

Kindy Capers



The newsletter of the West Epping Pre-School Association Inc.

Term 2, 2010

President's Report



As I walked around the preschool on the Family Fun Day it was wonderful to see the great West Epping Preschool community pulling together. Vicki Masulans (Social Convenor) and her committed team had done a great job organising the day and all were working enthusiastically on the different activities. Our dedicated staff had worked tirelessly to carefully exhibit our children's artwork and were happily talking to parents and children in the Wombat & Possum rooms. Volunteering parents, friends & grandparents were cheerfully taking their turn to help out on the individual stalls. The greatest thing to see however was the faces of the preschool children as they took their 'loved one' by the hand and showed them through their classroom. Many sitting down together to look through their portfolios. All surrounded by the constant sound of laughter & excitement from children enjoying the jumping castle and all the activities outside.

These days take an immense amount of organisation. Thank you to Vicki and everyone on the Social Committee who gave their time to coordinate the day. To our wonderful staff who came along on their precious weekend to help out. To all the parents, friends & grandparents who helped on activities, made cakes, made food for the Asian Food Stall (thanks Sally!!), cooked the BBQ, helped set up or pack up and spent their money - many thanks.

The money raised from the day will go towards the installation of new double safety gates at both playground entrances.

Enjoy your much deserved holidays. Travel safely if you are heading away on an adventure. Relish the 'down time' away from the routine. I know we will!!

See you next term.

Ann Harvey
President.

Dates to Remember

Term 3:

- Starts Monday 19 July
- Finishes Friday 24 September

Grandparent Mornings:

- Tuesday 27 July
- Wednesday 28 July
- Thursday 29 July

School Readiness Talk / General Meeting

- Monday night, 2 August

Group Photos:

- Tuesday 7 September
- Wednesday 8 September
- Thursday 9 September

Term 4:

- Starts Monday 11 October
- Finishes Wednesday 15 December

Ryan's Toy Warehouse:

- Tuesday night, 2 November

Preschool Disco:

- Sunday 7 November

Christmas Parties:

- Friday 10 December
- Tuesday 14 December
- Wednesday 15 December

Director's Report

- What a magnificent day we had for our annual Family Fun Day. My sincerest thanks to everyone who helped prior to and on the day and especially to Vicki and her social committee team. The Staff displayed the children's art beautifully and I'm sure everyone had an enjoyable time.
- \$146 has been forwarded to The Children's Hospital from our teddy bears picnic, thank you for supporting Bandaged Bear Day.
- Many of the local schools are currently having Open Days for families who have "kindergarten starters" in 2010. Check our notice boards or contact your closest school for details. At our General Meeting next term, on 2nd August our guest speaker will discuss school readiness. If parents are concerned about their child's readiness for school please discuss with their teacher.
- I have already started 4 year old lists for 2011, and will start 3 year old placements in August/September. The enrolment process is a very time consuming task so please be patient.
- We continue to encourage healthy eating and getting active throughout the day. Please remember we ask that no chips, lollies, cakes, sweet biscuits etc be sent with your child for morning tea and lunch. Birthday cakes are acceptable as these are special occasions and sometimes food. In 2009 our preschool was involved in the Munch and Move program which we continue to follow. Many wonderful ideas can be viewed at www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au
- Visitors next term; 2 Day groups "Aunty Wendy" will share aboriginal songs and stories. 1 Day group, Mr Drummerman will entertain the children with his drums and reinforce many musical concepts.
- Children's portfolios are available for parents to view and make comment. If these are accidentally taken home by your child please return to preschool.
- Last day of term 2: Friday 2nd July.
- Term 3 resumes: Monday 19th July.
- We wish everyone a relaxing and safe holiday.

Julie Bligh
Director.



Baby News	On-line Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Chong, a brother for Ellena (Mon/Tues Wombats) • Boubacar Barry, a brother for Jewoseydi (Thurs/Fri Wombats) • Annabelle DeVos, a sister for Ella (Thurs/Fri Wombats) • Haruki, a brother for Tomochika Au (Thurs/Fri Possums) 	<p>Hills Kids, a web site designed to be a one-stop site to locate activities, programs, services and support and lots of other things for children between the ages of 0 and 5 years and their parents and grandparents in the Baulkham Hills and Blacktown Shire Councils.</p> <p>http://www.hillskids.com.au/</p>

Teachers' Reports - Wombats

It was lovely to hear the positive feedback from mums about the Mothers' Day presents the children had made. We were surprised at the achievements of the children as they made the unusual threading pattern. Every day we encourage children to be open to new challenges & discoveries. There are little charts around the room that show some of the learning outcomes that relate to the Early Years Learning Framework. At preschool we hope children will be confident and involved learners and will be persistent when they are faced with challenges or unsuccessful first attempts. Julie & Sally

Monday/Tuesday Group

The group was interested in our discussion about ANZAC Day. We looked at World War 2 medals, cooked ANZAC biscuits and children made an Australian flag. Coordinating arms and legs to the marching music proved a little more challenging, although enjoyable.



