

# Bush Baby News

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TERM 1 WEEK 1 2021



*The Oaks Preschool*  
Learn, play and grow together.

## 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 year that - irrespective of the twists and turns that living through a global pandemic may throw at us - promises to be a wonderful year of learning and play at The Oaks Preschool in 2021.

On behalf of the Board I would like to extend an extra warm welcome to all our new families. Although my youngest is off to big school this year, 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!

Since our last newsletter, our long-serving Director, Mrs Downie, has officially retired after 20 tremendous years at The Oaks Preschool. Our planned 20th Anniversary celebration was unfortunately postponed (indefinitely as it turned out!) earlier last year by the emergence of COVID-19. Since her retirement announcement, with respect to the continual changes in COVID-19 restrictions, Mrs Downie has requested that there be no 'thanks and farewell' type function held in her honour. Of course, we cannot let such an occasion go unacknowledged so please stay tuned for updates on

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1

Wednesday 27/1/21 to Thursday

1<sup>st</sup> April

24.2.21 Nutrition Magician  
visit

Week 6 Colour Run

3.3.21 AGM

17.3.21 St Patricks Day

26.3.21 Earth Hour

Term 2

Monday 19/4/21 to Friday

25/6/21

22.4.21 Earth Day

2 to 8.5.21 Compost Week

7 to 11.6.21 World Ocean Week

4 to 11.6.21 Nadoc Week

21.6.21 International Yoga  
day

Term 3

Monday 12/7/21 to Friday

17/9/21

19 to 23.7.21 Pyjama Week

16 to 20.8.21 Science Week

1.9.21 Educator Day

1 to 5.11.21 Grandparents Week

8 to 12.11.21 National Recycling  
Week

how you can play a small part in farewelling Mrs Downie and wishing her well on her retirement.

As many of you would be aware, Mrs Sayre stepped into the role of temporary Director whilst Mrs Downie was on long service leave during Term 4 of last year. Following on from Mrs Downie's official retirement, the Board is delighted to announce that Mrs Sayre has been appointed as Director of The Oaks Preschool. I am sure you join me in congratulating Mrs Sayre on her appointment, and we are looking forward to our preschool continuing to grow and prosper for the benefit of our little ones under the leadership of Mrs Sayre.

New year, new Director... new logo! After a long and considered process, it was a joy to see our new logo and motto of 'Learn, play and grow together.'" debuted earlier this month. I would like to thank everyone (you know who you are!) who has been involved in the consultation and design process over many, many months, and I look forward to seeing our new brand roll out around preschool and the community in the coming months.

As a community-based preschool we prosper through the contribution of our preschool families and our wider community. Whilst in the current climate of restrictions opportunities to contribute in the usual ways (parent helper days etc) are limited, Mrs Sayre and the staff are always looking at ways in which families and the community can contribute their skills and experiences to the preschool and the education of our children. If you have any special talents, skills or perhaps you are just handy on the tools, please let Mrs Sayre know so that should an opportunity arise, we can invite you to be involved.

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 2021. A number of our 2020 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 2021 please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Sayre or myself ([bec\\_pollard@hotmail.com](mailto:bec_pollard@hotmail.com)) for some more information.

Finally, just a reminder of our COVID-Safe policy that is operating as it was at the end of Term 4 last year. The policy is especially applicable at drop off and pick up time and I thank each and every one of you in advance for doing your small bit to help keep our preschool and wider community healthy. If you are unsure of the policy details, or would like a copy of the policy, please speak to Mrs Sayre or contact Mrs Swain in the office who will be happy to assist you.

Looking forward to a cracking 2021 at The Oaks Preschool with you all!

Kind regards, Bec Pollard

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. 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.

We ask families to ensure they are regularly checking Kinderloop to stay in touch with everything happening at Preschool.

## **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 Educator:** Mrs Stacey Sayre

**Willow Room Teacher and Educational Leader:** (M, T, W, F) Mrs Simone White

**Willow Room Educator and Support:** (M, T, Th) Mrs Patricia Tzortzis

**Willow Room Educator:** (M, T, W) Mrs Sharon Adams

**Willow Room Educator:** Mrs Kayla Mills (T & F)

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

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

**Wattle Room Educator:** Mrs Kathy Odgers (M, T, W, Th, F)

**Wattle Room Educator and Support:** (M, T, W, F) Mrs Tammy Angilley

**Casual Staff:** Mrs Tammy Angilley and Mrs Tzortzis

**Support/Cleaner:** Laura Chinchio and Lauren Fuller

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. 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.

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 STACEY SAYRE**

Welcome to the Preschool for another fun filled year. I have been at The Oaks Preschool for 9 years.

I am the mother of three boys aged 23, 22, and 18 and they still keep me very busy after hours.

I look forward to meeting and working with all the children and families through the year as I take on the new role of Preschool Director. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in any way, the door is always open.

### **MRS SHARON ADAMS**

Hi. I am one of the Educators in the Willow Room. I have been working in this industry for 36 years. I am a local to the area. I have lived at Oakdale for the past 31 years. I am married and have a 30 year old son, Corey, who has recently become engaged. I hold a certificate 3 in Child Studies. I have been working at The Oaks Preschool for 19 years and look forward to meeting and working with all our previous and new families this year.

### **Mrs Kathy Odgers**

Hello, my name is Kathy Odgers and I have had the privilege of working at our Preschool for the past 18 years.

