

Bermagui Preschool Newsletter - 2 February 2024



2024 Term Dates

Welcome to Preschool Pizza Party (see below): Wednesday 14th February, 4pm-5pm

Annual General Meeting (AGM) (see below): Friday 22nd March, 9:15am

Good Friday: 29th March (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Easter Monday: 1st April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

End of Term 1: Friday 12th April

Autumn Vacation Care: Monday 15th April to Friday 26th April

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

Start of Term 2: Monday 29th April

Preschool Photos: Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June

Monarch's Official Birthday Public Holiday: Monday 19th June (Preschool **CLOSED**)

End of Term 2: Friday 5th July

Winter Vacation Care: Monday 8th July to Friday 19th July

Start of Term 3: Monday 22nd July

End of Term 3: Friday 27th September

Spring Vacation Care: Monday 30th September to Friday 11th October

Labour Day Public Holiday: Monday 7th October (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Start of Term 4: Monday 14th October

End of Term 4: Wednesday 18th December

Staff Development & Cleaning: Thursday 19th & Friday 20th December (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Annual Shut Down: Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January 2025 (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Please note these dates may be subject to change

Welcome to Preschool and Pizza Party!!!

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 2024 at Preschool with all our gorgeous children and families.

We would like to invite all our preschool families to a "Welcome to Preschool Pizza Party" on Wednesday 14th 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 pizza. 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. **Please note, this year we are unable to share food brought in by families, however the Preschool will provide a yummy pizza for you and your family.**

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 Sculpture Bermagui 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!!!

Pedestrian Crossing on Lamont St

The Minister for Transport and Roads is coming to visit on the 15th of February from 12pm-12:15pm to see the location for herself. We invite any families that have concerns or are wanting to see a pedestrian crossing put in on Lamont Street to the All-Abilities Playground to come down at this time and join the discussion.

Living Safely with Dogs Program

On Tuesday 13th 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
- basic dog behaviour

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 Thiele working with the builder. Risk assessments have been developed to ensure safety and continuity of care during the building process. Please note, at times our program will be delivered off site in the Moodji Garden, Bermagui Library, Bermagui All Abilities Playground, and other community spaces to be advised. Please see Preschool staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Preschool Hours

Bermagui Preschool's hours of operation are 8:15am to 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 with this task. Please see Narelle or Kirsty for further information if needed.

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.

Pick Up and Drop Off at Bermagui Preschool

Educators will be available to meet and greet you in each room. We invite families to come into the room, help your 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 child/ren, our teachers and educators can assist you. 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. If your child is booked into the "Preschool" system, their two preschool days are their first two days of attendance in the week. Any additional days and all other children are booked into the "Long Day Care" system. 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 preschool iPads at the front entrance area.

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 1.01 Philosophy, 2.10 Staff Code of Conduct, 2.12 Record Keeping and Retention of Records, 2.13 Notification to the Regulatory Authority, 2.14 Stand Down, 3.01 Enrolment and Orientation, 3.03 Fees. 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. If you find your child is a little 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.

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

Staffing for 2024

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

Early Childhood Teacher/Director

- ❖ Narelle Myers: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the Bidhu Room and Friday Director Administration

Early Childhood Teachers

- ❖ Tilly Vass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday in the Bungaree Room
- ❖ Lara Crew: Thursday in the Bungaree Room, Friday in the Bidhu Room

Early Childhood Educator/Assistant Director

- ❖ Lindsay Trower: Friday Assistant Director Administration

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

- ❖ Amanda Spooner: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- ❖ Kerry Carradus: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
- ❖ Mia Jessop: Monday, Thursday, and Friday
- ❖ Alicia West: Tuesday

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

- ❖ Bec Linfoot: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- ❖ Niamh Edgar: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
- ❖ Ange Hochkins: Friday

Early Childhood Educators - Support Role across whole service

- ❖ Ange Hochkins: Monday
- ❖ Lindsay Trower: Tuesday and Wednesday
- ❖ Jasmine Mclean: Thursday and Friday

Administration

- ❖ Kirsty Sunderland: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Cleaner

- ❖ Tim Hoare: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Casual Early Childhood Educator and Cleaner

- ❖ Sarah Pitsonis

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.

Thankyou 😊

☺ Erin and Jed (Will's parents) for donating umbrellas to our Preschool.

Preschool T-Shirts

We have Bermagui Preschool t-shirts available. 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. They are \$20 each, come in sizes 2, 4, and 6 (generous fit) in red, blue, green and purple. Please see Kirsty in the office if you would like to make a purchase, you can pay with cash, card (1.4% transaction fee) or transfer into our preschool account.

2023 Family Survey Results & 2024 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 2024. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 22nd March 2024 @ 9:15pm. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2024 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2024. Meetings will be held approximately once a month on a Friday 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 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.

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 Tuesday 13th February 2024

My family will be attending the **Welcome Back to Preschool Pizza Party** on Wednesday 14th February at 4pm.

Child's Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____

I have the following dietary requirements: _____