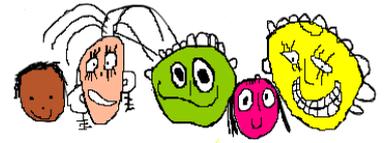


Hamilton Community Pre-School Newsletter



"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect."

Term 1 2019

Week 9

Hi everyone,

I would like to welcome all our new friends to Pre-School as well as our oldies and am delighted that everyone has settled back into the routine and are looking forward to approaching new learning ideas with enthusiasm.

OUR PROGRAMS

Jackie - Children's Wellbeing

Hamilton Community Preschool has been fortunate enough to be a part of the Kids Foundation SeeMore Safety Education Program. This program engages educators and children to nurture a "think safe, play safe" attitude which children can implement throughout their lives. This program establishes the foundation for developing risk management life skills that will increase safety awareness and decrease injuries in children.

Educators felt that it was important for us to start with Safety with a Friend because we have been noticing that during Term 1 many inappropriate behaviours by the children, namely playing very rough with the toys, hurting one another, not greeting educators in the morning particularly when they greet the children, lying and not answering when a peer or educator speaks to them and so on. The concern for us is that these types of behaviours are not improving as the weeks progress

This program helps us learnt how to be happy with a friend and include

- Sharing
- Being kind
- Caring about others
- Being welcoming

We are working very hard to help the children understand how inappropriate some of the behaviours are and to support them, together we will be creating a Book of Responsibilities to use as a reflective tool for the children to revisit.

It is important to note that the responsibilities are written in the positive sense e.g. we walk inside rather than no running inside etc.

The aim of this book is for the children and educators to create the responsibilities and hopefully be able to recognise, demonstrate and have ownership of the appropriate behaviours.

Reil

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)

Last year the Pre-School was involved in a pilot scheme for introducing STEM to Early Childhood Services and I am thrilled to inform you that we will be doing it again. The program will be running throughout the year and consists of 4 apps that the children can interact with on Ipad, these are: -

- **App 1 is Celebration** - Spatial Reasoning which includes patterns and ordering
- **App 2 Adventure** where the children will look at location and arrangement
- **App3 Create and Make** - the children will be discovering representations
- **App 4 Explore** - which is investigating

The apps look great and are very user friendly, the Early Learning Stem Australia (ELSA) was created by the University of Canberra and received funding to produce and support the program.

All the children will be included in the program but it is important to note that if they do not want to have a turn then that's ok.

The Pre-School has committed itself to this program and to achieve the goal of developing the children's learning and understanding of the concepts, we will be following specific steps namely:

STEP 1 - Experience

All the children experience the STEM concepts through their everyday play. Educators will be helping your child notice the concepts by developing Habits of Mind. This is a way of thinking about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that is so integrated into the child's learning they become "mental habits". Then the children will begin to recognise their own experience and label it with a Habit of the Mind. We will be using names like Pattern Sniffer, Engineer, Inquirers, Observers, Describers, Encoders, Decoders, Experimenters, Measurers and Predictors.

Educators will be marking off the children who have been engaging with experiences that promote STEM and then guiding them onto stage 2.

STEP 2 - Represent

This is where the children engage with the ELSA apps and can represent their ideas on the app.

Step 3 - Apply



The children can now apply what they have learnt from the app with more hands-on activities.

We will be placing the children's work in project books.

Educators will also be monitoring the amount of time each child is on the ipad.

If you would like further information regarding the program, please go to <https://elsa.edu.au/>

Some STEM Happenings at Pre-School



Pre-School Pets

We have pets at Pre-School - Spiky Leaf insects. Which are very fascinating creatures; here's some fun facts: -

Stick insects can shed and regenerate their limbs to escape attacks by predators

Stick insects can reproduce parthenogenetically, without the need for males

Stick insect eggs resemble seeds scattered about the forest floor

Stick insect eggs may attract ants, which then collect and store the eggs in their nests

Stick insect eggs resemble hard seeds and have a special, fatty capsule called a *capitulum* at one end. Ants enjoy the nutritional boost provided by the capitulum and carry the eggs back to their nests for a meal. Once the ants feed on the fats and nutrients, they toss the eggs onto their garbage heap where they continue to incubate safe from predators. As the nymphs hatch, they make their way out of the ant nest.

Males



I will be asking the children to take them home during the holidays and weekends. They are low maintenance all they need is fresh gum leaves. I will provide an information sheet.

Improvements

The Pre-School was successful in obtaining funding through the State Government to get the foyer area replaced with a brand-new weather proof one. The work will commence during the April holidays, my vision for this space to be a parent area with information etc.

