



MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL
Kindergarten Incorporated

November 2023

Mittagong Preschool Newsletter

President Report – November 2023

I'm excited to announce that the preschool has met our fundraising target for this year! We're now able to purchase a great range of construction resources for the use of children attending Mittagong Preschool both at the end of this year and in the years to come.

I'd like to extend my thanks to those who supported our initiatives throughout the year to allow this to happen by buying a raffle ticket or pie or hot cross bun or picture product or tea-towel or sunscreen applicator or sausage sizzle, attending the trivia night, or volunteering your time, supplies or money for the Bunnings BBQ. I also again thank our local business supporters who have been listed in this newsletter throughout the year (with a special mention to Grayco who contributed to the recent BBQ), our dedicated staff led by Pauline and Parent Association members who have contributed in countless unseen ways to these initiatives. We could not have done it without you!

Best regards,
Jess Winkler

president.mittagongpreschool@gmail.com



End-of-the-Year Calendar Events

Farewell Presentation Nights

5/12 (Possum M-T group),
5/12 (Koala M-W group),
7/12 (Possum W-F group)
and 7/12 (Koala T-F group)



End-of-Year Party Days

On your child's last day of Preschool, we will be having some special party days with all food provided, a music show and party games! The dates are as follows:

Tuesday 12/12
(Possum M-T group)

Wednesday 13/12
(Koala M-W group)

Friday 15/12 (Possum W-F group & Koala T-F group).



11

23

Diary Dates November

Association Meeting:
Tues 14/11 @ 7.00pm

Parent's Orientation Night:
Thurs/16th @ 7pm

Children's 2024 Orientation:
20th and 30th November

Community Excursions:
Tuesday 28th November
Thursday 30th November

December

Angels In Our Town
Saturday 2nd December

Preschool Association Meeting:
Wednesday 13th @ 7 pm

Family Presentation Nights 5pm

Mon./Tues. Possums: Tues 5th/12th

Mon.- Wed. Koalas: Tues. 5th/12th

Wed.-Fri. Possums – Thurs 7th/12th

Thurs. /Fri. Koalas – Thurs. 7th/12th

Last day Party Days:

Mon./Tues. Possum Group –
Tuesday 12th December

Mon.-Wed. Koala Group –
Wednesday 13th December

Wed.-Fri. Possum Group & Thurs./
Fri. Koala Group -
Friday 15th December

We continue to progress through what always turns out to be a very busy Term 4.



We are enjoying a lovely week with our activities celebrating the Festival of Light and Hope, with Rangoli, cooking and Henna Art! We are finishing our final rotation of the Bush Preschool Program, with some catch up sessions. As always, the children have enjoyed their trips to the bush, exploring the environment.

We are planning some Community excursions in Week 8. Stay tuned for more information & the permission slip.



Festival of Light & Hope
During Week 6 (15th - 17th November), the children at Mittagong Preschool will be marking Dussehra, Dashain, Diwali, Deepavali, Sandi Chhor Dhasa & Yuba through program inclusions. We will be embracing Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam, Nepali, Panjabi, Tamil & Telugu culture through colours, flavours & sounds! We will be decorating our entrance with Rangoli art to welcome our children & families to Preschool. On Tuesday & Friday, we will make a few South Asian dishes for the children to taste. We have a few parents coming into Preschool throughout the week to share aspects of culture with the children, including Henna art, cooking & Rangoli art. This reflects Outcome 2 where children connect with their world, responding to diversity with respect; investigating cultures within their community.

Service Report continued

From Pauline's Desk

Anniversary Event

What a wonderful surprise I had on Friday 10th November with an event celebrating my 25 years of continuous employment at Mittagong Preschool! I was completely unaware of any of the preparations and am very thankful to the organisers – Rhiannon Ingenhoff, Jessica Winkler, Michelle Hinton and Sandra Galea, as well as the members of our current Preschool Committee. It was a wonderful event, and I will be ever appreciative for this gesture! It was really lovely to see past colleagues/staff, children, families, Committee members and related sector colleagues.

