

Bush Baby News

2 William Street, The Oaks NSW 2570. Phone: 4657 1327. admin@theoakspreschool.com.au

TERM 1 WEEK 7 2019



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

As many of you would be aware, our 2019 AGM was held on Monday night 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 2019 Board for The Oaks Preschool to lead and govern the preschool throughout the coming year. I wish to extend my congratulations to both returning Board members and those who are new to the Board, and convey my sincere gratitude to our outgoing Board members. Thank you for your commitment and service to our Preschool during your time on the Board.

I would also like to thank my Board colleagues for supporting me continuing on as Chairperson. I believe we were able to work together as a Board, with staff and with the wider preschool community to achieve some great outcomes for the preschool in 2018 and I look forward to continuing this work with the newly installed Board this year.

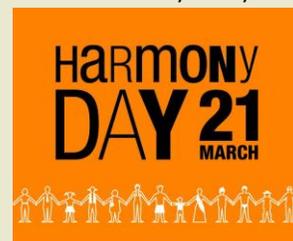
Once again my congratulations and thanks to my 2019 Board colleagues who have put their hands up to serve our preschool community and to help it continue to go from strength to strength.

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 too!). Being a parent helper not only frees up our educators to get on with the more important aspects of their work (engaging, inspiring

DATES TO REMEMBER Term 1

Tuesday 29th January -
Friday 12th April

- Thursday 21st March
Harmony Day



- Monday 8th April
Wednesday 10th April
Friday 12th April
Easter hat parades
at preschool



Term 2

Monday 29th April – Friday
5th July

Term 3

Monday 22nd July – Friday
27th September

Term 4

Monday 14th October –
Friday 20th December

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 2019 another great year for our preschool.

Regards,

Bec Pollard



IMPORTANT REMINDER

All children, both children younger than preschool age, and older than preschool age need to be closely supervised when at Preschool. School children are not to be left unattended in the playground, as they change our set-ups, move items and make the yard unsafe for our Preschoolers, sometimes after staff have completed safety checks.

Please assist us to keep all children safe.

Please bring it to the attention of staff if you see unattended "big school" children in the yard or indoors.

WATTLE ROOM

In the Wattle Room for this term we started by talking about our families and extended families and pets. This assisted in getting to know each other, developing a strong sense of identity (our learning outcome 1). We have been developing our Preschool routines and practicing our 5 L's at group time.

Educators are encouraging children's social skills, sharing, turn-taking. Waiting and treating others with kindness and respect.

We have also been talking about healthy eating and hygiene practices, and currently sustainability, introducing the children to composting, worm farms and gardening.

Please have a look at our program indoors display and feel free to comment on the bottom.

WILLOW ROOM

The Willow Room has had a fun, learning time over the past term.

The first few weeks, during group times, we shared a little about ourselves to get to know each other.

We have been working through the recognition of shapes and provided the children with experiences to extend their knowledge and interest. During colour weeks, we provided activities to reinforce recognition of the primary colours- experiments lead to secondary colours.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been learning about the importance of looking after our environment. We have had many discussions on how our preschool is sustainable by keeping worm farms, chickens, 2 large composts, vegetable gardens, edible gardens and our water tanks. We also discuss and implement the importance of caring for our water. During this time we have also been discussing and learning where our food comes from.

Please have a look at our program indoors display and feel free to comment on the bottom.

A BIG THANK YOU TO...



Thank you to the Humphrey Family for the train station garage

Thank you to Mrs Odgers for the donation of children's rakes and worm farm accessories.

Thank you to Steve Coveney for the carpentry work assistance

FUNNY SPOT



During Mrs Fryers last day, many discussions were held with the children. One conversation at lunch time was about how it was Mrs Fryers last day, and that she will be sad not being here. One of the children announced "Well if you are sad, why do you have a smile on your face"!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson- Rebecca Pollard

Deputy Chair- Laura Chinchio



Treasurer- Nicole Comerford

Newsletter Editor- Rebecca Alam

Promotions Officer- Natalie Cilia

Maintenance Officer- Louise Ryan

Staff Parent Liaison Officer- Jessica Jones



SLEEP AND REST PROCEDURES

Our Preschool program is full and varied throughout the day, we don't have sleep times included in our schedules, although resting is important for children of Preschool age. Our program includes several periods through the day where children can have some down time from the business. This includes outdoors, with mat areas and books every day, and indoors there is always quiet areas programmed and space allocated. During the coming weeks, educators will be working on improving the quiet areas and talking to children about the rules in these areas, e.g. cushions are for resting on not for throwing.

The Preschool does have sleep mats, pillows and sheets available if children fall asleep or are unwell and need to lie down. These will be positioned in a quiet area of the room. Sleeping children are monitored regularly and staff will give you a courtesy call you to let you know they have fallen asleep and seek your input.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AT PRESCHOOL PRACTISING THIS WEEK



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.

This week we will be reviewing and practicing 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.

DO YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OR MRS DOWNIE

A reminder you are able to make a time to talk to your child's teacher about their progress and any concerns you may have.. Pickup and drop off times are for shorter discussions. Longer discussions are certainly encouraged, if you would like to organise this any time throughout the year, please see Mrs Downie so we can allocate time.

Also a reminder that it is very important you keep educators informed of any therapists your child is involved with, and items they are working on.

PRESCHOOLER DEVELOPMENT AT 4-5 YRS, WHATS HAPPENING

Feelings and behavior

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

Your preschooler also likes to be around people. They might want to please and be like their 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. By the time they are five years old, they will probably have more control over their behavior and have fewer temper tantrums.

Your child might feel anxious about starting school. Talking to them about this and even visiting the school together can help them feel less worried.

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**.

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 or toys, 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 math's concepts like 'half', '1 teaspoon' or '30 minutes'. You can give him 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.

You might want to think about sending your child to preschool. At preschool your child can learn through play, make friends, and develop responsibility, independence and confidence. Preschool can support and encourage your child's amazing development – and it can be a lot of fun too.

Adapted from an article sourced;

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

