



MACARTHUR PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



www.macarthurpreschool.com.au

Not for Profit, Community owned, preschool education since 1978

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Dear Families,

We are coming to the end to what has been a very unusual and difficult year for everybody. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to hold our many family events this year or take the children on any excursions. All the staff have also missed having those wonderful chats with our families because of pick ups and drop offs at the gate.

We have all had to adapt to all these changes that have occurred around us. Thank you to our Parents, Families, Staff and Committee who have been very supportive during this difficult year.

Most importantly, the children have still had a wonderful time at Preschool, socializing with their friends and being involved in many wonderful experiences offered within the Preschool programme. They have participated in Zoom meetings with the residents of Grasmere Terrace, Carrington Care and Zoom story time sessions with Camden South Public School. We also had a wonderful morning doing lots of physical activities on our Move-a-thon day and planted trees next door in Lawson Reserve with Grant Dell, Bush Regeneration Officer from Camden Council.

All staff and children came in crazy costumes and crazy hair for our special Crazy Hair and dress up day. We raised \$261.60 for Cystic Fibrosis NSW on this day. Thank you all for your generous donations.



Our teachers, Jacky, Dianne and I have been busy completing Transition to School Statements, based on the outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework, for each child going to school in 2021. We met with 2 local Schools, St Paul's and Camden South, to discuss children that will be transitioning from Macarthur Preschool to their school. For all other Schools the Transition to School Statements have been emailed to the School. Children coming back to Preschool in 2021 will be given a 2020 end of year Evaluation and Objectives Statement.

For all children heading off to "Big School" I would just like to wish you all the best and hope you have a wonderful start to your new journey. All the staff here at Macarthur preschool will be thinking of you, so don't forget to come back and see us next year.

Please see attached information about transition from Preschool to Primary School.

Over the past few weeks, the children have been busy singing their favourite songs as well as Christmas songs and special Christmas dances. All these have been videoed and put on your child's USB which will be handed out on their last day. Also on this USB is a movie which is a snapshot of your child's year at Macarthur Preschool. Thank you to staff who have been very busy putting these movies together. We all hope you love this special memory of your child's time here at Macarthur Preschool and enjoy the experience of watching this together with your child.



State Government Funding for 2021:

"The temporary COVID-19 free preschool funding program has been extended by the NSW Government throughout 2021 to continue to support families with cost of living pressures and to support the ongoing provision of 600 hours of early childhood education in the year before school. This is a significant additional investment in the NSW community preschool and mobile preschool sector.

Funding will be provided to replace a high proportion of estimated fee income. In turn, services are required to provide at least 15 hours of fee-free preschool per week for families."

Macarthur Preschool will be receiving this extra funding for up to 15 hours per week of preschool. As the third day of Preschool will not be covered by this funding weekly fees will be \$26 for children attending 3 days.

Yellow Room Staff Changes for 2021:

Unfortunately, due to health reasons our Educator, Kerry Rogers, needs to decrease her working days in 2021. Kerry will not be working on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Yellow Room next year but will be continuing to work in the Blue Room on Thursdays and Fridays. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Kerry for all her support (Particularly IT support and her wonderful sewing skills) over the time we have been working together on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Fortunately, we are able to fill this position with existing staff.

As this is a permanent part time position our Diploma Educator, Elissa Dell, will be taking on this position as well as continuing on a Wednesday as the Additional Needs Support Worker. This leaves the position of Additional Support Worker available on Thursday and Friday. We are pleased to be able to offer this position to our casual worker Georgia Dore. Georgia has already worked many days for us this year and is very familiar with all the children, staff and families. She is very excited to take on this position.

We welcome both Elissa and Georgia to these positions and hope they enjoy their new roles.

Congratulations to our Additional Needs Support worker, Tahnee Strauss, who is expecting her second child. Tahnee will be back in the yellow room for Term 1, 2021 and then going on maternity leave.



2020 Parent Committee:

I would like to thank our 2020 Parent Committee for their time and support throughout this very unique year and assisting me in navigating all the changes that occurred over this time. We are all now very used to Committee ZOOM meetings!

As this is a Community Based Preschool, we rely on our Parent Committee to work closely with the staff in the operation of the preschool and the organization of fund raising events. Many of our existing Committee members will be stepping down from their positions at our AGM in March next year as their children will be starting "Big School." This will leave many positions vacant, so I urge parents of children attending our Preschool in 2021 that you seriously consider taking on a Committee position next year. We Need You!

