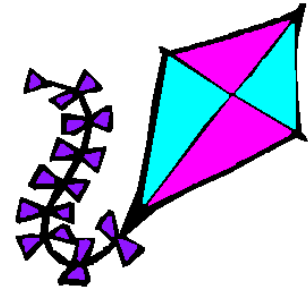


NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2012

WELCOME all to our wonderful preschool here at Engadine Church of Christ (hereafter referred to as ECOPCS). Your child and family are beginning on a journey of discovery that will take us all to places yet to be discovered and what a privilege it is for us to share in this with you. Thank you for trusting us with the responsibility of caring and nurturing your child in developing them to their fullest potential.



We welcome some new staff to our team this year. **Mrs. Christine Tsang** will be the Early Childhood Teacher on Wednesdays I will be completing administration duties during this time. Often this will be off site.

Also, we welcome a new trainee Certificate Child Studies student, **Brigette Green** who will work full time.

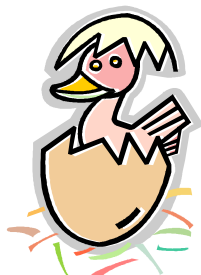
Some vacancies exist on Wednesdays Only and when these spots are filled we will be seeking the services of a full time Diploma in Children's Services person. Anyone wishing to extend their child's position from 2 days to 3 days , please do so asap as these Wednesday positions may not be available for long.

The EYLF (Early Years Learning Framework) is **Australia's first National Curriculum** statement for educators working with early education of children up to the age of 5 years. We believe that 'play shapes the architecture of the brain in unique ways; it links social, creative and cognitive skills" (Bartlett, 2010)

During this term we will discover together more about ourselves and the many things we can do as we are becoming independent and have opportunity to use our developing skills. We are wonderfully created and God gave us our 5 senses to explore and use in our learning. We will incorporate activities focusing on particular strengths , interests and skills we use . Remember to look at the **daily program** displayed on the fridge door and watch the **daily DVD** and read & make a comment in the **Day Book** displayed near the yellow trolley at the end of the day. **YOUR** comments and feedback are important to us!



Can each child please bring a **photo** of all the people who live at their house, to go on our family tree?



FREE

and coming up in week 4 commencing on Monday 20th February (for two weeks) is a fun **duck hatching program** where the children will have opportunity to observe ducklings hatching from eggs and see

them grow and change.(a lot like themselves!). It is very Eggciting and everyone can be involved.

Preschool Photo Week will be in week 3 on Monday 13.2.12, Wednesday 15.2.12 and Friday 17.2.12 while your child is at preschool. Each child will have their photos taken individually and a group picture will be included in the package which is \$52. Photos will be available after a few weeks for you to purchase. You pay for what you choose to keep. Photos must remain at the preschool until paid in full.

PRESCHOOL AGM TO BE HELD in March. The General Preschool Management Meeting will follow the AGM.

A **Parent Education evening** will be held on Wednesday 22nd February@ 7.00pm where anyone interested in learning about 'WHAT WE DO AT PRESCHOOL' is welcome to attend. Some participation in games is guaranteed and lots of fun and laughs. FREE. Light supper provided. If you have any specific questions you would like answered, pop them in the locked green box in the office. If your name is attached I can get back to you personally.



“Activate Kid” with Tanya is conducted each Tuesday and Thursday while the children attend preschool. Fees for this experience are \$3 per week and detailed on your account statement. We will commence in week 2 and the program runs for 8 weeks each term.

Anyone interested in assisting with **fundraising** is welcome to attend a meeting at the preschool Tuesday 14th February between 11am – 12noon. All ideas considered. (put your suggestion in the green box in the office if not able to come to the meeting). I especially need someone to be a 'Treasurer' and administer banking and records from fundraising.

Parents are reminded that we encourage everyone to help with the **chocolate drive** and all other fundraising as you feel able.

FUNDRAISING is an integral part of our functioning. Love it or loathe it, it forms a very important part of our budget. We encourage you be involved at whatever level you are able to participate. We ask everyone to engage in the chocolate Drive (now on) and also the Mother's & Father's Day shops (held at appropriate times in the year), as well as the **OPEN DAY held Saturday 8th September**. All other fund raising events please feel free to engage in them or leave alone.

