

# Newsletter

Manilla Community Preschool

March 2020

Welcome to our March Newsletter. Hard to believe we are already in week 7!! We are all very pleased with the way our children have settled into Preschool life for the year. We still have a few vacancies on a Monday if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending Preschool, please get them to give us a ring.



**24 Carinya Avenue  
Manilla 2346  
PHONE:  
(02) 67851475**

You are worried about seeing him spend his early years in doing nothing. What! Is it nothing to be happy? Nothing to skip, play, and run around all day long? Never in his life will he be so busy again.  
~Jean-Jacques Rousseau,  
*Emile, 1762*



And the best things in life are our friends.

It has been wonderful getting to know our new families and rekindling conversations with those returning families. It is nice to have an unhurried discussion and to share stories about your child. Remember teaching is a shared process between parent & child. Please read the poem at the end of this Newsletter as it frames these thoughts perfectly.

Thank you to those parents making such an effort with our Healthy Food Policy. It is wonderful to see all those yummy lunch boxes filled with the best nutritional foods your child can have. Hopefully the healthy food and water habits that are being instilled in your child now will follow them through to adult life and help to keep them fit and healthy. This is a Government initiative and is not intended to “stress” in anyway. It is very encouraging to receive a very positive response from the majority of our parents. So **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!**

By now all your children are very familiar and comfortable with our morning routine. Thank you for your assistance with following through with this and helping your child to remember to wash their hands at the beginning and the end of their Preschool day. This healthy and hygienic practise helps to prevent the spreading of germs from one place to another, especially with the corona virus risk at the moment. Also please be mindful that if your child is sick the best place for them is at home.

It is great to see so many parents encouraging their child to pack and unpack their own bags. Please remember to place lunch on one side of the fridge and afternoon tea on the other. If you are short of bags we do sell food bags for \$5. It is also great to see so many new BIG school bags. If bags are too small it is very difficult and frustrating for your child to try and fit everything in easily. All these jobs are to develop your child’s self-help skills and ensure they are ready to take care of themselves when they move onto BIG school.

Another popular activity with the children at the beginning of each day is the hanging up of their photo on the “Who’s here today” line. This activity not only shows us who is here but also enables children to become familiar with their written name and gives them a sense of Belonging to their Preschool. Remember it is your child’s special job to do this on their very own.

Older families would know all about The National Quality Framework. For new families this is a nationally recognised framework and regulation comprising of 7 areas. As part of this we are required to write a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). This also sets our objectives for the year as we continuously strive to provide the best early learning centre for your child to attend. All teachers continuously reflect upon learning opportunities and the direction we would like our Preschool to move in. Throughout the year you will have the opportunity to comment on each area. If you would like to read through this in its entirety it is located in the front office. Please see Jenny if you would like your own copy. Part of this process is questions and yes/no stone basket beside the sign in sheets. Please read this and respond as you wish. If you have any ideas for improvements we would love to hear about them.

**“What Does My child Need To Bring Every Day?”**

**Hat – (No Hat No Play)**

**We have spare hats for sale \$10**

**Spare clothes – (every child can have an accident AND WE ARE LIMITED WITH WHAT WE HAVE)**

**A PIECE OF FRUIT**

**Please don't forget to label all items – clothes, lunch boxes, drink bottles, hats, socks, etc)**

**Please do your best to remember these as Preschool only has a limited supply of above items. Preschool children like to have their own things and it can be distressing to them if they have to use our things instead of their own.**

**A Few Reminders:**

1. It is so important that the staff have your **current** contact phone numbers so that we are able to contact you in cases of emergencies. There is nothing more distressing to your child if they are sick or injured and we cannot find you. Please ensure all your details are up to date and that you have provided us with a contact number we can reach you on at **ALL** times.
2. Please check the news roster and only bring news on your allocated day.
3. Your child's updated immunisation history statement
4. Self-help skills are very important and in an effort to encourage this please allow your child to unpack their own bags each morning (lunch/afternoon tea to fridge, drink in esky & bag in locker)
5. Please DO NOT leave any medications in your child's bag. Asthma puffers are to be handed to a teacher along with any other items. If your child is sick they must stay at home but if you are on the tail end of antibiotics and your child is well they may come. Permission notes need to be signed so we are able to administer this as per our medication policy. All medications must be labelled correctly with your child's name on them and in the original packaging.
6. Our Preschool BOOK LIBRARY has started again. If you would like your child to borrow a book from Preschool they must have a library bag. We have these available at Preschool for \$5. Your child may take home a book for one week and then return the following week to borrow another. It is your responsibility to make sure the book is looked after and replaced if it becomes lost or damaged. We aim to foster a love of reading and an appreciation of books and this is one way we can do this. Happy Reading.
7. We also have a MATHS LIBRARY where you may borrow a game to play with your pre-schooler during the week.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

