

October

## Dates to remember:

**Parent Committee Meeting:** **Wed, 21 November**  
**6.30pm Yass Soldiers Club, Board Room**

**Last day of Term 4:** **Wed, 16 December**

## From the Director's Desk:

Welcome to the October Newsletter, Term 4 already! Term 4 is usually a busy term for the Pre-School, however the activities that usually take place will look a little different than previous years.

At this time, the children would usually begin practicing for the end of year Christmas Concert, unfortunately this event has been cancelled this year due to COVID restrictions around gathering sizes. The educators and children are planning alternative ways to share celebration items with you all.

**'Transition to School Statements' and 'Kindergarten Orientations':** The Pre-School has been notified that 'Kindergarten Orientations' will proceed as planned. Please refer to letters attached at the end of this newsletter from schools which contain important information for families whose children will be attending school orientations this term.

Educators have begun to complete 'Transition to School Statements' for children who will be starting school in 2021. The completed 'Statements' will be emailed to families and to the respective schools where your child will be attending in 2021. Transition Statements are a vital information sharing tool which informs schools of your child's learning journey at Pre-School and how best to assist with a positive start to school. We ask that parents to please sign the authorisation and return the form to Kathy as soon as possible.

If anyone wishes to discuss aspects of your child's readiness for school or progress, please see Kathy and make a time for a meeting with myself.

Cheers until next month  
Wendy

## In the Children's House

### What does the Montessori approach provide for your child?

- **An environment** that serves the particular needs of each child's stage of development. Montessori is founded on the belief that children are capable of self-development and that they will reach their true potential when they are helped to find their own path in an environment that is specifically tailored to their needs at each stage of their development.
- **An adult** who understands child development and acts as a guide to help children find their own natural path. Children become active learners and are able to reach their own unique potential because they are learning at their own pace and rhythm focussing on their own particular developmental needs at that moment.
- **Freedom** for children to engage in their own development according to their own developmental timeline. In the first six years of life the young mind just seems to soak up everything in the world around them. Montessori suggested that much emphasis must be put on education in the first six years of life, while children learn with total ease
- **'Help me to do it myself' – Practical Life Skills**  
Repetition of activities such as fastening buttons, doing up a zipper, cleaning up spills, tipping and pouring, tying a shoelace, develops fine motor skills of the hand and wrist, and nurtures the child's sense of wellbeing and belonging.



### What you can do at home

- Have cleaning supplies at the ready – children love to wash windows, have at the ready a small sponge, bowl of water, squidgy and cloth to wipe the window or for sweeping and mopping activities a child sized broom and mop.
- Focus on the process not results – when your child helps it will take longer, it may not look perfect, but they are learning to master these skills.
- Look for baskets, trays, and simple caddies to arrange items for them to help. Does it look attractive? Sometimes it is fun to add items that are the same colour, keep items looking fresh, do not overcrowd the tray or basket, children will confuse the purpose.
- It can be budget friendly – create activities with things you have around the house and look out for small jugs, jars, tins, containers, op shops are a great resource.
- Involve movement in the activity for example carrying a tray or pouring water from jug to jug without spilling it, this refines fine motor and gross motor control.
- Learning new skills, builds independence and a feeling of self-reliance
- Be consistent; follow routines and clear sequences for each activity.



## The Arts:

### **The Arts: Creativity in the classroom is beneficial for many reasons:**

- Creativity allows children to express themselves
- Creativity promotes thinking and problem-solving
- Creativity reduces stress and anxiety
- Creativity offers a child a safe space to enter their happy zone and have fun
- Creativity gives children a sense of purpose
- Creativity can lead to feelings of accomplishment and pride
- Creativity improves ability to focus
- Creativity is a prerequisite to innovation
- Creativity encourages lifelong learning

**Watercolour and Pen:** At the end of Term 3 the children undertook their own creative inquiry using a marker pen to draw subjects of interest to them, painting their sketches with watercolour paints. The children were very engaged with the use of this media and this was evident by their creative compositions.