FAMILY BBQ – MEET'N'GREET We are having a BBQ sausage together and a play in the playground Saturday 18th February 8am – 10am. All families (church and preschool) WELCOME! Come and meet other families that your child plays with while at preschool.

Maybe some volunteers to make some muffins / cupcakes to follow the sausages would be a great help! See Di or Jenny if able to assist please.

FREE, put your name down on the list for catering purposes please.

BYO water bottle. Tea/coffee provided.

Family Portraits will be taken Saturday 10th March. Please make an appointment on the schedule if you would like to pursue this. Each sitting is \$15 which will give you a beautiful Family portrait. Other photos can be purchased if desired but \$15 is the only fee required to cover cost of the Family Portrait. Please note this is a fundraising activity and not related to the preschool photographs being taken in February.

Reading Buddies will commence on Friday afternoons with children from Engadine West Public School @ 2.30. This program was very successful last year and will be continued. Each child is partnered with a buddy for a short reading experience followed by a game. Your child will be notified of their Buddy's name when this commences.



The children will all have a turn to take **GB MAN (gingerbread man)** during the year for one week. Each child is encouraged to take GB man as they go about their weekly routines and then write a few lines (with parent help) about their special adventure with G B Man to share at preschool. The purpose of this experience is to create a link between home and preschool. **It is not meant to be parent homework!** Please include either a photo or drawing illustrating your adventures with GB Man. This will be added to your child's portfolio which we make at preschool for each child.



Your child will have a turn at "**My special treasure Bag**". On the appointed day, your child will take home "the bag" and bring it in the next day with a collection of their favourite things. Eg family photo, toy, CD, book, clothes, game etc. The child will share these special treasures in a small experience during outside playtime.

An "**Exercise Bag**" will go home on a rotational basis for all children to have a turn at using the equipment contained in the bag. The aim of this is to develop the children's activity levels in the outdoor environment where they are playing and being involved in large muscle movement activities. NSW Health has promoted this activity through the "munch & move program".



Aussie Farmers is an Australian company supporting aussie products and has a huge array of food available to be delivered to your door. A brochure will come home soon explaining what it is all about. Meanwhile, check out the aussiefarmers website for more details. We will organise a product sampling at preschool for you to see and try. Preschool receives 2% per order from everyone who places an order for 6 months or more. I love having my milk, bread, eggs and fruit delivered to my door!

PAINT ON CLOTHES can be removed by soaking the garment in cold water ONLY. DO NOT USE STAIN REMOVAL SPRAYS ETC. After overnight soaking, wash in the normal manner.

ROAD SAFETY is of paramount importance to encourage all children to HOLD AN ADULT the preschool ALL THE WAY TO THE CAR. help you and your child to learn this simple but in learning to keep safe.



us and we
HAND as they exit
Please help us to
very important step

As children leave the preschool building each afternoon they will be reminded that the playground is not supervised at this time so they are not allowed to climb on the climbing equipment. Please help us to reinforce this new learning and help keep everyone safe.

Is there a **celebrity chef** out there? Maybe you would like to share your culinary skills with the children? If yes, please see me so we can arrange same.



NUT FREE ZONE stickers will be placed on all lunch boxes when they arrive. We have a few children who are affected by nuts and all families are requested to observe the nut free policy. Anaphylaxis is a very serious consequence and we appreciate your consideration for others. Please see the website for NSW health for further information about anaphylaxis.

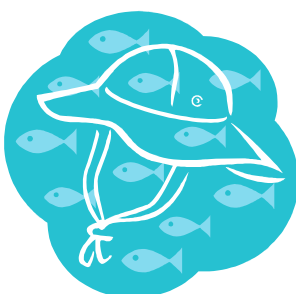
This is a 10 week term and fees are set at \$42 per day for all children. Fees for Activate Kid with Tanya are set at \$3 per session for 8 weeks. (\$24 term).

If your child has any special needs or requirements please make an appointment to speak privately with me so we can plan and organise for a successful happy time at preschool.

