
Friday 25th September**

Term 4

**Monday 12th October –
Friday 18th December**

To all our new families we extend a warm welcome to The Oaks Preschool, and to all our returning families, it is great to see you back safely after the holidays.

The staff and I are looking forward to an exciting and fulfilling year.

The main aim of our program over the first few weeks is to provide the children with a warm, welcoming and happy environment where they feel secure and confident to stay. They will be adjusting to preschool routines and learning how special each and every one of them are.

This newsletter is full of important information about Preschool. Please keep it for future reference.

- Like us on Facebook to keep up with what is happening
- Check Kinderloop daily for updates



KINDERLOOP



Kinderloop is our online communication program. You will very soon receive an invitation to Kinderloop. Please follow the instructions to set the App up, and check it regularly for updates. The days your child come to Preschool there will be important snapshots of the day, as well as observations. Other days there will be administrative items and reminders, so a very important and integral part of our Preschool program and communication.

School FEES

Daily fees for 3 year olds are \$30 per day.

Daily fees for 4 year olds are \$17 per day. (Turning 4 before the 31.7.20)

Invoices for term 1 will be in communication pockets before week 2.

Preschool policy is that fees remain one week in advance. Internet transfers are encouraged for all payments. Banking details below

Name: The Oaks Preschool Kindergarten Co Op.

Commonwealth Bank, Camden.

BSB: 062-516

Account: 00902485

Please include child's full name in description.

Please also send an email to preschool advising payment, so we can track it if it doesn't appear on our statement. admin@theoakspreschool.com.au

If you cannot pay fees by internet transfer, fees can be paid to the Office Administrator in the mornings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.45. Preschool accepts cash and cheques.

If you hold a family Health Care Card, you will be eligible for fee assistance. Please see Brooke in the office for a Subsidy assistance form. All information is held in the strictest confidence.

THANK YOU TO:

The Pollard family for looking after our chooks over the holidays and keeping them safe until our new chook pen is build in the next few weeks. Watch out for our new space.

The Preschool is also organising some synthetic grass to repair our drought stricken playground for play. This should be completed in the next few weeks.

STAFFING 2020

Staff rosters are on display at the sign on area so you can check who will be in your child's room each day. Any changes will be notified on the sign on book, for example staff sickness, and their replacement will be shown.

Office Administrator: Ms Brooke Swain

Director and Both Room Teacher: Mrs Jennie Downie

Willow Room Educator and Educational Leader: (M, T, W, F) Mrs Stacey Sayre

Willow Room Educator: (Th) Mrs Tammy Angilley

Willow Room Educator: (M-F) Mrs Kathy Odgers

Wattle Room Educator: Mrs Liz Fryer (M, T, W)

Wattle Room Educator: Mrs Amanda Scott (Th & F)

Wattle Room Educator: Mrs Sharon Adams (M,T,F)

Wattle Room Educator and Support: Mrs Kayla Mills (M, T, W, Th)

Casual Staff: Mrs Tammy Angilley and Mrs Tzortzis

Support/Cleaner: Lauren Fuller

A big welcome back to Mrs Fryer in the Wattle room, returning from maternity leave after having her gorgeous third child, Willow, who is now 10 months old.

To help you get to know our staff, each staff member has written a small section about themselves.



MS BROOKE SWAIN

Hello, my name is Brooke Swain and I am the Office Administrator at The Oaks Preschool. I live in Camden with my husband and four children, all who have attended this wonderful preschool starting in 2009, and finishing last year with my last starting Kindy this week. Office days and hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.45 till 2pm. I look forward to meeting the new families and seeing the familiar faces around Preschool.

MRS JENNIE DOWNIE

Hello and welcome! I have been the Teacher and Director of The Oaks Preschool for the past 20 years and have enjoyed the growth and changes in the Early Childhood industry and the Preschool. I now live at Camden with my husband of 39 years, Glenn. We have three children, all married and in their own homes in the Southern Highlands, a 2.5 year old grandson, and two granddaughters 3 months and 4 months old. I strongly believe in building close bonds between home and Preschool so we can meet your needs and goals for your child in the most important and formative years of their life, leading up to formal schooling. Looking forward to meeting you and getting to know your children. Please feel free to come and chat with me in the office if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions.

MRS SHARON ADAMS

Hi. I am one of the Educators in the Wattle Room. I have been working in this industry for 35 years. I am a local to the area. I have lived at Oakdale for the past 30 years. I am married and have a 29 year old son, Corey who has just moved into his own home at Spring Farm. I hold a certificate 3 in Child Studies. I have been working at The Oaks Preschool for 13 years and look forward to meeting and working with all our previous and new families this year.

