



St. Dunstan's Preschool

Newsletter February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to a new preschool year. We hope you all had a safe and happy holiday. We would like to welcome all the new families who are starting at our preschool this year and we are happy to see so many returning faces too.

Our Team

There are 11 staff members at St. Dunstan's Preschool.

Photographs and names are on the notice board located between the two entry gates.

Michelle and Esther work with the Amigo group.

Stacey and Hayley work with the Rafiki and Chingu groups.

Julie and Esther work with the Bunji group.

Michelle being Director has her office time on Thursday and Friday as well as working with both the Chingu and Bunji groups.

Julie (M,Tu), Terrie (W,Th,F), Saphine (M,Tu,W), Ben (Th,F) and Young (M,Tu,W) support the children with additional needs. We are very grateful that our part time educators also help replace fulltime educators when they are away.

Lynette is our casual educator and covers any staff member who is away.

Simone, our office administrator, is available in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays for all financial and payment enquiries.

COVID changes

We are aware that the NSW Government are easing restrictions in relation to mask wearing and checking in.

All adults are now welcome to drop off and pick up, irrespective of vaccination status, however this will be subject to current outbreaks within our community.

Providing a safe environment for all staff, children and families is our main priority at this time, so we have decided to continue to enforce mask wearing for any adult when dropping off their child or picking up. Unfortunately, we are still not allowing siblings into the preschool. These practices will remain for Term 1 and we will review these in time for term 2. If you have not been able to come into preschool as you have siblings in the car, but you would like to, please let a staff member know.

You will no longer need to check in via the service NSW app.

'Skoolbag' app

Thank you to the families that have joined the 'skoolbag' app. We would love if more families could join our St Dunstan's group. This way we can send through all

our notices, emails, learning stories and reminders via one platform, saving us time and stopping families from receiving it multiple times. If you do not want to use the app, please see Michelle.

Events for the year

During the year we have many fun events. This might include Family Fun Day, Magic Shows, School Readiness Presentation, Class Photos, a Zoo Visit, Police and Fire Fighter Visits (just to name a few). These visits are pending COVID restrictions and will be evaluated case by case, along with completing a thorough a risk assessment before any events go ahead. We will notify you of these events closer to time.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for parent volunteers to join our management committee. The management committee for the preschool comprises of 4 parent representatives and 5 church representatives. If you are interested in joining our committee to help assist with the running of the preschool, please see Michelle.

We are looking for a fundraising coordinator/s for the preschool, so we can start coordinating all our events for this year. If you are interested, please see Michelle. In previous years the fundraising team have worked hard to raise funds for the preschool, essential equipment has been purchased including outdoor equipment, books and games etc. (Don't worry, we do help support you in this role).

We are also looking for someone to help us with book club. This involves processing orders (typically once per month) and sorting out the orders when they arrive at preschool.

These volunteer jobs will count towards your "working bee" contribution.

Annual General Meeting

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE of the 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ST. DUNSTAN'S PRE-SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN INC. to be held via Zoom on Tuesday, 15th MARCH 2022 at 7.30pm. An RSVP list can be found on lockers near sign in sheets outside the office or please email and advise if you can attend.

Simone will be sending an email shortly with more information.

Updated details

Could you please notify a member of staff when your child's immunisation or "permission to collect" information needs to be updated. Also please ensure that we have your current email address, home address and contact numbers.

Policies

We are continuously reviewing policies at the preschool. Part of the process is to receive parent feedback regarding policies. If you are available to help us with this process by taking policies home to comment on, please see Michelle.

Children's Library (starting 2nd and 3rd of March)

We have an extensive range of books for the children to choose from, including books in a variety of languages. The library will start next week. There are a few simple rules to follow when using the library:

You will need a library bag.

Books can be borrowed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

There is a one week limit.

Books can be returned any day. Place them in the labelled box on the verandah.

Amigo and Rafiki groups borrowing day will be Wednesdays.

Bunji and Chingu groups borrowing day will be Thursdays.

Parent library

Our parent library is on the verandah every day. We have a comprehensive range of books, preschool policies and information for parents/caregivers. Please feel free to borrow a book. Simply write your name, date and title of the book in the lending book on the shelf. The borrowing period is 3 weeks. We also have many resources on our website <https://www.stdunstanskindergarten.com.au/newsletters-and-resources>.

Working Bees and Kitchen Duty

We have put these on hold for term 1. Pending COVID restrictions and cases within our community, we will aim to start these back in term 2. We will notify you on these changes closer to time.

Anaphylaxis, Allergy and Asthma awareness

We have a number of children attending this preschool who suffer allergic reactions to all nuts, egg, seafood, sesame, kiwi fruit and dairy some resulting in ANAPHYLAXIS.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening.

We recognise that complete avoidance of all allergens is not practical at preschool, therefore, the following health and hygiene practices will be encouraged.

If your child has a nut or egg product for breakfast, please ensure that they have washed their mouth, hands, face and brushed their teeth.

Please make sure that younger siblings do not put our play equipment in their mouth.

If you are unsure about what is safe to pack, please see a staff member so necessary safety precautions can be followed.

Remind your child not to share food or drink bottles with others.

EVEN A SMALL EXPOSURE TO ALLERGEN COULD RESULT IN A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION, and we thank you for your support in following these recommendations.

We have new policies and procedures aimed at keeping children safe in relation to managing risks associated with anaphylaxis, allergies, and asthma. We will be sharing these with shortly.

Family photos

We would like some family photos to add to your child's Preschool Journey book. Please hand the photos in your child's teacher, or email them to mail@stdpk.org.au and we can print them off for you.

Carpark Safety

As I'm sure you are all aware our carpark can be very busy between drop off and pick-up times. We have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment from when the children walk through our gates to when they leave, while you have a duty of care to keep children and families safe in the carpark. We do not have the time to leave the children we are responsible for in our preschool to monitor the carpark. Please keep this in mind and remember everyone's safety!

Friendly Reminders

- Please remember your child's hat. With the unpredictable weather we have been experiencing it is important to make sure that your child is wearing sensible clothing and that you apply sunscreen to your child upon arrival at preschool. Sunscreen is always available on top of the lockers and at the outside sink. We will assist your child with application for afternoon outside play.
- Please remember to pack spare clothes.
- Always hand your child's medication to a member of staff and complete a medication form.
- Sandals and running shoes are the best choice for climbing our obstacle course, so no thongs or crocs please.
- Please remember to bring a water bottle.
- Please do not hold the gates open for long periods of time as it can be an opportunity for children to leave the preschool unaccompanied.
- Please do not leave any siblings in your car. It is against the law. If this causes issues for you, see a staff member for assistance.

Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown with following our COVID policies and procedures.

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