It was humbling to hear the inspiring words of all who spoke, including two children I taught. Upon reflection on my years at the Preschool, I would like to acknowledge the passion and input of past Presidents, Committee members, families and staff. I thank them all for working with me to continue to build the Preschool as the wonderful community resource it is!



I would also like to mention the amazing support of my family. My husband Frank has always valued the importance of my role at the Preschool, even though it has sometimes meant long days. He has helped at working bees, done tip trips & put furniture together ... all without a word of complaint! My children, Michelle and Vincent, attended the Preschool as young ones and have grown up, popping in and out of the Preschool, helping where they could. They are both teachers and have a strong work ethic and commitment to their work, the children and their community. I thank my work at Mittagong Preschool for engendering these qualities in them.

Lastly, I would like to thank the families over the years for choosing Mittagong Preschool and entrusting their children to our care.



Orientation 2024

Orientation: This Thursday night (16/11) we will run the Orientation Night both at the Preschool and via Zoom.

It is a great opportunity to share information about the Preschool and answer questions. We also invite and encourage the involvement of the new families in the Preschool. Over the next two weeks (20/11 to 30/11) we are holding the Orientation sessions for the new families.

I look forward to taking the time to welcome the new families, helping families and children alike to develop a sense of belonging. I will check enrolment forms with each family and discuss any points of concern, completing Risk Minimisation Plans where needed.

The children and families always respond well to the sessions, as they do to the Children's Handbook made by the children and our lovely Preschool Orientation Show Bags. During the sessions families will complete some additional important paperwork, as well as a Family Page, in readiness for 2024.



Service Report continued

Coming Events

"Angels in Our Town" Parade
Saturday 2nd December



Angels in our town don't always wear wings... Empowering Southern Highlands Communities & Thanking Our Heroes
Angels in Our Town is a cultural community event acknowledging and celebrating our first responders, volunteers and service organisations -- the Angels in Our Town. Held throughout December in the towns and villages of the Southern Highlands, it culminates in a street parade through Berrara on 2nd December.

With drought, fires, COVID, floods, inflation and international conflict, there are a lot of negative influences in our world today. Angels in Our Town brings an energy and palpable sense of joy, fun, connection and love throughout the community.

It will involve first responders, RFSSES, Fire & Rescue, the NSW police, Paramedics, nurses, health workers, primary and secondary schools, school teachers, service groups such as CWA, OZ Harvest, First Nations groups, performing arts groups, musicians, chefs, creative artists, farmers, all workers.... and YOU!

For more information about the concert, food & activities
<https://www.angelsinourtown.com.au/>

As a community-based Preschool, we will be participating in this event!
We invite all families to join our educators in the parade.

Time: Meet at the Station Street Carpark at 6.30 pm.
Dress code: Everyone in the parade is to wear something WHITE!!!!
All children will be offered wings to wear.
Schedule: Preschoolers will be escorted along the parade by families, teachers, educators and marshalls, finishing at Springett's Arcade.
RSVP: Please include family name & number attending on the sign-up link by 24/11.



Farewell Presentation Nights

Family Night & End-of-Year Presentation Tuesday 5th December – Monday/Tuesday Possum group & Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Koala group

Family Night & End-of-Year Presentation Thursday 7th December – Wednesday/Thursday/Friday Possum group & Thursday/Friday Koala group

Pop the dates on your calendar! After some dinner and a play, the children will gather in their rooms for some songs and presentation of their certificates. An invitation and more details to follow via email, where you can sign up your child/family's attendance.



Family Night & End of Year Presentation

Please join us on Tuesday 5th December 2023 for our Family Night & End of Year Presentation!

Sausage Sizzle and Drinks will be provided at 5pm before you move into your child's room for their presentation and certificate at 5.45pm.

To attend please use the sign-up link. Please also note any dietary requirements.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Food & Play from 5pm. Presentation from 5.45pm.

