



## **St. Dunstan's Preschool**

### **Newsletter February 2021**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to a new preschool year. We hope you all had a safe and happy holiday. We would like to welcome all the new families who are starting at our preschool this year and we are happy to see so many returning faces.

#### **Staff**

There are 11 staff members at St. Dunstan's Preschool.

Photographs and names are on the notice board in between the entry gates.

Michelle and Maxine work with the Amigo group.

Stacey and Esther work with the Rafiki and Chingu groups.

Julie and Maxine work with the Bunji group.

Michelle being Director has her office time on Thursday and Friday as well as working with both the Chingu and Bunji groups.

Julie (M,Tu), Terrie (W,Th,F), Sephine (M,Tu,W), Ben (Th,F) and Young (M,Tu,W) support the children with additional needs. We are very grateful that our part time educators also help replace fulltime educators when they are away.

Lynette is our casual educator and covers any staff member who is away.

Simone, our office administrator, is available in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays for all financial and payment enquiries.

#### **Events for the year**

During the year we have many fun events. This might include Family Fun Day, Magic Shows, School Readiness Presentation, Class Photos, a Zoo Visit, Police and Fire Fighter Visits (Just to name a few). These visits are pending COVID restrictions and will be evaluated case by case along with a risk assessment before any events go ahead. We will notify you of these events closer to time.

#### **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for a fundraising coordinator/s for the preschool, so we can start coordinating all our events for this year. If you are interested please see Michelle. In previous years the fundraising team have worked hard to raise funds for the preschool, essential equipment has been purchased including outdoor equipment, books and games etc. (Don't worry, we do help support you in this role).

We are also looking for someone to help us with book club. This involves processing orders (typically once per month) and sorting out the orders when they arrive at preschool.

These volunteer jobs will count towards your “working bee” contribution.

### **Updated details**

Could you please notify a member of staff when your child's immunisation or “permission to collect” information needs to be updated. Also please ensure that we have your current email address, home address and contact numbers.

### **Policies**

We are continuously reviewing policies at the preschool. Part of the process is to receive parent feedback regarding policies. If you are available to help us with this process by taking policies home to comment on, please see Michelle.

### **Daily Program**

The daily program for both the indoor and outdoor experiences is on display near the kitchen bench and on the verandah. We are providing opportunities for feedback from parents, so feel free to add your comments.

There is also a suggestion box on the kitchen bench. Please write down any suggestions which you may have for the preschool. The suggestions will be discussed at the following staff meeting with feedback given to the parent. This year we are continuing to explore the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework along with reputable literature and theoretical perspectives throughout our documentation. We look forward to sharing this journey with you, with regular newsletter items and a learning focus board displayed on a whiteboard which started this week on celebrating diversity.

### **Children's Library (starting 3rd and 4th of March)**

We have an extensive range of books for the children to choose from, including books in a variety of languages. The library will start next week. There are a few simple rules to follow when using the library:

You will need a library bag.

Books can be borrowed on Wednesdays and Thursdays

There is a one week limit

Books can be returned any day. Place them in the labelled box on the verandah.

Amigo and Rafiki groups borrowing day will be Wednesdays.

Bunji and Chingu groups borrowing day will be Thursdays.

## **Parent library**

Our parent library is on the verandah every day. We have a comprehensive range of books, preschool policies and information for parents/caregivers. Please feel free to borrow a book. Simply write your name, date and title of the book in the lending book on the shelf. The borrowing period is 3 weeks.

## **Working Bees**

Information about these dates will be placed in your child's note pocket in the next few weeks (pending COVID restrictions).

This year all working bees' start at 9am and most run for approx. 2 hours.

The maintenance levy (already paid at enrolment) is credited to your child's fees once your roster is completed.

Your support at these working bees is very much appreciated.

For more information please see Stacey.

## **Kitchen duty**

We are hoping to start Kitchen duties in term 2 (pending COVID restrictions). We will place a list of dates available for you to put your name down. (More information on this can be found in our information booklet under "Parent Volunteer Roster")

## **Allergies**

We have a number of children attending this preschool who suffer extreme allergic reactions to all nuts, egg, seafood, Sesame and dairy often resulting in ANAPHYLAXIS.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening.

We recognise that complete avoidance of nuts and eggs at the preschool, while desirable, may be impractical. Therefore the following health and hygiene practices will be encouraged.

If your child has a nut or egg product for breakfast, please ensure that they have washed their mouth, hands, face and brushed their teeth.

Please make sure that younger siblings do not put our play equipment in their mouth.

If you are unsure about what is safe to pack, please see a staff member so necessary safety precautions can be followed.

Remind your child not to share food or drink bottles with others.

EVEN A SMALL EXPOSURE TO THE FRUIT, EGG AND NUTS COULD RESULT IN A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION, and we thank you for your support in following these recommendations.

## **Family photos**

We would like some family photos to add to your child's Preschool Journey book. The photo will also be used for your child's first show and tell. Thank you.

## **Carpark Safety**

As I'm sure you are all aware our carpark can be very busy between drop off and pick-up times. Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents reported to us about families driving too quickly in the carpark or not being aware of other cars around them. We have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment from when the children walk through our gates to when they leave, while YOU have a duty of care to keep children and families safe in the carpark. We do not have the time to leave the children we are responsible for in our preschool to monitor the carpark. Please keep this in mind and remember everyone's safety!

Michelle

## **Friendly Reminders**

- Please remember your child's hat. With the unpredictable weather we have been experiencing it is important to make sure that your child is wearing sensible clothing and that you apply sunscreen to your child upon arrival at preschool. Sunscreen is always available on top of the lockers and at the outside sink. We will assist your child with application for afternoon outside play.
- Always hand your child's medication to a member of staff and complete a medication form.
- Sandals and running shoes are the best choice for climbing our obstacle course, so no thongs or crocs please.
- If you would like your child's lunch refrigerated or heated place the sandwich size container in the appropriate basket near the children's lockers. Please remember at school next year there will not be a fridge/microwave available.
- Please remember to bring a water bottle.
- Every child requires a cot size sheet for our rest period every day. Even if your child does not sleep they will still have a rest (Chingu and Bunji children only).
- Please do not hold the gates open for long periods of time as it can be an opportunity for children to leave the preschool unaccompanied.
- Please show caution and safety in the carpark. Hold your child's hand at all times and always reverse park in the marked spaces provided, not behind other vehicles.
- Please do not leave any siblings in your car. It is against the law. If this causes issues for you, see a staff member for assistance.

Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown with following our COVID policies and procedures.

Michelle, Julie, Maxine, Stacey, Esther, Terrie, Sephine,  
Young, Ben, Lynette and Simone.

