
Message from the Director and the Preschool Team

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Welcome to the start of a new year at Para Hills West Preschool. We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer holiday.

It has been wonderful to see how quickly, happily and confidently the children have settled in to the routines and to observe them engaging enthusiastically in activities, experiences and play with one another.

We welcome the children and families and also welcome our staff team which includes a couple of new faces:

Kerry Wood joins the preschool as the new Director after many years of working in the early years in the UK as a teacher and manager in preschools, schools and children’s centres and at a regional government level before working in private schools in Adelaide for the last couple of years.

Lana Coleman joins us straight from Uni SA following successful completion of a Bachelor of Early Childhood degree. Lana will be working two days per week at the preschool throughout 2012. Lana was previously employed in non education business before having her children when she decided to follow her dream to become a preschool teacher.

Staff Members

Kerry Wood – Director: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri
Nina Fey – Teacher: Mon, Tues & Fri
Lana Coleman – Teacher: Wed & Thurs (regular reliever for Kerry)
Caroline Travis – Early Childhood Worker (ECW) & Bilingual Support – Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri
Cheryl Occhiuto - Early Childhood & Support Worker – Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri

Signing children in and out of the Preschool

Please note that we are required to ensure that all children are ‘signed out’ by an authorised adult before leaving the preschool. This enables us to better ensure the safety and protection of the children and to comply with new national standards.

Spare Clothes

Please ensure a spare set of clothes is packed each day for your child. This will eliminate the need for the preschool to provide emergency clothing. Please ensure all clothing is clearly named.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>session time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Care Program</td>
<td>11.45– 12.30</td>
<td>11.45– 12.30</td>
<td>11.45– 12.30</td>
<td>11.45 – 12.30</td>
<td>No lunch care</td>
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<tr>
<td>pm</td>
<td>12.30 -3.00</td>
<td>12.30 -3.00</td>
<td>12.30 -3.00</td>
<td>Pre Entry</td>
<td>12.30 – 3.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Extra session 12.30 – 3.00</td>
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**Program – Emerging Interests and Learning**

As we welcome the children back to the preschool we are focusing on reintroducing routines, health and safety practices and supporting the children to make choices about their play to support successful learning.

The children have enjoyed listening to and joining in with repeated phrases in the story ‘Mucky Duck’ and learning about the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Miss Coleman noted a child tracing her name on to masking tape to make a name tag. Other children then decided to create their own name tags and began to discuss names. One girl decided that Miss Coleman should be called “Miss Colegirl because you’re not a man, you’re a girl”.

The children have been intrigued by interesting objects found by Mrs Fey and kept in her ‘treasure box’. The children explored the objects and offered many creative and amazing ideas about what the objects could be. Mrs Fey finally told us that she had found the objects at the beach and that they are shark egg cases!

The children were encouraged to see what treasures they can find in the yard, when out walking or at the beach- maybe they might find an interesting rock, a feather, a shell, seeds or leaves? One child found a bug at preschool which led to a bug hunt in the outdoor area.

In the next few weeks we will be encouraging the children to look for and collect objects and materials that they find interesting, beautiful or that make them curious to bring to preschool to show and share, sort and explore with their friends. We look forward to sharing, collecting, sorting and exploring the objects and using them to support learning across the curriculum.

The current program (planned learning experiences and activities) is displayed on the notice board beside the entrance door or a copy can be sent home with your child (by prior arrangement) for your information.

**Sun Smart for Term 1**

All parents and carers are reminded to complete the Sun Smart Agreement. We wish to keep ALL children protected from sunburn and heat stroke and remind families to ensure their child brings a hat every day. Children are quite disappointed if their play is restricted to indoor ONLY if they do not have a hat or agreements have not been returned.

**Parents and Caregivers are responsible to apply sunscreen prior to arrival at Preschool. Preschool will ONLY apply sunscreen to children with consent as per Sun Smart Agreement form.**

To promote sun safety further we have arranged a visit by ‘Sunny Sunsafe’ on the morning of 23rd February 2012 (supported by the Cancer Council of Australia)

**Healthy Eating**
We encourage healthy eating at the preschool and thank parents for their support when sending their child with healthy foods for snack times and lunch and encouraging children to drink plenty of water. We have seen some wonderful healthy lunch and snack boxes.

4-5 Year Health Checks

A reminder for those children booked in to the health screening checks (Caroline has spoken to the parents of the children involved) that the date for the screening is: 14th February 2012. If you feel that you have missed your child’s health check you can contact your local CAFHS nurse (phone: 1300733606).

National Quality Framework

The New National Framework and the National Quality Standards (NQS) for all early childhood education and care services are beginning to be implemented. The preschool staff team continue to reflect on practice, review policies and procedures, collect evidence for the standards and to set priorities for development in order to ensure meeting of the standards and good practice.

All families were given an envelope with leaflets that explain more about the National Quality Standards. Please take the time to read the information. Comments or questions from families can be given to Kerry.

Fees for Term 1, 2012

Booking 1: $135 – this includes 2 full days with lunch care – and maximum of 1 additional single session

Booking 2: $85 – this includes 1 full day with lunch care – and a maximum of 3 additional single sessions

Bookings 3: $50 – maximum of 5 sessions of preschool, over five days

Booking 4: $20 – pre entry

Please note all families are entitled to access 5 sessions of preschool – if you choose to do less than 5 sessions, fees will not vary.

* Additional note: ‘Lunch Care’ is an unfunded Education Department program. This in turn means the Preschool employs a lunch care worker as an extra service provided for families’ convenience. Please direct any questions to staff.

Bottle & can collections Fundraiser

The preschool is continuing to collect bottles, can and milk containers. If you could please save any refundable items, donations would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

Kerry, Nina, Lana, Caroline and Cheryl
## Diary Dates to Remember – Para Hills West Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th January</td>
<td>Start of term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13th February</td>
<td>Governing Council Meeting (7pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th February</td>
<td>Child and Youth Health Checks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd February</td>
<td>‘Sunny Sunsafe’ workshop (visitor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday: Adelaide Cup Day (Preschool closed)</td>
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<td>Friday 2nd March</td>
<td>National Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday 21st March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 5th April</td>
<td><strong>End of Term 1</strong></td>
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