

Newsletter

Farm Road Pre-school - Kindergarten

March, 2019

From the President,

Welcome to all our new and returning families. It was lovely to meet so many of you at our family night and see families getting to know each other.

Our next family event will be the Open Day on Saturday 30th March from 10am-12pm. We'd love to see any families there and if you can spare some time to help setup on the day please let me know.

I would also like to welcome our 2019 committee (see listing to the right). The committee is responsible for all of the operations of the kinder from managing staff, OHS, enrolments and everything in between. The committee are here to represent the parents and ensure the kindergarten is a high quality, compliant, financially viable and meets the needs of families. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the committee members. All of the committee members are volunteers.

As a community based service (run by the community for the community) it is essential that everyone contributes. We know that all families are juggling multiple roles (parenting, working, studying and more) but we need everyone to participate in anyway they can either by attending working bees, fundraising or "stay and play" - it all helps.

At Farm Road Preschool we are really lucky to have such a committed, passionate and highly skilled teaching team. We value and appreciate all our teachers for the hard work they put in every day to improve the lives of the children they work with. Rebecca is both a 4 year old teacher, our director and educational leader, in this role she has lead the team to develop the healthy achievement program along with many other initiatives and an aptitude for inclusion and equity. Rebecca was recently recognised at the for her contributions by City of Kingston through the International Women's Day Awards, we congratulate Rebecca on this achievement.

Caroline Brownlees

President

president.farm.road.preschool@gmail.com

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
President	Caroline Brownlees	president.farm.road.preschool@gmail.com
Vice President	Diane Flanagan	VP.farmroad@gmail.com
Secretary	Belinda Lawes	secretary.farmroad@gmail.com
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OHS Officer	Emma Kelly	ohs.farmroad@gmail.com
3YO Enrolment Officer	Yoita Alexiadis	3yo.farmroad@gmail.com
4YO Enrolment Officer	Jessica Wood	4yo.farmroad@gmail.com
Fundraising Officer	Garry Tanner	farmrdpsfundraising@gmail.com
General Committee	Yang Liu	general.farmroad@gmail.com





Reminder!

March

Remember to check your child's pocket in the children's bathroom each session.

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.

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.

4 YEAR OLD PLACES AVAILABLE

We have a few vacancies in our year old group for 2019 if you know anyone who may be interested please tell them to contact the kinder soon.





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 our AFTER you have collected your child.

We really appreciate your support in following to correct procedure.

UPCOMING DATES

- Working Bee – 16th March
- Walk, Ride or Scoot to Kinder – 25th – 29th March
- Open Day – Saturday 30th March 10am-1pm
- Last Day term 1 – 5th April
- First Day Term 2 – 23rd April.
- ANZAC DAY – 25th April
- Mothers Day Morning Tea – Bilby Group - 8th May
- Mothers Day Morning Tea – Rosella Group – 9th May
- Mothers Day Morning Tea – Kookaburra Group – 10th May
- Science Day – Kookaburra Group – 20th May
- Science Day – Rosella Group – 21st May
- Obstacle-a-thon TBC 29th & 30th May or 5th & 6th June
- QUEENS BIRTHDAY – 10th June
- Grandparents Day – Kookaburra – 17th June
- Grandparents Day – Rosella – 18th June
- 3 year old interviews – Bilby Group – 21st June TBC
- Walk, Ride or Scoot to Kinder – 17th – 21st June

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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





3 year old Bilby Group

Hi everyone and welcome to our kindergarten,

It has been lovely getting to know all your beautiful children and your families and we are very pleased at how quickly everyone is settling in with very few tears. 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 in term 1 has been to support our children for a smooth transition into the kindergarten program and for the children to feel safe, secure and supported in their new environment.

With the warm start to the year we have also taken the opportunity to learn about Summer and all the amazing sea life that live in the ocean. We have enjoyed stories, singing and puzzles related to our topic of interest. The children have also shared their ideas and knowledge through discussions about the weather, ways to stay sun safe and how to keep cool in Summer. Through collage and painting experiences we have also created our own sea creatures – jellyfish, octopus, fish and sea stars.