I have 4 adult children that all attended this wonderful Preschool and this year I am going to be a grandmother to my daughter Elizabeth's baby and a mother – in – law to my son Russell's fiancée, Megan.

I look forward to getting to know our new children and their families and a big welcome back to our friends from last year.

### **MRS KAYLA MILLS**

Hello. I have worked in the early Childhood industry for the last 11 years and have had the pleasure of being part of The Oaks Preschool team for the past 2 years. My husband and I live in The Oaks with our boys Jack (13), Sonny (11) and Koby (9).

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 2021. I have been working here at the Preschool since the end of 2017 as a relief Diploma trained educator and have taken on a support role for this year in the Wattle Room.

I am mum to four beautiful children, Dale (15), Jamie-Lee (13), Corey (12) and Shelley (10) 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 4 years now, and before that I owned my own Family Day Care after working many years in Long day care. A total of 16 years in the Early Childhood Industry.

I live in Buxton and have four children of my own ages ranging 4-14. 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 2021.

**MRS LIZ FRYER**

I have been a teacher with The Oaks preschool for the past 4 years. I live in Camden with my husband and three children Ruby (9) and Zayn (7) and Willow (1). I cant wait to get to know all of our new families and welcome back our existing families.

**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 an Educator 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 sixteen 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 sixteen 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 Leo (2) and I feel so lucky they chose me to be their Mummy.

I've lived in The Oaks for eleven years now and my husband Andrew has been in the area for twenty-three years (some of you may know him from the local Chicken shop. His family have owned and operated this for eighteen 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.

**MRS LAURA CHINCHIO**

Hi, my name is Laura Chinchio. I hold a current Diploma in Children's Services and have 11 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 and Friday each week from 9:30am – 3pm each day.

I am a mother of 4 amazing children, my stepson Justin (20), Kaden (9), Ashton (6) and Sienna (1). My 2 children attended Preschool and 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 SIMONE WHITE

Hi, my name is Simone White and I am excited to begin the year 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 everyone.



## 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, therefore 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 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.

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 ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES**

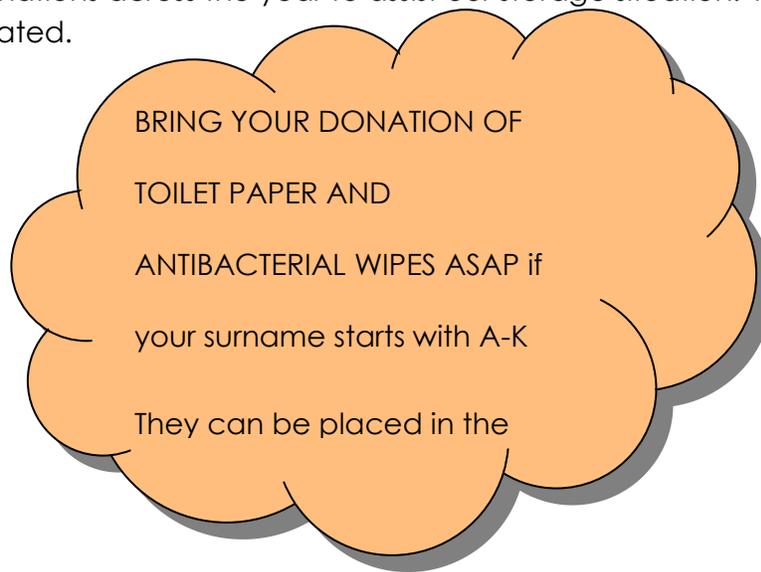
At the beginning of each year we ask each family donate a packet of toilet paper and a packet of antibacterial wipes to be used throughout the year by the children.

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.



## **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.

## **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 events, activities and exciting occurrences. It is very important that you check Kinderloop and your information folder 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 provided on Kinderloop. 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

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.

As a part of our sustainability practices we have also adopted '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.

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.
6. 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 Sayre 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 Sayre if you have any questions about Board Members and their roles.

Our 2021 Annual General Meeting is set for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## **COVID UPDATE**

Thank you to the families that are assisting in keeping our Preschool safe and following our current covid safe regulations.

We understand that this is an ever changing situation and will keep you fully updated on Kinderloop as changes occur. At present we require all families and visitors entering the centre to use our QR code to sign in. This assists in contact tracing should this be required.

We are also asking families and visitors (adults) to wear a mask, as per current NSW guidelines. We understand this request can change at any time and will advise when this occurs.

Please also remember everyone is required to sanitise upon entry and children will wash hands after they have completed their unpacking procedures inside.

28.1.2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

We wish to advise you that there is a child in the school community whom is currently receiving medical treatment for a blood disorder.

As a consequence of the treatment this student's ongoing health is at risk if he/she comes into contact with infectious illnesses, in particular chicken pox, shingles, measles, mumps or whooping cough.

If your son or daughter is suspected to have any of these illnesses it is very important that they do not attend school. It is also important that whilst your child is unwell he/she remains home until he/she no longer is contagious. Information on infectious conditions can be found on national health websites e.g [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) or alternatively contact your local GP.

If your child has chicken pox, shingles, measles, mumps or whooping cough or is suspected of having illnesses please contact the school immediately. This will allow the school to assess the probable contact and therefore minimise the exposure of our student to the disease. Notification can then be given to the parents and medical specialists.

As a school community we value your support in relation to the well-being of all our students. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

*Stacey Sayre*

**Director/Educator**