Sausage Sizzle & Drinks Provided



Family Night & End of Year Presentation

Please join us on Thursday 7th December 2023 for our Family Night & End of Year Presentation!

Sausage Sizzle and Drinks will be provided at 5pm before you move into your child's room for their presentation and certificate at 5.45pm.

To attend please use the sign-up link. Please also note any dietary requirements.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Thursday 7th December 2023

Food & Play from 5pm. Presentation from 5.45pm.

Sausage Sizzle & Drinks Provided

Recent Achievements Threatened Species Bakeoff



Quality Improvement Plan

Last Thursday we reviewed Quality Area 6, Collaborative partnerships with families and communities. Our areas for improvement were including some welcoming events in the first month of Preschool next year to promote family engagement as well as introducing a Family Involvement Form for completion as part of the enrolment process for the first half of 2024.

Service Report continued

Staff Service Awards

At the Anniversary Event, we took the chance to acknowledge staff who have long service at Mittagong Preschool – Susan Hill-Thomson (20 years), Jennifer Bridekirk (18 years), Michelle Hinton (14years), Jo Middleton (14 years) & Friedel Gorman (10 years). We applaud them for their dedication to their roles and to quality service provision. We also thank them for their generous contributions to their colleagues, the children, families and community of Mittagong Preschool.



Jenny's Retirement

After many years of dedicated service at Mittagong Preschool, Jenny has decided to retire at the end of the year. We will miss her experience, expertise, way with the children and families, and her collegiate nature with her colleagues. We have some plans in mind to celebrate her time at the Preschool. We wish her well in her retirement.

Indigenous Literacy Foundation Donations



18/10/2023

Helen McDonald
Mittagong Preschool Kindergarten Incorporated
10 Waverley Parade
MITTAGONG NSW 2575

Dear Helen,

Thank you very much for your recent donation which makes our work possible.

As you are aware our Foundation is an initiative of the Australian Book Industry and our vision is Equity of Opportunity, ensuring all Indigenous children in remote Australia have equal access to literacy resources, and where possible, books in their own language.

We do this through our three core programs: Book Supply, Community Publishing (books created by and for remote Communities) and through our early literacy program called Book Buzz. In all our work we aim to empower Communities and to work collaboratively. We are currently working with over 400 Communities predominantly in WA, QLD, NT and SA.

With the support of donors like yourself we have been able to gift through the Book Supply Program over 750,000 books to Communities, NGOs, healthcare and other organisations in remote Australia.

Your donation receipt is below – please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Ben Bowen
Ben Bowen
Chief Executive Officer

DONATION RECEIPT

INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION
17/207 Koori St SYDNEY NSW 2000
TEL (02) 8530 9644
EMAIL accounts@ilf.org.au
ABN 45 146 631 943

Receipt No.	Date	Received From	Amount
PR370489	15/09/2023	Mittagong Preschool Kindergarten Incorporated	\$135.00

*Only donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Transition Reports

For many years now, we have been completing our own version of the Department's optional Transition to School Statement.

We welcome the opportunity to provide schools with some information about each child's time at Preschool.

This year it is a condition of Fee Relief Funding that we use the Departmental portal to upload all reports for children going to State Schools.

We will download and send reports to Catholic, Christian and other independent schools.

These reports have been well-received by the schools, and they add important information to the Best Start assessment.

This statement calls for summaries from the teachers, a drawing & input from each child & a completed consent form from the parents/families.

When all reports are completed and printed, we will distribute them to families and to the relevant schools (either via the portal or via email).

As the end of the year fast approaches, many families will be busy organising their child/ren for their next adventure in life at "BIG" School. We hope the children have been enjoying reading through their School social stories. There are many picture books that support the transition to school – here are a few titles When a Dragon Goes to School by Caryl Hart; Lucy & Tom at School by Shirley Hughes; The Terrible Suitcase by Emma Allen & Freya Blackwood; Rex by Ursula Dubosarsky; Wanda's First Day by Mark Sperring and My Brown Bear Barney by Dorothy Butler. Here are some links to some tips/ideas to make that transition a little easier for everyone:

Getting ready for primary school



Tick off the tasks that apply to you.

