



January 2015

Newsletter

Welcome back everyone and a very special hello to all new families; we hope you had a nice and relaxing summer break!



When we get to school we...



1. Find our nametag and choose a locker
2. Put our sleep bag in the basket
3. Put on sunscreen and get an 'I'm sun safe' stamp.
4. Put on our wide brimmed hat
5. Make sure we are signed into the daily roll.

What to bring to school

A friendly reminder list about the things we have to bring to pre-school. Please don't forget to label everything with your child's name on it.

1. Bag with spare clothes and 2 sets of underwear.
2. A sun safe, broad-brimmed hat that goes home every day.
3. A fitted cot sheet & flat sheet for sleep time that goes home every day.

*Please don't forget our sun safe policy that requires children to wear a

....shirt with sleeves!

** Parents apply sun-screen to their child first thing in the morning. Sunscreen is provided at the centre, please ask a teacher.

Dummies and bottles: If your child uses a dummy during rest time please place in a labelled container found on the shelf in the change room. Bottles are labelled and filled at home to be brought to the centre and placed in the fridge. Please make sure your bottle is labelled with a cap over the teat or it is turned into the bottle so it's not exposed. **Please note:** When a child uses a dummy in the Bellbird room we encourage them to 'self-manage' by taking their own dummy out of their bag at rest time and putting it back before free play.

Program in the classrooms

We have a computer monitor mounted on the wall in both the Koala and Bellbird rooms. These computer monitors are for our daily slideshow at the end of the day for parents to enjoy. Please enjoy the show however if you want to go through the slides a little faster help yourself to the wireless keyboard on the shelf near the tower and use the right arrow key.

Internet research: We have the availability to research subjects and interests of children online. We have already had a lot of fun learning about Australia Day and the flag looking at images and celebrations.

Staff responsibility: Due to the exposure from the internet and the large interest children can take, staff will ensure that websites, images and video clips from YouTube or any other source are first checked to ensure suitability. Staff will construct a lesson plan that will ensure that learning material is fitting however if you have any concerns about our program please see your teacher and discuss what you or your child is concerned about and we can talk it over together.

Parents are encouraged to support our daily program that is displayed in our floor book in the room each day. On the daily program you are also able to check on those Website addresses and from there you can check those sites at home. Supporting our daily program is always great and so much fun when children bring material and resources from home to talk about at school.

Early Years Learning Framework **(EYLF)**



The Early Years
Learning Framework
Professional Learning Program

Our care and education platform is based on the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) of belonging, being and becoming and is governed by the National Quality Standards. The purpose of the National Law is to create a jointly governed uniform national approach to

the regulations and quality assessments are made periodically on education and care services. At Hillside preschool our educators actively engage in their own professional growth that leads to thoughtful judgement and decision making for all children's learning. Through reflective practice we think more deeply about our work that motivates us to explore new ideas and approaches to create a more spontaneous learning outcome.



It's not 'just play'.

Play is an essential part of early learning. It is the lifeblood of the learning process. As children play they are developing the cognitive, socio-emotional and physical skills they will need

to take them into a successful adulthood.

They are developing their curiosity, problem solving, intentionality, flexibility, and verbal & non-verbal skills.

Socio-emotionally they are developing their emotional intelligence - learning confidence, cooperation, negotiation, sharing, empathy and how to communicate appropriately.

Physically their fine motor and gross motor skills are being practised and developed.

It's not 'just play' they are skills for life!!!



WHEN YOUR CHILD COMES HOME MESSY!

Red paint in the hair? Blue paint on jeans? Sand in the shoes? Vegemite on a favourite shirt? White socks that look brown? Sleeves a bit damp?

YOUR CHILD PROBABLY...worked with a friend, solved a problem, created a masterpiece, negotiated a difference, learned a new skill, had a great time, and developed new language skills.

YOUR CHILD PROBABLY DIDN'T...feel lonely, become bored, do repetitive tasks that are too easy or babyish, do sit down to work that is discouraging.

YOU PROBABLY...paid good money for those clothes, will have trouble getting the paint out, are concerned the caregiver is not paying much attention to your child.

YOUR CAREGIVER PROBABLY...was aware of your child's individual needs and interests, spent time planning a challenging activity for the children, encouraged the children to try new things, was worried you might be concerned.

Young children really learn when they are actively involved in play. There is a difference between 'messy' and 'lack of care'. Your caregiver made sure your child was fed, warm, offered new skills and planned messy fun things to do because that's how young children learn!