The children showed a growing appreciation for the natural environment when they discovered a moth in the playground. We researched a moth together and compared a moth with butterflies. We explored relationships with other insects and creatures we discovered in the garden. The Backyard Bug Show allowed the children to extend their interest and have an enjoyable "hands on" experience with the insects. The *Ants Go Marching* song continues to be a favourite.

We have also looked at monster trucks and other huge vehicles. The children did some amazing paintings with a lot of detail. They were interested in the huge buses, long cars and other mega machines we discovered. The children made some great sailing boats and paintings that depicted Jessica Watson's boat called "Ella".

The World Cup and the Socceros have been an exciting topic for us to explore, especially as so many children play soccer. We have looked at newspaper cuttings, uniforms, read soccer stories and completed soccer craft. Winning, losing and feelings have also crept into these conversations. We have discussed other countries such as Greece, Korea, New Zealand, South Africa and China which reflect the children's background.

As the gingerbread cooking aroma came across from the Possum room the children asked if we could make our own gingerbread. We will thus end the term with the *Gingerbread Man* story, cooking and some other favourite fairy tales.

Wednesday Group

A wonderful discovery of about 30 garden worms was made in the soft rich soil in the creek bed. Most children were interested in watching the worms burrow into the soil, and wiggle and squirm. We learnt lots of new facts about the worms and children were amazed that worms are great for the garden. We always encourage children to look and return creatures to the garden and of course not touch spiders.

We have talked about electric, diesel and steam trains and the different ways they work. The *Animal Train* book was a very funny story that created a great deal of amusement. Our music time in the hall was enjoyable as the noisy trains chugged along. A train ride in the holidays could be an enjoyable outing for families to follow up on this interest.

During outside play the children have decorated the gum tree with the coloured chalk as they named it their own wishing tree. The children showed great teamwork and made up some wonderful imaginative stories as they coloured the bark of the tree. The group also concentrated on their 3D apple trees with improved cutting skills as they cut around the apple outlines.

We had an enjoyable morning with Mereki our visitor who shared aboriginal stories, songs and culture with the group. The session went for 1½ hours and the children's interest was maintained for the whole time. The "hand cave" painting was most impressive. We will continue to do lots of the music experiences we learnt on this day with the CD we have purchased.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday,

Julie and Sally.

Thursday/Friday Group

How fast the term has gone but what a wonderful and exciting term we have had. It began with the birth of two new babies so there were lots of discussions and stories about families and new babies. Some of these stories included *When The Bears Came*, *There's A House In My Mummy's Tummy*, and *Me And My Mum* which linked our discussions with Mothers' Day as well.

With the help of Angela we enjoyed some discussions and stories about birds that we find in our area. *Cockatoos*, *Waddle Giggle Gargle*, *Are You My Mother?* and *Lucy and The Rainbow Birds* were among the stories we enjoyed. We had some wonderful discussions about birds in our backyards and especially enjoyed looking for the birds through binoculars whilst out in the playground.

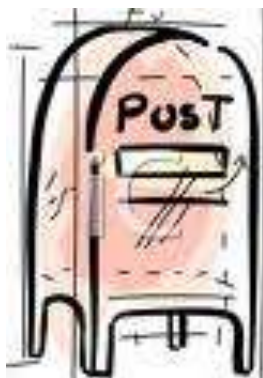


With a letter from our Sponsor Child in Kenya and a Birthday Card (*coincidentally with a sticker booklet about Australian Birds!*) for us to send to him the children were keen to send him a picture and a letter. From this interest our excursion to the Post Box evolved!! Although only a short walk it was the most wonderful learning experience. Not only did we mail the letter and wave to the postman but we also observed the workmen fixing the water pipes along the way. The boys were fascinated by the machinery. And the girls stopped to smell all the flowers on the way back! We were able to incorporate road safety as well as the process of the mail enjoying stories like *Parpity Parp* and *James The Outback Postman*.