Things to do this year

- If your child attends an early childhood education service, talk to staff about their transition to school.
- Attend a school orientation or transition to school program and make sure you have the school's phone number.
- Take your child to your local community health nurse or doctor for a health check and make sure their immunisations are up to date before school starts.
- If your child takes medication or has an allergy, a medical condition or additional needs, inform the school as early as possible and make an appointment to speak with school staff.
- Apply for a school Oval card if needed. Go to apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ovals or phone 131 500.
- Organise outside of school hours care.
- Practise safely walking or travelling to and from school.
- Continue reading to your child.
- Connect with other parents and carers on social media.

Useful activities to try in the lead-up to starting Kindergarten



Don't forget

- Write down the date your child will start school.

- Make sure your child can use the toilet independently – including urinals for boys – and practise good hand-washing techniques.
- Write your child's name on all their school things and involve your child in organising them and recognising their name. Make sure your child's name is not visible on the outside of anything they'll be wearing to and from school.
- If you live close to school, practise crossing roads safely as you walk the route with your child.



Try this

- Set up a play date for your child to play with a friend.
- Check out the local library and let your child choose books to borrow.
- Take a ball to a park to throw, catch and kick together.
- Organise a picnic: with a packed lunch and encourage your child to open it and eat the food by themselves.
- Read Daisy's First Day together.



Practise

- Help your child put on their school shoes and walk in them.
- Let them try dressing in their school uniform.
- Encourage them to write the letters of the alphabet.
- Let them practise drinking from the bubbler.
- Guide them to cut and paste pictures from a magazine and draw pictures.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/working-in-early-childhood-education/transition-to-school#For4> & <https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/en/home/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy/teaching-and-learning-resources/effective-reading/phonics/Handwriting-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

NSW Foundation Style writing guide

a b c d e f
g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t
u v w x y z

A B C D E F
G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The NSW Foundation Style writing guide and activities have been included as things you can do with your child before they start school. There are no specific skills your child needs to have before starting Kindergarten.

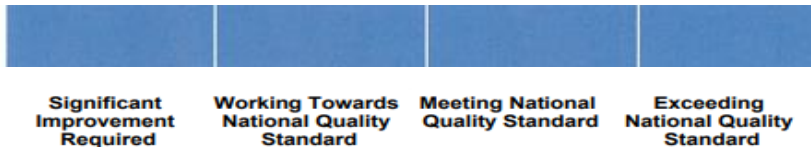




Quality Ratings Certificate Unpacking the Standards. November Newsletter: Quality Standard 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities



The NSW Department of Education
Education and Care Quality Ratings

Mittagong Pre-school Kindergarten

goes beyond the requirements of the National Quality Standard in at least four of the seven quality areas.

Significant Improvement Required **Working Towards National Quality Standard** **Meeting National Quality Standard** **Exceeding National Quality Standard**

The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

1 Educational program and practice				
2 Children's health and safety				
3 Physical environment				
4 Staffing arrangements				
5 Relationships with children				
6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities				
7 Governance and Leadership				

This service was last assessed in October 2019 against the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care and these ratings have been assessed in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Date of issue: 24 May 2021 ASR-00027489 SE-00008429

education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-quality

Standard 6.1 Supportive relationships with families
Respectful relationships with families are developed & maintained & families are supported in their parenting role.

Standard 6.2 Collaborative partnerships
Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning & wellbeing.

As an Exceeding service, what strategies does Mittagong Preschool use in collaborative partnerships?

Parents/families seen as partners

- 6.1.1 Engagement with the service
- 6.1.2 Parent views are respected
- 6.1.3 Families are supported
- 6.2.1 Transitions
- 6.2.2 Access & participation
- 6.2.3 Community engagement