Anti-bias and inclusion program



Our centre respects and embraces the individual differences of staff, families and the wider community. Children need to gain a true and inclusive perspective of people with different physical abilities, non-stereotyped gender roles or cultural attributes.

Multiculturalism: We at Hillside Preschool pride ourselves on supporting our communities' diversity and multiculturalism. Some of our families and children have difficulty understanding English. We therefore support children through the use of important primary words whilst guiding them through their day. We have the pleasure of providing care for Russian, English, Spanish, South African, Chinese, Japanese, Maori and Aboriginal/Torrens Strait Islander children. Children learn quickly and find their way throughout their day using behavioural

queues that staff will pick up on. Staff and children learn together when we interrelate more about each-others customs and habits.

Children with additional needs: Hillside preschool has access to 'Special Needs Services' such as Kindergarten Union (KU). These services will assist our staff with the integration of children with additional needs and compile an individual program for each child and work on a one to one basis with a child and their parents.

A Government funded teacher's aid has been provided to support one-to-one care in our service. This special needs teacher spends time in class to provide opportunities so children reach their full potential and ensures that they are included into the program and our little routine. At Hillside we offer the highest support to families with children that need additional support in class and happily respect their wishes.

Tips for parents first days

It is not unusual for children to cry when their parents leave them at pre-school for the first few weeks. Settling in time is different for all children. Below are some vital tips to help your child settle into pre-school life...

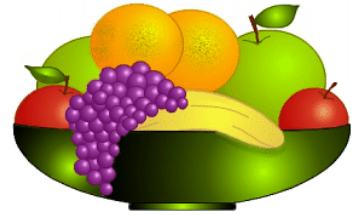


- Take your child to staff in the morning and say hello.
- Have your child put their bag in their locker and their sheets in the basket.
- Take a few minutes to show your child around and for them to choose an activity to play at.
- When your child is playing well, tell them you must leave but you will be back in the afternoon to pick them up.
- Smile (even though you may feel like crying yourself) and confidently give your child a hug and a kiss, say goodbye and leave.
- If your child becomes upset, take them to a staff member and say goodbye.
 - We will cheer your child up. We will not let him cry all day.
- Telephone the centre at any time to check how your child is doing. Staff will call you if we are unable to settle your child.

PLEASE NEVER LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE 😊

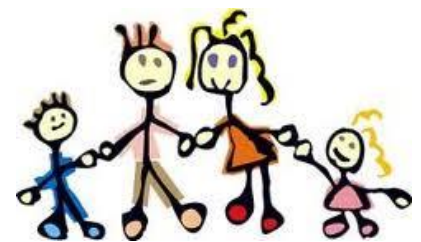
Fruit and Veggie bowl contribution

Thank you to parents that have remembered to bring in a piece of fruit for the day. The children enjoy putting their contribution into the basket that is placed in the foyer and tell us about the fruit they brought during morning tea and afternoon tea time. Please don't forget to bring one in for all of us to share! Thank you for your help 😊



Open Invitation

We would like to remind parents about our open invitation. If you have an interesting job, hobby or interest we would love for you to come and spend some time with the children to tell them about it. We also love it when our mums and dads have some spare time for us to come and read us a story in class or to come and sing and dance with us. Anyone who has some free time we would love to have your company. This would also be a great opportunity for you to share time in your child's day to meet their friends and learn more about our preschool. For any parents, carers or grandparent's who would be interested in spending time with us at preschool; please see your child's teacher to arrange a time that is mutually suitable.



Children's entertainment

Every year we implement a variety of experiences from our list of entertainers. We are starting the year with 'Kindi Farm!' This activity is held for all children in both rooms on the day they come. Kindi Farm will be here on Friday the 27th of February. All Friday families will be asked to sign a permission slip on the day that allows them to enjoy the experience. The charges for this experience will be made to your account and the money may vary between \$9 and \$16. Usually by the end of the year all children have enjoyed one or two experiences as they are organised for different days of the week. Children have a great time with outside entertainers such as multi-cultural shows, Bob Turner and his reptiles etc. We also enjoy experiences from 'the community' such as 'a dentist visit' and 'fire-truck,

ambulance & police'. These experiences are free of charge and also very educational and usually thanks to our wonderful parents ☺

Child Care Entry & Immunisations

NEW LAWS: Enrolments for 2015 need a statement to say they are fully immunised. You can print a statement from Medicare on-line services: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online

Or request a statement via e-mail on acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Or call the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.