We have had some wonderful food experiences as we have discussed healthy food. We made pizzas and fruit salad and have enjoyed great discussions about healthy food and "treat" food. Not only did this provide many opportunities for formal and informal chats, it also provided practise with our fine motor skills as we cut up the ingredients. We have enjoyed stories including *Don't Forget The Cheese Pa!*, *My Fruit Friends* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

A visit from Vanessa from Backyard Bugs was fantastic with some very brave children holding some rather interesting creatures. *The Very Ordinary Caterpillar* and *The Very Lazy Ladybird* were lovely stories to follow up this experience.

We have had lots of fun during music this term using the parachute, balloons, silk ribbons, playing musical statues, and learning to dance with a partner during the Mexican Hat Dance. *The Wombat Wobble* has provided us with great laughs and is always a request as is *My Dog Tipped Over The Rubbish Bin*, *Mumbo Tumbo*, and *Jack In The Box*. We learnt some new songs including *Clapping Land*, *Caterpillar to Butterfly* and *Mr Clickety Cane*. We were also able to incorporate some road safety songs as well as *Fruit Salad*, *Yummy Yummy!*



Letter writing has been a big focus this term with the children writing letters and drawing pictures to each other. These have been posted in our Preschool post box. This activity has been a wonderful literacy experience as the children have written their names, and their friends, copying their name cards. Many are now expressing interest in the date so we will introduce number cards to encourage this. We have also worked a lot on our cutting skills and the children's confidence with this skill has greatly improved. With many of our craft activities the children are exploring free expression and interpretation, and it is wonderful to see their problem solving techniques enhanced as they become so creative.

We have introduced many turn taking games this term as an introduction to many of the necessary school readiness skills. We will continue with these skills next term as we prepare for school.

We are looking forward to another exciting and fun filled term after the holidays. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Family Fun Day such a wonderful success.

Best wishes to all for a safe and relaxing holiday.

Lisa, Esther and Angela.

Teachers' Reports - Possums

Monday/Tuesday Group

We have had a very busy term. We began the term exploring healthy food options and participating in some 'Munch and Move' activities that promote the children's physical development as well as encouraging a healthy lifestyle of good food, water and exercise. The children really enjoyed these activities. After a few weeks I played a game with the children where we packed a healthy lunch box and a not so healthy alternative. The children made very wise choices and were able to explain their decisions well.

The majority of this term was taken up with our exploration of dinosaurs. The children were particularly interested in fossils and the scientific explanation of extinction. The children were fascinated with a story where dinosaur bones were unearthed and taken to a museum and how the scientists were able to use these fossils to determine the dinosaurs' height, length, diet, features etc. I tried to explain to the children that scientists could only guess at the colours of the dinosaurs but Will put up a very strong argument because he had seen a movie where there were scientists that lived with the dinosaurs - they would have told someone or drawn pictures. I'm really not sure that I ever really convinced them of that one! One day we all went into the hall to use ourselves to measure the length of a dinosaur. I suggested a Stegosaurus or a Tyrannosaurus Rex because I thought there might not be enough children to measure a Diplodocus or Brontosaurus.

Ethan Williams suggested we use Jennifer because she is so tall and that if everyone was as tall as Jennifer we could probably do it. Luckily Jennifer was very willing to assist.

We had our Backyard Bugs visitors and we learnt a lot about insects and spiders. Most of the children were very brave volunteers, helping Vanessa to take the insects around the group. Ethan Low and Lizzie were especially brave to let a praying mantis crawl up their chest and onto their face- I would not have volunteered for that one!

We have been reading lots of fairytales. The children have enjoyed re-enacting them through mini plays, pictorial recounts and verbal recounts. This is a great skill to practice in readiness for Primary school. It is important for children to understand what they are reading, not just sounding out letters and letter combinations. We are using fairytales because they are familiar texts to most children. This is a skill that we will continue to develop as the year continues.

At the moment we are busily preparing a little concert for Grandparents' Day and will be looking forward to performing it early next term. Have a great holiday, keep safe and we will look forward to another very busy term.

Amanda and Carmel.

