



St. Dunstan's Preschool

Newsletter Oct 2018.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are so fortunate to have families who support our service with their time and their input to our program. The conversations that we have with our families are valuable and are always taken into consideration when we are planning the learning environment for the children. Please keep sharing information with us about your child, especially in your child's Black Book as the books are very precious to the children.

Assessment and Rating update

We are pleased to announce that we have once again received an Exceeding rating with our recent Assessment and Rating visit from the Department of Education.

We have a wonderful team of staff at the preschool and the result is a reflection of the commitment that each staff member gives to our service.

We will continue to provide an exceeding service with a focus on quality and support for all the children and their families.

You are very welcome to read the draft report which is available in the office.

Fee reduction for term 4

We are also pleased to announce that we will be reducing our fees for term 4. We are a nonprofit making service and are blessed to have an opportunity to pass down any fee reduction when possible. Your new invoice for term 4 fees will be emailed to all families this week.

Here is a rundown of all the final events for this year.

- Kindergarten visit excursion dates: Mon Nov 19 and Thurs Nov 22.
- Family Fun Day Saturday Nov 17 11-1pm
- Family meetings: start Mon Nov 26.
- Magic show: Wed Dec 5 and Fri Dec 7.
- Christmas parties and concerts:
3 day group - Tues Dec 18
2 day group - Fri Dec 14

Please note that both these party days finish at 1pm.

All information for events at St Dunstan's Preschool are regularly updated on our website.
stdpk.org.au

Fundraising Volunteers

We would like to thank the fundraising volunteers for all their hard work this year. In particular, we would like to thank both Sandra and Michelle who have coordinated all our fundraising events for this year. Previously with the funds raised we have been able to purchase new books, indoor furniture and fund the Zoo visit and Magic show.

The final fundraising ventures for this year will be a family planner for 2019 with your child's art attached and a raffle to be drawn on the last day party days.

If you have any items that you can donate for the raffle, such as vouchers and goods, or any connections for possible raffle items please see Julie.

Family Fun Day

Our last Family Fun day has been organised for Saturday Nov 17, 11-1pm. The cost will be \$20 per family, We will once again have a day filled with children's activities, arts and crafts, face painting, jumping castle, cake and sushi stall and a sausage sizzle.



We are asking for your help to donate some baked goods, lolly bags, sushi ingredients to make your own sushi fresh on the day, popcorn or any party treat to be sold at our stall. Please keep in mind that we promote a nut-free environment.

More information will be in your child's note pocket shortly.

Litter free Lunch and snacks

Esther is our "Munch and Move" representative and has previously added some interesting information in regard to healthy food choice for both lunch and snacks and we are pleased with the results. Recently we have noticed the amount of litter that is left after lunch and morning/afternoon tea.

We have many sustainable projects with the children and frequently have discussions regarding what we can do to help save the planet. Reducing litter is one small thing that we can all do.

Waste free means only packing items that can be composted or recycled and that won't end up in the garbage bin. That means, no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods.

Following these rules can be tricky, but it's not impossible. First, you'll need some containers – a lunch box with a variety of compartments works well or purchase a few smaller containers to hold different snacks. A great morning tea snack that is waste free can consist of hummus dip with veggie sticks.

For more information visit: <https://healthy-kids.com.au/waste-free-lunch/>

Supporting the homeless through Parramatta Baptist Church

10c bottle recycling.

If you have cans and bottles that you won't be returning for the 10c cashback, we will be collecting them as part of our sustainability practices and community outreach.

All funds raised will be going to Parramatta Baptist Church community outreach program. The program supports people at risk of homelessness.

Please rinse bottles, do not remove labels and place items in the recycle bin which will be near the entry gate.

Thankyou.

Stacey.

Claremont Nursing Home visit

In our quest to connect with the local community, Maxine suggested that we host a visit from the local Nursing Home. They have accepted our invitation and 6 residents with 2 carers will be visiting us on Wednesday 31 Oct at 10.30 for about 1 hour. We are looking forward to preparing a morning tea and presenting a concert for them.

Family meetings

Our family meetings are planned for 2 weeks starting Nov 26. We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you. Information for booking your time will be placed in your child's note pocket.

Transition to school statement

In September 2015 the Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli, launched the new Transition to School Statement. This is a written tool that is a child focused, practical tool designed in consultation with professionals from the early childhood and school sectors. Further information can be found on the Department of Education and Communities website.

www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec

Further information will also be shared with you at our family meetings for you to give to your child's primary school teacher.

Michelle has attached a handy Ready for school checklist for you to support your child as they transition to school more information can be found at:
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/is-my-child-ready-to-start-school>

Christmas giving

This year we will be once again supporting Anglicare's "Toys and Tucker" project. You can support it by donating toys and canned food for children & families in need. We invite you to purchase gifts which you can label them with the appropriate gender and age for the gift recipient. Alternatively you can donate canned food. We will notify you when we are starting this project.

Excursion to the local Habitat

Community Garden

Sephine, in her role of Sustainability officer, has planned an excursion to the local Habitat garden, located at Santa Rosa Park on Quarry Road. Unfortunately it is only open for visitors on a Wednesday. The Habitat is a community food garden and a community native plant nursery that specialises in growing plants native to the Ryde area.

Sephine has already completed the risk assessment for the excursion which we are planning to have in the next few weeks of this term.

We will be asking for volunteers to assist us and more information will be available soon.

Excursion to Denistone East Public School

Michelle has planned an excursion to Denistone East Primary School for all the children. The aim of the excursion is to visit a Kindergarten Class as an orientation to school. Even if your child will be attending a different school or returning to

preschool, it is still a valuable opportunity for them to explore the new environment and assist with making a school setting a little bit more familiar for them.

The dates are set for Monday November 19 and Thursday 22. All the information will be attached in the parent excursion authority form and there is a copy of the excursion risk management plan in the office for you to view.

Please return your permission slip promptly when it is placed in your child's note pocket.

If you would like to help us with supervision on the day, please let Michelle know.

Carpark safety

Thank you to all the families who are driving carefully and being aware of the danger to children and other cars, especially when opening car doors and holding hands at all times whilst in the carpark.

Thank you.

Family feedback

In November a family feedback survey (by Survey Monkey) will be emailed to all families by Stacey. Your feedback is important, as it guides us in our decisions towards creating a high quality service.

This year we will also be asking you to have a conversation with your child so that they can contribute by drawing their favourite part of their stay at our preschool.

Please complete the feedback online and complete a drawing/story to place in the box on the kitchen bench,

Thank you.

Sun safe reminders

With the hot summer months coming up please continue to remember to bring your child's hat. Remember to apply sun screen on your child for morning play protection. Sun screen, broad spectrum 50+, will be available for you to use on top of the lockers and at the outside sink which you can apply when you arrive at preschool.

We are always looking for spare hats...
does anyone have some to donate to the
preschool?
Thank you

All the friendly staff are here to help you,
so please feel free to approach any of us if
you have any questions.

Julie, Michelle, Maxine, Stacey, Esther,
Terrie, Saphine, Young and Simone.