Phone: 1800653809

In accordance with the *Public Health Act (1991)* families will be required to provide current information about their child's immunisation before they are enrolled in preschool. This policy is designed to protect families in case of an outbreak.

Notification of childhood illnesses or other health conditions such as head-lice etc. will be posted on the noticeboard in the foyer.



Please help us keep track of any health problems your family may have experienced so that we are prepared for any outbreak that may occur within our community. Even informing us of a gastric incident or someone you know has chickenpox can be of great help. Better that we are informed than taken by surprise ☺

IMPORTANT FACTS

- An up to date ACIR immunisation record is needed for each child care enrolment.
- A Medicare Medical Contraindication form or Conscientious Objection form from a doctor can also be provided as appropriate.
- Children with a minor illness such as a runny nose can be vaccinated.

Please provide the office with your paperwork ASAP

Thanks for your help on this matter



Parent noticeboard

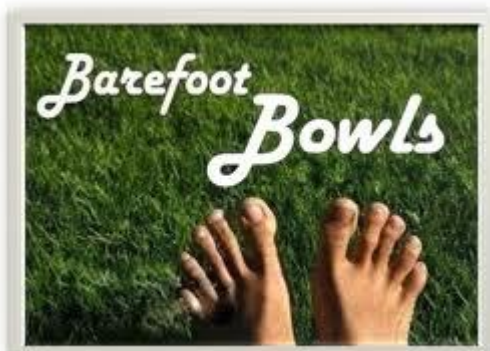
Amy, Janet, Rachael, Caron, Heidi and Loretta are lacing up to walk 55km on March 6th to raise money for the Fred Hollows Foundation, but we'd like you to bare your feet for charity!

BAREFOOT BOWLS!

22nd of February from 11.00am – 1.30pm

At the Terrigal Bowling Club

\$30 PER ADULT & \$15 PER PLAYING CHILD INCLUDES BOWLS AND SAUSAGE SANDWICH. PRIZES AND RAFFLES ON THE DAY. RSVP 14 FEB. PLEASE E-MAIL TO janetbroz@yahoo.co.uk



If you need a tutor or a babysitter...

Miss Lisa's Daughter Annaliese is available for tutoring; K-6 for all subjects and Year 7-11 for Extension Maths and Advanced English, she is well qualified being dux in years 5,6 and Year 12. She is very patient and an excellent teacher of concepts and text. She is also available for babysitting. Annaliese has her own car and is able to tutor in your own home. Her mobile number is 0402 346 036.

New Babies Born!

Congratulations to Mark, Jess and Ella with their new baby girl Aluka.



Congratulations to Paul, Michelle and Tristan with their new baby boy Kaiden.



Recycling resources

We love recycled resources no matter what they are. Cardboard boxes and any other grocery boxes are great for painting and to play grocery shops and anything from home that you are replacing such as pots, pans, bowls or wooden spoons are always very welcome. Thank you for your contributions 😊

We are also looking for all kinds of dress-up clothes please such as shoes, bags, dresses or even old school uniforms 😊 Actually any kinds of dress up or recycling donations would be great!

Staff

Koala room: Miss Rhonda & Miss Lara

Bellbirds room:
Monday: Miss Shjarn & Miss Rose
Tuesday: Miss Shjarn & Miss Lisa
Wednesday: Miss Shjarn & Miss Lisa
Thursday: Miss Shjarn & Miss Rose
Friday: Miss Shjarn & Miss Rose



**Please note that Miss Jess is on maternity leave until March and will then be in the Bellbird room on Monday's and Tuesday's. Miss Jess is the Educational leader and will be here on Mondays to lead the Hillside team into their curriculum and to guide them to what's next. If you want to visit Miss Jess and

say hello to little Aluka they are both here every Monday.

Kitchen: Miss Fiona

Office: Miss Eveline & Miss Robin

Casual staff: Mr Joshua, Miss Lisa, Miss Rose and Miss Sue

Staff Qualifications:

Cert 3: Robin, Shjarn, Rose, Lara, Fiona

Associate diploma: Rhonda & Lisa

3 year Early Childhood Teachers: Jess & Eveline

Primary Teaching degree: Josh



News from the office

Please try and keep your fees up to date. If I am not in the office to help please ask Miss Jess or other staff and they can fix a payment for you. Thank you.

If your child is to be picked up by someone else please let staff know about it and write that person's name on the sign in roll.

People that have never been to the service to pick up your child will be asked for identification and a copy will be taken and placed in your child's folder.