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

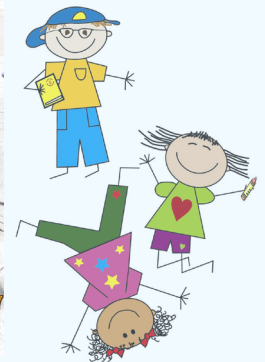
Thank you to all our families who have been able to "stay and play" during our sessions. This is a great opportunity for you to see all the wonderful things we do at kinder. Children love having their parent stay and we greatly appreciate the extra help.

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

Jeanette – Diploma of Teaching 1982, Bachelor of Education 1997

Metaxia – Diploma of Teaching 1994, Bachelor of Education 1999





4 year old Rosellas Group

Hi Everyone,

I can't believe that the term has gone so quickly. The children seem to have adjusted well to the longer hours and the new routines. They have been happy, talkative and very busy playing and learning. They are a social group and have been keen to get to know each other. They have settled in very well. It is always rewarding to see the children eagerly engage in the many sensory, creative, open-ended activities we offer them at kindergarten.

The children have been exploring the marine environment through pictures, songs, stories and planned activities. With the hot summer now just over it was an area many of the children showed an interest in. The children have had a lot of fun with sensory activities: playing with water, sand, slime and finger-painting. They have sorted coloured shells and observed real shells of different shapes and sizes. They have engaged in art activities such as creating sea stars and jellyfish. It is a great interest area for children to express wonder in the environment, to imagine, explore and be creative, all important parts of their learning.

To foster a feeling of belonging to a group the children have participated in creating a Friendship Tree with their handprints. This has helped to develop an interest in each other, learn names and feel connected.

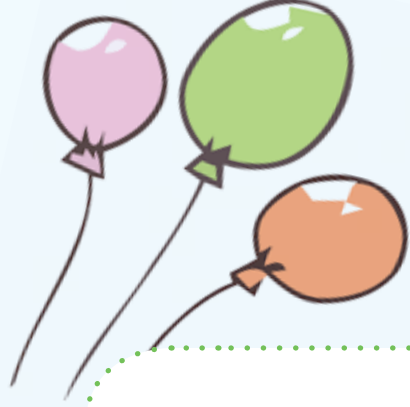
Thank you to everyone who has so willingly put their names down on our Stay and Play Roster. It has been good to see it fill up. Parent help is invaluable and the children love to have a parent or grandparent at kinder to meet their friends and see what they like to do. Thank you Yiota for organizing this.

Term 2 ends Friday, April 5th. Linda and I would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday

Warm Regards,
Belinda

Diploma of Teaching – Early Childhood- 1978





4 year old Kookaburra Group

Hi everyone,

My name is Rebecca and I am the teacher of the 4-year-old Kookaburra group as well as the Director of Farm Rd. Pre-school. My co-educators in the Kookaburra group are Narelle Partridge, Louise Rae and Delphine Du Boys. Delphine is with us each Monday for two hours over the lunch-time period and allows Narelle, Louise and I to have a half hour lunch break. Delphine is currently studying for her Diploma of Early Childhood Services and will be doing some extra hours with us as part of her Kindergarten placement requirements. Unfortunately, Louise is with us for first term only to help with the inclusion of one of our children who has additional needs. On behalf of the Farm Rd. Preschool community I would like to welcome Louise to our centre. She has settled in beautifully and is a wonderful addition to our teaching team.

The children in the Kookaburra group have settled in really well. This year we have a very even ratio of boys and girls, (10 of each.) Currently we have 17 children in the group as two of the children enrolled in the Kookaburra group are visiting family in China. We look forward to meeting Annie towards the end of March and to meeting Tanya in second term. We also have Sasha away at the moment as he and his family are travelling around Europe.

We have families from a diverse range of backgrounds in the Kookaburra group and this is something to be celebrated. We have a number of families who come from a Chinese background so recently we learnt about how families celebrate Chinese New Year. The children made Chinese lanterns and a Chinese Dragon which is hanging in the kinder play-room. This was a joint effort between the Kookaburra and Rosella group children. Each child painted a paper plate with red paint and then stapled on scales and made mobiles for its legs. We then joined the plates together with string and straws. Finally, a head was added to the front of the dragon. On Friday March 15th the children in the Kookaburra and Rosella groups will be treated to a performance by Cindy who is a Chinese dancer. We have had Cindy perform for us in the past and she is an amazing dancer who uses beautiful props such as fans and umbrellas throughout her performance. She also encourages the children to interact and be engaged in the incursion. Throughout the year we hope to share and learn about the special celebrations of some of the other families in our group.



