

Kindy Capers



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


Term 4, 2011

President's Report	Dates to Remember
<p>It is hard to believe I am sitting writing the final Kindy Capers report for 2011 and that Christmas is just around the corner. I was on Roster last week and saw the Christmas songs, dances and craft in full swing - the weeks of preparation for our beautiful Christmas Concerts is well underway and I eagerly await to see their performances, one definitely not to be missed. It only seems like yesterday we were walking in for the first day of Preschool..... how time flies!</p>  <p>I cannot thank our wonderful staff enough for another fun filled and exciting year. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to all the children is just one of the reasons I love WEPS. It is amazing to watch how much the children develop and mature through out the year under all their guidance.</p> <p>To everyone who has helped at the preschool this year - a very big THANK YOU! All the roster parents, people who attended working bees, helpers at the Family Fun Day and all the other ways people help out. The mothers, fathers, aunts, cousins, grandparents, special friends and family members who support WEPS in many different ways - THANK YOU!</p>  <p>To the Committees - Management and Social, thank you so much for volunteering your time to ensure WEPS is a fantastic preschool. With out all your help, dedication and time it would not be the nurturing environment it is.</p> <p>I wish all the children and families who are heading off to "BIG" school a year of fun, laughter and new experiences. Kai will be starting at "BIG" school in 2012 but I will still be at WEPS with Tahj in 2012 in the Monday/Tuesday group and look forward to meeting his new class mates and parents for another fun and exciting year.</p> <p>Finally, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and fun filled holiday and look forward to catching up with you in 2012.</p> <p>Deb Smith</p>	<p>Preschool holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool breaks up Friday 16th December• 2012 Enrolment Day; Monday 30th January, 9.30am <p>Christmas Concerts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 13 December: Party and concert only for Amanda's Possums.• Wednesday 14 December: 3 day Wombats and all Wednesday children including Amanda's children who attend for a third day.• Friday 15 December: For all Thursday /Friday children.

Director's Report

I am most grateful to the parents who have helped during 2011. The Management and Social Committee, roster parents, grandparents have all contributed in many ways and the Staff thank you for your continued support.

Thank you for your understanding re our inability to reheat children's lunches. As explained we are updating our Food Policy and researching safe food practices. We cannot reheat food to the required temperature of 60 degrees and ensure it is eaten in time before bacteria grows.

Following recent media attention re garden snails and slugs. At preschool, staff encourage children to look  and not touch snails and slugs and for hands to be washed if slugs and snails are touched.

Fund raising money will be used towards internal painting over the holidays, a new sand pit cover and payment of our internal blinds.

If anyone decides they no longer require a position in 2011 please ring and leave a message on the answering machine over the holidays.

Each family is asked to attend Enrolment Day **Monday 30 January** for some period between 9 am and 11 am. Children will meet their teacher, parents complete paper work, Term 1 fees are due on this day. Ellen will email Term 1 invoices to parents if an email address has been provided. Fees will be \$42 per day.

As children turn 4 years old we require an updated copy of their Immunisation History Statement available from www.medicareaustralia.gov.au OR Medicare office OR by phoning 1800 653 809.

Children leaving preschool will receive their Portfolio or Memory Book. Preschool staff have worked extremely hard to present these treasured books. Parents of returning children are most welcome to view portfolios if you haven't done so already. All children will receive a CD of photos taken during this current year.



All staff wish our families a very Merry Christmas and safe holiday. We thank you for the pleasure of being involved in your child's early education and we hope your children leave preschool with many happy memories. I also give a huge thanks to the wonderful and dedicated Staff we are fortunate to have at this preschool.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday,

Julie Bligh
Director.

Teachers' Reports

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Group - Wombats



My last report for our 3 day Wombats before they head off to school, we have had such an amazing, full year. This term has been extremely busy with children showing a continued interest in reptiles and amphibians. Just about every week there has been a request for the rubber reptiles to be included in the block area where the children have made *tortoise castles* and *reptile zoos* as they work collaboratively with their peers. The skink lizards in the lower playground are very tame as they bask in the sun for the children to observe.



As many children already had a lot of knowledge about Dinosaurs we were able to build on this and include many dinosaur experiences into the program. One of the favourites was our drama where we pretended to be dinosaurs being hatched followed by various adventures. We were impressed with the persistence, interest and detail that children included in their dinosaur paintings and craft experiences.



