

Jumpstart 4 Kids

Newsletter No 3, 2014 MARCH

STAFF NEWS



We would like to congratulate Miss Amie and Brendan on the arrival of their beautiful son Kaiden Jay, who was born on Monday 24th February. Miss Amie and Brendan thank all our families for their kind wishes and gifts.

LITERACY AT JUMPSTART 4 KIDS

The Good Word on Reading MACQUARIE University PRELIT PROGRAM

PreLit (Pre Literacy) is a skills-based, early literacy preparation program for preschool children in the year before school. This program is designed by Professor Kevin Wheldall from Macquarie University. It is designed to complement a play-based learning environment and provides children with a sound foundation for learning to read.

As part of our Quality Improvement Plan for 2014 we will be investigating and purchasing resources to support Literacy and to develop children's ability to be successful readers.

Through our Fundraising late last year we have allocated a small portion of the funds towards this program. This program will be implemented in the Busy Bees room on Monday 3rd March. Parents will also be provided with a weekly update displayed on the Program window for parents to view. Parents will also receive worksheets each fortnight to support sound and letter recognition in line with the PreLit program.

PreLit supports children in becoming ready for school.

Key benefits

- Evidence-based, best practice program for preschool children in their year before formal schooling
- Appropriate for all children regardless of skill level
- Comprehensive training, equipping teachers with the skills they need to prepare children for reading at school

To assist Educators in supporting children's understanding the PreLit Program we ask that parents spend at least 10 minutes reading with their child each night. Rereading familiar books allows children



to build Sight Words and develop a love for reading. We invite parents to discuss this Reading Program with Educators. Our Easter Raffle Fundraiser will be used to purchase supplementary material for this program. (NQA 1,4,5,6&7)

WELCOME AFTERNOON TEA

FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY

4:00 pm



We thank our parents who attended our Welcome afternoon Tea. Mr Simon and the children are to be congratulated for sharing their wonderful story about a Dragon who goes to school .

The children enthusiastically enjoyed showcasing their dancing and singing skills as they performed the "Wombat Wobble". It was great for families to meet with staff and discuss how their child was settling in at Jumpstart 4 Kids . We remind families that children's portfolios are always on display and we invite families to view these at any time .

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL IN 2015???

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING **WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL at 6:30pm**

Guest Speaker Mrs Liz Devlin
Principal Bernadette's school Lalor
Park

Many families ask if their child is ready for school. Many families believe that this depends on the age of the child. Children will vary in their ability to be ready for school. Many countries do not commence schooling until their child is 6 years of age. Research supports children starting school when they are socially ready. This means can they listen to instructions and follow them? Can they retell stories and make predictions about what might happen? Can your child express themselves clearly? Can they share and maintain friendship groups? Can they maintain their own personal items?

Mrs Devlin will discuss with Parents their Transition to school program and clarify

concerns for parents. We ask all families to place this in their diary . (NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)

EASTER RAFFLE



We ask all families to Donate an Easter Egg for our Easter Raffle. we would be appreciative if Families could provide these by Friday 7th March so that we can commence packaging these prizes. All funds raised will be used to purchase additional material for our Literacy programs across all rooms . we thank all families in advance for their support

UNDER THE SEA SHOW **THURSDAY 27th MARCH** **10:00am**



This is a fantastic show for children to experience a hands on opportunity to touch animals within our oceans .

The cost for this incursion is \$8.00 per child . Families are asked to make this payment by Friday 21st March. All enrolled children who attend on Thursday will be invoiced for this activity regardless of their attendance on the day .



WEEKLY EXPERIENCES

ROOM STIMULUS AREAS:

BUSY BEES:



- 1) Pet week
- 2) Country of the month
- 3) St Patricks day / Harmony Day (celebrations)
- 4) Under the sea
- 5) Book week

At the beginning of March the Busy Bees will be looking at pets. We ask that you all bring in a photo of your pet/s to display in the room. During the month of March the Busy Bees will be focusing on different celebrations, learning and celebrating Harmony Day as well as St. Patricks Day.

Please remember each day you need to pack your child a fitted and top sheet, a change of clothes, hat, lunch box and a drink bottle which all need to be taken home at the end of each day. All items need to be clearly labelled.

