Preschool - Puggles Term 1 Overview 2016

With the preschool year off to a great start, Mariana and I are looking forward to working with your children, your family and each other (for our second year). The preschool team have planned some very exciting events for Term One and we ask that you take note of the Important Dates listed at the end of this overview and add them to your calendars.

About the Preschool Team

Mrs Carolyn Dunphy - Teacher
I started my teaching career as a primary school teacher in 1989 after graduating from university in 1988 and have taught in ACT, NSW and UK schools. In 2007 I began teaching part-time in the ACT early childhood sector taking up my position at Garran Preschool in 2015. I specialised in music and outdoor education in my primary and early childhood teaching. I love to play the piano (at school and at home) and my other interests include swimming, rowing, a variety of sports, travel, baking, reading and most importantly my three teenage children and husband.

Ms Mariana Tinoco-lafalice - Learning Support Assistant
I am passionate about children (I have one beautiful 10 year old daughter) and building new relationships. I have a Certificate III in Children Services (Early Childhood) and two bachelor degrees in Media & Communication. I came from Brazil four years ago. I speak Portuguese, Italian & Spanish and what makes my day is the variety of cultures, people and different ideas that form part of the Garran Preschool community.

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 Preschool. I enjoy PE and Mathematics and am excited to share my knowledge and enthusiasm with the students.

Mrs Sharon Fellows - Team Leader
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
Young children develop literacy by continual exposure to oral and written language, and by building on prior knowledge and language experiences. In Term 1 Mariana and I will provide and plan for activities including:

• speaking with and listening to others/ listening and talking in small and large groups
• fine motor skills activities (necessary for controlled rhythmic movements of writing, for holding and manipulating a writing implement, to turn pages, etc)
• promoting understandings of concepts such as front and back, beginning and end
• listening and responding to stories, songs, poetry
• role play
• handling books with care and respect
All children are encouraged to borrow books from the preschool library on a regular basis (daily or weekly) with book borrowing beginning in Week 2. Please ensure your child brings their library book to preschool. On arrival, the children place their library bag (& book) in the library box. During the term, we will also visit the primary school library.

**Numeracy**
Children will be provided with many hands-on learning experiences so that they can construct their own mathematical understandings. Knowing simple relationships through matching, sorting, comparing, ordering and patterning helps children to exercise and build on their logical thinking capabilities. These thinking skills are foundational to understanding numbers and the number system. As children explore and count sets of objects, they will begin to understand and connect the number name and numeral to the quantity.

**Technology**
Various construction activities (Lego, Duplo, magnetic Magformers, bristle blocks, K’nex, Wedgits) will be offered daily to encourage children’s design and engineering skills, enhancing their fine motor skills and strength. Food technology (baking/cooking) will also form a part of the preschool program.

**Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) & Health** - Body management, locomotor, object control.
Children will be provided with appropriate equipment and opportunities to engage with supervised games that use different body parts (legs, arms, trunk & head) and include skills such as running, hopping, catching, throwing, striking and balancing. On Wednesdays Mrs Mandy Lee (from the primary school) will be with the children from 11.30am – 1.30pm and will engage them in a number of FMS and health activities.

**Music & Creative Arts**
The Puggles will sing, sing, sing throughout the year as well as engage in a variety of music and movement activities, dance, untuned percussion and body percussion and listening to recorded music (CD). An understanding and an awareness of beat, pitch, high and low sounds will be promoted in the music program. If any parents, grandparents or carers have a musical talent or just a desire to participate, please join us at the preschool some time soon.

**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 Thursday**

- **Friday 26 February**
  - Assembly, 11.30am
- **Friday 4 March**
  - School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am
- **Friday 11 March**
  - Water Fun Day (Preschool – Year 2)
- **Monday 14 March**
  - Canberra Day
- **Friday 18 March**
  - Preschool Multicultural Evening - 6.00pm
  - Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
- **Tuesday 22 March**
  - Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)
- **Wednesday 23 March**
  - CEIS
- **Thursday 24 March**
  - Crazy Hat Day
- **Friday 25 March**
  - Good Friday
- **Monday 28 March**
  - Easter Monday
- **Thursday 7 April**
  - Cross Country: 11.30am - 1pm (P-2)
  - Pirate Pete
- **Friday 8 April**
  - Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am

Kind Regards,

Carolyn Dunphy
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.