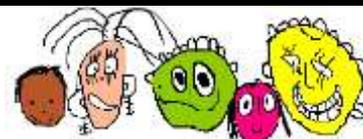


Hamilton Community Pre-School Newsletter



"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect."

Term 4 2017

Week 6

Firstly and more importantly I must apologize for not producing a newsletter term 3, but as you understand it was quite a hectic time for all of us ...I am so sorry.

OUR PROGRAM

Jackie - Children's Wellbeing

DAY FOR DANIEL

On Friday the 27th October we participated in the Daniel Morcombe Day. The Day for Daniel is Australia's largest safety awareness and education day. Daniel wore a red t-shirt on the day he went missing and the colour red has since become the colour of child safety for the foundation. We all dressed in red on the day and had red food to eat. Thank you to those families who participated in this day-we had an abundance of food. We also participated in Australia's biggest child safety lesson presented by Denise and Bruce Morcombe. We also raised \$53.00 which we donated to the foundation which goes towards the education of children in child safety and



towards support of young victims of crime.



During the week staff continued with our Protective Behaviours programme focussing on what is a stranger, good & bad strangers, we revisited our yes/no feelings and what happens to our body when we have no feelings, we practised saying NO in a loud voice when we felt endangered and threatened, we also discussed our safety people and how we run, run tell someone. The children really embraced the week and I was so proud of how they could recall our safety rules which were from the Bravehearts Programme.

Belle -

Strawberry Pickin'

We have been lucky this spring as our gardens have produced some yummy strawberries. Some of our children have been lucky to be able to pick and eat a yummy delicious red strawberry.



Fire Safety at home

Thank you to the families that practiced their fire drills at home. It was great to see so many Family Input sheets come back to preschool. We asked the children to explain the fire drill that was practised at their home. Each child could relay the fire drill that happened at their home. This was a great follow up to our fire drills at preschool.



Practising our Fine motor skills and grips.

Our children going off to big school have been practising their name, holding a pencil properly using a pincer grip and holding and using scissors correctly.

These skills are very important for when the children go to big school so at Preschool we try to strengthen and practice these skills.



Scissors can be very tricky to use, but our big schoolers were able to hold the scissors correctly and use their other hand to guide the paper to cut successfully.



Reil -

Loose Parts

I am hoping that all the children have been coming home and talking about 'Loose Parts' (accentuating the word 'part' with a higher pitch in their voice). This has all come about with me attending a workshop on the benefits of having these types of open ended materials in the Pre-School.

What is Loose Parts -

Loose parts simply mean moveable materials that children can use in their play. They might be bought materials, upcycled from the recycling bin or found natural objects.

'By using these items, the children are developing creativity, imagination and flexibility in their thinking as they can adjust parts to meet their needs. The children are discovering the delight and joy of open ended learning.



(representational) play — a higher level of play, namely problem solving, mathematical and scientific concepts such as symmetry and strengthening their social skills.

A Flying Cannon



Using loose parts for play

This is **process-based, child-driven learning** wherein they have freedom to do and make where their imagination leads them. The main objective of open-ended learning is to let the children explore their creative instinct and basically enjoy the process of learning; be open and curious about it.

Loose parts lend themselves to innovation and a sense of the unique that will encourage more symbolic



The Trapeze Bars

This has been amazing to watch the children practice constantly on making it from one side to the other and the many ways they manage to do it. I have observed that the children are now becoming stronger with their upper body as their hang time has increases.

Child development expert Gill Connell, explains some of the benefits of 'Hanging bars': -

Climbing, hanging, swinging, and any other high-energy activities that **build strength in the upper body and core muscles** are vital precursors to fine motor skills. Including writing - the grip used on monkey bars (thumb gripping underneath the bar) is the natural position for holding a pencil and will help to develop a correct writing grip.

Twisting, turning, dangling, and swinging helps develop the **flexibility and agility necessary for rotating the shoulders, elbows, wrists, and fingers.**

Pushing, pulling, tugging, and lifting yourself up builds strength while **developing an intuitive understanding of simple physics such as weight, pressure, and resistance.**



Jolly Phonics

Some of the children have been involved in the Jolly Phonics program. Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics. The children are learning

Letter Sound Order - The sounds are taught in a specific order (not alphabetically). This enables children to begin building words as early as possible.

Learning the letter sounds - Children are taught the main letter sounds
Letter formation children learn how to form and write the letters.

Yarning circle

In the Yarning circle process, all the children are provided with an opportunity to have their say in a safe space without judgment. Each child and educator speak, one at a time, is heard and not interrupted. This is a process that involves and develops deep listening, sharing of knowledge and development of higher order thinking skills and establishing rules of respect.

This occurs at the end of our day and all children are given the opportunity to share.

STEM

I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the Pre-School has been accepted to be part of a trial in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in 2018.

Only 100 early childhood services were selected Australia wide to participate in the trail and we are the only Pre-School to be selected in the Hunter region (that includes Upper and Lower)...UNBELIEVABLE.

I will be attending a 2-day workshop in Sydney to get a grasp on what we must do. The program involves both hands on experiences as well as use of the iPad. I will keep you informed as more information comes to light. This program is targeting the children going to school the following year

ELLA

With us being involved in the STEM program, I feel that the children's day will be consumed with specific programs, all educators feel that ELLA will have cancelled as we concentrate on STEM and the fact that we have only one iPad.

If time allows we will offer ELLA to the children.

