



## Preschool Newsletter - February 2022

### 2022 Term Dates

**Welcome to Preschool BBQ** (see below): Fri 11<sup>th</sup> February, 4pm- 6pm (please note change of date)

**Bermagui Preschool Annual General Meeting** (see below): Thu 24<sup>th</sup> March, 9.15am

**End of Term 1:** Fri 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Good Friday:** 15<sup>th</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Easter Monday:** 18<sup>th</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Autumn Vacation Care:** Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April to Thu 14<sup>th</sup> April and Tue 19<sup>th</sup> April to Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**ANZAC Day Public Holiday:** Mon 25<sup>th</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Start of Term 2:** Tue 26<sup>th</sup> April

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

### Welcome to Preschool and BBQ!!!

We are so glad to welcome you all to Bermagui Preschool after such a challenging couple of years. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2022 at Preschool with all our gorgeous children and families.

We would like to invite all our Preschool families to a "Welcome to Preschool BBQ" on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February (please note change of date), commencing at 4pm at the Bermagui All Abilities Playground (opposite the Bermagui Country Club). All parents, children and friends are welcome. The Preschool will cook BBQ sausages to go with bread and provide salads and pizza. Please bring your own drinks. Please complete the RSVP slip (or email reply to [bermikids@hotmail.com](mailto:bermikids@hotmail.com)) if you and your family will be coming along. We look forward to seeing you there. **Please note, this year we are unable to share food brought in by families, however the Preschool will provide a yummy dinner for you and your family.**

### 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 family and child psychologist Kate Gentle 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 chat and can direct you to many other resources to support you and your family

### Fees Information

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 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. A membership fee is payable at the beginning of each year (\$2.20 including GST) as per our constitution. This will be added to the first fee statement of the year.

## Covid Information

We understand that managing Covid can be a stressful time for staff and families alike. We are working together NSW Health and NSW Department of Education to support our Preschool children, families, staff and the broader community through this time to help us maintain normal service operations as much as possible. Please continue to follow the advice of NSW Health and go to their website for the most up to date information.

To minimise the risk of Covid:

- Only children, staff and essential visitors will be allowed inside our Preschool and we ask families to continue drop off and pick up at the front gate for the time being.
- Parents and carers should wear masks, check in using the Service NSW QR code and continue with COVID-safe practices with pick up and drop off.
- This includes maintaining social distancing, using hand sanitiser and dropping your child off at the gate where an educator will meet and greet you and your child.
- Educators are encouraged to wear masks in indoor environments and when meeting families
- We will continue to ensure strong hygiene practices, good ventilation in our learning spaces and use outdoor play spaces effectively.
- If your child is showing signs of being unwell (including runny nose, coughing or sneezing), please keep them at home. Preschool staff will contact families and ask them to pick up their child from Preschool if they are showing signs of being unwell.
- All early childhood education and care educators and staff, Board Members, Volunteers, auxiliary staff and contractors are required to be vaccinated under the current Public Health Order. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination are required. Parents are not required to vaccinate or show proof of vaccination status. Booster vaccination is now available. Vaccination is the best way to help keep our ECE community safe.

## 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.

## 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!!!!

## Staffing for 2022

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

**Early Childhood Teacher** - Narelle Myers - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (Bidhu Room (3-5 year olds) and Thursdays (Admin).

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

- Amanda (Manda) Spooner - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Caitlin Brown - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- Florencia (Flor) Giorgi - Thursdays and Fridays
- Alicia West - Mondays and Thursdays
- Chelsea Sellars - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Meg Faragher - Wednesdays and Fridays
- Archer Johnston - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

- Meg Faragher - Mondays and Tuesdays
- Kerry Carradus - Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Grace Brigham - Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Tia Bismire - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Lindsay Trower - Maternity Leave
- Niamh Edgar - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Emily Gowing - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

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

**Casual/ Relief Staff** - Olga Neilson, Naomi Hawkins, Flor Giorgi and Erica Kerr

## Preschool T-Shirts

We will be placing our Bermagui Preschool T-shirt Order soon. 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. Please let staff know if you would like to place an order.

## 2021 Family Survey Results & 2022 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 and wellbeing support
- ☺ Develop Special Programmes ( e.g. art, music)
- ☺ Family Support (e.g. workshops, links with services, information to families)
- ☺ 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 and AGM

We are looking for people (parents, grandparents or community members) interested in joining the Preschool Board of Directors for 2022. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 @ 9:15am. At our AGM our 7 Board Members will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2022. Meetings are held approximately once a month on a Thursday at 9:15am (at the Preschool and/ or 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.

## NSW Government Support

The NSW Government is helping ease the cost of living through over 70 rebates and savings. One key program currently on offer which may be relevant to you.

### **First Lap learn to swim voucher**

The First Lap program provides a \$100 voucher for parents, guardians and carers of children aged 3-6 years who are not enrolled in school, towards the cost of swimming lessons. The program has also been made available for children in Preschool / kindergarten in 2021 or who are starting kindergarten in 2022. To Apply: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-first-lap-learn-swim-voucher>

## 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.

**Please detach and return to Preschool by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
or email [bermikids@hotmail.com](mailto:bermikids@hotmail.com)**

My family will be attending the **Welcome Back to Preschool BBQ** on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm.

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

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

I have the following dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_