Wednesday Group

I am writing this report on the day after Family Fun Day and I must tell you all how proud I was of all the beautiful artwork completed by your children. They all worked so hard and so carefully at drawing their caterpillars and butterflies. They were so excited about *'The very hungry caterpillar'* when I read it to them that I knew we had to base our display on this book. The children did such an amazing job at recounting the story, and were keen to listen to it over and over again. This was a very impressive effort for children who are 3 years old.

Our visit from Meraki made a big impression on the children. Her show lasted for 90 mins and they thoroughly enjoyed all of it. She told an educational felt board story and a traditional elder story with props. This was broken up with songs and dances for the children to participate in. We made some lovely art work using the children's hands; this is displayed in our classroom next to the door. I was very pleased to hear

I love it when they come to me with a big smile to tell me about their new friend '.....' Last term it was 'that boy' or 'pink t-shirt girl' and now you see them look for their friends in the morning when they arrive. This has also had a lovely impact on the noise level in our classroom. People would always comment on how quiet it was in our room (*after the crying stopped!*), now the room is filled with chatter. Hopefully our Wombat neighbours won't mind the change!

Our highlight of the term has to be *'The bear hunt'*. The children have fallen in love with this song and will begin requesting it as soon as we pack up for morning tea. It would just not be a Wednesday at preschool without the Bear Hunt. When Serina and I do this song we really try to overact the actions, and the children have begun to follow along. They have these great expressions that go through their whole body. They are very cute. We are going to perform the bear hunt on grandparents' day and I think it will be a real

some feedback from parents saying that their children were talking about Meraki at home.

I have had the opportunity to make some lovely observations of the children playing co-operatively together. It is very special to be able to watch the children move from parallel play to cooperative play.

treat for our visitors.

We have had a great term and I am looking forward to the next one. Let's hope everyone stays healthy and has a great holiday.

Amanda and Serina.

Thursday/Friday Group

It's hard to believe another term is over. We've had a busy second term in the Thurs/Fri Possums, starting the term with some discussions about friendship. We talked about how we can be a good friend, and look after people who are around us. We've been encouraging the children to ask each other for help with routine tasks such as packing away beds, putting on painting aprons and packing away. It's been lovely to see the way everyone is helping each other. And not only when asked, many children offer help before they are asked.

Making our fruit salad was a highlight of our discussion on healthy eating, as was making our healthy food bug (from rice cakes, cream cheese and vegetables), linking our food discussion with our current discussions on bugs and insects. The bug show was a great hit, with a lot of interest shown in the bugs displayed. We've talked a lot about bugs, insects and spiders over the last few weeks.

The children have enjoyed music this term. Our favourite new songs would be the *Wombat Wobble* and *The Dog Tipped Over the Rubbish Bin*. We've also played with the parachute, and had the coloured ribbons out to dance with.

There has been a flourish of interest in writing our names. All of a sudden so many of our Possums decided they were going to try and write their name.

We made up name cards to help and are so proud of their efforts! The children's artwork has also come along in leaps and bounds, as we see everyone taking so much care with their work. The artwork that was produced for the Fun Day was outstanding. It was great to see so many of you at the Fun Day, showing interest in your children's work. Any comments on the portfolios would be greatly appreciated - what you may like to see more or less of in them, what is good and not so good.

Sadly we farewell Delano from our Possum group at the end of this term. Luckily we will still get to see him as he's only moving over to the Wombats. We look forward to welcoming a new friend to our group next term.

We have been commenting on how much progress your children have made since starting at preschool. Everyone is really settled now, listening well, concentrating for longer periods of time, playing cooperatively together and looking after each other. We are very proud of all our possums, and as their parents, you should be too.

Enjoy your break and see you next term.

Sharon, Kim and Karen.

Roster Report

Thankyou to everyone who turned up and did roster this term. I hope you and your child enjoyed the day.

You would have received next term's roster, please mark on your calendar when your allocated day is. A big thank you to those who placed their names on the request roster, it makes my job a lot easier when compiling the rosters if this is done. Congratulations to the Mon/Tue Possums and also the Wed Possums who were the best groups having nearly every request filled. Also thank you to those couple of people who place their names down twice, it really helps.

I hope everyone has a great holiday and returns refreshed for Term 3 with Grandparents' Day and Kindy Olympics. If anyone would like to help out at these events please see your teacher as extra helpers are always needed.

Julie Arnold, Roster Parent.

Maintenance Report

Thank you to everyone who has completed their rostered gardening duties, we know that everyone appreciates starting the week with a clean playground. To the many families who have yet to have their turn, please remember to collect the keys from a staff member during the week of your grounds duty. We thank you in anticipation of completing this terrific service.

