

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – February 2017



## 2017 Term Dates

- Term 1 Monday, 30 January to Friday, 07 April
  - Term 2 Monday, 24 April to Friday, 30 June
  - Term 3 Monday, 17 July to Friday, 22 September
  - Term 4 Tuesday, 09 October to Wednesday, 13 December
- These dates are subject to change.

## Coming Up at Preschool...

We are off to a flying start at Preschool this year. Everyone has settled in well and 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!!!

## 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.
- ☺ Avoid any negative comments such as "Don't be silly", "You'll be alright" etc. as children coping with separation anxiety are genuinely anxious and need their feelings acknowledged with empathy and reassurance.

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

## Staffing for 2017

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 Friday
- Shary Hodgson - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays
- Kylie Cole - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
- Nesy Ballard - Tuesday to Friday
- Kerry McGlashan - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- 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** - Nikki Bragg & Jemma Hemsted

## Thank you

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

- ☺ Isabel Haida, Kirsty Sunderland & Jemma Hemsted for donating clothes to Preschool.
- ☺ Matt Austin for fixing our Preschool gate.
- ☺ Karen Mason for donating healthy sandwiches to our Vacation Care
- ☺ All the wonderful people in Bermagui who supported our Vacation Care Program... Bermagui Country Club, Frame & Bruch, Love2BFit, 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.

## 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 duck for a family in Bangladesh!!! The duck will help the families veggie garden grow because ducks love to eat the bugs that stop plants from growing. The duck will also be able to provide duckings and eggs 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.

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

When you enter Preschool 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 at the sign in/out desk as well.

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

## 2016 Family Survey Results & 2017 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.
- ☺ Playground, Garden and Building Improvements
- ☺ Developing Special Projects, including arts, music, yoga, pottery, language, science and sports, visiting performers and contact with nature.
- ☺ Review and update Preschool Policies to reflect the Early Years Learning Framework (2010), National Quality Framework (2010) and Children's Services Regulations (2011) and
- ☺ Continue to support staff development and extension of staff qualifications.

Comments and feedback from our families has been displayed in the 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.

## 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. Details regarding the Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit are also 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.

## Board of Directors

We are looking for people (parents, grandparents or community members) interested in joining the Preschool Board of Directors for 2017. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March with the date to be advised. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2017 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2017. 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 photocopies can be taken on request.

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

From the Bermagui Preschool Staff.