The children made Chinese lanterns and enjoyed doing the Chinese dragon puzzle. Many thanks to Thomas' Dad, Tony for writing "Happy New Year" for our lanterns.



We aim to provide a quality educational program that inspires the children to create, discover and achieve. Over the kinder year they will learn many things - and not just to count and say the alphabet. A healthy self-esteem and effective relationships are important goals for our program. We want each child to feel a special part of our kinder group, to make friends and play co-operatively. We will encourage them to treat their friends with compassion and respect.

Your child's happiness and success depend on an effective partnership between home and kinder. From time to time we may suggest activities that you can do at home to extend and complement what is happening at kinder. And if you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

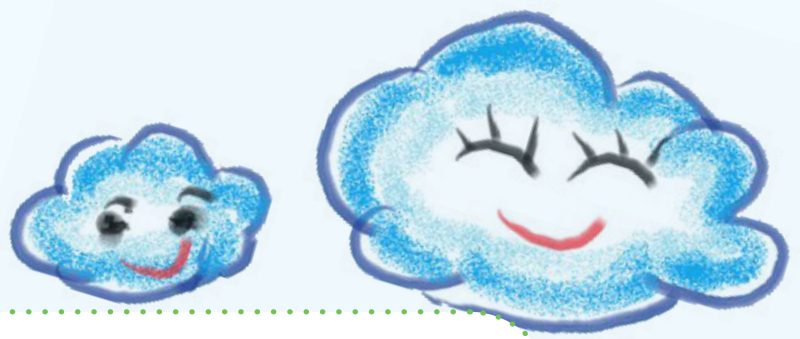
As a teacher it is very rewarding to see the growth and development of individual children over the year. The children are enthusiastic learners who have already learnt so much from parents and previous teachers. The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, (VEYLDF) recognises this prior learning and the importance of the partnership between teachers and parents. At kinder the teaching staff work very hard to get to know each child's interests, abilities and also to find out what he/she already knows. The kinder program is then planned and based on the interests of the children, (child-led) and also consists of teacher led or intentional teaching.

One of the principles of the VEYLDF is "high expectations for every child." This does not mean that the expectations are unrealistic. Rather, it means that we have belief in young children and their capabilities. An example of this is independence skills. Independence is something that we actively encourage at kinder such as children carrying their own bags into kinder and hanging them up, children being responsible for their own belongings, taking off and putting on their own shoes and socks, dressing themselves, mopping up their paint spills after painting, packing away equipment they have been using, independence with toileting etc. Children who are independent develop strong self-esteem and see themselves as being capable. It also gives them the message that adults see them as being capable too.



The Outdoor environment provides lots of opportunities for free play which children need and love.





RIDE, WALK OR SCOOT TO KINDER WEEK.

It is in children's natural nature to be active, but unfortunately nowadays there are many reasons why children are not as active as perhaps past generations of children. Backyards are generally smaller nowadays, children tend to be driven everywhere because it's quicker, more convenient or parents have other places to go to after driving their children to school/kinder. Then there is the temptation and the lure of screens which are fun but can also be addictive. At Farm Rd. Preschool we have a "Ride, Walk or Scoot" week to kinder once a term. This will take place during the 2nd last week of every term. Children who participate at least once during this week will receive a special certificate for doing so. So, the first "Ride, Walk or Scoot to Kinder" week will be the week beginning **Monday 25th March**.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Mila and her family who recently welcomed a new child into their family. Sam was born on February 14th and is a little brother to Mila and Luca and the third child for Andrew and Rosie. Finally, on behalf of all the staff at kinder, we wish you and your children a very happy year at Farm Rd. Pre-school.

That's all for now.

Rebecca Smith.

Director and 4-year-old teacher,
Kookaburra Group
Diploma of Teaching, 1979
Bachelor of Education, 1986

