



Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten

Wombat room email : wombat@springwoodpreschool.org.au



Wombat Room Term 2 Newsletter

Welcome one and all to term 2. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable break. Monday was a pupil free day as staff participated in training on Asthma and Anaphylaxis. This training has become mandatory under the new regulations governing our preschool. Staff found the training to be very informative and appropriate to working with young children.

This term we have changed to our winter routine so we begin the day indoors and go outside to play after morning tea. Sunscreen is applied to the children 20 mins before going out to play. Because the weather has been so erratic, it is a good idea to pack a jumper in your child's bag. Also, even though the weather is cooling down, the children are still required to wear a hat during outdoor play.

Portfolios were available for families to look through during the last week of term 1. If you missed out on having a look at your child's portfolio, let us know so you can have a look. This term staff will continue to document your child's learning in this portfolio. Whilst we are on the topic of learning, our **weekly program** is on display on the wall to your right as you enter our class room. What the children have participated in during **group time** each day is also available for you to read in this space. **Group times** are an important part of our daily educational program. The children engage in shared reading, discussions and other literacy experiences, music, movement, drama and many other games and activities depending on what current interests are. During group times the class is divided into two smaller groups. These groups have been devised based on age however they are very flexible. The groups have been called the sandy wombats and the grey wombats. We will continue to display **daily photos** on our lap top, however during the holidays a bracket was purchased to mount a small flat screen TV on the wall, similar to the one in the Possum Room, for photos to be displayed on. The TV will be mounted on the wall some time during the next couple of weeks.

This term we have a student from Macquarie University completing a 3 week practicum in the Wombat Room. Her name is Blaire Kennedy. She will be involved in providing experiences for the children and taking group times.

On Tuesday we handed out the first **news bag** for the term. Once maybe twice a term your child will have the opportunity to have the news bag. The bag is taken home for your child

to choose up to 3 special items to bring into preschool to show and talk about to the class the following week. The class is encouraged to listen and ask questions for your child to answer. Speaking in front of a group is a great skill to begin developing in our supportive preschool environment.

Your child may have told you about the massage activity we have been doing at preschool (pitter patter rain, cat stretches, sleepy elephant walks and loving squeezes), or you may have been lucky enough to receive a massage from your child. Annette is a qualified massage therapist and developed this program for the children and it has been implemented because last term we introduced a short relaxation/ quiet time after lunch to provide the children with a short time to rest and relax. During this time we either pair up for massaging or put our heads down and do some clenching and relaxing exercises whilst listening to some quiet music. We have found this part of the day to be very successful and will look at experimenting with some new massage techniques this term.

This term in the Wombat Room we plan to look at seeds and growing things. We attempted to sprout the seeds left from the fruit we had for morning tea. We looked at lots of different seeds but unfortunately none of them sprouted. One of our Mums kindly volunteered to sprout some seeds for us in the holidays. The children will also be involved in sprouting seeds at preschool and then planting them. This links wonderfully with the preschool's plan to build some raised vegie patches in the playground with money raised by the fundraising committee. The Possum Room have discussed introducing a worm farm and a compost bin to preschool for the suitable food scraps left after morning tea and lunch. The Wombat Room would love to be involved. We will also be reinforcing our yellow recycling bins in the class room. All of these experiences will help foster learning about sustainability. We are keen to receive advice and assistance from any green thumbs.

Starting School: The NSW Education Department has a website for parents: Schools A-Z (<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/>). There is a lot of information available from homework guides to lunch box menus. By following the links you can also view a video about readiness for school. The video features teachers about what they expect from children starting school. (<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/is-my-child-ready-to-start-school>). This is a worthwhile site to visit if your child is turning 5 in 2012. If they are turning 5 **AFTER** February please consider starting school in 2014 and giving your child the best start possible for their formal learning. If you are in doubt please feel free to discuss your child's school readiness for school with the Wombat staff.

We look forward to another busy and exciting term.

The Wombat Team.