

MACARTHUR PRESCHOOL



DIRECTOR'S DESK FEBRUARY 2022



www.macarthurpreschool.com.au

Not for Profit, Community owned, preschool education since 1978

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For all new families welcome to Macarthur Preschool for 2022 and for returning families, welcome back. We hope you all had an enjoyable break over the holiday season, spending time with family and friends whenever possible. We are all looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Thank you to everybody for being patient and understanding with our COVID safe practices again this year and our new online sign in system, HubHello. We have had a few teething problems with the online sign in but are working them out as we become more familiar with the system. **Please make sure that you hand sanitise before you sign your child in using the iPad.**

Also, as you enter the Preschool premises please make sure you are wearing a mask. Our staff also must wear masks when interacting with parents and when inside the Preschool building.

In the Blue Room this term we have had a few staff changes. Due to Jo Wright not being able to work until early March, we have had Beth Smith come back from her retirement to help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Kate Carpenter has been working with Dianne and Leanne on Mondays. Thank you Beth for returning to help us. Hopefully Jo will be fully recovered and back with us again by early to mid March.

We have had a number of families who helped out with maintenance jobs during the holiday break and at the beginning of term.

Thank you to Ashton Neville for gurneying the preschool veranda and pavers. He did a fantastic job, leaving the area sparkling clean for the children to start back this year. Ashton has kindly volunteered to do this at the end of each term.

Thank you to the Gilkison and Tesoriero family for watering the gardens over the holiday break.

Matt Colefax spent a long time trying to source hardwood timber to replace boards that were starting to rot on the children's climbing platforms. He was finally able to get some all the way from Melbourne and installed the boards last weekend. Thank you Matt!

Also thank you to Adam Jones who replaced some wheels on the children's play animal enclosure and fixed unstable wheels on another shelf.

Over the break, a former parent, Grant Eddie from Eddie & Son Tree Services, cleaned our large sandpit shelter. He is also coming back to Preschool to trim some of our trees.



As you can see our parents, families and the community play a huge part in helping our Non Profit Community Based Preschool in many different ways.

The land and building are leased from Camden Council, but the preschool is solely responsible for all maintenance and day to day operations. Macarthur Preschool does not have a private owner. I (Sharon Beveridge), the Director/Nominated Supervisor, and staff work together with a volunteer Parent Committee in the running of the centre.

This makes it essential that each year the preschool has a full Parent Committee on board. We have only 2 Committee members returning this year so please consider joining our Committee and being part of your child's Preschool.

We would love to have you on board.

Our Meet the Staff night and AGM will be held on Monday March 14th. You will receive more detailed information about the role of the Committee and Committee positions closer to the Annual General Meeting.

Due to COVID restrictions we will need to be mindful of the number of people we have in the room. So we know numbers attending, please ring the office or email if you will be coming on the night. Everyone will need to wear masks, sign in using the QR code as well as the attendance sheet.

Tea/coffee and chocolates will be provided. We would love you to come along and meet staff, former committee members and other parents, as well as finding out more about your child's preschool.

We have 2 staff members who have reached a special milestone year of working at Macarthur Preschool:

Jacky Bailie- 30 years.

Maree Weatherstone- 25years

These will be recognised on the night.

Over the holiday break we had more work done on our landscaping project. The pavers have been re-laid to form a wonderful feature in the middle of this area. There are still 2 more circle areas to be installed.....a tepee formation as well as a sensory area near the small sandpit. More planting needs to be carried out around the logs and fence line. To keep the cost of this project down we are looking for donations of the following plants:

- 3 fountain grass
- 3 lavender
- 3 native daisies
- 3 pigface
- 3 geraniums (Any colour except red)



If you are able to help by making a donation please let us know.

We will have our **Easter Raffle** again this year as part of the fund raising calendar. This will be drawn on **Friday 1st April**. If you are able to donate an Easter egg for the raffle this would be very much appreciated. Donations will be collected from 1st March.



At the start of each year we normally hold a welcome to Preschool disco night, but unfortunately because of spacing in the preschool and maintaining COVID safe practices such as, social distancing, we will not be able to hold this event again this year. Instead, educators will incorporate the dances we normally do on this night into music time during your child's normal Preschool day.

Kinderloop: This is the online documentation system our educators use to send you photos and information about your child's group, experiences that have occurred during the day and individual observations. Please make sure you have accepted the Kinderloop invitation and set up a password so you can access this information. If you are not receiving any of this documentation, please let your child's educators know.

Just a few reminders:

Preschool Hours and Late Fees

Preschool is open from 8.30am - 4pm.

Please remember that earliest drop off time is **8.30am** and final pick up for a child is **4pm**. If children are picked up any time after 4pm, a late fee will be charged.

- **\$15 for first 15 minutes (4.00pm- 4.15pm)**
- **\$30 for every 15 minutes thereafter (4.15pm onwards)**

Car Parking

For safety reasons, staff and committee request that all parents and families park in Crookston Drive or in our car park. As Lawson Avenue is such a narrow street as well as being a bus route this creates safety issues, particularly when cars are parked on both sides of the road. Buses cannot get through when cars are parked directly opposite each other in this street.



Looking forward to getting to know you all and hoping to see some of you at our AGM.

Sharon Beveridge

Nominated Supervisor/Director/Teacher

15th February 2022.

Important Dates

A decorative banner with the text 'Important Dates' written in a cursive font. Below the text is a string of five colorful triangles (red, teal, lime green, orange, teal) with white polka dots.

TERM 1

1st March: Easter Raffle Donations accepted & Raffle Tickets available.

14th March: Annual General Meeting at Preschool (Time TBA)

Friday 18th & Monday 28th March: Arlo's Treasure Show at Preschool

Thursday 31st March: Easter Raffle Tickets are Due

Friday 1st April: Easter Raffle is Drawn

Friday 8th April: Last day of Term 1

TERM 2

Tuesday 26th April: First day of Term 2