

Bush Baby News

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

TERM 4 WEEK 10 2020



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

So long 2020...! It is hard to believe we have reached the final week of preschool for the year, and given what confronted us earlier in the year, what else can you say but, 'What a year!'

I am sure that after the bushfires of last summer we were all looking ahead to 2020 with a sense of hope and optimism. What has eventuated this year is something I don't think any of us could have conceived, but as we look back I think we can be proud as families, as a preschool community and as Australians for the way in which we have all played our part in taming COVID-19 resulting in us being able to return to some sort of normality as the year has progressed. It has been a team effort from the entire community and I know as we gather to celebrate Christmas and New Years with our extended family and friends we will be able to agree that the small measures and sacrifices we have made this year have been worth it.

As we enter this final week of preschool for 2020 I am sure for many of you (like me!) will be tinged with sadness as your youngest preschoolers head off to big school and you farewell The Oaks Preschool for the final time; for others, it is just a see you next year as you walk out the gate and prepare for Santa's arrival.

No matter what stage you find yourself at, I would like to thank each and every family for the valuable contributions you have all made in so many different ways during the year, and for many families, those contributions stretch over a number of years. Our preschool would not be the vibrant, engaging and evolving place that it is without each and every one of you, so again, THANK YOU!

Whilst we have been limited in what we have been able to do this year at preschool in comparison to a normal preschool year, I know the staff and board will reflect on this year as one that has been busy, has had its challenges and uncertainties, but ultimately one that has been rewarding in the way in which we have all been able to adapt and get on with things for the benefit of all the children in our care.

I could not talk about the preschool year being busy, challenging and rewarding without acknowledging the tremendous leadership of Mrs Downie and Mrs Sayre, and the work of our wonderful staff who have played such an important role in helping our children navigate their way through the year that was 2020. Your drive, passion and commitment to both our children and excellence at our preschool (in the most trying of circumstances at times) is a credit to each and every one of you and from the Board, on behalf of all our preschool families, our sincere thanks.

Here's to the optimism we had heading into 2020 being better placed as we head into 2021. We look forward to being able to have families once again more involved in day to day preschool activities, and of course being able to bring back favourite events like our annual Open Day.

Finally I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the Board for volunteering your time and energy to your roles in 2020. It has been a pleasure working with you this year and I am looking forward to achieving even more for our preschool in 2021!

On behalf of the Staff and Board, can I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas filled with lots of good food, family and friends and we look forward to seeing you all (even those heading off to kindergarten) in the new year!

Kind regards,

Bec Pollard

PS. A very special mention and huge THANK YOU to Mrs Sayre for filming, editing and putting together the Christmas Concert and Graduation videos. It was a monumental task, but it was well worth it. Thank you Mrs Sayre!

WILLOW ROOM

What a great, fun busy time we have had in The Willow Room. We are SO very proud of our friends with the effort they have put in each time we practised for the End of Year Concert. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as all the Educators. Again we were all so very proud of everyone!

We are looking forward to next week and having lots of fun with our Willow friends! We wish our "Schoolies" the best of everything in their next adventure and are so much looking forward to another year with our 'big' children returning! Have a happy, safe Christmas and holidays everyone!

From your friends, Mrs. Odgers, Mrs. White, Mrs. Angilley and Mrs. Tzortzis

WATTLE ROOM

We have been very busy in the Wattle room with the excitement of our end of year concert and celebrations and making sure we enjoy every minute that we have left in 2020 with our friends and teachers.

We hope you enjoyed all of your children's hard work and dedication that they put in to their concert and end of year projects.

We wish all of our graduating Wattle friends the best of luck for their adventures ahead of them and look forward to seeing our younger preschool friends return in 2021.

Have a happy and safe Christmas and holidays everyone,

Mrs Scott, Mrs Mills, Mrs Fryer and Mrs Adams

END OF YEAR CONCERT

We hope you all enjoyed our end of year production. For those that have not seen the links are on Kinderloop for you to access. The Staff and Children very much enjoyed creating them for you. Every effort went into creating the concert as we all understood how disappointed our families were that they were not able to attend. The children's feedback about seeing themselves "on the TV" was well worth it.

