

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – February 2018



## 2018 Term Dates

<b>Term 1:</b>	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	to	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Easter Break:</b>	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	to	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
<b>Term 2:</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	to	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Term 3:</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	to	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Term 4:</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	to	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December

Please note these dates are subject to change.

**Welcome to Preschool BBQ** (see below): Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 5pm- 7pm

## Welcome to Preschool and BBQ!!!

Welcome back to families and friends after the summer holidays. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas, a super summer holiday break and we wish all our families the best for 2018. A big hello to all the new children and families who are joining us for the first time this year. We are looking forward to an exciting 2018 at Preschool with all our gorgeous kids.

We would like to invite all our Preschool families to a "Welcome to Preschool BBQ" on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, commencing at 5pm here at Preschool. All parents, children and friends are welcome. Please bring your own drinks, a salad or any extra healthy food you would like to share. The Preschool will cook BBQ sausages to go with bread. Please complete the RSVP slip (or email reply) if you and your family will be coming along. We look forward to seeing you there. **Please remember we are a nut free Preschool, thank you.**

## Coming Up at Preschool...

We are off to a flying start at Preschool this year. Everyone has settled in well and the children are enjoying our program, which is currently focusing on getting to know the children, families and Preschool routines, as well as developing friendships. We are also getting ready for the Bermagui Seaside Fair and Sculptures on the Edge Exhibit. Artists from the Bermagui Sculpture on the Edge will be visiting us soon to work with the children on projects. We will also be working on craft, paint and collage projects for the Sea Side Fair parade. These projects will help us to learn more about art concepts, develop our creativity, and learn about our world, connecting with our community and working together. Stay tuned for further information about these fabulous events!!!

## Thank you

Thank you to the following people who helped out at Preschool over the holidays:

- ☺ All the wonderful people in Bermagui who supported our Vacation Care Program... Bermagui Country Club, Frame & Brush, Four Winds, Bermagui Library, Bermagui Mudworks, Fling, Narooma Kinema
- ☺ Preschool Staff - For doing a fabulous job moving furniture and resources and cleaning the dust of everything and getting Preschool looking fabulous for the start of term.
- ☺ Cadgee Quarry for donating sand for our sandpits

## Settling In at Preschool

Although we have had a happy start to Preschool, occasionally separation anxiety may occur when you drop your child off at Preschool. If you find your child is a clingy, crying or needing support, you may find the following tips helpful.

- ☺ Bring a comforter, a favourite toy, book, photo or activity from home that your child is excited about and can share with their teachers and friends and can be used to comfort them if they are anxious.
- ☺ Help settle your child in at Preschool by joining in an activity happily and enthusiastically. Children pick up on adult vibes very easily. If you show enjoyment and happiness about Preschool activities, they are more likely to also be enthusiastic about Preschool.
- ☺ When it is time to go, say goodbye quickly, as this is the most stressful period and anxiety will be lessened if goodbyes are warm and brief. Try not to sneak off without saying goodbye as this can lead to further anxiety, mistrust and doesn't allow children to develop the skills needed to separate positively. Please let staff know if you and your child need help before you say goodbye.

If you have ongoing concerns about separation anxiety please talk to staff so the best support can be given.

## Staffing for 2018

Your friendly Preschool team will be working the following days this year:

**Early Childhood Teacher** - Narelle Myers - Monday to Thursday  
(Narelle will be doing admin in the office on Thursdays)

### Early Childhood Educators

- Lindsay Trower - Tuesday to Fridays
- Shary Hodgson - Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays
- Kylie Cole - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
- Nesy Ballard - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays
- Kerry McGlashan - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays
- Rebecca Linfoot - Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
- Lyn Vaughan - Thursday & Fridays

**Outside School Hours Care & Vacation Care** - Kerry Carradus and Caitlin Brown

**Administration** - Kirsty Sunderland - Monday, Wednesday & Friday

**Cleaner** - Tim Hoare - Monday to Friday

**Casual/ Relief Staff** - Tracy McDermott, Julie Brown, Marion Van Delft, Katie Green, Liz Kildea and Meg Faragher

## Krazy Koala Puppet Show

Nic and the Krazy Koala Puppet Show will be performing at Bermagui Preschool on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am. Children who attend on other days are welcome to join us with their parents. For more information visit [www.krazykoala.com.au](http://www.krazykoala.com.au)

## **Our Lockers and Pockets: (sharing information with our families)**

At the entrance to your child's Preschool room you will find a locker and pocket for each child. Each child has their own locker, labelled with their name and photo. Children can keep their bags and personal belongings in this area. We will also display Preschool information in the day book for families to read. We will continue with our learning stories and portfolios inside as well.

The pockets which are hung directly above the lockers are also labelled with each child's name and photo. We will put artwork, newsletters, fees notices and other important Preschool information in these pockets, so please make sure you check your child's pocket each day.