I hope everyone has noticed our new chairs for the children, tables and shelving. We have placed some of our old tables out the front....these are free so grab one before they go

Dog Safety

The Tuesday children were fortunate to be involved in a program called Safety with Dogs. This involved them learning about looking at signs of a happy and unhappy dog, when to and when not to pat dogs, what and how to approach dogs and finally what to do if an angry dog approaches them. We met Belinda who talked to the children and Maisey a lovely King Charles.



StoryPark by Belle

We are using Storypark for all our documentations, Reflective Daily Journal, communication, information on events and just "Fun things" that are happening at preschool. Please keep an eye out on your email as you will be notified when an educator has uploaded documentation regarding your child. You own your child's profile and you can invite anyone you would like to view it. It's great to invite family members from all over the world to keep them informed with what your child is learning at Pre-School.

Also, don't forget to add your comments, our National Quality Standards state that the Pre-School "Must demonstrate that 'Practice' is shaped by meaningful engagement with families and the community. This is one perfect way that we can ensure that.

We have open communication with each family about their child. You can also add stories and pictures about important events that happened in your family. This will then be talked about at Pre-School with educators and the other children. Storypark is a great way to keep us all informed

Josie

As the children have settled into the new term and atmosphere, they have developed a love for music, dance and relaxation. An activity began which involved depicting the music they heard. The children would lay down, close their eyes and imagine a story. This would all happen while certain music was playing including, Mozart, Flamenco music, instrumental music from Miles Davis and many others.

Many different outcomes have come from this including stories of being in the jungle, at the beach, in Madagascar or chasing their friends. Children have learnt to control their bodies and create stories in their mind from this activity. As we step into term 2, we will further explore our bodies as we dance with them as discover new ways of moving.

Connecting with our Families and Community

Picnic in the Park.

Last Tuesday we had a lovely picnic at Gregson park with our Tuesday families. This was a follow up experience taken from an observation. It was great to see a wonderful turn out of family members and we got to showcase some of the great activities we do at preschool. It was great that family members got involved and seemed to enjoy



themselves with their child. We were also lucky to have Clarks Coffee Van turn up for a coffee for the adults.

Banking Buddies

As you are aware the Pre-school is involved with the Greater Bank to provide the children with the opportunity to be a banking buddy (or have a Life Saver Account)

If you would like your child to be

involved in the program, all you have to do is: -

Go to the Greater bank with your child's birth certificate and your photo id to open the account. When you receive your child's book bring it into Pre-School so they can decorate it and start banking. Just remember to put money in it.

When your child arrives at Pre-School, the book will go into the Banking Buddies bag and then we will, walk up to do the banking.

Pending on the number banking will be the last week of each month.

AGM

Please don't forget to come along to our AGM on the 1st April (and it no April Fool's joke) at 7.30pm in the Pre-School room. This is very important to the Pre-School as we are community based and need a committee to help make decisions about how the Pre-School is operating. As I have mentioned before, I really do not ask much of the committee just to turn up to monthly meetings. We need your support otherwise we could close.

It is important to note that to be a member of the Pre-School committee you will need to be aware of the following policies:

Hamilton Community Pre-School will ensure that following criteria are met for a person to be a member of the committee, being: -

- All members of the Management Committee must have a valid NSW Police Check which includes a Working with Children due to the nature of the role of the committee. Although rarely in contact with children as meetings are usually facilitated after Pre-School hours, it is a necessity to ensure compliance with relevant laws. Further information can be found https://check.clearwork.com.au/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI9JXk15P-4AIVRoWPCh1LigwREAYAiAAEgJJsVd_BwE
- Committee members are not to be named/listed on the Domestic Violence Register
- Committee members Do Not have a record of bankruptcy
- Committee members do not have pending or historical **Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO)** - *this is made where the people involved are related or have had a domestic or intimate relationship*

or an

- **Apprehended Personal Violence Order (APVO)** - *this is made where the people involved are not related or do not have a domestic or intimate relationship, for example, they are neighbours, or where a person is being stalked or intimidated by someone.*

If a person is named/ listed or declares any of the above, then they are not to be a member the Pre-School committee.

Mother's Day

With the end of Term 1 approaching, Mother's Day is just around the corner. Last year we took the children up the street to purchase a present for their mums. This was such a huge success that we are doing it again..... all you need to do is on the week starting the 29/4/19 (first week back after holidays) give your child or educators \$5.00 to buy a present for mum, and we will take care of the rest. This is a wonderful experience for the children and heaps of fun, they feel empowered by selecting a gift.

