

# Bush Baby News

2 William Street, The Oaks NSW 2570. Phone: 4657 1327. [admin@theoakspreschool.com.au](mailto:admin@theoakspreschool.com.au)

TERM 1 WEEK 7 2020



## CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

As many of you would be aware, our 2020 AGM was held last week, and can I say a big thank you to those families who were able to take the time to attend the evening.

One of the primary tasks on the evening was to elect the 2020 Board for The Oaks Preschool to lead and govern the preschool throughout the coming year. We had five of our 2019 Board members moving on to 'big school' and so there are five new board members for 2020. I wish to extend my congratulations to and warmly welcome our new Board members, and our returning Deputy Chairperson, Laura. I would also like to convey my sincere gratitude to our outgoing Board members, Nicole Comerford, Louise Ryan, Rebecca Alam, Natalie Cilia and Jessica Jones. Thank you for your commitment and service to our Preschool during your time on the Board.

I am once again honoured to be elected as Chairperson of The Oaks Preschool and I look forward to working with the newly installed Board, staff and with the wider preschool community to achieve some great outcomes for the preschool in 2020.

Once again, my congratulations and thanks to my 2020 Board colleagues who have put their hands up to serve our preschool community and to help it continue to go from strength to strength.

With the election of the new Board it is also 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

## DATES TO REMEMBER 2020

### Term 1

#### Tuesday 28th January - Thursday 9th April

- 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>  
February, Blue  
and Yellow week
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
February, Red and  
Green week
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March,  
Harmony week
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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 child gets up to 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!).

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.

I am looking forward to working with you all towards making 2020 another great year for our preschool.

Kind regards,

Bec Pollard



## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please be advised we have needed to postpone the 20<sup>TH</sup> year celebration for Mrs Downie which was scheduled for 13 March. Please “watch this space” for a new date.

### Term 2

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April to  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Mothers Day
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Visiting Artist Brock Tutt

### Term 3

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

- Science Week 17-21 August
- Book Week 22 - 28 August
- Fathers Day Sunday 6 September
- Class Photos 7,9,11 September
- Walkathon 21-25 September

### Term 4

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
to - Friday 18  
December**

- Concert and Graduation 7,9,11 December

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESCHOOL BOARD OF 2020

Chairperson: Rebecca Pollard

Deputy Chair: Laura Chinchio

Treasurer: Kasey Lowe

Maintenance Officer: Edgar Polanco

Promotions Officer: Kerry Watts

Newsletter Editor: Jessica Aguero

Staff/Parent Liaison Officer: Geoff Magee



## THANK YOU

Thank you to Oreshkin Family for the books and little people toys.

Thank you to the Pollard Family for the wood shavings for our new chook shed

Thank you to Clayton Jenkins from Hi Quality Electrical Pty Ltd for installing our new stove and removing the old one.

Thank you to the Polenco Family for bringing some vegetable and herb plants for our vege garden.



## FROM THE OFFICE

Please remember to put your child's name in the details section of deposits. If there is no details section try to include it somewhere on the deposit through bank transfer. We are having difficulty tracing some payments. Don't miss out on a payment you have made.



## **FUNNY SPOT**

Down at the mud kitchen, Kirsty made Mrs Adams a cup of tea. Mrs Adams asked what sort of tea it was, and Kirsty looked at it and replied "dirty tea", because the water was dirty!!



## **NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR PRESCHOOL FAMILY**

Congratulations to the Farrant family on the safe arrival of Dallas, a brother for Matilda and Braxten.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Harmony day (21 March each year) falls on a Saturday. We will celebrate Harmony week during the week leading up to Harmony Day.

Harmony Day is an Australian wide celebration which celebrates the country's cultural diversity. It coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

At Preschool we will be planning a lot of culturally diverse activities, including learning games from other countries and hopefully listening to some of our families from other backgrounds teaching us some things.

Please wear orange on Preschool days next week to show support of our countries cultural diversity.

Notes will be in pockets this week.

## **EASTER HAT PARADE**

Friday 3 Monday 6 and Wednesday 8 April at 2pm at Preschool. Invitations with further information will be in pockets this week.

## **EMERGENCY PRACTICE**

This week we have been going through, and planning group and music times around what to do at Preschool in an emergency.

## **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PRACTICE**

Every day, we reviewed and practiced our emergency procedures and evacuation from the preschool with the children. This is an important part of preparing children for the (hopefully unlikely event) of an emergency.

Things we went through included;

- ✓ What to do when you hear three whistles
- ✓ What to bring with you
- ✓ Why we are going out
- ✓ What we will do, (call 000 etc)
- ✓ Check everyone is with us and safe
- ✓ Talk to mum and dad about your safe places and what your address is so you can tell the emergency services. (We encouraged children to ask you, so you could decide if you are comfortable with children knowing their address for various reasons)

These procedures and practice help children and staff to deal with situations calmly and quickly, because it has all been done before. It is also a requirement of our licensing.

It is helpful, and a timely reminder, for parents to discuss with their preschooler where you would meet them if there was a fire at their home and teach them their address. There have been several instances in the media lately where very young children have saved someone in their family because they know these details. It is never too early to teach your child.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AT PRESCHOOL**

The preschool has completed risk assessments on various emergencies that could occur in our environment. These have been addressed and emergency procedures drawn up to manage them. If there was a need to evacuate the premises, the diagram, procedures and staff roles are displayed in both rooms.

