Preschool - Joeys Term 1 Overview 2016

We have had a fantastic start to the year, with all children quickly grasping routines, where resources are located and how to take turns on the ever popular swings! Devika and I are both looking forward to another exciting and action packed year at Garran Preschool. It will be a busy term so please make a note of the Important Dates listed at the end of the Overview.

About the Preschool Team

Mrs Tamsin Cowap – Teacher
My name is Tamsin Cowap. This is my second year at Garran Preschool teaching Monday to Wednesday. I have been teaching in early childhood settings for fourteen years. Part of this time has been in Preschool and some in Early Intervention teaching children with delays and/or disabilities. I have a passion for books, sailing, bike riding and camping with my fabulous children (7 & 9) and an equally fabulous partner.

Mrs Devika Jayawardane – Preschool Assistant
My name is Devika Jayawardane. I have worked as a Preschool Assistant for 15 years and at Garran Preschool for the past 3 years. I enjoy working with the Preschool age children. I have lived in Australia for 34 years and in Canberra for 19 years. I have a daughter and a son. They are both married and also live in Canberra. In my spare time I enjoy taking my dog for a walk and also doing some craft and sewing.

Mrs Fiona Quigley – Indonesian Teacher
This is my eighth year teaching Indonesian at Garran Primary. I have also taught Indonesian at a number of other schools, including Weetangera, Turner and Majura Primary Schools. I’m married and have one daughter who is working in London and a son who has started an Engineering degree in Sydney. I love teaching children that learning another language is FUN! Away from school, I enjoy going to the gym, cooking, photography, going to the beach and travelling, both within Australia and overseas.

Mrs Mandy Lee – Fundamental Movement Skills Teacher
I am extremely thrilled to be at Garran Primary this year. I look forward to getting to know the children in the Preschool. I enjoy PE and Mathematics and am excited to share my knowledge and enthusiasm with the students.

Mrs Sharon Fellows – Team Leader
My name is Sharon Fellows and I am delighted to be working in the Preschool this year. My role is to oversee the preschool program and to support the staff, and you as parents. I have been teaching for over 20 years and am an early childhood specialist. I have qualifications in gifted education and supporting students with additional needs. I have two wonderful children both of whom are in high school. I also have a dog, tropical fish, quails and budgies at home, and a very supportive husband.

The Learning and Teaching Program

Literacy
Literacy is firmly embedded in all areas of the preschool program. The children are continually exposed to oral and written language, with the explicit use of pictures and gestures used to enhance this understanding.

In addition, Devika and I will specifically plan and provide a variety of literacy activities that will include:

- speaking and listening in small and large groups
- promoting understanding of the concepts such as front and back, beginning and end, and capital/lower case letters
- listening and responding to stories, songs and poetry
- handling books with respect
- role play
- name recognition
From week 3 the Joeys can bring a cloth library bag to school and start borrowing from the preschool library. All children are encouraged to borrow on a regular basis. We will also be visiting the school library during the term.

**Numeracy**
Each day children will have opportunities to match, sort, compare, order and create patterns through the hands-on manipulation of resources such as blocks, Lego, puzzles and peg boards, as well as through art, literacy and imaginative play. These hands-on learning experiences will help the children develop their own understanding of mathematical concepts and their logical thinking capabilities.

**Technology**
Various construction activities (Duplo, Lego, wooden blocks, Magnetic Polydrons, Moblio) will be offered daily to encourage children’s design and engineering skills and enhance their fine motor strength and skills. iPads and the large touch screen will be used for researching topics of interest with the children. Later in the term the children will have opportunities to use the iPads for accessing games which promote numeracy, literacy and problem solving skills. Food technology (cooking) will also form part of the program.

**Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) & Health**
The children will have the opportunity to engage in a daily climbing course, play supervised games and access appropriate equipment with the aim of developing the children’s physical development. Fundamental Movement Skills "are important because they are the ‘building blocks’ or foundation movements for more complex and specialised skills required by children throughout their lives to competently and confidently play different games, sports and recreational activities" www.kidsatplay.act.au. On Wednesdays Mrs Mandy Lee (from the primary school) will be with the children between 11.30am and 1.00pm. She will engage them in a range of FMS & Health activities.

During cooking sessions and mealtimes we will discuss healthy food choices and ‘sometimes’ food choices.

**Music & Creative Arts**
The music program will encourage a love of singing and moving to music, and will include action songs, echo singing, body percussion and finger plays. Children will have opportunities daily to engage with paint, playdough or clay, scissors, glue and drawing implements to develop their creativity.

**Indonesian**
In line with the Primary School Language Program children will be learning Bahasa Indonesian. They will be introduced to Indonesian language and culture through playing games, singing songs and listening and responding to stories.

**Important Dates**

**Nude Food Day every Tuesday**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>Canberra Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 March</td>
<td>Preschool Multicultural Evening - 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 March</td>
<td>Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23 March</td>
<td>CEIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 March</td>
<td>Crazy Hat Day</td>
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<td>Friday 25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Monday 28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5 April</td>
<td>Pirate Pete</td>
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Kind Regards,

Tamsin Cowap
2016 P&C Meeting Dates

The P&C holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each term commencing at 7.00pm in the school’s staff room.

Term 1
• 24 February
• 23 March

Term 2
• 18 May
• 15 June

Term 3
• 10 August
• 7 September

Term 4
• 2 November
• 30 November

You are cordially invited to attend.