**Butterflies:** As part of the celebration of spring, the children have contributed to a collaborative hanging art installation, using watercolour paints to dye blotting paper which has been placed through a preformed body to create multi-coloured butterflies.

We had planned for Chrysalis to arrive in October to add to the children's investigation of the Life Cycle of a butterfly. Unfortunately, due to border restrictions we have not been able to source these at this time. Delivery has been deferred until March 2021.



**Self Portraits:** This week the children will be provided a range of mixed media to create self-portraits.

## Housekeeping

### **Tis the Season... Sunscreen and Hats**

Hats please...Term 4 children and staff wear hats when outdoors, please ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat packed in their bag, if there is **no hat** there is **no play** in the yard, children remaining in a shaded area.



### Sunscreen:

The Pre-School provides sunscreen which the children apply each day before going out for lunch. If your child does require a **speciality sunscreen**, we ask that families supply the preferred sunscreen.

### Morning Tea Containers:



Educators have noted that many children have their morning tea included with their lunch in the same container. **We ask that children's morning tea please be packed in a separate container with their name on it for the following reasons.**

- It aids transition into the classroom in the mornings, one less decision your child has to make, 'what to choose for morning tea'
- It reduces the children's waiting time to unpack their bag and place their morning tea on the trolley
- Children often stand looking at their lunch and morning tea choices overwhelmed by the decision
- It assists educators to identify your child's morning tea from their lunch

Families are asked to send food choices in line with the 'Munch and Move' program see attached flyer.

### Small Toys and little treasures:

We understand children like to share little treasures and small toys with their friends at Pre-School, unfortunately little items get lost easily or accidentally go home in another child's bag, which is very upsetting for the owner.

Please check your child's bag, these items are best left safely at home! Thank you

**The Day Page on Storypark:** We would appreciate your feedback...

This week the question on the foyer bench will invite family feedback about the day page that is posted on Storypark each day. We are wanting to know your thoughts around

- Do you like receiving a daily post each day your child attends (even if there is not a photo of your child)?
- How often would you prefer to receive a snapshot of your child's day as part of the group?
- What do you want to receive, more photos-less information, combination of information and photos, photo's only for daily post?



## Around the garden



The children have enjoyed being out in our edible garden this week picking peas, observing changes in the sunflower seeds planted a few weeks ago, and searching for mini beasts amongst the leaves.

The peas are finished, and we will begin to plant beans to replace.

We have mint, rosemary and thyme growing on well in the garden and are happy to share with our families if you would like to pick some fresh herbs, please let us know.

There is also parsley and baby spinach seedlings ready for sale at \$2 each in the foyer

Be a sustainability warrior:

### Use reusable cups such as keep cups

Australians consume more than 50,000 cups of coffee every half hour, and an estimated 3 billion takeaway hot drink cups every year. Sadly, these cups, which are made from virgin materials rather than recycled paper, cannot be put in your kerbside or workplace recycling bins. Take a cup with you or have your drink to stay.



Activities to do around home:

### Nut free chocolate bliss bites will be a lunch box hit!

#### Ingredients:

10 pitted medjool dates  
1 cup rolled oats  
1/3 cup sultanas  
¼ cup pepitas  
¼ cup sunflower seeds  
¼ cup cacao  
1 tsp vanilla

#### Method:

Add all ingredients into a food processor and process until well combined, the mix will begin to ball together. Roll into balls. Store in the fridge in an airtight container or freeze.



# Community

WWW.YASS2YOU.COM



**YASS 2 YOU**  
HOME DELIVERY

**ORDER BY  
TUESDAY MIDNIGHT  
FOR  
FRIDAY DELIVERY**

DELIVERING THE BEST QUALITY LOCALLY  
SOURCED PRODUCTS STRAIGHT TO YOUR DOOR.

