

## Dates to remember:

**Queen's Birthday Public Holiday:** Monday, 8 June

**Parent Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, 20 May

**Last day of Term 2:** Friday, 3 July

## From the Director's Desk:

Hello to all our parents and families,

Well what a **BIG** few months it has been! We find ourselves in a fast changing landscape and want to assure parents and families we are still here and remain dedicated to the provision of a caring Montessori educational experience for all Pre-school aged children.

Extraordinary times have led to the Preschool thinking outside of what is perceived as 'normal', seeking innovative and creative ways to keep our pre-school community connected. This process has been daunting and at times overwhelming as we approach the new normal.

Staff have shown incredible resilience reviewing how the Montessori curriculum can be delivered to meet the needs of all families at this time and continue to support the wellbeing and educational development of all students.

This week educators will combine face to face learning with an interim online learning strategy called 'at-home-learning', delivering Montessori learning into the home environment.

**'When will we see you again?'** The educators have missed those students that have been isolating at home with their families.

To assist with transitioning back in Term 2 please advise Kathy this week, when you think your child will be returning to pre-school. Presently the Pre-School has been operating with reduced staff. As children begin to return staff will need to be increased to ensure we have the correct ratio of educators to children.

We appreciate that the new norm may be difficult to negotiate, we are here to assist, please call the Pre-School if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers  
Wendy

## Parent Committee Corner:

Just to reiterate our fees for Term 2 will be as follows:

- Children attending two days per week will have access to 'free' pre-school and will not be invoiced. They will remain enrolled, regardless of whether they attend or not.
- If your child attends more than two days per week, the first two days are free, and the full fee will be charged for every day after that. If your child is still enrolled but not attending, then the \$10 per week holding fee still applies.

Don't forget to let Kathy know when your child will be returning.



## In the Children's House

**"The essential thing is to arouse such an interest that it engages the child's whole personality". Maria Montessori**

Recently the children have been interested in learning about zoology topics, such as life cycles, diets, and the correct terminology of body parts.

The children have been working with the Life Cycle of a Butterfly, after a child brought in a chrysalis she had found at home to show her peers. Happily, the chrysalis emerged as a wonderful butterfly. In the coming weeks educators will support further investigations of Anthropoda, which includes insects, arachnids, crustaceans and myriapods (includes the centipedes, millipedes, and related animals). We have an arthropod living in our classroom a 'leaf insect', which enjoys eating gum leaves.

## The Arts:

Over the past weeks the children have been busy creating:

- ✧ Necklaces with straws and beads
- ✧ Restoring the wind chimes that are on the veranda
- ✧ Textas to create illustrations, drawing inspiration from artwork of Georgia O'Keefe an American artist who painted nature in a way that showed how it made her feel. She is best known for her paintings of flowers and desert landscapes.



## Practical Life Activities:

Practical Life Activities are a key component of the Montessori Curriculum and assist children to practice skills, such as problem solving, and the development of initiative and self-help skills.

At Pre-School we have continued to model and encourage the children to practice good hygiene habits such as handwashing, coughing and sneezing correctly, into their elbow.

To support handwashing practice the children have been learning a handwashing song together which you may have heard your child singing by now.

The 'Wiggles' have also released a new song to support, children to practice handwashing and social distancing to 'save the world'. This can be viewed on the link below:

<https://thewest.com.au/news/coronavirus/coronavirus-crisis-wiggles-release-new-song-on-social-distancing-ng-b881516599z>

## At home learning:

At Yass Montessori we have continued to deliver face to face learning in the classroom. Considering the ongoing implications of the Corvid-19 pandemic the Pre-school will be implementing interim arrangements to support 'at-home-learning, for those families who are still isolating at home.

The educators are committed to the ongoing development of all children enrolled at the Pre-School and hope families will join them in the implementation of 'at – home-learning'

The educators have been posting on Storypark Montessori inspired activities that families may like to implement at home.

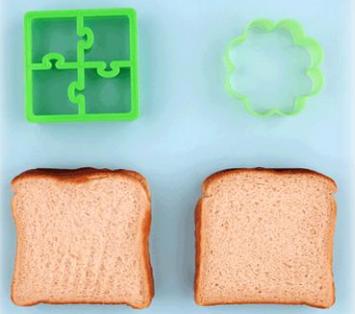
'At home learning' how it works

- ✧ Educators will continue to observe groups of children each week at the Pre-school and plan follow up activities
- ✧ Families whose children are not currently attending the pre-school are invited to post photos and comments about activities their child has been doing at home via the Story Park app. We would love to see what your child has been doing at home
- ✧ Educators will review photos and family comments, and follow up with suggestions of other activities to undertake at home to extend their child's development



Educators are looking forward to seeing the activities that children have been doing while they have been at home, we have missed you all.

## Healthy snack ideas:



Visit the Lunch Punch website for creative suggestions to create sandwich and fruit kebabs.



## Around the garden:

In the Edible Garden the children have been observing the growth of the herbs that were planted in Term 1 and the peas that were planted.

The children have noted that the peas now have some flowers and discussed how bees are hard workers in our garden pollinating flowers.

Gardening with children introduces them to the parts of plants, flowers and fruits developing their senses to identify the different textures and aromas of herbs. Billie noted today that the mint smells like her brother's toothpaste.



## Be a sustainability warrior:

What can we do? Australia is facing a War on Waste and it is happening in our homes, in our schools, in our streets and in our oceans'.

The program 'War on Waste' hosted by Craig Reucassel which screens on ABC TV discusses the following topics Recycling, Waste, Waste Management, Pollution, Environmental Impact, Landfills and Plastics.

Recycling in the Classroom: The children are presented with the values of recycling and recycling practice each day in the classroom.

The classroom has a four bin system:

- ✧ **RED** for scrunchable plastics, which is taken to Woolworths for recycling
- ✧ **YELLOW** for paper/cardboard and recyclable containers
- ✧ **GREEN** for compostable waste
- ✧ A small general waste bucket

Return and Earn: There is a red bin at the front door of the Pre-School for plastic bottles that may be recycled through Return and Earn.



Looking for  
some  
activities to  
do at home:

What about a scavenger hunt?

See if you can find these things:

Inside...

- ✧ something soft
- ✧ something with wheels
- ✧ a piece of fruit
- ✧ a book about an animal
- ✧ something that rolls
- ✧ a stuffed animal
- ✧ something orange
- ✧ a vegetable
- ✧ a pair of socks with more than one colour
- ✧ a book about numbers
- ✧ a toy that makes a sound
- ✧ an object that starts with the first letter of your name
- ✧ something red
- ✧ something broken
- ✧ your favourite book

Outside...

- ✧ a flower
- ✧ a rock that fits in your palm
- ✧ 3 different coloured leaves
- ✧ a stick longer than your arm
- ✧ something that starts with the letter b
- ✧ something green
- ✧ something to smell
- ✧ an insect
- ✧ 5 tiny rocks
- ✧ something to recycle
- ✧ something that flies
- ✧ something brown
- ✧ a piece of rubbish to throw away
- ✧ something with more than one colour
- ✧ an outside toy



## Community challenge:

There are many different types of construction challenges requiring little more than a newspaper and a roll of tape or ball of string...

What is the tallest tower you can build from 6 sheets of newspaper?

Can your tower support the weight of a small beanie toy?

Can you make a bridge to span 30 centimetres that will support 8 Matchbox cars?

Why not share your photos via Instagram [@yass.montessori.preschool](https://www.instagram.com/yass.montessori.preschool) or tag us via Facebook

