



Newsletter

WEEK 4 TERM 1 : 22nd February 2016



Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear parents/caregivers,

thankyou to everyone who was able to join with the staff team and the children to celebrate the Chinese New Year. It was great to see so many of you as well as members of the children's extended families and I hope you met some of the other families whose children also attend this kindergarten. The staff team were impressed with the number of children and adults who came in traditional Asian attires or wore red on the night, this gave added atmosphere for the evening. I hope you will be able to join with us on many other special occasions at the kindergarten this year and observe the many learning achievements of your children. There are some photos in the Learning Journal and I would invite you to add your comments about the celebration in the Learning Journal as well, you can find it on the table at the entrance of the main room.

The children have been quickly learning the many new routines at kindergarten and how to explore and develop their skills in a larger group. Although sometimes young children become overwhelmed when they first arrive at kindergarten you may be assured that once they have been supported by one of the staff team for a few minutes they quickly recover and find interesting activities to do.

Last week the children were organised into 3 smaller groups for special learning times and have voted for a bird or animal group name. Their new work books have been organised and their special work is being added to them each week. These work books will be left out in the main room for you to look through when you have a chance

We began our first 'Funtastics' program last week. The children participate in an activity in their small groups with a teacher and then rotate to the next teacher for a different activity. These activities are planned to support development in fine, gross and cognitive skills. The children worked well in their groups and were able to move successfully to the next teacher. The activities were focussed around Asian with dancing to Chinese music, painting a Chinese lady and cutting and pasting a tangram.

We are continuing our focus on ---Belonging---at kindergarten, which includes finding friends for play, caring for ourselves, our peers, our play environment and our kindy creatures. You may know that the current National Early Childhood Framework for Learning is entitled *Belonging, Being, Becoming* as it is widely researched and accepted that when we feel we belong we increase our learning potential. This is true for all of us in our learning journey so we hope that by now you are beginning to feel a sense of belonging to the kindergarten community and that you will be able to develop your parenting skills as you share with each other.

This week the children will be taking home a letter for you with an A3 sheet of paper which includes questions about themselves for you to help them make a poster to share with the group at our large meeting time. This has been a successful way for the children to develop their communication skills in speaking to a large group of their peers. The instructions are all in the letter and the posters do not need to be done all at once so just find a time which is convenient for you and return it when it is ready.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our very first Governing Council meeting this Tuesday night where we will be looking at some of the plans for the year, please make every effort to join with the staff team and previous governing council members.

Sincerely Yours Cynthia Meredith

Diary Dates

First parent meeting

Gov Council Meeting
Tues Feb 23rd 7 for 7:15pm

CYHS preschool screenings
Tues Feb 23rd

Closure Day Tuesday March 15th for
Mitcham Hills Partnership Staff traning

Boori / Monty Pryor
Aboriginal Story Teller
Wed March 16th 10am &
Thursday March 24th 10am

Celebrating St Patrick's Day March 17th
Irish Culture

Assembly visit HPS
TBA

Regular Events

Tuesdays

Morning: Funtastics followed by
Shared fruit

Wednesdays

Morning: Funtastics followed by
Shared fruit

Afternoon: Hawthorndene P. S.
Mrs Prue Miles' class visit
(alternate weeks)

Thursdays

Afternoon: Hawthorndene P. S.
Ms. Alicia Waters' class visit
(alternate weeks)

Fridays: 9:30am Playgroup

Kindy Governing Council Meeting Tuesday Feb 23rd 7 for 7:15pm

We have just received notification of our National Quality Assessment which will take place in the next couple of weeks come and hear how this will occur and what the staff team are doing to prepare our kindergarten for it. This is your chance to add your ideas to the program and support your child's learning by doing some special tasks. Some of the previous members will be coming to share their experiences with you so don't miss your chance to make a difference. to have some input.

Kindergarten fees

Please could you finalise them as soon as possible! Some families have asked if they could pay the year's fees in one lump sum, and this can be arranged by speaking with Cynthia. Each term the fee will be the same amount so for the year it would be \$600.

Advance notice of closure day

There will be a closure day at this kindergarten for the staff team to participate in the Mitcham Hills Partnership staff training on **Tuesday March 15th**, **this means there will be no children attending kindergarten on this day.** Please can you make alternative arrangements if your child normally attends on this day. This is the Tuesday after the Easter break.

Monti Prior—Aboriginal Entertainer Wed March 16th & Thurs March 24th

Concert commences at 10am, he is a skilled performer and relates well to the children. There will be no cost to families and this is part of our curriculum program, however **if your child does not attend on the above days but is able to attend one of the concerts please arrange this with the staff.**

Sun Sense

Please speak with the staff team when you arrive if you have forgotten to apply sunscreen before your child left home. The staff team will provide you with the sunscreen for you to apply.

Tuesdays AM and Wednesdays AM: "Shared Fruit" ---a reminder

This year 'shared fruit' will be on two days in the morning so that all children are involved in this activity, thank you for your support with this program.

Jewels and Star, our Kindy Budgies.....

are still needing loving families to look after them each weekend, add your name to the list in the budgie book. You don't need special training or licences and all equipment, food etc is provided. See a staff team member today!

Washing Roster----- there are still some openings—don't miss this wonderful opportunity to assist with your child's kindergarten experience!

Newsletter hard copies are available please speak with the staff team.

Cynthia Meredith, Louise Montesi, Tess Gibbs and Lenka Velisek