Message from the Director and the Preschool Team

Dear Families and Caregivers,

What a wonderful start to the term we have had. The children have been busy learning about keeping themselves safe and healthy (hygiene, routines, sun safety), getting along and being friends (turn taking, helping, sharing).

The children are enjoying finding interesting and beautiful objects and materials and sharing them with their friends. We have heard some wonderful descriptions of where objects have been found and what they could be. We look forward to sharing more interesting ‘treasures’ or using more found materials to make new and interesting creations such as pictures and models.

We are currently planning our program and experiences based on books and stories to support children’s early reading and comprehension skills. We are looking at book behaviours (handling and using books, turning pages), book language (cover, pages, title, author) and understanding stories (What happens? What next? Why?) and most importantly promoting an enjoyment of story and books.

Preschool Library
To further promote early reading skills we are re-introducing the Preschool Library. Each child will be provided with a library bag and invited to choose a book or literacy kit from a selection available at the preschool to take home and enjoy for one week before returning it and exchanging it for another book or kit the following week. Each child will be allocated a ‘Library Day’ (a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday).
Can parents please ensure that all children who have a library bag or book at home from a previous term return them for use this term.
We thank Cheryl for her work in organising and supporting the preschool library scheme.

*For those with young children under 12 months old: The 2012 It's Story Time FREE reading packs for parents/carers with babies up to the age of 12 months are available from libraries and CaFHS Centres.

Spare Clothes
A number of children have needed to have their clothes changed during the first few weeks of the term so we ask that you 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.
Please note session times and be aware that staff will be busy setting up for and tidying after sessions beyond the stated times. This enables the children to enjoy a happy, busy learning time at the preschool.

<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 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>
</tr>
<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 12.30–2.30 Extra session 12.30–3.00</td>
<td>12.30–3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program – Emerging Interests and Learning**

A mentioned above, the current program is focusing on books and stories as a basis for learning although we continue to observe the children and plan experiences to meet their individual interests, needs and abilities.

Our focus book for weeks 4 and 5 is Wombat Stew. You may here the children recalling parts of the story, describing textures (such as ooey-gooey or crunchy-munchy), talking about recipes or about Australian animals. The children have enjoyed using small Australian animal toys to retell and create stories and have enjoyed looking after animals and being vets in our pretend play ‘Vets’ area. 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.

As we move closer to Easter we are excited to announce that we have arranged for the **Living Eggs Ready Hatch** program to come to the preschool (13th to 23rd March). The eggs will arrive in an incubator and the children will have the opportunity and pleasure to see chicks hatch from the eggs during the time that the program is with us.

**Sun Smart and Mosquito Smart**

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.**

‘Sunny Sunsafe’ visited the preschool on the morning of 23rd February 2012 to promote sun and UV awareness and safety (supported by the Cancer Council of Australia)

We have noticed that there are a number of small mosquitoes around the preschool (particularly outside). You may choose to apply mosquito repellent to your child prior to them arriving at the preschool (we are unable to apply repellent)

**Parent Pocket Files**

Please remember to check the Parent Pocket Files regularly for letters, notes and messages.

**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>Monday 12th March</th>
<th>Public Holiday: Adelaide Cup Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th April</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>