Dear Preschool Families and Caregivers,

We are already coming towards the end of our second term of preschool for 2015. The children have been engaged in many experiences developing their understanding about caring for themselves, their friends and our environment. It is very likely this inquiry will continue next term.

I was very fortunate a few weeks ago to attend a STEM conference (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). A key aspect of this conference focused on ensuring learning was relevant, excited children and was taught in context. Through engagement in inquiry projects children accept challenges, display passion, are inspired to take risks, engage with problems and use creativity to find solutions. These are the skills required to be a learner in the 21st century.

During the last week of every term we prepare the environment for the next term. However this term the cleaning week will be divided between weeks 9 and 10 because of preparations for our renovations. Each morning there will be a morning tea for families to thank you for helping us maintain a clean learning environment. During the school holidays and the first few weeks of term three, the kitchen and both bathrooms will be renovated. A change area will also be established. As a result of this work portable toilets will be used at the beginning of term 3 and our indoor environment space will be reduced.

Our Governing Council met on the 13th of May. Although support for a social night was high we will not be holding one this term because we were unable to locate a venue. We have therefore decided to hold a raffle this term. A big thank you to Jennie (Elka’s mother) for organising the raffle.

We have been very lucky to have had many families volunteering their services at Preschool. We would like to thank Betty (Yiming) who has been busy organising our library. We would also like to thank Emma (Tom) and Helen (Enoch) who have been busy preparing resources for collage/painting. Muhammad (Elka) and Luke (Bennett) have collected wood for woodworking. Thank you.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning together and appreciate family participation.

Thank you
We Need Help– End of Term Cleaning

It’s that time again. We have sent out a note requesting family support to help with the end of term cleaning. This will take place over the last two weeks of the term on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June (week 9) and Monday 29th June and Tuesday 30th June (week 10). Morning tea will be provided.

There are a variety of jobs that require about half an hour of your time. A list of these jobs can be found on the whiteboard. Please indicate what job and which day you will be coming in. Thank you.

Indigenous Culture for Children

As part of the NAIDOC Week celebrations Trent Hill will provide a workshop for the children on Monday 29th June and Wednesday 1st July. Trent will tell Dreaming Stories, introduce and discuss some of the commonly used symbols displayed in Aboriginal Art and recreate some animal tracks, signs and symbols.

It is important all forms are returned by Thursday 25th of June, even if your child will not be attending.

Tea Towels for Mother’s Day

Thank you to all the families who supported our tea towels fundraiser. As a result of your support the Preschool made a profit of $344 which was used to purchase a new sensory tray and Kinetic sand, a new board game (Insey Wincey Spider), more magnetic tiles (construction set) and recycling bins.

There are currently 4 tea towels left if anyone would like to purchase one for $12.

Christmas in July Raffle

Vale Park Preschool is holding a Christmas in July Raffle this term to raise money to buy a microscope/document reader to connect with the interactive whiteboard to enable the children to observe more closely objects from their environment including chicks hatching from eggs, ants, leaves etc. The document reader can also be used with every day objects like books, which can be enlarged and viewed on the interactive whiteboard. If money permits we would also like to purchase new LEGO that will support the further development of engineering, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

To support this important fundraiser families are asked to donate an item to go in a basket as a raffle prize. Items can range from non-perishable food items such as chocolate and wine to household and garden goods, movie tickets, garden toys and vouchers. A purple tub has been placed next to the sign in forms for your kind donations. We require your donations by Friday 19th June. Thank you.

Bunning’s BBQ

Please keep the Sunday the 23rd August and Sunday 8th November free. Vale Park Preschool will be operating the BBQ at the Winsor Gardens store. We will require helpers on the day to cook sausages, sell food and collect money. If you can’t help on the day, you may like to come and purchase a sausage for your lunch.

Pupil Free Day

This term, on Thursday 2nd of July the educators at Preschool will participating in a day of training and development. Therefore no children will be able to attend Preschool.

Educators will be increasing their knowledge and understanding about STEM principles and practices, reviewing and writing a new philosophy and reviewing procedures and practices.

Community News

Talk so Kids will Listen & Listen so Kids will Talk

Wednesday 24 June 7.30pm
Presenter - Donna Broadhurst

This seminar aims to help parents discover new ways of effectively communicating with their children so that misunderstanding and conflict are dealt with constructively.

Bookings essential and available online at www.effectiveliving.org/positive-parenting
NUMERACY INDICATORS – I explore and understand my place and space in my world

Numeracy is the capacity, confidence and dispositions to use mathematics in daily life. (EYLF p.38)

Spatial sense (shape and space) involves children exploring and understanding their place and space in the world. The development of spatial sense is an ongoing and continuous process during the early childhood years.

During term 2 our numeracy focus has been on Geometry – spatial awareness and shape. Informal learning around the ideas of space and shape occurs in everyday experiences of young children as they start to recognise basic shapes in their environment and hear spatial terms being used. From an early age children develop an awareness of themselves in relation to the people and objects around them. They begin to explore space and shape concepts when they are involved in play with puzzles, construction, blocks or in movement (ball games, climbing, dancing) and creative experiences such as woodwork, clay and collage. It is important children are taught the correct name for shapes as they begin their learning. The educators have been participating in Maths workshops and have realised some of their learning at school was not accurate. For example a 3 dimensional shape (3D) is a shape you can pick up in your hand. A 2 dimensional shape (2D) is a flat shape that you cannot hold, like a drawing on a piece of paper.

To learn more and to use as a reference you make like to look at http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/

Parents can support their children’s learning at preschool by;
- using the same language at home and Preschool
- drawing your child’s attention to the shapes and patterns in the environment, shapes and patterns in the park, garden, house etc. – by describing the different attributes of (straight, curved and spiral lines, sides, points, angles) and the concept of 2D and 3D shapes
- drawing your child’s attention to the different representations of shapes, not all shapes look the same (isosceles or scalene triangles)
- modelling spatial terms as they move in space (over, under, between, behind, in front of, next to, near, right, left)

Questions to ask your child
Tel me about …..or can you describe ……….? (objects)
What is the same about these? What is different? (objects)
How many straight sides does it have?