MRS KATHY ODGERS

Welcome to our wonderful Preschool for 2020. I have had the privilege of working in the Preschool for the last 17 years and have been involved with many wonderful families. I have 4 adult children who attended this preschool many moons ago.

I'm looking forward to getting to know our new families and seeing our returning families.



MRS STACEY SAYRE



Welcome to the Preschool for another fun filled year. I have been at The Oaks Preschool for 8 years.

I am the mother of three boys aged 22, 21, and 18 and they still keep me very busy after hours.

I hold a Diploma in Childcare and am currently studying my Bachelor of Education. I will be one of the educators in the Willow room in 2020, as well as the Educational Leader for the Preschool, and I look forward to meeting and working with all the children and families through the year.

MRS KAYLA MILLS

Hello. I have worked in the early Childhood industry for the last 10 years and have had the pleasure of being part of The Oaks Preschool team for the past 18 months. My husband and I live in The Oaks with our boys Jack (12), Sonny (10) and Koby (8).

I look forward to getting to know our new families and welcoming our returning families.

MRS TAMMY ANGILLEY

Welcome parents and carers to The Oaks Preschool 2020. I have been working here at the Preschool since the end of 2017 as a relief Diploma trained educator. Last year and again this year I will be working every Thursday in the Willow Room as well as continuing as a relief educator.

I am mum to four beautiful children, Dale (14), Jamie-Lee (12), Corey (11) and Shelley (9) who all attended this wonderful preschool when they were younger. My family love animals and have lots of pets. I look forward to getting to know all of you this year and watching your little ones grow.

MRS AMANDA SCOTT

Hello, I am lucky enough to be one of the educators in the Wattle Room this year. I have been with The Oaks Preschool for over 3 years now, and before that I owned my own Family Day Care after working many years in Long day care. A total of 15 years in the Early Childhood Industry.

I live in Buxton and have four children of my own ages ranging 3-13. When I am not attending to my own mini zoo at home (2 dogs, 2 guinea pigs, 3 cats, 2 fish) I enjoy camping, fishing, travelling and spending time with my family.

I am looking forward to getting to know your children and your family throughout the year and can't wait to see what adventures await us in the Wattle Room in 2020.

MRS LIZ FRYER

I have been a teacher with The Oaks preschool for the past 3 years. I live in Camden with my husband and two children Ruby(8) and Zayn (6) and Willow (10Months). I am returning to work from Maternity Leave and I cant wait to get to know all of our new families and welcome back our existing

MRS PATRICIA TZORTZIS

Hello to all the wonderful families at The Oaks Preschool.

My name is Patricia Tzortzis and I would like to introduce myself to you as a casual member of staff at our beautiful school. Some of you may already know me and some of you I am yet to meet. If you see me please make sure to say hello, I'm always excited to meet members of our incredible preschool community.

I have worked in the childcare industry for fifteen years and hold my diploma in children's services. I am also working toward completing my Early Childhood Teaching degree with Charles Sturt University and over my fifteen years of teaching I have worked with children from the zero to 12 year old age groups. I've been very lucky to have worked in the industry for so long and took a little break to have my babies and I am really excited to be back and working alongside the amazing staff here at our school.

I am blessed to have two gorgeous boys of my own, James (who has been a member of both the wattle and willow rooms and is starting his first year of big school this year!!! I can't believe how fast this has come around! I'm sure you can relate and I'm feeling lots of happy sad emotions) and Leo (who just is 18 months old - it seems like only yesterday I brought him home from the hospital!) and I feel so lucky they chose me to be their Mummy.

I've lived in The Oaks for ten years now and my husband Andrew has been in the area for twenty two years (some of you may know him from the local Chicken shop. His family have owned and operated this for seventeen years!). My hobbies include cooking, (my favorite thing to make is sweets) and I love nothing more than heading to the park with the boys and having some family time. I can't wait to meet you all and look forward to spending time with all of your amazing children here at The Oaks Preschool

HOURS



Preschool opens at **8.30 am** and closes at **3.55pm**.

Please ensure you are arriving at Preschool in plenty of time to organise your child's belongings, collect craft and liaise with educators before 3.55pm. Gates are locked at 4pm, so everyone needs to have left by that time.

GROUPS

We have two rooms at Preschool, the Wattle Room and the Willow Room. Educators are attached to each room and rosters and qualifications can be found at the sign on area.

SIGN IN/OUT

The sign in/out book is located just against the wall as you enter the Preschool. Please make sure you sign your child in and out each day they come to preschool as this is a legal document and a requirement of our license. Each child's name will be included in the list in alphabetical order, please sign the appropriate place. Please also make contact with a teacher on arrival, so we know your child is here. Remind others who may be dropping your child off to do this too.