Aunty Wendy's Aboriginal cultural experience was once again a highlight of the term.

Wendy is a sought after early childhood entertainer who loves coming to our preschool and seeing how we include diversity within our programmes.

The children have been excited about their school orientation visits. We have reinforced school transition with stories, discussion, dress ups etc. The children have explored a range of texts during Show and Tell as everyone brought a favourite book from home to share with the group. This also enabled children to express why they liked their chosen book and to communicate the storyline of the book.

Our best wishes to all of our Wombat children and families and safe travelling to any holiday makers,

Kind regards.

Julie , Sally and Karen.



Thursday/Friday Group - Wombats



We began the term learning all about frogs enjoying stories such as *Hairy Charlie and The Frog*, *The Floatiest Frog*, and *The Teeny Weeny Tadpole*. We enjoyed songs like Mr Frog and Three Little Specked Frogs and also had lots of fun with balloons during music. Our discussions then moved to lizards as the preschool lizards made many appearances in the playground to sunbake!! The children were fascinated.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit from "Aunty Wendy" and her wonderful show teaching us all

about Australia's indigenous culture. Everyone enjoyed their trip in her blue Holden as we sang The Wheels On The Holden. We pretended to be different Australian Animals as well as the people around the campfire at the Corroboree. Our favourite songs were Red, Black and Yellow, and Kangaroo Rock.

What we want to be when we grow up provided an amazing discussion-so many of our Wombats want to be princesses and princes, dragons, dinosaurs and motor bikers! We enjoyed stories such as *Princess Princess*, and *Who Wants a Dragon?*

The children have become more creative this term with their block building. This provides so many learning experiences including problem solving, and working as a team. Our fine motor skills are also being developed constantly thru the craft activities such as drawing, painting and cutting, playdough and construction such as Lego and other construction activities. We have had some amazing space ships and rockets as well as planes built with the Lego.



The children have all enjoyed our variety of turn taking games this term. To take turns, wait a turn and appreciate the success of our peers is such a vital element to our school readiness programme.

The children have certainly all grown and matured over the year and it has been wonderful and enjoyable to have been able to be involved with them over this year. We have had a busy but fun year and we would like to wish everyone all the best for 2012.

Best wishes to everyone for a relaxing, safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

See you in 2012!!

Lisa and Angela



Monday/Tuesday Group - Possums & Bilbies

As the year draws to a close, I must admit that I am feeling a bit emotional this time round. We have had such a lovely year full of laughter and cuddles. From day one of first term the children have 'clicked' together and really enjoyed spending time in each others company. I have been very proud of the inclusive environment, that myself, Carmel and Serina have been able to create within this class. Very early on we challenged the children to explore any hurtful comments that had been made as well as praising any helpful acts or comments done spontaneously. The children have taken this on board so well that we as staff often feel redundant as we watch the children assisting their peers and working well as a team. We belong to such a rich and wonderful community of varying cultures, languages, abilities and religions and it is my aim to create an appreciation of difference as well as an understanding of similarities. I would like to thank all of the parents who have assisted me this year with helping us to learn about so many new festivals and beliefs. I would also welcome any other parents who would like to share their family traditions.



Term 4 began with a study of insects that we had found in the playground. We took photos and researched using books and the internet to discover which species we had found. We then moved on to a study of Indigenous Australians, in particular we looked at

Ancient Aboriginal folklore compared to Modern Aboriginals. We read some dreamtime stories and did some traditional rock art. We looked at stories and Factual texts about modern Aboriginals as well as attempting some modern Aboriginal artwork. Aunty Wendy visited and told us about some of the different aspects of the Aboriginal culture, but mainly focused on the many similarities.

We have done a lot of school readiness preparations as well as trying to prepare our preschool returnees for the changes ahead of them. We have been having school lunches mixed with the Wombats. We have had many discussions about big school and how best to cope with the nerves you feel when encountering something new. We have asked the children to stop, take 3 breaths and then tell yourself (in your head) that you can do it.



We also had a very interesting discussion about boys and girls toilets. Some boys had not been in a 'boy's toilet' or used a Urinal. Some boys thought the urinals were sinks. We did discuss the differences but please dads take your sons to visit some male toilets over the holidays if you have not already. After our talk, we had a very funny moment where Isaac and Jayden created their own 'boys preschool change room' where they could go and privately put on their fairy dresses- very cute!