Excursions

Please remember that if you would like to volunteer on one of our excursions, you now need a Working with Children Check Number. These are free on the following website <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>. Please ensure that you state that you are a volunteer. You can do this at Pre-School prior to the outing, then you must go to the Roads and Maritime Services.

I will need your number and date of birth prior to the outing, so I can check your WWCC status, if cleared then you are able to volunteer with us.

Unfortunately, I have to be firm on this matter so if you wish to come on excursions and help out, it is essential that this process occurs before the outing.

You may be aware that we do many routine excursions such as walking to the Greater Bank, Beaumont Street, Train station, Gregson Park, strolls around the block, collect leaves for the stick insects etc. Please note that on your child's enrolment form there is a part that includes such outings and that your permission for your child to attend is obtained in this section.

Big excursions that involve public transport etc, we will ask you to complete an excursion permission form. Also, we have to complete a risk assessment on all outings, and these are available and accessible at any time, please see educators.

Earn and Learn

The Pre-School is involved in the Woolworths earn and learn program, this is happening **from 12.01 am Wednesday 1st May until on 11.59pm Tuesday 25th June 2019** can collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers, while stocks last.

A single sticker will be given to a customer with every \$10 spent in a single transaction at Woolworths Supermarkets, Woolworths Metro and Woolworths Online (www.woolworths.com.au), excluding money spent on excluded purchases, during the promotional period, while stocks last.

By purchasing a Participating Brand product you will receive a bonus two stickers (while stocks last). See [Woolworths Earn and Learn](#) for the full list of Participating Brands.

This program provides the Pre-School with the opportunity to order wonderful equipment for the children. We ask the children what they would like the Pre-School to order. We will have the stamp sheets at Pre-School usually the children love putting the stickers on the sheet at Pre-School and then it is just a matter of popping the sheet/s in the box (also at Pre-School). During this support us program. period please with this



Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to all our Term 1 children & educators:

Jan/
Feb

David
Deacon
Lia
Tenzin
Matilda
Elijah. G
Ollie
Ella
Lilla
Adeline
Tema

March

Jackie

April

Maxim
Cameron. I
Claire
Mila
Nixon
Rell
Josie



Staff News

I am sure that you have been aware that Tema has been away from Pre-School during Term 1 due to an injury. Thankfully she is making a full recovery and will be back we hope next week.

Jackie will also be away from Pre-School during the last 2 weeks of the term, as she is off to Fiji with her family....Bula Jackie

Educators have been providing the children with opportunities to practice some of the Fundamental Movement Skills. These are a specific set of skills that involve different body parts such as feet, legs, trunk, head, arms and hands. These skills are the "building blocks" for more complex and specialised skills that kids will need throughout their lives to competently participate in different games, sports and recreational activities.

Fundamental Movement Skills categories include:

Balance skills - Movements where the body remains in place, but moves around its horizontal and vertical axes.

Locomotor skills - running, jumping, hopping, and galloping.

Ball skills - such as catching, throwing, kicking, underarm roll and striking.

If you would like to help your child learn how to correctly do these skills or for more information please go to the following link:

<https://goodhabitsforlife.act.gov.au/fresh-tastes/fundamental-movement-skills-fms-1>

To promote the children's understanding of jumping, educators have been intentionally setting up the outdoor equipment for them to strengthen their larger muscles.

Fine Motor

We have noticed that some of our children need help with pencil grips and strengthening their fine motor muscles. Fine motor movements involve the coordination of small muscles in the hands and fingers. Strong fine motor skills are essential to complete tasks such as writing, cutting, using a fork or spoon, threading beads, moving puzzle pieces, zipping, buttoning, and tying shoe laces. Without well-developed fine motor skills, a child may have difficulty learning to write or performing many of the other critical tasks presented in the Pre-School and kindergarten classrooms.

What Activities can Help Improve fine motor skills?

