

Bermagui Preschool Newsletter April 1st 2021



2021 TERM DATES

End of Term 1:	Thursday 1 st April 2021
Good Friday:	Friday 2 nd April 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
Easter Monday:	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
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday:	Monday 14 th June 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
End of Term 2:	Friday 25 th June 2021

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

BERMAGUI PRESCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2021

The following parents have been elected at the Bermagui Preschool AGM to our Board of Directors for 2021: Maddy Barry, Adam Millar, Jade Rosskelly, Ali Borrett, Jacinta Mathew, Chaylee Tyrrell, and Brodie Wells.

These wonderful parents will represent all our Preschool families at our Board meetings for the next 12 months. If you have any information or suggestions, please forward them to your Board Members or Narelle for discussion at the Preschool Board meetings.

A big thank you to our outgoing Board Members from 2020 for all their hard work and support: Chelsea Nash, Michaela Tyrrell and Reka Upward.

PLAYGROUND OPENING

We are proud to announce the official opening of Bermagui's All Abilities Playground. This was an especially exciting moment for our Preschool Director Narelle Myers who has lobbied behind the scenes with the support of local families and community members over the past 10 years to see this project come to light. The Preschoolers have been involved in the research, design and landscaping of this playground and were thrilled to be amongst the first people to officially explore, test and play in the space. This will be a wonderful asset for our community where children, families and the community can come together to play, connect, build their motor skills and have fun. Well done to Bega Valley Shire Council and John Turvill, Dan Bakker from Eat Dirt Permaculture and of course our wonderful Preschool children, families and teachers for their contribution and support to enable this project to finally become a reality.

FACEBOOK

Remember to like us on the Bermagui Preschool Facebook page. A great way to see what we've been up to at Preschool!!!



VACATION CARE

At this stage, our vacation care program is full. Please see Kerry if you no longer require care during this period so we can offer places to the many families on our waiting list.

MAQUARIE UNIVERSITY EXEMPLARY EDUCATOR STUDY

We were very honoured and privileged to be approached by Macquarie University to participate in their research project focused on Exemplary Early Childhood Education and Educators/ Teachers. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to show case what we do at Bermagui Preschool and reflect on further ways to improve our practice and service. We look forward to the Researcher Mandy Cooke visiting us again next term to conclude her study. Her findings will be published to enable other Educators/ Teachers and Early Childhood Services to reflect on and guide their journey towards exemplary Early Childhood Education and Care.

HAPPY EASTER

It is impossible to talk about celebrations — Easter, January 26, Hanukkah, Lunar New Year or NAIDOC Week—without mentioning the diversity of Australia. Surveys found one in four of Australia's 26 million people were born overseas and 20% spoke another language other than English, while 18% had experienced discrimination due to their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion (AHRC, 2014). It therefore could be fair to say that acknowledging the importance of the diverse communities that are part of our Preschool is an important part of celebrating and acknowledging diversity.

While some services have developed policies that state all celebrations are removed, when making such decisions, at Bermagui Preschool we believe it is important to consider whether we are in fact removing something that is valuable and fosters an important aspect of belonging to community. This does not mean that we remove all thoughtful pedagogical practices and resort to printing out bunny colouring sheets, sticking images of pre-cut Easter eggs to the wall, or handing every child a chocolate just because that is "what you do" at Easter time. Like all intentional teaching and high-quality programs, authenticity requires educators to be reflective — in their practices, conversations with families and learning environments for children. These reflective practices must be formed through creating warm, honest and trusting relationships with families and children. With this in mind the children at Bermagui Preschool shared wonderful conversations about how their families celebrated Easter, drew pictures of their experiences and knowledge and participated in a variety of activities, games and stories that reflected Easter around the world. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to share and expand on their knowledge and understanding of themselves, culture and community.

We wish all our beautiful children and families a happy, safe and restful Easter. From all our staff at Bermagui Preschool xx

NSW DEPT OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Last year, the Australian Government [eased the activity test](#) for families whose employment was affected by COVID-19. This measure gives families access to extra Child Care Subsidy (CCS) hours if their recognised activity level decreases. These extra hours are a temporary COVID-19 measure and will end on 4 April 2021. We ask that families ensure their [activity test details](#) are up to date so you receive the right amount of CCS. Please note that those children eligible for enrolment in our Preschool Program will continue to have access to 15 hours of free Preschool until the end of 2021 or until further notification from the department. More information for families is available on the [Services Australia website](#) or see Narelle or Kirsty.

PRESCHOOL PHOTOS

All families should have received their photo forms by now. Please see Preschool staff if you have not received your form. Preschool photos will be taken at the beginning Monday 26th April- Friday 30th April next term. Please let us know if you would like to organise a sibling photo with children who don't attend Bermagui Preschool.