In the room we have our new day displayed. Please read this to see what day your child has news. This is a good opportunity for each child to bring in special items so that they can verbalise with their peers. A great skill to get ready for school.

SCHOOL READINESS FOCUS

The Busy Bees have been developing sound Numeracy and Literacy skills during their School Readiness experiences.

During the month of March the Bees will be continuing on building their knowledge of English by learning about the letters T, I and F as

well as learning about the sounds these letters make. The Bees will further develop their numeracy skills by learning about the numbers 4, 5 and 6 as well as the shapes rectangle, oval and octagon. The Bees have also been focusing on colours to develop their skills for school. The colours for the month of March are yellow, orange and purple.

HOME WORK for our BEES

BUILDING A CONNECTION WITH PARENTS

In the month of March, as part of School Readiness, homework will be available for the Bees. We encourage parents to collect homework for their child as the homework links in with what the Busy Bees are focusing on in School Readiness. Homework is part of School and introducing homework to the Bees will help towards developing ready to school skills and extend on learning covered in School Readiness.

COMPANION BEARS

In the month of February Wayne and Eddie had some incredible experiences. During the month of MARCH the following children will be looking after either Wayne or Eddie: We thank parents in advance for returning our companion bears promptly after one week so that all children can engage in this experience.

WAYNE

EDDIE



Alyssa
Elise
Emma
Gavan

Zain
Josiah
Lilly-Belle
Pwoch

Wayne Winch and Eddie Teddy have been enjoying going travelling to the different children's houses. The bears have loved playing on bikes, watching TV, playing outside as well as going on adventures.

We really enjoy looking at the photos that families have inserted. This is a great way to share the adventures of our Companion Bears and allow the children to develop personal traits of empathy care and consideration.

Miss Justine & Mr Simon
(NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)

PLAYFUL POSSUMS

Week 1: Book Week

Week 2: Numbers

Week 3: Water Safety

Week 4: Sea Week

During the Month of March, we welcome our new Possums teacher, Miss Trish who will be covering Miss Amie as she is off on maternity leave. As the week beginning on the 19th March we encourage children to ride to school as part of ride to school week. This allows children to get physically active.

We ask that during the first week in March that children bring their favourite story to share with us. Children are focusing strongly on colours and shapes. We ask parents to continue stimulating their child in the areas focused on at Jumpstart 4 Kids.

Remember that we are promoting children's health through the Munch and Move program and ask families that you encourage healthy eating with their lunch and tea times. Miss Nikki and Miss Amie and Miss Trish
(NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)



BABY BUNYIPS:

1) Music week

2) Shapes

3) St Patrick's Day-

Ireland and Harmony Day

4) Sea Week



The Bunyip's are focusing on various concepts each month. This month our focus will be on shapes. Music is enjoyable for people of all ages. These young children are able to release emotions and respond through movement and song. Making lots of noise with the instruments is always fun. It always provides a great opportunity for children to interact and enjoy themselves.



We would love to see children wearing lots of green to celebrate the Irish tradition of St Patrick's Day and also lots of orange to celebrate Harmony Day.

We welcome families to share any ideas or bring along any relevant resources that we may use to promote any of our stimulus areas. Could families also assist us in planning for your children's needs and interests by filling out a family focus sheet as often as you can. Thank you.

Miss Chantelle and Miss Kelly.
(NQA 1,2,3,4,5,6&7)

HARMONY DAY

Please wear Orange on Friday 21st March To Celebrate Harmony Day



FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENTS AT JUMPSTART 4 KIDS

(NQA 1,2,3,4, 5, 6, &7)

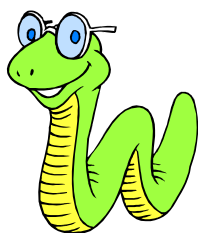


Each day all of the children participate in fundamental movements focusing on one area per day. The children all join in and participate learning and practising these movements which they can use in their everyday lives. Some of the activities include: Jumping, skipping, running, throwing a ball, balancing etc.

We have attached the latest Newsletter for Munch and Crunch. which highlights healthy eating for children and the importance of Fundamental Movements for children as they develop healthy and active lifestyles.

SUSTAINABILITY - WORM FARM BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL THURSDAY 20th February

What Did We Learn?