Please read the following report from our 2020 President, Rowena Hazelton:

Presidents Report December 2020

As I sit and reflect on the year that's been, it is hard to fathom all the events and challenges that have unfolded. How significantly different 2020 has been to what we had planned!

Many of us experienced home pre-schooling for the first time. This was often combined with juggling work, toddlers, and school-aged children. I feel grateful that this was only short term. While we appreciate all the experiences and videos the creative teachers prepared online, there was a huge sigh of relief when the children could return to a little more normality!

I love the innocence of our preschooler's and the resilience they have shown during a year of uncertainty and change. Our little ones have made new friends, created memories and learnt so much through the guidance of all the amazing staff at our pre school.

I would like to thank all staff members for the invaluable experiences you create for our children every day. Each play-based activity is carefully planned around our children's interests and needs. Your care, compassion, patience, guidance, friendliness and enthusiasm (even during difficult times) are second to none. What a wonderful learning environment our children walk into each time they walk through the gates of Macarthur Pre School.

Unfortunately, with so many restrictions we weren't able to go ahead with our planned major fundraisers. However, we were still able to support the pre school through the Easter raffle, move-a-thon, picture product plates and our pre school cookbook (if you haven't ordered one yet it's not too late). I would like to thank all families for your generous contributions.

I would also like to thank the parent committee for your ongoing support throughout the year. Without your interest and involvement, the preschool would not be able to operate. For those families returning or any new families, we would love you to consider joining our great team next year!

To those of you with children beginning Kindergarten next year we would like to wish you all the very best as your little one embarks on the next chapter of their story! In the words of Dr. Seuss *"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting so get on your way!"*

Finally, I would like to welcome all our new families in 2021 and we look forward to seeing our returning families.

I would like to wish all the staff, committee members and families a very safe and happy holiday with your loved ones. Treasure the special moments!

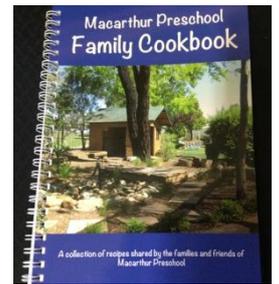
Rowena Hazelton
President

Picture Products:

Children's special Picture plates were delivered today. They are available for collection at Preschool.

Macarthur Preschool Family Cookbooks:

These have just arrived and are available for purchase- \$20 each or 2 for \$35. There are only 100 books available. This is our last fundraiser for the year. It is a wonderful collection of recipes shared by the families and friends of Macarthur Preschool. I love the special recipes that have been passed down through the generations and the family comments about each one.



Thank you to all our families who contributed their favourite recipes to this book.

A special thank you our Senior Vice President, Jessica Tesoriero, who spent so much of her time putting all the information together.

End of Year Parties-

Friday 11th December

Tuesday 15th December

Wednesday 16th December

The children are very excited about these days. We will be having a special party lunch where the staff will be serving food brought in by families as well as a Water Fun Day. Children can wear or bring their swimming costume and rashie to Preschool as well as a change of clothes and a towel. It is important that all children have sunscreen applied before they arrive at Preschool.

New Play Zoo Enclosure-

A big thank you to Pasquale Oliva and his Dad, Tony, who worked together to build this wonderful Zoo Animal enclosure and then donated this to Preschool. Pasquale had one of these at home and decided that Preschool needed one as well!



Children's Photographs-

Thank you to our former Administration Assistant, Margret Bell, for volunteering to come back to Preschool to take children's individual and group photos.



Christmas Trees-

Thank You to the Osborne family for donating 2 beautiful Christmas trees to have in each room at Preschool. The children had a wonderful time decorating the trees.

Last Day of Preschool-

The children's last day of preschool will be Wednesday 16th December. Only staff will be attending on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December.

Term 1, 2021-

Term 1 commences on Wednesday 27th January 2021. If you have not received a letter confirming your commencement date for 2021 by Friday 11th December, please contact the Preschool immediately. If your child is on our waiting list and you have not received an email or telephone call about a place for 2021, we cannot offer you a position at this time. Please remember there are often many changes and movements with enrolments from now until February next year, so as soon as a place becomes available you will be contacted.

Thank you to everybody for your support over the year and I would like to wish all families a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Sharon Beveridge
Director/Nominated Supervisor/Teacher
7th December, 2020.

2021 Term 1 Dates (10 weeks)

Wednesday 27th January - Thursday 1st April