Make Up Days: We have just had our first public holiday. Children that attend the service on that public holiday are entitled to a 'Make-up Day' (MUD) to take at any time of the year. Please check with the office to see what days are available. Because the service is full we would appreciate for families to ring in the morning if their child is not attending so that other families can take advantage of the MUD system. Thanks for all your help ☺

*Please note that if your child is sick on his/her preschool day the day is lost and not made up to use on another day. Please call the office in the morning when your child is sick for record keeping purposes.

**When families go on holidays fees still need to be paid for those days even if your child is not attending the preschool. Please let the office know when you go away so...we don't get worried ☺

Direct Debits: When you make a direct debit into the preschool account to make payments could you please make sure you leave your details with the transaction so we can identify those families that have made them. ☺

Family Statements: Each family is to receive a statement from the preschool every month for record keeping and to keep track of your entitlements. If you are paying full fees and you are an Australian Citizen and a working parent you are entitled to the CCR (Child Care Rebate) that is not means tested. Unfortunately we are dealing with a

Government department and payments should come through our system automatically. If you are having problem with any paperwork please let me know in the office. **Please note that on your statement the total amount will not be correct if you have CCB and/or CCR taken out of your fees as the statements are raised ahead of final government payments made.**

HATS FOR SALE!

We have school hats for sale! Hats come in 2 colours red and blue and are very popular with Bellbird children. They have the Hillside Preschool emblem on it and sell for \$15 each. Examples are hanging in the foyer for you to have a look at and if you would like to buy one please see someone in the office ☺



ALLERGIES: A reminder to all families that one of our teachers has a life threatening condition and is anaphylactic to peanuts. Please do not bring any food products to school that has peanuts in it this includes chocolate such as picnic bars etc. Thanks for your help ☺

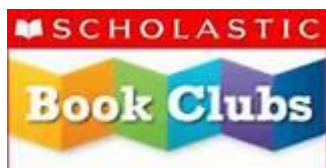


Miss Robin & Miss Eveline



OUR NEWSLETTER COMES TO YOU VIA E-MAIL!!

Families provided e-mail addresses upon enrolment and should receive newsletters and any other information to those addresses provided. If you have changed your address or you can't receive an e-mails please let the office know.



Scholastic

You may have noticed that we have Scholastic book-club pamphlets in the foyer and near the sign-in table. Every dollar we spend goes towards free books for the centre. So please check it out there are some great gift ideas not to mention the school readiness books at a very good price. So please grab one to look through and place your order at the

office with Miss Eveline or Miss Jess ☺ This year they have changed the set-up and there is only one book to order from and orders can be made online paying with credit card using Linked Online Ordering & Payment system (LOOP).

Head-lice!

*Inspection days will be every 6-8 weeks and posted on our sign in roll. We will also inspect a child's head when we notice they have scratched their head more than 3 times. If your child is infected it is expected you take them home for treatment.



Head lice are often found in settings where a lot of children come together ☺

When lice are at adult stage they can transfer between adults and children. At adult stage lice are very vulnerable to harm as they have wings and will die if you comb your hair. It is recommended that children comb their hair with a colourful plastic nit comb while they are washing their hair in the bath. Then when using conditioner it glides through and damages any adult lice that have landed on the head that day. This routine needs to happen every 1-2 days **as a prevention method**. If you find a lot of lice in the comb you will have to treat the hair using a chemical product from the chemist or supermarket.



Bellbirds Room

Welcome back to all of our previous families and welcome all of our new families to the Bellbird room. We have had a great start to the year so far, the koalas of 2014 have transitioned well into the Bellbird room and it's great to see our new friends settle so well into the room ☺ for the first term we are having a rest after lunch so please remember to bring bed sheets for your child. And pretty

please name all of your child's belongings as our lost property basket has already got some items in it.

To get everybody learning each other's names we play lots of circles games and sing songs that involve our names to make the start of the year welcoming.

We have already been so busy this year! We have celebrated Australia day in the Bellbird room, we enjoyed getting our hands messy as we decorated a piece of cardboard in the shape of Australia using blue red and white collage pieces. Not to mention painting our own version of the flag! Clever bellbirds!



We do a lot of team projects in the bellbird room, we all work together to make these big pieces of art so if you are wondering if your child isn't bringing much craft home, it doesn't mean they aren't getting involved in crafty activities at preschool ☺

Our program this year is the "floor book", the children are more involved than ever as they get to add anything they want to it, and all of the ideas in the room come from their interests. The floor book is displayed every day informing you about the things we have been up to in the bellbird room, if anybody is unsure where the program is or find it difficult to understand, all you need to do is ask ☺ we would love to get feedback about the program ☺ and don't forget to check out our slide show on the television screen to see what fun your child has been up too, don't be shy to use the keyboard right arrow key to skip through photos.