The worm farm visit showed the children how to use the worm farm correctly, learning what foods you can and can't put in the worm farm and why we can't put certain things in the worm farm. The children had hands on activity joining in the experiences.



www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au

[email:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)

Worm farms are easy to set up and maintain. Over time the food scraps are turned into worm castings and a natural liquid is produced from the farm. Both of these end products make excellent natural fertiliser to use in the garden.

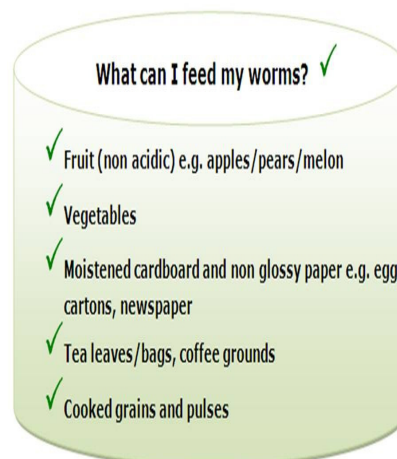
Worm farming is a way of composting that keeps organic wastes out of your bin. Worm farming requires less space than normal composting

Where to Start?

You can purchase a worm farm from Blacktown City Council or from hardware stores and nurseries. Alternatively, you can construct your own using 2 foam boxes and punching holes in the bottom of the top box. Plus, buy a worm farm, compost or Bokashi bin after 1 July 2010 and you may be eligible to receive a rebate from Council to the value of \$25. For more information on the organics recycling rebate scheme and to download the rebate application form please click on the PDF link below.

[Compost_Worm_Farm_Rebate_Form.pdf](#)

Blacktown City council also hosts free composting and worm farming workshops for the community. Participants receive a free compost bin and kitchen tidy bin.



(NQA 12,3,4,5, 6, &7)

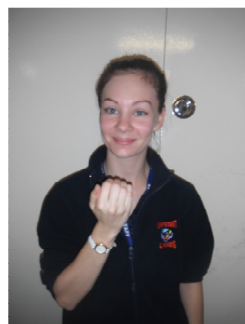
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Each staff member at JumpStart 4 Kids actively engages in at least 2 Professional development experiences each year. Recently Miss Justine and Miss Kelly attended training in relation to teaching strategies and the active use of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

On Wednesday 19th of February Miss Justine participated in a webinar "Using the EYLF resources". This webinar provided information about how to use EYLF resources and how they help within the service. These resources include flash cards, posters, books and a CD. These posters are on display in our foyer and the books are located in the foyer available for all families to read through. On Tuesday 18th of February, Miss Kelly participated in a webinar titled "The Intentional Teacher". This webinar provided information on how teachers can be intentional in the way they observe, plan and program for children. Intentional teaching is the opposite to rote teaching. It involves being thoughtful and purposeful and using your knowledge, judgement and expertise to organise learning experiences for children. It is also about how we engage with children in a way that encourages and extends on their learning and development. This encompasses how environments are set up and how educators guide and support children. As a centre we will be reflecting on this information at our staff meeting and implementing ideas to support "Intentional Teaching" and the Early Years Learning Framework.

KEY WORD SIGNS

On Tuesday 4th March all staff were in serviced in Key Words Signs. Parents may have noticed posters in each room showing Miss Nikki using these Key Words Signs. These are non verbal cues to assist children to develop communication skills. Educators will be actively using these signs with children and we encourage families to support us by allowing your child to use these hand gestures at home. We have included 2 Key Word Signs for our families to use in the month of March.



PLEASE

THANKYOU

DONATIONS We are always appreciative of Donations for our Raffles. If families have received any unwanted gift over the Christmas period please consider the centre.

- ✚ Gifts for our Mothers Day raffle
- ✚ Books
- ✚ Paper cylinders
- ✚ Old cake tins
- ✚ Ice-cream containers
- ✚ Margarine containers
- ✚ Bottle tops
- ✚ String

MARCH PREVIEW

4th - Pancake Tuesday

6th World Book day

12th World Maths day

21st Harmony Day

27th Under the Sea Show \$8.00 per child.

FINAL THOUGHT

During the Month of March many families will begin Lent. This is a time of reflection. Harmony Day also asks us to reflect on who we are and how we relate to others around us. Let's make the month of March a time when we all think about how we can help others, accept others and care for others.

JUMPSTART 4 KIDS STAFF