

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021

FARM ROAD PRE-SCHOOL / KINDERGARTEN



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all our new and returning families. I hope you and your children are settling in to the kindergarten well.

I would like to thank all families for adhering to our COVID Safety plan. We are liaising with City of Kingston Council to make some modifications to the side gate to make it easier for parents to enter and exit whilst ensuring children are safe and cannot exit without a parent. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

This year we are hoping to get back to operations as close to normal as possible and would like to undertake some projects we put off last year, including planting in the Indigenous "Bush Tucker" garden near the back door and painting the outdoor storage container. The committee will also be working on creating a strategic plan to support future committees to implement the new funded 3-year-old kindergarten program.

Later in the year you will have an opportunity to have a formal parent teacher interview with our educators but you don't have to wait until then. At any time during the year you can make a time to meet with them to discuss your child's progress. Please speak to our teaching team if you have any concerns or questions about your child.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to a wonderful group of people who have generously volunteered their time to be part of the Committee of Management for the kindergarten this year. Contact emails for all are below, feel free to get in touch. We still have vacancies on our fundraising sub-committee and maintenance officer. If you are interested please let me know.

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
President	Caroline Brownlees	president.farm.road.preschool@gmail.com
Vice President	Rebecca Smith	VP.farmroad@gmail.com
Secretary	Jessica Wood	secretary.farmroad@gmail.com
Treasurer	Shannon Derbyshire	treasurer.farmroad@gmail.com
Staff Liasion Officer	Nicole Lindsey	sl.farmroad@gmail.com
OHS Officer	Ellie Allan	ohs.farmroad@gmail.com
Enrolment Officer	Diane Flanagan	3yo.farmroad@gmail.com
Fundraising Officer	Deborah Davis	farmrdpsfundraising@gmail.com

We also have a number of people who have volunteered to take on support roles.

Support Roles	
Cheryl Chen	Policy Support Officer
TBA	Maintenance Officer
Stacey Kyriakou	Newsletter Officer
Mirsina Kouskoudis	3 year old Parent Rep
Randa Helal	4 year old Parent Rep
Rosanne Cassell	Fundraising Sub Committee
Cheryl Chen	Fundraising Sub Committee
TBA	Fundraising Sub Committee
Kitmen Zhuang	Fundraising Sub Committee

Caroline Brownlees
President
president.farm.road.preschool@gmail.com

Bunnings BBQ

We still need volunteers to man the stall.

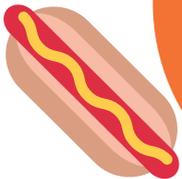
Sunday 21st March

Bunnings Mentone

Even if you can help for just an hour it would be great.

Please let Deborah our fundraising officer know

farmrdpsfundraising@gmail.com



UPCOMING DATES

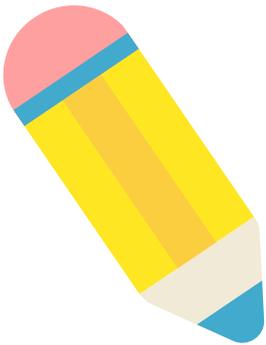
Bunnings Fundraiser - 21 March
Harmony Day - 22 March
Teddy Bears Picnic (Wallaby Group) - 1 April
Last Day of Term 1 - 1 April
First Day of Term 2 - 19 April
Anzac Day - 25 April
Queens Birthday - 9 June



REMINDERS



All clothing items such as hats, jumpers, t-shirts etc. should be named, otherwise these items will be placed in the lost property box (pink box located in the foyer of the kindergarten)



IF IN DOUBT....LEAVE IT OUT!
For the health and safety of all the children at kinder...
Please ensure that no food containing NUTS or foods containing NUT BY-PRODUCTS be brought to the kinder under any circumstances.

No Dogs allowed.
A reminder that we cannot have any dogs in the kinder grounds.



PICK UP AND COLLECTION PROCEDURE

For the safety of all children it is essential that all parents follow the collection and drop off procedures

- At drop off sign your child in the attendance book
- Collect from the veranda at the back of the centre (off the carpark)
- Children will be asked to wait on the mat until the teacher says their name (please encourage your child to wait)
- Sign out AFTER you have collected your child.
- We really appreciate your support in following to correct procedure.

LATE COLLECTION....

We would like to remind parents and caregivers that they need to arrive prior to the end of each session to collect their child. If you are running late due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the centre as soon as possible. Repeated late collection will result in parents being charged a late collection fee in line with the centre's policy.

3 YEAR OLD BILBY GROUP



Hello to all our families and welcome everyone to Farm Road Preschool.

They say time flies when you're having fun and it certainly has at kinder as the end of Term 1 quickly approaches.

Three year old Kindergarten is often the first time children are away from their parents and it can take a little time to settle and become familiar with all the new faces and routines. Our main focus this term has been to help support your child's smooth transition into the kindergarten program and for your child to feel safe, secure and supported in their new environment. It has been a joy getting to know all your beautiful children and your families over the past few weeks and we are very pleased at how quickly everyone is settling in with very few tears.

Early in the term we enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year as we have several families in our kinder community that celebrate this special occasion. At our interest table we looked at photos, lanterns, Chinese fans, red envelopes and a book about festivals, carnivals and feast days from around the world. The children were very curious and had many questions to ask about Chinese New Year. This also led us to discussions about other family celebrations such as birthdays, Easter and Christmas. We talked about how our families celebrate: catching up with family and friends, playing games, eating yummy food and giving and receiving gifts. One of the children suggested we could make our own fans. We thought this was a wonderful idea so we folded, stapled and turned our drawings into fans.

At kinder we also love listening to lots of stories. After enjoying the story about Spot's holiday adventures the children were excited to share some of their own holiday experiences. Many spoke about visits to the beach, having lots of fun swimming, building sand castles, finding jelly fish and collecting shells. Following our discussions we enjoyed learning about the season of summer, how to be Sun Smart and we discovered some of the interesting creatures that live in our oceans. We enjoyed stories, singing and puzzles related to our topic of interest. Through collage and painting experiences we also created our own sea creatures – jellyfish, fish, sea stars and ocean scenes.



End of term 1 is always a busy time as we get into the spirit of Easter. We look forward to stories and songs about this special time of the year, playing with chocolate scented playdough and decorating Easter baskets for our egg hunt which is always a highlight.

Thank you to all our families who have been able to “stay and play” during our sessions. This is a great opportunity for you to see all the wonderful things we do at kinder. Children love having their parent stay and we greatly appreciate the extra help.

We would also like to thank Diane who has been kindly volunteering her time and helping out during our kinder sessions. For those of you who do not know Diane, Diane retired at the end of last year after many years of service at Farm Road Preschool working with our 3 year old groups. Diane is also helping us get our veggie patch going. We look forward to enjoying some delicious home grown vegetables!

Our best wishes to you all for a Happy Easter and Safe Holidays!

Metaxia & Linda

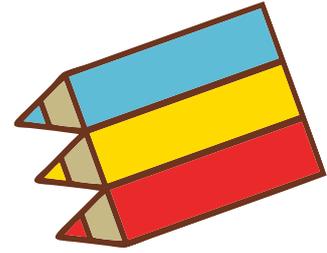
If your child is unwell please keep them home from kinder. This helps prevent the spread of disease and is the best place for them to recover

Just a reminder, in line with our IT policy, if you take a photo of any child other than your own (at an event, kinder or party) the photos can not be posted online or social media without the express permission from the child's parents.

Follow us on Facebook. We regularly post reminders and updates. Follow us to make sure you are up to date with everything.



4 YEAR OLD WALLABY GROUP



Hi everyone,

Welcome to Kindergarten!

My name is Debbie and I am the new teacher of the 4-year-old Wallaby group as well as the Director of Farm Road Pre-school. Cherie, Narelle and Louise are the co-educators in the Wallaby group. Cherie, is also new to Farm Rd. this year, and runs the after-care program. Many of you would know Narelle from previous years. Louise is with us over lunch time on Monday's and helps with casual relief work.

We have had a great start to the year and it has been wonderful getting to know everyone. The children have all settled in well and have been developing a positive sense of identity as they establish relationships with other children and the educators. The children are engaging in play with others and we have been delighted by how quickly they are making new friends. It has also been fantastic to see the children gaining in confidence as they explore the environment and form a sense of belonging.

The children have been learning through play, developing a sense of agency and using lots of imagination in the home corner and when creating constructions such as, with blocks, duplo and lego.

We have been supporting the children to take care of their own health through making healthy snack choices and engaging in safe hygiene practices. Physical skills are also been extended on the climbing equipment and when using scissors to create lanterns for Lunar New Year and cutting fruit and vegetables the children like to eat to paste onto their healthy food placemats.

The children are developing dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, creativity, persistence and enthusiasm. They have been experimenting with magnets, water, ice and other sensory activities and working together to solve puzzles.

Communication skills are being developed with the children expressing their thoughts and ideas at shared play experiences, contributing to group discussions, learning new songs, listening to stories and learning Auslan (see information below).

Each session, we say an Acknowledgement of Country to pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we play and learn. This year, educators will be engaging in reflective practice together to embed Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum. We are planning an indigenous event for our kindergarten community to enjoy together at Bush Kinder.

On Thursday 4th March, Simon and his dog, Daisy Chain, visited for the Responsible Pet Ownership program. Simon taught the Wallaby group how to stay safe around dogs, when not to approach a dog, to always ask a dog owner "May I please pat your dog?" and how to stand if an angry dog comes up to them. This was an important educational incursion to hold ahead of Bush Kinder commencing on Friday 12th March. Remind your child No Owner, No Leash, No Touch!



Cindy will be coming to perform some Chinese Dancing at the beginning of Cultural Diversity Week. She will use fans and umbrellas in her performance and the children will also have the opportunity to engage in dance during the incursion. We ask all Wallaby group children to dress in some orange or traditional attire to celebrate Harmony Day on this day - Monday 22nd March.

Wallaby group will enjoy a Teddy Bear's Picnic together on the last day of Term 1 - Thursday 1st April.



Learning Auslan

We have begun teaching the children Auslan (Australian Sign Language). Cherie knows many of the signs in this language which is great for being able to communicate with deaf members of the community. She has been building the children's Auslan vocabulary by incorporating the children's interest in learning about colours and teaching the hand signs for colours and signing the rainbow song. The children have been engaging in play in another language at the fishing experience with Auslan signs which aligns with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. The children have also learnt the signs for some sea creatures and other animals in the story 'What colour are your knickers?' and finger spelling letters of the alphabet (beginning with the first letter of their name) and numbers. We will continue to incorporate Auslan in our program in everyday learning and routines.



Embedding Auslan into the kindergarten program has many benefits including: enhancing children's educational and personal development, increasing memory retention and enjoyment in communicating.

We encourage parent involvement and enthusiasm for Auslan in the home environment for its successful teaching and learning in our program. You can search signs and practise at home with your child by following this link

[Auslan Signbank](#)

Thank you,

Debbie Horner
Director and 4-year-old teacher
Wallaby Group