Before afternoon tea we have been having a little group session on number recognition, just 1-10 as a little re-fresher after the holidays, we are also working on recognising and writing our names ☺

Interests in the room so far: dinosaurs! Lots of talk about dinosaurs this year! The bellbirds are quite clever on naming them. We are looking forward to making an 'excavation' area for the bellbirds to do some digging to look for fossils!

Recycling: one of our peers brought in a paper making device and this sparked up a big interest in recycling, and where paper comes from. We are teaching the children why paper is important and why we shouldn't waste it. We are learning what each of the coloured bins is for and what goes inside. We also made our own sheets of paper out of old newspapers. What a great experience this was for the children...and teachers! ☺

Thank you wonderful Bellbirds for a great start and please don't forget to bring sleep sheets for rest time, hat and sunscreen applied first thing in the morning, wear a t-shirt and....take all your things home every day including your hat ☺

From all your teachers Miss Jess, Miss Shjarn, Miss Rose and Miss Lisa xx



Koala Room

Welcome back everyone we hope you have had a lovely Christmas and to all our new families...welcome to Hillside Preschool ☺

Well it has been a little busy on some mornings in the Koala room so I hope I have been able to talk to all the families as we do have lots of new families and even some of the older Koala children have been a little unsettled. But as the weeks go by this will all settle down.

We have been so busy in our room getting to know our friends as we enjoy and sing lots of songs in group including our good morning song. We also sing a song 'what do you think my name is' as we go around the circle and call out our name. I must say the Koalas are doing great sitting in a circle and going to the 'ladybug' mat when it is time for group of storytelling. We have read some great books such as 'bear is lost' and 'count to 10 and what do you see'. We have also had a lot of fun with the 'puppet show' as we make up our own stories. This is Miss Rhonda favourite time she loves telling stories like '10 cheeky monkeys' and then sing '10 cheeky monkeys jump on the bed one fell off and bump his head'. These are really nice stories to teach counting and the children are doing really well at being involved in the story telling and staying in group together.

We have also been very creative and if you have time have a little look around the room to see how busy we have been with Australia Day ☺

We have had some children interested in Dinosaurs so we have set up an activity in the room with dinosaurs and now we have add a tent which we call a dinosaur cave. The children have been talking about the names of the dinosaur and the types of food they eat. Then one of the Koala children came in today and showed the children some pamphlets from when he went to the reptile park. There are snakes and Kangaroos and a very big crocodile so together we talked about how crocodiles were around when the dinosaurs were alive. Miss Rhonda and Miss Lara would like to hear about any of the children interest they might have and then we can extend on this at preschool.

Could I please ask families to place nappies in the nappy pigeon hole in the nappy change area that has your child's name on it and could dummies go in the container on the shelf that also has your child's name on it. Thanks for your help. So children don't lose anything could you please put your **child's name** on

everything including hats, bags and spare clothes and please ask if you have lost something.

Our floor book program is on the board as you walk in the room and our slideshow is on the screen near the computer. Please take your time at looking through your child's day and if you like you can skip through photos faster using the keyboards right arrow key.

Please parents don't forget to apply sunscreen and a hat first thing in the morning before play ☺

Thank you for a great start Koalas! Love from your teachers Miss Rhonda, Miss Lara and Mr Josh.

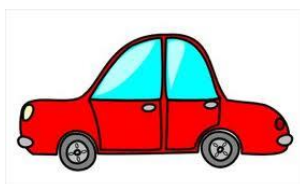


Kitchen news

In the first 4 weeks at the start of the year we have a menu up that simply provides children with a variety of sandwiches during lunch. We do this because it is familiar to little Koala's starting preschool and normally it's terribly hot weather outside. Our menu will start on February 2nd and is displayed in the foyer as you walk in. If you would like a copy of a particular recipe or you have any menu suggestions please come into the kitchen for a chat ☺

Thank you for your contribution to the fruit bowl each day it's very healthy for all children to have fresh fruit every day and they enjoy sharing with friends. Please parents don't forget as fruit is an important part of your child's diet ☺

Thanks from Miss Fiona



PLEASE ALWAYS TAKE GOOD CARE IN OUR CAR PARK
EVERYONE AND SLOW DOWN FOR OUR CHILDREN