

Hamilton Community Pre-School Newsletter



"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect."

Term 4 2018

Week 7

Firstly and more importantly I must apologize for not producing a newsletter term 3,I am so sorry.

OUR PROGRAM

Jackie

Excursion to Antojitos

David had come to me at morning tea one day and asked "Jackie why can't we go to my dad's restaurant". I said to him we can & so together we arranged an excursion to his dad's restaurant Antojitos.

Antojitos is a casual California/Mexican street food restaurant specialising in burritos, tacos, nachos, and more.

We were seated at our table when an array of Mexican food was bought out. For some children and staff this was the first time we had ever had Mexican food. I was so proud of the children for trying new food and was proud of the staff too lol. We had -Nachos, Burritos, Quesadillas & Mexican fish pieces just to name a few.



After our delicious lunch it was a short walk to McDonald's for an ice cream before heading back to preschool. I would love to thank Eric & Kristy and their amazing staff from Antojitos. Their food was amazing, and we were so lucky to be able to sample some lovely Mexican food. To my parent helpers I extend a warm thanks for your help on this day. Without parental support these types of excursions could not occur. Partnerships underpin the practice of the Early years Learning framework. As educators we like to build an understanding of children's families and the community building on their sense of belonging. Thank you again.



Day for Daniel

On Friday the 26th 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 participated in Australia's biggest child safety lesson presented by Denise and Bruce Morcombe. We also raised \$31.00 which we donated to the foundation which goes towards the education of children in child safety and towards support of young victims of crime.



Belle

Water Colour Fun

On Tuesday 13th November we were very fortunate to have Zippy's Grandmother Audrey come along and do a water colour workshop with the children. This came about after some of our children had been busy in our art area recreating masterpieces. (You can see them on our walls) Audrey was very generous to donate her time and expertise to our budding artists.

The children created an underwater scene and used different methods with the watercolours to create this scene. We love it when community members come into preschool to teach us all some thing new. If you have anything to offer and teach us, please let me know. We would love to work with you.



National Recycling Week 12-16th November 2018

To celebrate National Recycling Week, Hamilton Community Preschool participated in the Big Aussie Swap by hosting a Toy Swap Week. This was a unique opportunity for Hamilton Community Preschool to promote and show our ongoing commitment to raising the profile of reuse and recycling initiatives.

Our toy swap encouraged the children to reuse items, which, in turn, reduces the demand for new items by swapping, rather than buying a new toy. The children were encouraged to bring along ONE toy that they no longer play with. In return for their toy they were able to choose a pre-loved toy to take home and use. This toy swap week is a good way to encourage our pre-schoolers to reuse and recycle.

Thankyou to those families who participated and sent along a toy/book. I am sure that the children are loving their new toy.



Josie

On Monday (week 4) educators set up science test tubes with water, glitter and leaves which the children really enjoyed. They explored the career of science as they mixed different ingredients together. The children used natural materials as they questioned why the glitter floated on top of their potions. This then sparked the idea of an experiment discovering density in water by combining oil and water.

The following Monday, I sat with the children and performed the experiment. We started with a discussion reminding ourselves about using the potions and how they wanted to learn about things floating. The discussion was fantastic, and all the children participated with different ideas for example Andie stated: "The lighter the object, the more it will float". Lucy then made the opposing point saying, "Things will sink if they are bigger and heavier."

I brought out two objects to test the children's theory - a small plastic lid, and a marble. It was interesting to hear some of the ideas that children thought the marble would float as it is small. I explained to the children how it was heavier, and if they agreed by weighing the lid and marble in their hands.

Sam D helped by pouring the water into the oil - i deliberately did it in this order so the children would see the oil rise above the water. The children hypothesized that it would all mix together as the ingredients were both liquids. They were all amazed at how it didn't do what they had expected.

This science activity was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children, they demonstrated their understanding of cause and effect as they communicated, hypothesized and predicted - which are all important skills.

The children recalled events and requested making potions for the following week.

Reli

Assessment and Rating

The Pre-School has received notification of our assessment and rating by the Department. So far we have sent our QIP and are awaiting for the Department to give us a date on when they will be assessing us. This process generally takes a full day with the validator observing and discussing all seven standards with educators.

It's a fairly stressful time but I think we will be ok....fingers crossed. I will let you all know when the visit will be occurring, they must give us 5 days' notice.

Little Scientists Award

I entered the Pre-School in the little Scientist Competition and we placed 3rd in NSW. I was thrilled when I spoke to the organiser and she stated that she loved our balsa wood project.

We received a plaque recognising our achievement.

I also have to mention that when I attended a ELSA Stem workshop, all participants were asked to bring examples of the children engaged in STEM experiences. I took this one and it was used as an example for everyone to see. They explained that the children were encoding and decoding.



STEM

The children have been learning about location which includes investigations. This program has been wonderful for the children and I am hoping that we continue it next year.

SUBMISSION

Many moons ago I completed a submission for funding to have the screened foyer area enclosed making it weather proofed.... I am delighted to announce that it has been granted by the State Government and I am hoping to have work commence during the April holidays.

Once completed, that area will be used for the sign in book, children's toy library etc.

Jackie and I have also applied for funding from the Gov't to replace all the tables, chairs and shelving in the room.

Story Park

Just a reminder to have a look at your child's documentations on Storypark. Educators go to a lot of trouble observing and documenting your child's time at Pre-School and it is very disheartening for us to see that some families have not taken the time to look at them.