The date of the year's first Working Bee has been set for Saturday, July 31 beginning at 2.00pm. Many families have volunteered to join us for two hours on this day. A roster will be distributed soon. Please bring the following items:

- Garden gloves
- Gardening tools
- Paint Brush & Sander

Thanks also to those families who have made a \$30 donation to the Pre-School.

Sarah Codsì

Maintenance Coordinator.



Social Convenor's Report

I hope everyone enjoyed the recent Family Fun Day. With great weather the day went without a hitch. The jumping castle, face painting, lucky dip and plaster moulds were a big hit with the kids. The various food stalls sold out of all the great homemade delights. I would like to say a very big thank you to all the parents, committee members and staff who offered their services on the day. By volunteering on a stall, making food, and/or selling raffle tickets we have been able to raise \$4000 which will be spent on new gates for the preschool.



A big thank you also goes out to all our sponsors for the day - Coles Carlingford, Dance First Academy Carlingford, Carlile Swimming Carlingford, Dymocks Carlingford, Webster's Gourmet Meat Kitchen, Beauty Encounter, Beautiful Blossoms, Fusion Cruises and Martelli's Fruit Market. Our success is dependent on the generous support of our local businesses and as such we are extremely appreciative.

Other local businesses which I would like to mention are Noodle Pot Carlingford Court (*for supplying the plastic containers for the International Food Stall*) and Mobil Carlingford Care (*for supplying the ice*).

Upcoming events to mark in your diaries:

Kindy Olympics - August 17/18/19 - This is a great day for the kids to participate in a variety of sporting activities.

Preschool Disco - Sunday 7 November - The DJ is booked so get your dancing shoes on and start practicing your moves as there will be prizes!

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Fun Day.

Vicki Masulans, Social Convenor and the Social Committee.

Publicity Officer's Report

Here we are half way through the year.

I just want to thank everyone who forwarded contributions for this term's newsletter. These contributions help to make the newsletter a valuable resource for parents. I hope you enjoy reading your child(ren)'s class report prepared by their teacher and that the other sections of this edition are of interest to you.

Please support those local businesses mentioned above in Vicki's report, which have supported the preschool in various ways for the Family Fun Day. They receive many requests to support a variety of community events so we are very thankful for the support they have provided to our preschool.

Best regards, Natalie Wilson, Publicity Officer.

Community Information

Preloved Market 4 Little Ones

10am to 1pm, 17th July, 2010

Valentine Sports Park, Meurants Lane, Glenwood

<http://prelovedmarkets.com.au/>

Hide & Seek Handmade Baby and Kid Market

10am to 3pm, Sunday 25th July, 2010

Wrights Road Community Centre

(the new community centre opposite Kellyville Plaza)

Cnr Harrington Avenue & Wrights Rd, Kellyville

Baby and Kid Market

9am to 12noon, Sunday 29th August, 2010

Bernie Mullane Sports Complex,

Marella Ave, Kellyville

<http://babykidsmarket.com.au>

Roselea Public School Spring Fair

10am to 4pm, Saturday 18th September, 2010

All welcome.

There will be a selection of stalls with fun games and activities, gourmet food, showbags, rides, second hand books and clothes and much more!

There are also market stall spaces available for the day for \$35

For further information contact Karen Guy on 0404 038 033.

Community Advertisements

Childcare / Babysitting

Hi, my name is Sandra and I am the mother of four children. My youngest daughter, Elyssa attends preschool on Thurs/Fri. I have worked as a Nanny and Family Day Carer for 18 years. I work from my home in Epping and currently have fulltime, part-time or casual vacancies.

Rate \$7 per hour.

Please call Sandra on 0410 423 658.

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Sporting Club/Community Group earn much needed funds.

1. Help your school Register for the program
2. Encourage other families to become Aussie Farmers Direct customers. (Existing customers can contribute by linking their account to their chosen fundraiser).
3. 2% of each customers spend per year will go towards your nominated School/Sporting Club/Community Group

It is as simple as that. With lots of families involved, over a year that 2% really adds up, so think of all the great things your School/Community Group could achieve.

To jump on board, email the Aussie Farmers Direct Fundraising Team at fundraising@aussiefarmers.com.au or call us on 9015 9177 (Emma) or 9015 9160 (Kayla), and we'll help you get started.

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