Connecting with our Families and Community

Tema -

Pattaya Thai Restaurant Hamilton

A Culture of living, being & Knowing



Teaching children cultural competence is a way of learning about the world we live in. We hope that by exploring culture here at Hamilton Community Preschool we are setting a good strong foundation for our children to accept, love and respect acceptances in all forms of culture. The last week of term 3 we delved into the Thai culture, here we explored Thai cuisine, cultural beliefs, living and communities. We shared ideas of how we could learn more about Thailand as a country. As we reflected more on Thailand the children had a fantastic idea that we should go out for lunch and try some Thai food!

This was put into place, a menu was set, and our idea were up off the ground within a few days.

In partnership with our community we attended the Pattaya Thai Restaurant Hamilton owned by one of our preschool families- here we gathered in a meaningful Thai food experiences. I was so impressed that each child tried and enjoyed the food that was served. I loved seeing most children asking for second and thirds!

EYLF Outcome 2: Children are Connected with and Contribute to their World





Orientation Week

Tuesday the 28/11 and Thursday 30/11 we are holding a play morning for all the new children who will be attending Pre-School next year. I am hoping to buddy up some of my older children with them, so they can show the new children around the Pre- School. This will start at 10.30 to 11.30am.

EVENTS

Christmas Hamper

We will be having a raffle/Christmas Hamper to be drawn at the Christmas Disco, so it would be greatly appreciated if all families could donate a small gift, such as wine, lollies, chocolates, nuts, tinned food, or anything Christmassy. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will help raise some funds to buy the children some more equipment - you can never have enough. There will be a washing basket on the cupboard near the door, just pop it in there.

Raffle Tickets

We will be placing raffle tickets in your child's wall pocket for the Christmas hamper, this is for your child to sell and more likely for you to buy. They will be \$1.00 per ticket again thanks for your support. It would be great if they could be returned by the 08/12/17. If you need more tickets, please see staff.

Christmas Concert

The children have been working extremely hard for their concert and thankfully Newcastle Leagues Club has again generously donated the use of their Auditorium for us.

The concert is on the 15th December (Friday) and will start at 5.30 to 8.00pm. I will be sending out the invitations soon. The club organises Santa to visit the Pre-School children as well as having some special surprises for them.

The doors to the auditorium will not be opened before 5.20pm

Cost: \$10.00 per family and any additional extended family members a gold coin donation towards the Pre-School would be appreciated.

We will have other items for sale; more information about this is in the newsletter

I would like to remind you that this is for the Pre-Schoolers and it is their opportunity to shine and for them to stand out.

SO...

Please ensure that any older siblings are controlled and stopped from running around the dance floor, they are your responsibility.

I will also remind you: -

- Ⓢ Immediate family only, that is relatives are invited to attend, this means no family or siblings friends
- Ⓢ Please be mindful that the Pre-School children have been working very hard to practice for the concert and are excited about the whole idea of performing for you so please respect what they are doing by not talking. If someone next to you is being inconsiderate give them a nudge and remind them of why they are here. This is also relevant to the speeches; we don't have many, so it doesn't take long.
- Ⓢ We need to keep the dance floor clear particularly at the start.
- Ⓢ Please be aware that you are responsible for your family during the concert/disco, so it is important that they are supervised.
- Ⓢ Staff will not reserve tables for families.
- Ⓢ The club has requested that the children do not go on the stage during the disco

REMEMBER - that concert/disco is for the Pre-School children, they are the important people of the night so let's make it special for them. They are not expected to wear special costumes to the concert.

Christmas Presents

The children leaving Pre-School will be getting their USB and the other children will be giving you a special surprise for Christmas this will be happening the week starting the 11/12/17

Party Week

Starting **Monday**, the 11/12/17 to **Friday** 15/12/17 we will be having party week with the children. They can come to Pre-School in fancy dress and we will supply few lollies and chips (which is "sometimes food") for them to eat after lunch. If you do not wish your child to have treats, please pack them alternative and let educators know - on the day of the party. Please be mindful that if packing treats for your child that we are nut and egg free.



Pre-School Library Books and Toys

Could all the Pre-School library books both parent and children's and toys be returned by the 20th November, so educators can start inventory of them

Staff News

Term 3 has been an absolute whirlwind, so I can guess that you know that Tema has accepted employment as a full-time educator, Belle has an additional day being Wednesday and Jackie and I remain the same. What I love about being and working with these girls is their dedication to the Pre-School and our families. As they have been very flexible to accommodate additional days since Jo has left.

Unfortunately, the applicants for the new position have not gone as well as I would have hoped, so I have had to readvertise and cull again. I will be interviewing applicants next Wednesday...fingers crossed.

A huge thanks to the team for their flexibility in working.



Love the new funny mirrors

General Info

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 and empty your child's wall pockets

Webpage

We would love some testimonials for our website, please shoot them over to us. A big thanks to Belle for being the one who has updated and added to our website. Also go and check out our webpage it has some great information on there for you to read.

Dates to Remember

| Date | Event |
|-------------|---|
| 13/11-17/11 | Recycle week. Don't forget our big toy swap |
| 17/11 | Fees due |
| 20/11 | Dental talk - Monday children only All children's library books and toys need to be returned |
| 28 & 30/11 | Orientation play morning for the new children |
| 5/12 | Committee meeting |
| 8/12 | Christmas raffle tickets to be returned Fees due - final payment |
| 11 -15/12 | Party week for the children Christmas presents handed out |
| 15/12 | Christmas concert/disco |
| 18 &19/12 | Pupil free days SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 30/01/18 | Children return to Pre-School for Term 1 |