



St. Dunstan's Preschool Newsletter February 2024

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.

	Attendance	Qualification	Role/Responsibilities
Michelle	Monday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director/nominated supervisor - Inclusion Support Teacher - Educational Leader - Rafiki class on Wednesdays - Office Days (Tues, Thurs, Fri)- Working with all classes to cover lunch breaks and programming time
Stacey	Monday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rafiki and Chingu teacher - Work, Health and Safety Officer
Rubi	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rafiki and Chingu Educator - Wellbeing Advocate
Mimi	Monday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amigo and Bunji teacher - Munch and Move Advocate
Esther	Monday-Friday	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amigo and Bunji educator - Belonging Advocate
Sephine	Monday-Thursday	Certificate III Childrens Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion Support Educator - Working with Bunji and Chingu classes covering programming time (Thursday) - Sustainability Advocate
Terrie	Wednesday-Friday	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Amigo & Rafiki classes covering programming time (Wednesday) - Inclusion Support Educator (Thursday-Friday)

			- First Nations Advocate
Lynette	Tuesday-Friday	Diploma in Children Services	- Inclusion Support Educator
Simone	Wednesday & Friday		- Office Administrator
Ben	Casual	Diploma in Children Services	- Educator working with all classes when needed
Young	Casual	Diploma in Children Services	- Educator working with all classes when needed

Preschool Hours

We have specific licensing requirements that govern our preschool operational hours.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday our hours are 9am- 3pm.

Thursday and Friday our hours are 8:15am to 3:45pm.

As per our Late Collection policy, if you repeatedly pick up your child after our operational hours there will be a monetary fine. We do understand that emergencies/situations outside of your control can happen, if this happens, please call preschool to notify us and we can reassure your child that you are on your way.

Communication

Partnerships with families are very important to us. We will be starting a WhatsApp group to use as a communication platform with our families (no photos of children information will be uploaded). This chat group will be used for reminders, provide information and ask questions to help with our programming and planning (it won't be use to spam families).

If you **DO NOT** want to be included in your class group chat, please let Michelle know by the 16th of February via email director@stdpk.org.au or in person.

Alternately you can leave or mute the chat when needed.

Events for the year

During the year we have many fun events. This might include Family Fun Day, Tim (Our Families Minister), Magic Shows, Koori Kinnections, School Readiness Presentation, Excursions, Class Photos, a Zoo Visit to preschool, Police and Fire Fighter Visits (just to name a few). 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 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 organising 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 families to help review and provide feedback on our policies. These policies can be emailed to you to review.

Book Club is another role that we require support with.

If you can assist with any of the above, please let Michelle know via email or in person.

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.

Children's Library (starting 14th and 15th of February)

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 per week limit. Please do not borrow a new book until you have returned your previous book.
- 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 and Padlet

Information on policies, procedures and useful resources can be found on our padlet <https://padlet.com/director556/families-66jxl46h6n4a0vdw>

If there are any areas that you would like more information on, please let us know.

Our parent library is at the entrance to the preschool. 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

Each year we ask for assistance with the maintenance of the preschool playgrounds, building and equipment. This removes the necessity of spending preschool funds on general maintenance jobs such as cleaning, painting and small repairs. These take place on four Saturday mornings throughout the year. More information will be emailed out shortly.

Fees

Fee Invoices are currently being processed and will be sent out in the coming weeks. If any families have a current low income or family health care card, please provide a copy to Simone in the office as soon as possible.

Fee relief funding will be applied as per what was allocated on the fee relief declaration forms completed with the enrolment pack. If you need to change your previous declaration, a new form will need to be completed as soon as possible.

Storage of Food

Please remember to pack your child's lunch appropriately. If you are packing yoghurt or food that would generally need to be in the fridge, please pack an ice brick in your child's lunch box/bag. If you need any support with what this might look like, please see your child's teachers.

Anaphylaxis, Allergy and Asthma awareness

We have a number of children attending this preschool who suffer allergic reactions to all nuts, seafood, egg, and sun flower seeds, 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 updated 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 you shortly.

COVID and preschool

As many of you are aware, the NSW government has now stopped isolation rules when testing positive to COVID 19. At St Dunstan's we have a duty of care to ensure the safety all children, families, and educators. In saying this we will continue to enforce the procedures that we have put in place. Please make sure you and your child are well before entering preschool:

You must:

- Not have any of the following symptoms no matter how mild they may be: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhea, vomiting/nausea or extreme tiredness.
- Not had close contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the last 3 days.
- Not be awaiting a COVID-19 test result.
- Not have been advised to self-isolate or get tested by NSW Health.

If your child is showing any of these symptoms here at preschool, and these are not a symptom of a known medical condition, we will be asking you to pick them up. Please notify us of any positive cases so we can inform other families. Your child's name will never be disclosed.

Family photos

We would like some family photos to add to your child's Preschool Journey book. Please hand the photos to your child's educators 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 car park can be very busy at 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 car park. We do not have the time to leave the children we are responsible for in our preschool to monitor the car park. Please keep this in mind and remember everyone's safety!

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.

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 outside play.
- Please remember to pack spare clothes. Even if your child is toilet trained your child still requires spare clothes as we have water and messy play.
- 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.

Thank you for the wonderful support.

Michelle, Mimi, Rubi, Stacey, Esther, Terrie, Saphine, Young, Ben, Lynette and Simone.

