

Bermagui Preschool Newsletter - February 9th 2021



2021 Term Dates

Bermagui Preschool AGM (see below):	Thursday 25 th March 2021, 9:15am
End of Term 1:	Thursday 1 st April 2021
Good Friday:	Friday 2 nd April 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
Easter Monday:	5 th April 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
Autumn Vacation Care:	Tuesday 6 th April 2021 to Friday 16 th April 2021
Start of Term 2:	Monday 19 th April 2021

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

Welcome to Preschool!!!

We are so glad to welcome you all to Bermagui Preschool after such a challenging year last year. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2021 at Preschool with all our gorgeous children and families.

Coming Up at Preschool...

Our program 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 Sculptures on the Edge Exhibit, creating our own sculpture for the exhibit. This project will help us to express our feelings and emotions, as well as 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 this fabulous event!!!

Support for our Children and Families...

We know that it continues to be a challenging and uncertain time for many of our Preschool children and families. We are working in partnership with several groups to provide specific support mechanisms and resources for our children, families and educators. If you need someone to talk to our Preschool staff are available for a hug and a chat and can direct you to many other resources to support you and your family if needed.

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Jemma Hemsted is seeking expressions of interest from Bermagui families to discover if there is a need in our community for opening an Out of School Hours Care service (Before & After School Care and Vacation Care) for primary aged children located in the Bermagui Public School grounds. This service would be an approved service that would follow the National Quality Framework for education and care, with an aim of supporting children's wellbeing & development in child-centred learning through play experiences. The Child Care Subsidy will apply to fees for all eligible families. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated, thank you in advance for your support. Jemma Hemsted 0403543835 jhemsted84@gmail.com

We are fully supportive of this potential new service however we will continue to support our families with OSHC for school age children as long as there is community need.

Preschool T-Shirts

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. We have blue and purple preschool t-shirts available in a few different sizes at \$15 each. Please see Kirsty in the office if you would like to make a purchase.

Settling In at Preschool

Although we hope to have a happy start to Preschool, occasionally separation anxiety may occur when you drop your child off at Preschool and we understand that this may be even more difficult at the moment as our children process a lot of emotions. 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 your child senses that you are confident in leaving them in our caring hands it will help them to also feel strong. Returning to normal routines and everyday life is an important part of recovery and the development of resilience in overcoming difficulty and challenges.

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

Our Lockers: (sharing information with our families)

At the entrance to your child's Preschool room you will find a locker for each child. Each child has their own locker, identified by a picture on a disc (eg. butterfly, soccer ball etc). There is a list of children's names and pictures on the glass above the lockers. Children can keep their bags and personal belongings in this area. We will put artwork and other important Preschool information in these lockers, so please make sure you check your child's locker each day. Newsletters and fees notices are sent electronically, unless families request a paper copy.

We will also post Preschool information through our online system "Educate", the Bermagui Preschool Facebook Page and our Noticeboard at the front gate at Preschool for families to read. The Preschool children will also keep work in their portfolios that will be presented at the end of each year.

Board of Directors and AGM

We are looking for people (parents, grandparents or community members) interested in joining the Preschool Board of Directors for 2021. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March on Thursday 25th March 2021 @ 9:15am. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2021 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2021. Meetings are held approximately once a month on a Thursday at 9:15am (at the Preschool and via Messenger Video). 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 Preschool is a very interesting and rewarding responsibility and a great way to be active in your child's early childhood education.

Staffing for 2021

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

Early Childhood Teacher

- Narelle Myers – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Early Childhood Educators Bidhu Room (3-5 year olds):

- Caitlin Brown – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
- Florencia Giorgi – Tuesday & Friday & also Thursday in the Bungaree Room
- Lyn Vaughan – Thursday & Friday
- Kerry Carradus – Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Early Childhood Educators Bungaree Room (0-3 year olds):

- Bec Linfoot – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
- Lindsay Trower – Wednesday & Thursday
- Nat Matthews – Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
- Naomi Hawkins – Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
- Amelie Shannon – Monday, Thursday & Friday

Outside School Hours Care & Vacation Care – Kerry Carradus & Meg Faragher

Administration – Kirsty Sunderland – Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Cleaner – Tim Hoare – Monday to Friday

Casual/ Relief Staff – Kerry McGlashan, Nessy Ballard, Erica Kerr, Nina Campbell-Brown, Tracey McDermott, Mez Papandrea, Olga Nielsen, Emily Kerr, Ilona Payne, Marion Van Delft and Emily Gowing

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 Subsidy are available in the parent handbook or online through Centrelink (myGov). Families become members of the Bermagui Preschool Cooperative Society when fees are paid and are then able to vote at the AGM.

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 Clean Water for drinking and sanitation as well as chickens that will help a vulnerable family make a living!!! This money can help families break the poverty cycle. Well done Bermi Preschool families!!!!

Thank you

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

- ☺ Proscap Garden Construction for our beautiful new entrance playground.
- ☺ Michaela Tyrrell for providing our soft plastics recycling bin.

2020 Family Survey Results & 2021 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:

- ☺ Build a Therapy Room for children, families and staff
- ☺ Playground and garden development, including the Front Entrance and Bungaree Playground.
- ☺ Create an All Weather Outdoor Learning Area
- ☺ Staff Support for pedagogical training and mental health support
- ☺ Develop Special Programmes (e.g. art, music)
- ☺ Family Support (e.g. workshops, links with services, parent library)
- ☺ 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.

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 preschool. Policies are also published on our website. The Policy 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.