WHAT TO BRING

PLEASE PUT SUNSCREEN ON YOUR CHILD BEFORE YOU LEAVE THEM EACH IF THE UV INDEX IS OVER 3.THERE IS A DISPLAY AT THE SIGN IN AREA. Staff will reapply it if going outdoors again in the afternoon.

Please do not forget to pack;

1. A full set of spare clothes, labelled, and in a plastic bag
2. A wide brimmed sun hat, labelled
3. A drink bottle, labelled. Please do not put fizzy drinks, juice or milk in drink bottles.
4. Lunch box, labelled clearly on top for your child to recognise their name
5. Separate, labelled snack and piece of fruit
6. Jumper or tee-shirt to allow for the weather to change through the day.



THINGS TO KNOW AND REMEMBER

Preschool is an all nuts Free Zone

All parents and carers, please note:

Preschool's commitment is to keep this environment safe for all children to attend.

We have a child attending who cannot have access to nuts. Therefore, The Oaks Preschool will be a "Nut free zone" every day. This means:

- No peanut butter or Nutella on sandwiches or biscuits
- No peanut butter or Nutella dips or spreads
- No nuts

Please see a teacher if you would like some ideas of other lunch spreads. We have a pamphlet to assist all new parents with healthy choices.

Chips, lollies, cakes and chocolates are "party food" or "at home" food. These items will be returned home in the lunch box, unless the child has nothing else healthier in the lunch box. Please send healthy foods and assist us in teaching healthy habits for life.

DONATIONS OR TOILET ROLLS AND TISSUES

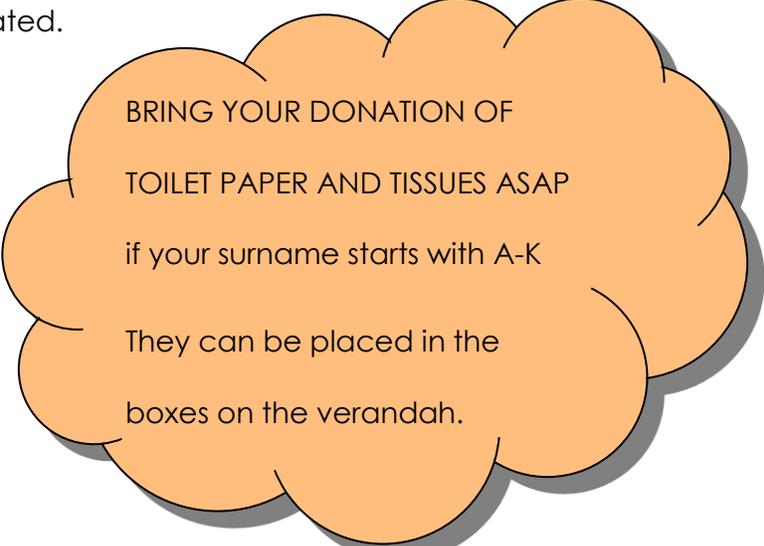
At the beginning of each year we ask each family donate a box of tissues and a packet of toilet paper to be used throughout the year by the children.

This is to keep fees to a minimum, as it is less consumables Preschool has to purchase.

Term 1 and 2, families with surname starting with A-K and then

Term 3 we will ask families with surnames starting with L-Z (or sooner if we run out!!).

We spread the donations across the year to assist our storage situation. Your assistance in this would be appreciated.



BRING YOUR DONATION OF
TOILET PAPER AND TISSUES ASAP
if your surname starts with A-K
They can be placed in the
boxes on the verandah.

STAFF/PARENT DISCUSSIONS

Staff are able to give quick feedback about your child's day in the afternoons. Please ask. If you require a longer discussion, please make an appointment to talk with your child's teacher at a less busy time, when staff are not responsible for many other children. Appointments can be made with educators before preschool opens, or after 3.30 for longer discussions.

Kinderloop is a valuable way of checking on your child's day.



PARENT HELPER MORNINGS

Parent helper mornings are a part of your family involvement in the preschool. You are asked to come to preschool and assist the teachers with setting out lunches, clearing away and organizing craft. The morning is easy and relaxed and teachers help you to find your way around. This is a great way to meet your child's friends and see the flow of our day. Anyone can come to parent days, mum, dad grandma grandfather..... The number of days you come to assist for the whole year is one more than the number of days your child attends in the week. For example if your child comes two days per week you will need to come three mornings in the whole year.

The roster is on the front door. Be early to **nominate the days you want to come**. A great way to celebrate birthdays is for mum/dad to come to preschool as a helper and share cupcakes. Days can be nominated and changed if needed. As much notice as possible of change is needed to ensure we can find a replacement.



