



St. Dunstan's Preschool

Newsletter February, 2020.

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 the preschool this year and best wishes for the Lunar New Year.

Dates for the year

Confirmed dates for all the events at our preschool will be in future newsletters and on our website

stdpk.org.au

Can you help?

Over the holidays we had a new digging patch added to our playground. On **Saturday 8th February**, the soil to fill this is going to be delivered. If anyone is able to help us from **10am** to move this soil from the carpark into the digging patch we would greatly appreciate it. We are also in need of large shovels and wheelbarrows to do this. If you are able to help us, please let Stacey know. As a thank you we will credit \$50 of your deposit back into your child's fees and count as a working bee.

Staff

There are 10 staff members at St. Dunstan's Preschool. Photographs and names are on the notice board in between the entry gates. Michelle and Esther work with the Amigo and Chingu groups. Stacey and Maxine work with the Rafiki and Sadiq groups. Julie being the Director and Additional Needs teacher, works with all groups together with her support teachers, Sephine (Mon-Wed) and Terrie (Wed - Fri). Julie also replaces Stacey and Michelle on Monday and Tuesday afternoons while they have programming time in the office. Young Gong and Benchawan (Ben) Angkurarat are our casual workers. Simone, our office administrator, is available in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays for all financial and payment enquiries.

St.Dunstan's Pre-School
Kindergarten
is a registered carer
Provider Number 555016659C

Fees

The fees have been set at \$21.30 a day for Monday – Wednesday and \$26.65 a day for the Thursday/Friday groups. These have been calculated on an hourly basis. As you may have noticed our fees have reduced significantly since 2016. For more information on this you can visit the NSW Governments “Start Strong” website.

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/start-strong>

You will be receiving your first invoice via email towards the end of February. Wednesday and Friday mornings are the only days when Simone is here to answer any queries. Please only pay your cash and cheque fee payments on these days. Once the fees have been paid you will receive your receipt via email.

Payment is available via cash, cheque and direct deposit; details are on your account statement. If you have a low income family health care card, please see Simone as you may qualify for reduced fees.

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.
- Hand towels should only be the size of a face washer so they don't touch neighboring towels or the floor.
- Your child requires a whole piece of fruit every day. This is then shared with all the children for morning and afternoon tea.
- If you would like your child's lunch refrigerated place the sandwich size container in the appropriate basket near the children's lockers. Please label all food clearly and 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.
- 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.

Updating 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.

Fundraising Committee

We are still looking for a fundraising coordinator for the preschool, so we can start coordinating all our events for this year. If you are interested please see Julie. This term we are planning a welcome family fun day for a Saturday in May. We will inform you of the details shortly. In previous years the fundraising team have worked hard to raise funds for the preschool, essential equipment has been purchased including outdoor equipment, puppets and books etc.

Please show your support and volunteer to join our fundraising events.

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 Julie.

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 in a variety of our documentation. We look forward to sharing this journey with you, with regular newsletter items and a learning web displayed on a whiteboard which will start next week.

In the last few years we have experienced the introduction of the National Quality Framework. This process includes an assessment and rating system for all early childhood services across Australia. Each service is assessed in 7 quality areas, we are proud of the fact that we achieved an exceeding status in all areas in September 2018. A copy of the report is available on the parent information shelf.

Management Committee

The management committee for the preschool comprises of 4 parent representatives and 5 church representatives. We are holding our AGM on March 20 and we are looking for volunteers to be parent representatives on our management committee

Children's Library

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

- You will need a library bag 40cm x 30cm.
- 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.

Parent library

Our parent library is on the verandah every day. We have a comprehensive range of books for parents. 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.

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

The maintenance levy (already paid in your enrolment deposit) 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.

Allergies

We have a number of children attending this preschool who suffer extreme allergic reactions to all nuts, egg, seafood 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 book. Could you please bring some in and hand them to a staff member. Thank you.

All the friendly staff are here to help you, so please feel free to approach any of us if you have any questions.

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