Tema

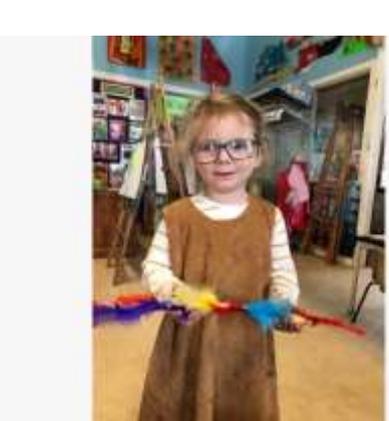


The children have been exposed to closing the gap learning, this entailed learning about our Indigenous Heritage. We used our symbol cards as a guide to paint and draw, we used other materials such as natural clay to hand build our echidnas and hand printing to design and display our close the gap circle art work. All the artwork and clay work have been displayed within the preschool room we have dedicated a beautiful area to show case the symbol paintings as they were so beautifully painted. To add to this, we are learning what symbols mean in the different areas of Australia, and what the symbols may represent for Aboriginal families.



In the collaboration the children contributed in the documentation of their own learning experiences and cultural awareness. The following practices were exercised, challenged and embraced. This

learning outcome was spread over term three and four, each week a new learning experiences was imbedded into our learning program. As an educator I feel very strongly about cultural awareness and closing the gap developing positive attitudes towards cultural differences, gaining knowledge of different cultural practices and world views developing skills for communication and interaction across cultures for a stronger future for our children.



EVENTS

Orientation Week

Tuesday the 27/11, Wed 28/11 and 29/11 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.

The Friday children asked if they could make cup cakes for the new children but in the same breath also suggested that we make enough for them as well.

Christmas Hamper

We will be having a raffle/Christmas Hamper to be drawn on the 12/12, so it would be greatly appreciated if all families could donate a small gift, such as wine, lollies, chocolates, 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 have placed 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 07/12/18. If you need more tickets, please see staff.

Christmas Picnic

Gosh talk about changes so here's the last and final one.

The details: -

- **Date:** 19th December
- **Venue:** Gregson Park
- **Time:** 4.00 to 6.00pm
- **What to bring:** chairs, nibbles, picnic rugs, outdoor toys
- **We will be providing:** -
 - sausage sizzle on the day and the cost is \$2.00 per sanga
 - Cordial for the children

Near the sign in book there is a new RSVP sheet please take the time to add your name to the list if you are joining us, so we know exactly how many sausages we need to purchase. This needs to be entered no later than the 7/12/198.

The children will be singing a few Christmas songs and the children leaving Pre-School will be presented with their graduation certificate

This invitation is extended to all our Pre-School families

Christmas Presents

The children will be giving you a special surprise for Christmas this will be happening the week starting the 10/12/17

Party Week

Starting **Monday** 10/12/18 to **Friday** 14/12/18 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.



Special Meeting

Don't forget that the Pre-School will be holding a special meeting to update our constitution. This meeting will be held before our regular meeting, in the Pre-School room at 7.30pm and the 17th December

Staff News

I always feel that it is important to acknowledge and thank the team for their support, this year for me has been the year of trials and flexibility. I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for their dedication to the Pre-School and acknowledge how hard they have worked throughout the year and particularly towards getting the service ready for validation.....Thanks guys you are the best.

I will be taking a couple of days off in late November to have a short break, I can hardly wait. Believe it or not (and I'm finding it extremely funny), we will be in Qld the same time as schoolies..... Not sure if that makes us toolies or foolies).



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.

Sustainability

SAVING ENERGY

We are trying to save energy and electricity at preschool. Parents can assist by dressing their child in appropriate clothing for the season. This will minimise the need for heaters and air-conditioners to be on all day.

Parents we ask that you also be mindful that if the door into the preschool room is closed when you enter, please close it behind you as we would have the air conditioner or heater on.

Some tips how to save energy at home from Energy Australia.

Heating and cooling

- Insulating your home saves you money on your power bill and makes your home more comfortable. It also helps the environment by reducing the amount of energy required to heat and cool your home, and reducing the amount of carbon pollution, which is released into the atmosphere. A well-insulated home is up to 10°C warmer in winter and 7°C cooler in summer.
- Close doors to separate air-conditioned areas from other areas of your home to minimise the area you are air-conditioning.
- Turn off air-conditioning overnight and when you are out during the day

Lighting

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Upgrade lights globes with light-emitting diodes (LEDs).
- Use programmable timers, daylight sensors, or motion sensors to control outdoor and security lighting.
- Regularly clean light fittings, reflectors and lampshades.
- Use the lowest wattage globes to adequately light the area you require.
- Maximise natural light through windows and skylights
- Consider lifetime cost. Choose the light bulb that will cost you the least in the long-run.

Dates to Remember

Date	Event
21/11	Parent Orientation night
23/11	Fees are due
27,28 & 29/11	Orientation play morning for the new children
7/12	Deadline for sausage sizzle orders
7/12	Raffle tickets due in
10 - 14/12	Party week for the children Christmas presents handed out
12/12	Christmas raffle drawn
14/12	Fees due - final payment
17/12	Special/committee meeting
18/12	Christmas picnic - last day of Pre-School
19/12	Pupil free day SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED
29/1	PUPIL FREE DAY
30/01/19	Children return to Pre-School for Term 1