For those children leaving us for big school, I wish you all the very best and hope that I will still see you around sometime and hear about all your achievements. For my Possums who are becoming Wombats with me next year, I look forward to another fabulous year. Last but not least to my 2 little Possums who are remaining Possums with Julie next year- I will meet you at the lockers to catch up on all your news!

Have a great holiday everyone, stay safe.

Amanda, Carmel and Serina

Wednesday Group - Possums



What a Year we've had. Term 4 is always the best term with our 3year old group. Everyone has become more social and confident. They are enjoying each others company and are keen to try new experiences as well as revisit old favourites. This is my first year having a combined Bilby/Possum group and I must admit that although challenging at times it certainly has its advantages. The bilbies have the opportunity to be leaders on Wednesday and the Possums enjoy the company and challenge involved in playing with older, more socially advanced peers.

This has been a great year and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents. Serina and I feel very fortunate to have such a friendly and warm group of parents this year, we have enjoyed getting to know you and your lovely children. For the past three years Serina and I have been taking the one day group and it was quite common for the majority of those one day children to remain with me in the two day group for the following year. This year I find myself in the strange position that only two of the children from the Wednesday group will be in the 3 day group with me next year. We are all spreading out to different groups, which is sad for me but I will just have to visit each group for chats next year.



The Bilbies are all heading off to big school and I wish them all the best on their next adventure. Josh and Lachlan are also leaving us and we hope they have lots of fun at their new preschool. We

hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Thanks for a terrific year

Amanda, Serina and Carmel.

Thursday/Friday Group - Possums

Well, the year has come to an end and we are so proud of how far your children have come this year. While we are saddened to see them move onto big school, we have enjoyed sharing in their excitement as they have talked about their school orientations, meeting their buddies and buying their school uniforms. We can't wait to see them in their school uniforms at the end of the term. Dramatic play has been a highlight of this term. We have enjoyed pretending to be at big school - dressing in uniforms, and taking on the role of teacher and student. We have also especially enjoyed being doctors (with some interesting cures to medical problems) and hairdressers (with some very fancy hairdos).



Aunty Wendy provided us with a great performance and an opportunity to learn about the Aboriginal culture. We enjoyed learning some new songs and dances, and Jackson was awesome on the didgeridoo.

We have focussed a lot of our goals on group collaboration and cooperation this term - encouraging the children to listen to each other and the ideas of their peers. Working cooperatively to achieve a group goal has led to many satisfying group projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your child's development. As teacher's we cherish the memories your children give us. We hope that we have also given your child memories to cherish. So to all of our wonderful Thursday/Friday Possums and their families, we wish you all the best. To the majority moving onto big school - we hope you settle into your new environment quickly and enjoy your school days. We look forward to seeing a couple of you at preschool next year. We hope you also settle into your new groups and enjoy another great year at preschool.

We hope you all have a great Christmas and a wonderful, relaxing holiday.

Sharon, Kim and Karen



Roster Report

I can't believe the year is coming to a close already it has flown by. I write my last report for the year and sadly for me my last at the preschool as my youngest child heads off to big school. Thank you to everyone who has done roster this year the staff really appreciate your time and effort and the children love having their parent or grandparent helping at preschool for the morning.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas break and a big Thank you to all the staff who have taken such great care of my four children over the last five years, we will all miss the preschool.

Julie Arnold



Ground Report

A big thanks to all those families rostered on for leaf blowing throughout the year - it's lovely to have so many trees around the pre-school and to see the playgrounds leaf free each Monday!

Cathy Nagy



Baby News



Congratulations and welcome

A new little brother for Ethan Low, from the 3 day Wombat group.

Supporting WEPS family's businesses




Indigo 9 Design



www.indigo9design.com.au

Specialising in Wedding Invitations
and other Special Occasion Stationery

Invitations That Impress



TASTY TREATS AND MORE ...

BEAUTIFUL BIRTHDAY CAKES & PARTY BOXES
ICE CREAM CAKE, SMASH CAKE & CUPCAKES
KOSHER AND GLUTEN FREE TOO

THEMED PARTIES
NAME A THEME AND WE'LL PERSONALISE IT FOR YOU

CALL 0412 478 768 TO ORDER