

Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – 3rd February 2023



2023 Term Dates

Welcome to Preschool BBQ (see below): Thursday 16th February, 4pm- 5pm

Bermagui Preschool Annual General Meeting (see below): Thursday 23rd March, 9.15am

End of Term 1: Thursday 6th April

Good Friday: Friday 7th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Easter Monday: Monday 10th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Autumn Vacation Care: Tuesday 11th April to Friday 21st April

Start of Term 2: Monday 24th April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday: Tuesday 25th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

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 2023 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 Thursday 16th February, commencing at 4pm at the Bermagui All Abilities Playground (opposite the Bermagui Country Club). All parents, children and friends are welcome. The Preschool will provide yummy pizza for you and your family. Please bring your own drinks. Please complete the RSVP slip (or email reply) if you and your family will be coming along. We look forward to seeing you there.

What's On 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!!!

Living Safely With Dogs Program

On Tuesday 14th of February the Living Safely with Dogs Program will be visiting our Bidhu Room. The program targets children in preschool and teaches them how to live safely with dogs. A team of trained pet educators and their suitability-tested dogs present the program using chats, role play, story and song. The program focuses on teaching preschool children:

- when dogs should be left alone
- things we should not do to dogs
- how can you tell if a dog is happy, scared or angry
- a safe way to approach and greet a dog
- what to do if approached by an unknown or aggressive dog
- choosing an appropriate pet for their family
- the importance of actively supervising your children's interaction with your pets
- the importance of securely separating pets and children when you cannot actively supervise
- basic dog behaviour
- the safety messages that their children have been taught

Each child is given the opportunity to interact with the pet educator's dog. For many children this can be their first interaction with a dog and provides a positive and educational experience for each child.

Capital Works Building Project:

Our project to build a therapy room for children, families and staff, create an all-weather outdoor learning area and refurbish the Bidhu bathroom, kitchen and laundry is underway, with the DA approved and our project manager Olaf Vassallo working with the builder. Risk assessments have been developed to ensure safety and continuity of care during the building the process. Please note, at times our program will be delivered off site in the Moodji Garden, Bermagui Library, Bermagui All Ability Playground and other community spaces to be advised. Please see Preschool staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Changes to Preschool Hours

Please note: As of Monday 2nd January 2023, Bermagui Preschool's hours of operation changed to 8:15am-3:45pm. Children will need to be signed out by 3:45pm to avoid late fee charges. We thank our families, educators and children for their support and understanding during this change. Please see Kirsty or Narelle for further information if needed.

Pick Up and Drop Off At Bermagui Preschool:

As Covid restriction ease, we have welcomed families back into our Bidhu (3-5year olds) and Bungaree Rooms (0-3 year olds) to drop off and pick up their children each day. Educators will be available to meet and greet you in each room, rather than at the front gate. We invite families to come into the room, help their child unpack their lunch box and drink bottle and find a locker for their bag. If families need support to help say goodbye to their children our teacher and educators are there to help.

If families require a detailed conversation with our educators, please discuss a mutually convenient time to organise a meeting, as at times it can be quite busy and exchange of important information can be challenging.

On arrival and at the end of the day please remember to sign your child in and out. Children eligible for 2 days of fee free Preschool need to sign into the Preschool iPad/ QR Code for the first two days of the week and then the Long Day Care iPad/ QR Code for all additional days. All other children need to sign into the Long Day Care iPad/ QR Code. A reminder to all families, it is a legal requirement to sign your child in and out of Preschool each day. This can be done on your own mobile device using our QR codes or on the iPads. A hard copy signing in/ out page is available if you are unable to sign in and out electronically.

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. The Tresillian Early Parenting Service will be visiting Bermagui Preschool with their mobile van, every 2nd Thursday at 9am. The team will include a Tresillian Nurse who will be available for private consults or parent groups to offer support and advise on a broad range of parenting topics including child behaviour, sleep and settling, breast and bottle feeding, nutrition, postnatal depression and anxiety, adjustments to parenting and cultural support. To pre-book an appointment call 1300 272 736.

If you need someone to talk to our Preschool staff and educators are also available for a chat and can direct you to many other resources to support you and your family if needed.

Policy Update

Services are legally required to ensure families are notified of any changes to policies which affect: the service's provision of education and care to any enrolled child or a family's ability to use the service; fees; or fee collection procedures, 14 days in advance. (Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011). Bermagui Preschool is currently reviewing the 1.01 Philosophy Statement Policy. Copies of the existing policy are available on our website and the proposed Policies are available at Preschool for families to review and provide feedback. Written feedback can be placed in the box at Preschool or emailed to us. Please see Narelle for further information.

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 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 there is a locker for each child. Each child has their own space where they can keep their bags and personal belongings in this area. We will put artwork and other important Preschool information in these lockers. 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.

Staffing for 2023

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

Early Childhood Teacher - Narelle Myers - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays (Bidhu Room (3-5 year olds) and Thursdays and Fridays (Admin).

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

- Amanda Spooner - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Kerry Carradus - Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Alicia West - Tuesdays
- Tegan Beggs - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Bec Linfoot - Thursdays and Fridays

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

- Tia Bismire - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Lindsay Trower - Wednesdays & Thursdays
- Niamh Edgar - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Bec Linfoot - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays
- Alicia West - Mondays

Administration - Kirsty Sunderland - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Cleaner - Tim Hoare - Monday to Friday

Casual/ Relief Staff - Naomi Hawkins, Meg Faragher, Sarah Pitsonis and Olga Neilson

It is with great sadness that we farewell Caitlin and Chelsea. A huge thank you to both of them for all their hard work during their time at Bermagui Preschool... We wish them both all the best with their new adventures!

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 the membership fees are paid and are then able to vote at the AGM.

Preschool T-Shirts

We have Bermagui Preschool T-shirts available at Preschool in a range of colours and sizes. 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. T-shirts are \$20 each, please see Kirsty in the office if you would like to purchase.

2022 Family Survey Results & 2023 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 2023. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March on Thursday 23rd March 2023 @ 9:15am. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2023 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2023. 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.

Thank You ☺:

- Jemima (Noa's mum) for donating clothes to our Preschool
- Sandy (Arri's mum) for also donating clothes to Preschool
- Kelly from Eastwoods Deli for donating delicious salads for our staff lunches

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 Wednesday 15th February 2023

My family will be attending the **Welcome Back to Preschool BBQ** on Thursday 16th February at 4pm.

Child's Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____

I have the following dietary requirements: _____