## **Fees Information**

All parents would have received information relating to the fee structure for this year in the enrolment package. A fee notice will be sent out shortly. Fees are due to be paid each term and are due 2 weeks after receipt of your fee notice. Parents can arrange a regular payment plan with Kirsty in the office if this is more convenient for your family. Payment by credit/debit card is also now available using the "Square" card reader in the office. Details regarding the Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit are available in the parent handbook. Families become members of the Bermagui Pre School Cooperative Society when fees are paid and are then able to vote at the AGM.

## **Fire Drills**

As part of the Children's Services Regulations, we will be running fire drills this week. Please see staff if you have any questions.

## **Oxfam Donation**

At the end of last year we worked with our children and families to raise money for Oxfam. We raised enough money to buy a pig for a family in Bangladesh!!! The pig will help the families veggie garden grow because pig poo is a great fertilizer. The pig will also be able to provide piglets to sell at markets. This money can help families to buy medicine and send children to school and helps break the poverty cycle. Well done Bermi Preschool families!!!!

## **Chook Scraps**

We have food scraps from our healthy lunches and cooking programs that are available for families. If you have chooks or need compost you are welcome to take these scraps... see staff for further information. Thank you for helping us to be a sustainable Preschool.

## **Family Support**

Michele Elsom is a Family Counsellor, who specialises in the Early Childhood field and supporting parents who are adjusting to the changes in their lives as a result of starting a family. For further information contact Michele on 0413 437 101 or email [michele@newparentcounselling.com.au](mailto:michele@newparentcounselling.com.au).

## **Pre School T-Shirts**

We will be placing our Bermagui Preschool T-shirt Order soon. Order forms are available from the office. Children learn through their senses and active hands on experiences, which are quite often tactile, messy and of course lots of fun!!! A Preschool T-Shirt is a great idea so good clothes from home don't get dirty or stained.

## Smelly Bags

Bermagui Preschool is looking to place an order for Smelly Bags. Each bag costs \$10, is reusable, washable, waterproof and eco-friendly. They are great for wet & soiled clothes, cloth nappies, swimwear, gym/ yoga clothes etc. Please register your interest with Preschool staff if you would like to make a purchase.



## 2017 Family Survey Results & 2018 Strategic Plan

Thank you to all our families who took the time to fill out our evaluation surveys at the end of last year. Your wonderful feedback regarding the Preschool was much appreciated and your valuable ideas and information have helped us in our strategic planning and Quality Improvement Plan for this year.

Some of your ideas that we hope to follow up on include:

- ☺ Maintain low fees = (18 points)
- ☺ Staff Support = (12 points)
- ☺ Develop Special Programmes ( e.g. language, music) = 6 points
- ☺ Family Support (e.g. workshops, links with services, parent library)
- ☺ Playground and garden development (3 points)
- ☺ Continue to support staff development and extension of staff qualifications.
- ☺ Review and update Preschool Policies to reflect the Early Years Learning Framework (2010), National Quality Framework (2017) and Children's Services Regulations (2011).

Comments and feedback from our families has been displayed in the Bidhu Preschool room, for you to read. If you have any further ideas, or would like to be involved with the above projects, please see staff.

## Board of Directors

We are looking for people (parents, grandparents or community members) interested in joining the Preschool Board of Directors for 2018. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March with the date to be advised. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2018 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2018. Meetings are held approximately once a month. The fabulous Catherine Chen will be available for governance training, for anyone interested in learning about or enhancing their Board Member/ Committee skills.

As Bermagui Preschool is a community based Preschool we cannot operate without a voluntary Board of Directors, so we really need your support. If you are interested, or know someone in the community who may be interested in becoming a board member, information is available in the office or please see Narelle. Being a Board Member and a part of the Pre School is a very interesting and rewarding responsibility and a great way to be active in your child's early childhood education.

## Message From Preschool

Preschool is a time for children to enjoy the company of others their own age, to socialise, interact, develop responsibilities, express their ideas and feelings and above all, have fun!! We aim to encourage each individual child to reach the best of their abilities whilst enjoying their time at Preschool. We will try to encourage independence, develop good self-esteem, an understanding of others, the appreciation of friendship and the enjoyment of achievement.

Our curriculum focuses on the following areas, as outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF, 2010):

- ☺ Strong sense of identity
- ☺ Connected and contributing to the world
- ☺ Strong sense of well being
- ☺ Confident and involved learners
- ☺ Effective communicators

Our major concern is that children and parents are happy with the Preschool. Please talk to staff if you have any concerns or suggestions in any area. Parent interviews can be arranged through Narelle when necessary.

A copy of the Bermagui Preschool Policy and Procedures Folder is available at the sign in-out desk. The folder is unable to be removed from the Preschool, however staff can email or photocopy policies for families on request.

We look forward to sharing your child's journey of discovery with you during their Preschool years.

## Bermagui Netball Registration

Fast 5 Competition, for ages Year 6 @ Primary School to 90 years!!!

Registration: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at Stadium 6:30pm

10 week competition starts Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018.

For more information or those who can't make it on the night to register, please leave a message on Bermagui Netball Club Facebook page or txt/phone Norma Reid: 0428 933 208.

**Please detach and return to Preschool by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.**

My family will be attending the **Welcome Back to Preschool BBQ** on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 5pm.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring the following food to share: \_\_\_\_\_