17 <sup>th</sup>	Jax	4yrs
18 <sup>th</sup>	Fabi	4yrs
19 <sup>th</sup>	Aubree	5yrs
20 <sup>th</sup>	Miss Jo	?????
21 <sup>st</sup>	Joe	5yrs
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hugo	5yrs
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thea	4yrs

**Environmental Sustainability**

In an effort to make our preschool a little bit “greener” and in order to educate the future of tomorrow, we are trying to instil in the children how to recycle and look after their environment. To help in the recycling process, please think of alternative wrappings for your child's sandwich. Plastic is not recyclable and is also quite difficult for a child to unwrap. Paper is another alternative or a container that can be washed and used again the next day. We will be having another “Nude Food Day” later on in the year as we did last year. Also assist your child in looking at the bottom of plastic containers to look for the triangle symbol. Having one packaged food item and the rest fresh food also helps reduce plastic waste.

As our News Roster has now begun, children are able to assist with special environmentally friendly jobs. Children are able to help with feeding our worms and looking after our chooks. They may even get to take a freshly laid egg home. Children are also able to take turns at being a “rubbish monitor”, “water monitor” or “light monitor”. Children are all very eager to take their turn at doing these things.



Troppo Bob Show



Sammy and Len as Len conducts the smoking ceremony. Some more Kamilaroi words we are learning are Yaama Maliyaa – hello friends and yulu-gi - dance.

### **PROGRAMMING NEWS:**

With our show coming up, the children have been very busy creating a tractor display. If you have time to go to the Manilla Show this year take the time to find our Preschool display in the Pavilion. There should be a piece of art work from every Preschool child hanging on our display.

Our music program has involved us working on developing our listening skills and learning about “whole body listening”. We have learned about stopping, starting, following directions & keeping the beat. We even got to tap the beat of our name on our African djembe drum.

We have looked at the topic of “My body”. We discussed how we keep our body healthy and looking at naming different body parts. We have even learned some Kamilaroi words for the parts of our body – mil(eye), bina(ear), mara(hand) and dina(foot). William is still not convinced as “dinner is you eat”.

We have been doing a lot of work on developing skills such as pencil grip, scissor usage, naming and matching shapes, naming and matching colours, sound differentiation, learning to sit still, learning to listen, learning appropriate ways to respond to our friends and having lots of fun. Please check our weekly program to see exactly what your child has taken part in during the day. This might help sometimes when you are trying to understand what they are trying to tell you about their day. Also check out our photos on the television of an afternoon.

During 2017 we were one of 200 Early Childhood Education services in New South Wales that were selected to participate in the Ngroo Sector Development Program. Our participation in this program gave our service a fantastic opportunity to be reflective and supported to grow strong and authentic relationships with the Aboriginal community. The NSW Department of Education is working towards closing the education gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their peers. This year we are once again one of the lucky centres to receive a grant enabling us to continue with this work. We have a full year of Aboriginal cultural talks and visits planned with Len Waters and other artists. We can't forget to acknowledge George again for our wonderful welcome sign, Aboriginal paintings and sculptures you see around our Preschool.

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All this wet weather has made for some great fun in the mud patch. Frank, Amity, Kayden and Clancy didn't waste any time.



"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."  
—Mr. Rogers.



Frank & Falcon enjoying the sensory experience of our water beads



Leo & Gwyn creating a skeleton

**Term 1 Events:**

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Excursion to the Manilla Show.
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patricks Day PLEASE SEND YOUR CHILD DRESSED IN SOMETHING GREEN ON THIS DAY
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Sammy at a Let's Count workshop
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	PRESCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	General Meeting 6p.m AGM Meeting 7:00pm at Preschool General Meeting of new members & Office bearer voting Followed by General Meeting/supper provided

**AGM** - This is a time for reflecting on what has already been achieved in the previous 12 months and for looking ahead and planning future goals. All positions become vacant and new members will be voted in. Our Preschool cannot operate without a full Committee. Please give some consideration to being part of our wonderful Committee and having a say in what happens at YOUR child's Preschool. Thank you to those parents who have already offered to be part of this exciting venture.

Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	African culture show + Manilla Long Day Care, Manilla Central School & St Michael's kinder children will be joining us
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Jenny at Governance & Management training
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Excursion to Manellae Lodge
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Uncle Len to visit
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Hat Parade at Manilla Central School
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of Term 1
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day Term 2

Until next time

Jenny, Caitlin, Tracy, Gai, Jo, Sammy and Rachael