- **Threading and lacing:** with a variety of sized laces and beads.
- **Tongs or teabag squeezers:** to pick up objects (e.g. put marbles down a marble maze).
- **Manipulation games:** such as 'Pick up Sticks' and 'Connect 4'.
- **Playdough:** Using the fingers, not the hands as whole; working with the Play-dough up in the air, not flat on the table.
- **Construction:** that requires pushing and pulling with fingers (e.g. 'Mobilo', 'K'nex' or 'Lego').
- **Storing construction materials** in jars with screw lids that need to be opened and closed as the materials are needed and when packed away.
- **Craft:** Make things using old boxes, egg cartons, wool, paper and sticky or masking tape.
- **Pegs:** Pegging them onto the sides tin cans on cardboard (cut the cardboard into echidna shapes)

Tips and Tricks for Teaching Your Child the Proper Pencil Grip

1. Put down the regular sized pencil and grab a golf pencil. Golf pencils are typically half the length of standard pencils. Since they are smaller and lighter than the average pencil, they are the perfectly sized writing utensil for all children under the age of six or seven.
2. Demonstrate the proper pencil grip for your child *before* handing him the pencil. As you do, say aloud where you are placing your fingers. Show him how you are able to easily control the pencil with that grip.
3. Place the pencil into your child's hand and position his fingers correctly. Start by having him pinch the pencil with his thumb and index finger approximately half an inch above the sharpened point. Once he can support the weight of the pencil with those two fingers, direct him to "rest" the pencil on his middle finger for added support and control.
4. Once your child is holding the pencil with the correct grip, direct him to rest the side of his hand closest to his pinky on the paper. Show him how to use his non-dominant hand to stabilize the paper so it remains steady as his dominant hand does most of the work.

Recipe:

I been asked for our *play dough* recipe, here it is happy cooking

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar (I tend to add more)
- Food colouring (add this to the water)



Directions

1. Combine all the above ingredients in a bowl.
2. Stir until some of the lumps are gone
3. Place in microwave for approx. 2 minutes
4. Then stir and repeat
5. Check for stickiness repeat if it is
6. Tip it out and knead until smooth.
7. The cream of tartar makes this dough last 6 months or longer, so resist the temptation to omit this ingredient if you don't have it on hand.
8. Store this dough in an airtight container or a Ziploc freezer bag.

General Info

Sun Smart

Vitamin D

Just a reminder though your child must bring a hat, at times we don't enforce it so the children can have some Vitamin D from the sun

- **From October to March - 10 minutes in mid-morning or mid-afternoon.**
- **From April, May, August and September - 15 minutes in mid-morning or mid-afternoon**
- **June and July - 30 to 40 minutes in the middle of the day.**

Survey

To help educators deliver the best program we value family feedback. We ask that you fill out our survey honestly so we can discuss and look at our practices to the best of our abilities. Here is the link to the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSBNH63>

Vacancies

We have limited places available if you would like your child to come to Pre-School an extra day. Please see educators and we will arrange it for you asap. Also please let your friends know.

Don't Forget: -

- To sign your child in and out as it is a legal document.
- That we ask that the children don't bring toys to Pre-School, as they can get lost, broken and so forth we have lots of equipment. If a child turns up with a toy we will ask for it to be taken home. The exception is being if it is needed to comfort the child.
- To pack healthy foods, water bottle and spare clothes
- Please take the time to read the Pre-School e-mails, Storypark and empty your child's wall pockets
- Please remember that all siblings must remain with the parents (both in and outdoors) while collecting the Pre-School children, this is to ensure all the children are safe and no one is unsupervised. I would also appreciate it if older siblings were stopped from getting on the Pre-School equipment.

- The Pre-school is a peanut and egg free service as we have children enrolled that are anaphylaxis therefore it is imperative that **no peanut/nuts of any type, nut products and eggs be brought into the Pre-school**. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can result in hospitalisation or death of a child. If your child comes to Pre-School with any products that contain these ingredients, then staff will throw them out and provide your child with a vegemite sandwich - we have to take this very seriously.
- Please remember that if you have given your child medicine (e.g. cough mixture or paracetamol) in the morning then they are too unwell to come to Pre-School.
- If your child has diarrhea then they must remain at home for 48 hours

Dates to Remember:

Date	Event
29/03	Fees due
01/04	Pre-School AGM @7.30pm
04/04	Excursion for a High Tea (<i>Thursday children only</i>)
12/04	Last day of Pre-School and fees for Term 1 must be paid in full
15/04 - 26/04	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED Easter (19 - 22/4) Foyer being replaced (<i>during holis</i>)
25/04	Anzac Day
29/04	Children return to Pre-School for Term 2 Banking Buddies (<i>for the week</i>)
29/04 - 10/05	Mother's Day money needed & Mother's Day shopping (<i>All children will be involved in this</i>)
01/05	Start collecting the Earn and Learn Stickers
10/05	Fees Due
12/05	Mother's Day
24/05	Fees Due
27/05	Banking Buddies (<i>for the week</i>)
28/05	Woolworths Discovery Tour - <i>will provide you with more information when it gets closer</i>