Staff and children practice our procedures each term and at different times of the day, so they become very familiar with them and children will not panic. If you have any questions about our procedures feel free to ask. There will be a note on the whiteboard advising days we have practiced. This is often a good time to talk to your children about emergencies at home.

## ROOM REPORTS OF OUR PROGRAM

### WATTLE ROOM

We have had a wonderful few weeks in the wattle room, with all our new children settling well to the preschool routine and activities. We have been amazed at the children's thirst for learning, and varied interests. We are also excited they are sharing their interests and knowledge with us. This has led us to be exploring insects and bugs, recycling and sustainability, colour mixing (we can make new colours!!) and many science experiments, including those ideas brought from home. We hope everyone is looking at Kinderloop regularly, and particularly on the day your child attends Preschool, as we have been posting some detailed summaries of our day of learning.

### WILLOW ROOM

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed a few new families and children. Daily we have been learning the five "L's", a method to develop good listening skills through **L**ooking at the person speaking, **L**istening to the person talking, sitting with our **L**egs crossed, hands in our **L**ap and our **L**ips closed. We have also been learning to recite the welcome to country at the beginning of the first group time.

We have introduced:

- ✓ Some star cushions, which are given to four children listening well to sit on through the group time
- ✓ Allocating children jobs on a rotating basis, such as compost, worms and chook responsibilities for the day
- ✓ Learning to care for and respect our classroom hermit crabs

Our curriculum has been varied, as we follow children's interests at all times.

Topics we have immersed ourselves in include: the effect of fire and drought on our animals, caring for our environment, with particular focus on rubbish and learning about our sustainable Preschool, including worms, vege gardens and composts.

Please check Kinderloop daily for information of what we have been learning, and feel free to comment back to improve our program and relevance for your child. We appreciate any comments and feedback.

## STAFFING

Mrs Downie will be taking 2 weeks carers leave from Monday 9 March. During her absence, Mrs Sayre will be the certified supervisor. Please see her or Brooke in the office for any enquiries. You will be seeing more of Mrs Angilley, Mrs Mills and our newly returned Mrs Van Luenen after Maternity leave and time at home with her children. Please say "Hello" to her if you see her at the Preschool.

We have Alicia Xerri completing a practicum for Child Studies at the Preschool in the Willow Room on Mondays and Tuesdays for the next month. Please say "Hello" to her too, if you see her.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRESCHOOLERS

The beginning of the year is a great time to communicate with families appropriate social skills in the Preschool age group.

- There's so much going on in preschooler development at 4-5 years.
- At this age, expect many emotional expressions, new friendships, make-believe play, an interest in numbers, tall stories, lots of physical activity, and more.
- Reading, creative play, inside and outside play, turn-taking games, and cooking with your child are good for development.

## PRESCHOOLER DEVELOPMENT AT 4-5 YEARS: WHAT'S HAPPENING

### FEELINGS AND BEHAVIOR

At this age, your child is exploring and learning to express their emotions. They'll do this in many ways – for example, by talking, using gestures, noises and in play.

Your preschooler also likes to be around people. They might want to please and be like her preschool-age friends. Imaginary friends could be important to them too. As part of getting along with others, you might hear them saying sorry, agreeing to rules and being pleased when good things happen to other people.

When it comes to cooperating, your child is likely to be more helpful, but sometimes they might still be demanding.

In this year, your child might hide the truth about things sometimes, or even start telling lies. For example, they might say 'I didn't do it' even when they did. This is a normal part of your preschooler's development.

## PLAYING AND LEARNING

Play is important because it's still how your child learns and explores feelings.

When it comes to play, your child likes to sing, dance and act. They also love make-believe play and is learning the difference between fantasy and reality. They are more aware of gender and might want to play gender-based games – for example, girls might want to play at being 'Mum'. Your child might also try different roles and behaviour, like being a doctor or getting married.

## HELPING PRESCHOOLER DEVELOPMENT AT 4-5 YEARS

Here are some simple things you can do to help your child's development at this age:

- Give your child lots of playtime: play helps preschoolers express feelings like joy, excitement, anger or fear. Your child might like messy play in sand or mud, pretend play with puppets, and outdoor play with plenty of running, tumbling and rolling.
- Make time for imaginative and creative play: this might be painting, drawing or dress-up games. Musical play is another idea – your child might like to dance, jump around or make music with simple instruments.
- Read with your preschooler: reading together, telling stories, singing songs and reciting nursery rhymes all encourage your child's talking, thinking and imagination.
- Do some cooking with your child: this helps your preschooler to get interested in healthy food, learn new words and understand maths concepts like 'half', '1 teaspoon' or '30 minutes'. You can give your child simple things to do, like tossing a salad or putting together sandwiches.
- Play games with your child that involve learning to share and taking turns. When you play, say things like, 'Now it's my turn to build the tower, then it's your turn', or 'You share the red blocks with me, and I'll share the green blocks with you'. Sharing is still hard for children at this age, so give your child lots of praise when they share.

**If you are concerned about your child's development, speak to educators or your GP.**

(Adapted from:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/development/development-tracker/4-5-years>)