Safety is all around us and for these reasons you are reminded to observe policy relating to the following;

- **cut** grapes in half to avoid choking hazard
- **wear** closed in footwear (**sandals accepted but not toe peepers**)
- **clothing needs to be sunsafe** (no shoestring straps or mid drifts) but has a short sleeve.

Sunscreen is available daily in the office for you to apply to your child. Please tick on the “sign-in” sheet when your child has had sunscreen applied.



*Always pack a hat no matter what the weather. **No hat = No play in the sun.** (This means your child must have a **sun safe hat**. Not “any hat will do”. If you are providing your own hat, please ensure there are NO strings hanging off the hat that will get caught on the climbing equipment. We will need to cut any hat that has strings attached! If you borrow a preschool

hat please return it washed before someone else can use it. You may purchase cancer council approved hats from the office @\$5 each. If you would like it monogrammed with your child's name see Jenny as we have someone willing to do this for just \$5.50c. per name.

The NSW Cancer Council has provided pamphlets, which is enclosed with this newsletter containing important information about sun protection.

If you require labels for bottles, boxes, socks, hats, pencils etc, I encourage you to use the **Identi Kid** brochure provided at orientation. The brochure is coded so a \$ % returns to preschool. Please go to their website to order and quote our fundraiser code 0105.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS are held each term with the children. At the sound of a long whistle blow, all children leave everything and crawl to the exit door, follow teacher to safe waiting zone near the church entry and have their name ticked off. The children learn to listen for their name & respond only to their name. You can assist us in showing the children the "sign" at the courtyard gate entrance and why it is there. Simply say "to provide a safe waiting space if we ever have to leave the preschool in a hurry". No need to say anything that might put fear into the children.

Storytime @ Preschool We are very fortunate to have two special volunteers, Mrs Rhondda, who comes to visit on Tuesdays and Mrs Chris on Fridays to read stories to the children. These ladies are wonderful storytellers and the children very much enjoy the time they can meet with us. Usually between 9.30 –10.30. Another "nan" is probably starting reading groups on Wednesdays too! Will keep you posted when more information comes to hand!

Sustainability and Environment A significant part of the new curriculum in the EYLF involves how we are teaching the children to develop and maintain environmentally sustainable habits. We would like to especially target "waste" in the form of plastic wrapping that is not needed when sandwiches are placed in containers that can be washed and reused. Please help us to teach the children these small steps. Also, you might consider the use of reusable containers when sending yoghurt to preschool. Much more cost effective too! Please send food that is nutritious and avoid processed foods as much as possible.

We will be discussing these topics during fruit time & lunch times with the children.

Portfolios are kept for each child at preschool. These contain work samples and observations on your child and are updated regularly. Sometimes we will send you a special piece of paper to write your special event/s on to record these significant times in your family. You can of course just bring your "news" in on any paper and it will be added to your child's portfolio.

Parent Interviews can be conducted informally at the beginning or end of the day and also by appointment. Wednesday parents please make your appointments with Christine & I will see parents from other days.

Easter Celebration will be held for all preschool & church families on Sunday 25th March @ 9.30. Please come along and here the children sing some of the songs, poems they will be learning. Afterwards there will be a free jumping castle and sausage sizzle. Some volunteers to provide slice, cupcakes will be sort closer to the event, thankyou!

Parent Library is available in the office on a wide variety of topics for you to borrow. Just record your details in the book in the office. Return when finished . A collection of useful information pamphlets is also available in the office behind the glass door. Please take as many as you wish to read.

Looking forward to a great year as we grow together.

Dianne Wackwitz B. Ed (Special Needs) Dip. SKTC

Director / Nominated Supervisor

Return to the green locked box in office. Please provide your name (if desired) so I can see you for followup details.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS:

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUNDRAISING:

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENT LIBRARY:

Please return the following page to go into your child's portfolio

Child Name

Preferred name (if applicable)

Names & relationship to me of people who live at my house:

My favourite toy is

My pet/s name/s is/are

My favourite place to visit is

My favourite movie is

My favourite food is

My friend's name is

Things I do NOT like are

I am special because

Any other information you may want us to know includes:

Some things I can do are:

I can draw a picture of me like this:

date: