A brand new year, new friends, new experiences, new spaces…what’s not to love about Term 1 at kinder?

This term has been a short one, so we have mainly focused on welcoming the children, helping them to become familiar with the kinder room, the different types of play they can engage in as well as determining some guidelines to help everyone work together.

It is important for children to establish a sense of belonging, the quicker they can do this, the more likely they are to begin independently exploring their surrounds. One way we have worked on “belonging” is by encouraging children to share information about their families. We hope you’ve noticed the beautiful patchwork quilt the Kookaburras made hanging in the entrance. It has certainly become a focal point as children enter the room, reminding children that they belong in this space.

---

**TERM DATES 2013**
Term 1 ends 28th March 2013
Term 2 starts 15th April 2013

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
15th April 2013
6th May 2013
3rd June 2013

**PHOTOGRAPHS**
22nd & 23rd April 2013

**BUNNINGS BBQ**
22nd June 2013

---

**Roll up, roll up…kinder is here!**
I did kinder duty this morning. I was struck by the 27 little individual personalities that filled the room – all of them so different and individual! Each with different needs and ideas, wants and aversions. It was fascinating.

But what I was truly in awe of was our education staff. Their patience and love, their dedication to finding out the nuances of each individual – your child and mine – was quite breathtaking. Watching a group of children digging through the worm farm with intense concentration and interest; hearing the kind and gentle tone used to remind children they were not following the rules; the confidence gained when the children were enabled to do something they thought was beyond them, and the respect they are given as little people with minds of their own. I was reminded of a lot at kinder today!

So for families who are new to us this year and those who have been at South Kingsville before, I would like to assure you that your children are in the most wonderful hands.

We also like to look after the parents and families of the children at South Kingsville, so if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to ask one of our staff or committee members.

And finally:

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You’re doing things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you’re Doing Something.

So that’s my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody’s ever made before. Don’t freeze, don’t stop, don’t worry that it isn’t good enough, or it isn’t perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.

Whatever it is you’re scared of doing, Do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever.”

Neil Gaiman

Have a happy and safe holiday.

Mel Shanahan
Children in the 3 year old groups have settled very well, with the majority of children even asking their parents when they are going back to kinder. We are starting to see the children recognise one another and call each other by their names. Not to mention Rachel and I are now hearing our names, rather than “Mum” all through the session.

Rachel and I started the term with some familiar activities so the children could feel comfortable in their surroundings and get used to the new faces and grounds. We are now starting to discover what most interests the children and are planning towards these interests. In saying this, the children like to play dress ups and have shown the most interest in imaginary play involving dinosaurs and trains. They also enjoy our time outside, playing on the equipment. There is a genuine love of story time with requests for the same books over and over again!

The children have settled well into kinder routines but are also displaying independence regarding these, which is very encouraging. They are establishing helpful habits like getting their own snack, eating and then putting their snack box away and going to the bathroom by themselves. Very slowly, they are coming to understand that the more toys they throw around, the more likely we will ask them to pack up.

Overall, the children are getting used to coming to kinder and spending time with their educators and each other. We look forward to next term where we will begin to cater for more individual interests.
The term has gone extremely fast with many new and exciting experiences. We began by focusing on building an environment where the children can feel secure and can feel a sense of belonging to the kindergarten, their peers and the educators. We have been playing name and group games and songs to become familiar with our peers. We explored “Myself” and “My Family” and created memorable storybooks about our significant family members. This was extended by creating individual family members with some craft materials and a beautiful “Kookaburra Family Quilt” where the children painted their family on a material panel. These experiences have encouraged the children to communicate with their peers about their family and their own identity. We have looked at cultural diversity and similarities and differences amongst us. This has included treating each other with respect and treating each other fairly. We explored Chinese New Year and the many symbols and traditions they have in their celebrations. We have been speaking about how we feel and our emotions and what makes us feel sad and happy. We have spoken about conflict resolution and appropriate social interactions. The Kookaburra group came up with a list of rules and reminders for our kindergarten learning environment. This list is on display on the storeroom door and the children point at the list and remind their peers. We have also been empowering the children to have a voice and to stand up to their peers and communicate how they feel when something happens that they don’t like. “Stop it I don’t like it.” We have spoken about how we can be a good friend and what we could do if we see someone who is sad or if they have no one to play with. The children have been engrossed with the worms and the compost so we have focused on this and have spoken about recycling, sustainability and how we can help in the kinder. The children are now asking what rubbish bin to put their scraps, rubbish and recycling in. The worm-feeding roster has also been a huge success. The block corner has been an extremely busy part of the room with many different constructions and buildings being built. The children have been creating pyramids with the blocks demonstrating their knowledge on the shape of a pyramid and have been busy replicating one that a person could sit under. Books showing different buildings, towers and sculptures around the world have created interesting conversations and pretty amazing constructions. This has been extended into the box construction with lots of 3D structures and towers. All of these constructions have demonstrated the children problem solving, investigating, experimenting and adapting their knowledge, which are all early numeracy skills. The hospital dramatic play area has been a particularly busy spot. A lot has been happening in this hospital! Stacks of broken arms and legs andoodles of needles and medicine have been given to many tolerant patients! This has created great conversations about our community and how we can connect within our very own community. This was followed up with a visit from Simone’s dad Peter who is a fire fighter from our local fire station. We look forward to celebrating Easter with the children and meeting back after the holidays for another busy Term!
We have also been looking closely at our outside environment and the Rosellas have been learning about the importance of our worm farm. During snack and lunchtimes the children have been taught about the different bins we use for the different types of rubbish. We have one for the worms, one for recycling and the other for general rubbish. The children have been feeding the worms with Dawn and learning about our environment and the importance of sustainability.

The children have produced some gorgeous self-portraits in black ink and as a group created a wonderful neighbourhood mural depicting some important landmarks such as their houses, railroad tracks and our kinder. We have also been enjoying some relief from the hot weather in the form of various water play. Whilst inside we have had water troughs and slime containers and outside the children have used water in the digging patch, sand pit and to do some hand washing of the doll’s clothes. During these experiences we talked about containers being full, half-full and empty. We also compared the sizes of different containers and checked to see which ones could hold more than others. These hands-on experiences allow the children to experiment and develop valuable mathematical skills as well as having a fun time with their friends.

Another activity rich in mathematical development was our cooking experiences. We initially started with play dough, and the following week we made delicious chocolate chip cookies. Everyone carefully followed Dawn’s recipes and there was a great deal of counting, measuring, sharing and enjoyment.

Currently our “home corner” has been converted to a hospital. The Rosellas have quite a number of budding young doctors among them and also a few very co-operative patients. These types of activities provide an opportunity for children to act out familiar life experiences, use their imagination, evoke important questions and develop language skills.

It has been a lovely start to the kinder year and very pleasing to watch the children explore their new surroundings, share their learning discoveries and observe the beginnings of new friendships.
Help needed

Are you handy with a nail and hammer? Do you have a spare ½ hour?

Some of our outdoor blocks need a bit of TLC. Please talk to your child’s educator if you can help.

---

Fundraising Report

Thank you to the families who joined us at Edwards Reserve for a sausage and an icy pole on a very hot afternoon in February. It was a lovely opportunity to make new friends.

In Term 2, the Fundraising Sub-Committee is planning a “Girls Night Out” movie night at the Sun Theatre. Look out for information on the website and in your email inbox. We would greatly appreciate your support of this event, the kinder will profit from each ticket sold.

The Bunnings BBQ is scheduled for the 22nd June. We will, of course, be asking for parents to volunteer to man the BBQ. A roster will be distributed prior to the event. Remember this is a great way to reclaim your $50 maintenance levy.

We will also be holding a Mothers Day Raffle to celebrate this very special date on the calendar. If you are able to donate a prize or know of a local business willing to make a donation, we would greatly appreciate it.

Lastly, we hope to host a Kid’s Movie Night during Term 2. This has been a fun event in the past. Kids come in their PJs and bring sleeping bags or doonas to lie on. Look out for an invitation to this event in your kinder pocket.

We hope you all enjoy your hot cross buns and have a fabulous Easter holiday. Thank you for your ongoing support of our fundraising and social events.

---

STAFF EMAIL

Please don’t hesitate to contact staff members via email if you would like to discuss your child’s progress or make a suggestion for improvement.

Elissa
skingkin.director@netspace.net.au

Janine
skingkin.teacher2@netspace.net.au

Nicole
skingkin.nicole@netspace.net.au

Janet (administrative officer)
skingkin.admin@netspace.net.au

All staff can be contacted on:
skingkin@netspace.net.au
Birthday Celebrations

At kindergarten we like to acknowledge each child’s birthday. If you would like to send along a birthday cake or some small cakes to be eaten at snack time, please do so, the children love to celebrate! We do however discourage the distribution of lolly bags and ask that parents do not bring these to kinder. If in any doubt, please feel free to discuss your plans for any kinder celebrations with your child’s teacher. We are always happy to have a chat.

We would appreciate it if you could provide us with a list of the ingredients used in the cake(s) or the original packaging if it is from a shop. This helps us to cater for the needs of children with allergies. Be reassured that the children with allergies have a supply of their own “special” snacks that we can offer should they be unable to consume the birthday treat.

Please make sure there is enough to share between 28 children (Rosellas), 27 children (Kookaburras) or 20 children (Cockatoos and Lorikeets). If your child’s birthday falls on a weekend or holiday, you may like to send a cake on the nearest kindergarten day. Many parents like to schedule their kinder duty session to coincide with their child’s birthday so that you too can enjoy the celebrations.

We are delighted to report that Emma has welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. Essie is a new sister for Mazie. We all look forward to Essie’s first visit to kinder.

Website Updates

Over the Christmas break, the website underwent some significant improvements. We added the parent survey results, more testimonials, a number of new policies and a brand new page, “Going Green” where you can discover what we are teaching children about the environment and sustainability.

We also added a copy of Elissa’s speech from last year’s AGM where she explained South Kingsville Pre School’s position on preparing children for school through play. If you would like to better understand how our program benefits your child, please take the time to read Elissa’s report. You can find it on the website under Curriculum Updates.

We have recently added the concept plan sketches for our new Sensory Garden. This a very exciting project and we cannot wait to get the construction underway.

Of course, we also added relevant information about Term 1 in the Program Events and Committee Updates pages and we endeavor to post breaking news on the homepage.

Any suggestions to further improve our website are welcome.

Thank you to several families for donating bikes, toys and materials for the children’s use. We are extremely grateful. Thanks also to parents who have helped with odd jobs during Term One. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
New kinder parents may not yet have heard of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). Last year, to meet the requirements of the new National Quality Standard, we were required to review our strengths and weaknesses on 7 quality areas. We engaged as many people within our kinder community as possible to help us review our service and in each area and we identified aspects we would like to improve.

During the year, we worked our way through this list and we managed to successfully complete the majority of jobs. Some were as simple as replacing the outdoor storage box, others required a team of people to coordinate an overhaul of our staff appraisal process.

In 2013, we begin a second round of reviewing our QIP. Educators and some committee members will be attending a seminar on Monday 25th March on “Reflecting towards continuous improvement”. We hope to come away from this presentation with a better understanding of the National Quality Framework and strategies to help us prepare for another year of improving practice.

---

Rainbow Canopy

Have you noticed our new rainbow canopy? Interestingly, some of the children have tended to use it more as a climbing frame than as a cosy reading nook.

Over the holidays, we will relocate the canopy into a corner, fill it with brand new comfy cushions and try and encourage the children to look to it as a place for quiet play.

It has been fascinating for our educators to observe how the children want to play in this new space.

---

Quality Improvement

We are looking for your feedback to help us continually improve our service.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any ideas or suggestions. We welcome parent input - big and small.

Email: skingkin@netspace.net.au

Thank you for your support!
Please remember to pack healthy snacks in your child’s lunch box.

We strongly request that you send your child to kinder with water only, not cordial or other sweetened drinks.

We would also like you to avoid packing sweet biscuits, rather opt for a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, yoghurts, crackers and cheese.

For more suggestions please visit the parents link on our website or talk to other parents and see what healthy goodies their child enjoys.

Finally, please remember there are children attending our kinder with food allergies.

We have been discussing rainbow foods at kinder – talking about how eating different coloured fruit and vegetables provide us with the vitamins and minerals our bodies need to grow and to stay healthy.

We believe these are important messages to communicate to young children and it makes a lovely link to our message of sustainability and why we like to grow our own fruit and vegetables in the kinder garden – not only because it is yummy and healthy but because it is also important to be self-sufficient.

The children are excited to look into each other’s lunch boxes and talk about the different rainbow foods they can see. Many children have then gone on to paint rainbows, which have certainly brightened up the kinder room.
OUR SENSORY GARDEN
concept plan

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
KINDER TRANSITION

Some children are still having difficulty with the transition from “home to kinder”. We thought this information might be helpful for parents of children suffering from separation anxiety. Please talk to your child’s educator if you need additional help or information.

Kindergarten is a time for fun, exploration, investigation, developing independence and forming friendships. It is important for children to form their own identity and to have a sense of belonging. We all want children to strive to become independent and confident learners.

Some children will experience separation anxiety as it is a new experience. Some children will scream and cry and be angry, but the majority of the time the children will settle with time and the parent is the one who suffers the anxiety, which is then transferred to the child.

The good news is that kindergarten does not have to be a bad experience. Parents need to stay positive, calm and optimistic about your child whilst at kindergarten.

- Make kindergarten something to really look forward to.
- Talk about the children in your child’s class.
- Be punctual so children have time to form friendships and be a part of all the planned experiences.
- Give your child many chances to talk about how they feel, do not assume they are scared or plant ideas into their head. Let them know it is OK to feel like that.
- When you drop your child off keep it short, stay calm, no fuss and don’t hesitate when you leave. Hug your child, say: “goodbye, I Love you and I will be back at 2.00pm. I can’t wait to hear all about your day when I pick you up.”
- Be prepared for the fact that your child may cry and be upset, but have confidence the educators knows how to handle the situation. The more you drag out the good-bye the more painful it will be and the longer it will take your child to get adjusted to leaving you. If you run back the minute they cry, you are teaching them that crying will prevent you from leaving and they will do it every morning.
- Children pick up on your slightest bit of anxiety and wonder why you are concerned. Remind yourself to be consistent, be calm and be optimistic. You may encounter a few rough days/weeks, but your child will get used to the routine and further separations will be much easier.
- Other children in your child’s group observe parents staying for longer periods of time and wonder why their mum or dads can’t stay. Some children also will become upset with other parents coming and going. Having lots of parents in the room also interrupts children’s play and for some children they find this overwhelming.

Source: Lisa Medoff