SUGGESTION BOX

At Preschool we have a suggestion box which is located under the sign in book and we encourage suggestions from families. Items will be answered either personally, if names are recorded, or generally in a newsletter if appropriate.

POLICY BOOKLET

Preschool has a wide range of policies and procedures which the preschool is required to operate by. We welcome all families to have a look at the policy manual.

NOTICE BOARDS AND COMMUNICATION BOOKLETS

Preschool is a busy environment, full of special theme weeks, activities and exciting occurrences. It is very important that you check your communication pockets each afternoon and check notice boards every day. One of our notice boards is for information and community, child related news. The other is for important preschool information and will change daily.

Please also have a look at the written program in each room. The teachers put a lot of work into ensuring a child focused, relevant program to suit all children in the group. Knowing what your child has been doing is a major part of meaningful discussions with them. This in turn aids their development by reinforcing the day's activities and learning, as well as recall, memory and confidence in retelling events.

SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION – NEW PROCESSES FOR 2020

The Oaks Preschool is committed to sustainable practices, encouraging children to care for and respect our environment. We currently have many sustainable practices embedded into our preschool. These practices include recycling, using water from our rainwater tanks to water gardens, using worm farms and compost bins for scraps, using recycled materials for activities, maintaining a vegetable and herb garden, as well as taking care of our resident chooks.

This year we have decided to further our sustainability practices by adopting 'Waste free lunches'. Families will be asked to consider the amount of packaging in their children's lunch boxes and morning snacks. Any items that cannot be added to the worm farm, compost bin, fed to the chooks or recycled in our yellow bin will be sent back home in the lunch box. We encourage families to use their local Recycle drop off to recycle any soft plastic packaging and have provided some information on this recycling program.

As well as the environmental benefits, waste free lunches will also encourage healthy eating habits.

We encourage your ideas and feedback so please feel free to share your own sustainable practices.

Waste free lunch box ideas:

Reusable containers for sandwiches and snacks

Reusable sandwich wraps instead of cling film or zip lock bags

Fresh fruit and vegetables



Buying yogurt in large containers and portioning into small reusable containers for lunch boxes eg: Bento style lunchboxes.

IS IT YOUR CHILDS FIRST TIME AWAY FROM YOU?

Separation from home and family can be a difficult experience for younger children. When your child starts preschool, it is possibly the first time he/she has been away from you. Some children have no difficulty accepting this new situation, but others need a great deal of help.

Positive preparation before starting preschool is helpful. Remind them of activities, teachers and children they met at orientation and encourage them to do paintings and craft for you. Always remain positive about attending and how much fun it is. Ensure your child never hears you say "oh, I don't know how he/she will go". These feelings are easily conveyed to children and they will live up to your expectations. If you expect difficulties, you may get them.

Parents or caregivers should stay and share an activity with their child until the child feels secure. When it is time to leave,

1. Tell the child you will be going when this is finished.
2. Tell a teacher you are leaving
3. Give them a kiss/cuddle, tell them when you will be back, and leave quickly without hesitating. Don't come back for a second/third cuddle or this will become an ongoing habit.
4. If you think your child may need extra cuddles, ensure a teacher is close and discreetly let them know you are leaving.
5. Please don't hesitate to ring preschool on 46571327 during the day to check on your child. Teachers will be very honest about how they are coping.

The growth of understanding and cooperation between parents and teachers develops an attitude of trust in the preschool child. The teachers would like to know as much as possible about your child's health, changes at home, trips or visitors. We hope you will feel free to share this information with the teacher, to assist us better care for your child.

If you have any sensitive family matters, please see Mrs Downie in strictest confidence.

Please discuss separation issues with teachers.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN MY CHILDS PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

EASY!

At The Oaks Preschool you can join The Management Committee and find out how the Preschool is run and play a vitally important role in our non-profit, community based organisation.

All Board Members work in a voluntary capacity and as a whole are responsible for the overall management of the Preschool. All members of the Board are expected to attend monthly evening meetings. Each year some Board members continue on by re-nominating for positions. This gives continuity to the preschool and helps new members settle in and get to know the procedures.

BOARD POSITIONS

Positions are:

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Maintenance Officer

Promotions Officer

Staff/Parent Liaison Officer

The orientation process for new members is excellent, and the Board members usually form close friendships that last through the school years. Meetings are held one night per month, on a night that suits everyone.

Please see Mrs Downie if you have any questions about Board Members and their roles.

Next newsletter- Information on Board Positions and the AGM. If you have any questions before then about helping the Preschool, please see the Director, Mrs Downie