LOGO UPDATE

Our new logo has finally been completed and we are excited to show you all.

We will be purchasing new clothing and hats for next year, and resigning all of our letterheads, signs and website.



The Oaks Preschool

Learn, play and grow together.

THANK YOU'S

Geoff Sayre for sanding and repairing our outdoor walking boards.

To all of our 2020 Families for such a disturbed and tough year. Thank you for being so understanding and assisting us in keeping Preschool as safe as possible. We understand how much of a disruption to the Preschool year it was, tough on our families that are use to how our community Preschool runs, tough on our new families not being able to fully participate in our community environment and tough on the Educators, some that had to stay home with their own younger children and those that came to Preschool to ensure we were available for those who required it.

The year was unique and has taught us a lot moving forward. So Thank You to everyone involved for our unique 2020.

CASH PRIZE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

We would like to thank all our wonderful families for purchasing tickets in our end of year cash raffle.

The raffle has been drawn and the winners are:

1st prize \$500: Val O'Brien, ticket sold by Kasey

2nd prize \$250: S & J Hunter, ticket sold by Sarah

3rd prize \$100: Glenn, ticket sold by Andy

Congratulations and Merry Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LUCKY RAFFLE WINNERS, AND THANK YOU TO ALL FAMILIES FOR SELLING SO MANY TICKETS.

All tickets need to be returned, even if not sold.

KINDERLOOP

For all of the families with children leaving us this year, we would like to remind you that your child's file on Kinderloop will be archived during the holidays. You will still be able to access this file however.

For all new children beginning next year (including siblings of existing children) you will be sent an invitation to create a new profile for these children late in January.

For all of our returning children, you file will remain active and continue as normal.

We would like for all families to check Kinderloop from mid January to gain all of the latest information of the upcoming year. As you can all understand with the current everchanging situation we are unsure as to how drop off will look come your child's first day, but this information will be provided closer to start of term via kinderloop, so please stay in touch.

Your child's classroom and teachers will also be posted so you have plenty of time to prepare them for the new term.

PRESCHOOL FEES FOR 2021

As you may be aware the State Government announced a few weeks ago that 15 hours of Community Preschool will be free for 2021. Therefore the first 2 days your child attends Preschool next year will be covered under this funding agreement.

It was decided at the most recent Board meeting that the fee for the third day (if applicable) would be \$20 for 4 year olds and \$25 for 3 year olds.

REMINDERS

Lost property goes to St Vinnies at the end of this week. Please check carefully for any items belonging to you.

MUNCH & MOVE FACT SHEET

Every day toddler and preschool children should;

- Be physically active for at least 3 hours, spread through the day
 - Not be sitting for more than an hour at a time
- Physical activity can be done in small amounts over the day
Your child can start slowly and then do a little more each day.

Help your child be more active;

- Turn off the TV and go outside to play
- Play together
- Get active as a family
- Go for a walk to the local park or beach
- Go for a bike ride together
- When buying gifts for children, choose ones they can use to be active eg: bats and balls
- Let them try a range of activities
- Choose activities they enjoy- make it fun

Turn off the TV and get active;

- Your child should spend no more than 1 hour per day watching TV, DVD's or computer games
- Find indoor outdoor games for your child to play instead of watching TV
- Limit the amount of time your child spends on screens by rostering time or setting timers
- Do not have a TV, computer or ipad in your child's bedroom

When being active remember to;

- Wear safe and stable shoes
- Wear sunscreen and a hat when outside
- Drink plenty of water
- Have fun!!

For more information and ideas on healthy eating and physical activity go to www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au

FROM THE STAFF

The Staff would like to thank all of our families for the unique 2020 year. Thank you for sharing your children with us and allowing us to be part of their lives.

We wish all of our graduating children the very best for the exciting times they have ahead, we await in anticipation their special visit, to show off their uniform and brag about "big school".

To all of our friends returning, we look forward to the fun and excitement 2021 will bring for us all.

We would like to thank all of the families for their kind words and thoughtful gifts, wish you all a happy and safe holidays and wish you all a very merry Christmas.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Last day of term Friday 18th December

First Day of Term Wednesday 27th January 2021

AGM 3 March 2021

