



St. Dunstan's Preschool **Newsletter October 2021**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We know we have said this before, but THANK YOU again for all the support you have shown our preschool over the past few months.

We are so happy to have the preschool full of children, laughing and learning, and we continue to need your support to ensure it stays like this.

Please remember to always sign in via the QR code. As mentioned previously if you can manage this independently, we can spend more quality time with your children. Please also remember to follow our 'Conditions of Entry' procedure and our 'COVID 19' policy. These have been sent to you via email. If you require another copy please ask Michelle or Stacey.

Summative reports/Family Interviews

As you can imagine, 4 weeks is not enough time to assess children's learning to write a meaningful report on their learning and progress. However, we know how important it is to share information with you in relation to your child's strengths, interest, and goals we have been working towards, along with the achievements of your child whilst they were learning from home.

To do this, we will be holding our end of year family meetings. These will be done in a COVID-safe face-to-face way or via zoom. Interviews will commence the week starting November 22nd and go over 2 weeks. More information will be sent out soon.

End of Year celebration

Pending any changes in COVID regulations and health advice, we are hoping to have an end of year celebration.

Chingu- Friday 10th of December 9am-11am (Children and families will be asked to leave at 11am. This will allow us to clean and get ready for the Bunji children's end of year celebration).

Bunji- Friday 10th of December 12:30pm-2:30pm (We ask that the Bunji children and families stay home until 12:30 to allow for the Chingu end of year celebration).

Rafiki- Tuesday 14th of December 9:30am-11:30am (We will say goodbye at 11:30am. This will be their last day. We kindly ask that the Rafiki's stay at home on Wednesday to allow the Amigo's to have their party.

Amigo- Wednesday 15th of December 9:30am-11:30am (We will say goodbye at 11:30am. This will be their last day. We ask that all Amigos stay home on Tuesday to allow for a Rafiki's party.)

This plan might sound confusing but don't worry we managed it last year. More detailed information will be sent out mid-November when we know more guidelines and government regulations.

Learning Journey Books

Just a reminder to bring back your child's learning journey book (eg. their portfolio) so we can continue to add their learning stories and documentation. Unfortunately, if we don't get them back by the end of November you might receive your child's work in a plastic sleeve.

How does our garden grow?

With support from our Woolworths Landcare grant, we have purchased new garden beds, soil and seedlings. Our vision is to provide a learning environment where by the children can be involved in planting the seedlings, caring for the growing plants (using our 'worm wee'), eating the veggies/fruit and then putting the scraps back into the worm farm and compost. Stacey has also been bringing in seeds from the vegetables she has been eating at home such as capsicum seeds and the tops of carrots, for the children to observe and record how they change as they grow.

We also regularly check on the blue tongue lizard that likes to sunbake near our front gate as well as native bees and eating mulberries off our tree.

Please see our learning board (located at the top of the stairs where you exit) which highlights all learning that has been happening in our natural environment.

We would love you to be involved!!

We are looking to add more seedlings to our garden. In particular we are wanting to plant a number of natural mosquito repellent plants around our garden. These include lavender, marigolds, rosemary, basil, mint, sage, scented geraniums, floss flower and citronella grass. If you have any of these already growing in your garden that may be able to produce an offcut we can use, please speak to an educator. If you are growing any fruit or vegetables at home, we would also love for you to share photos of your garden, and how you care for your plants.

Transition to School

Unfortunately transitioning to school might look a little different this year. The department has sent a link with some useful information.

We also have a number of resources available on our website you may like to look at.

https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/working-in-early-childhood-education/transition-to-school/covid-19-parents-?mc_cid=611c778c15&mc_eid=8f471213a8

We are here to support you in anyway we can. If your school is unable to hold orientation visits, we are very happy to contact the school and share your child's strengths, interests and what we have been working on. If the school asks for a Transition to School Statement, please let us know and we can give you a copy of your child's progression of learning report as the information is the same.

Online Platforms

An important aspect of a quality early childhood service is to have continuous critical reflection within the team regarding service practices and policies. Our current critical reflection research is in relation to online communication with families and investigating the platforms that are available to add to our practices. This has become a main discussion point with staff, especially during the recent COVID lock down period.

There are a number of current families whose children attend other services which do use online communication platforms for their families.

We would be interested in receiving feedback regarding your experiences with the online platform as this will provide more information to support our research and to help us make a more informed decision in the future.

If you would like to assist us with this, please see Julie.

Reminders

With the unpredictable weather please remember to pack a hat and spare clothes for your child. Remember the spare clothes might be needed due to a change in weather, water, or messy play.

Michelle, Julie, Maxine, Stacey, Esther, Terrie, Sephine, Young, Ben, Lynette and Simone.

