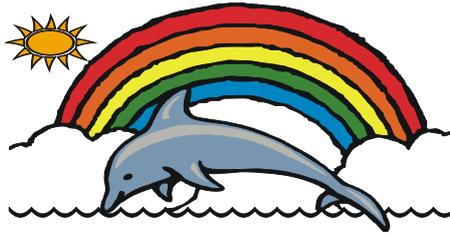


“Your Community Pre-school”

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December 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2020, as we prepare for the final weeks of the pre-school year.

Well what a year this has been!! COVID-19 has certainly left a long-lasting mark on us all personally and professionally. It has seen us operate in ways that is so foreign to the way educators work with their children and families. I would like to thank all parents and families for your understanding and support throughout an extremely challenging year. Our team have really missed the ongoing connection and conversations that we would normally have had with your all.

This year has resulted in 4 team members resign in a short period of time, for various reasons. Staff changes always bring about challenges for remaining staff. I would like to commend this awesome team of educators at Berkeley Vale Pre-school for their resilience, dedication and continually working collaboratively to step up and provide a high-quality pre-school program for our children and families. Well done girls!

Let us hope that 2021 brings further reduced restrictions within education settings and we can return to increased normality 😊

What is Coming Up?

- **Tuesday, 8th December – Christmas Concert**
- **Friday, 11th December – Christmas Concert**
- **Tuesday, 15th & Wednesday, 16th December – Pre-school Pizza fun day**
- **Wednesday, 16th December – last day of term**
- **Thursday, 17th December – Pre-School closed for holiday break**
- **Thursday, 28th January 2021– Pre-school re-opens for end of week, Thursday & Friday children**
- **Monday, 1st February 2021, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday group children return**

Christmas Concert celebrations

Please find attached to this newsletter previous information sent home regarding end of year celebrations. In the event of rain, bring your umbrella as the show will now proceed, rain, hail or shine. Please be aware the event must be held outdoors due to COVID restrictions, therefore visiting family members will be standing in the rain, whilst each room performs under the verandah. If you have not RSVP'd for this event please do so immediately, we require an accurate register of attendees prior to the event due to our COVID-19 risk assessment guidelines.

2021 Educators in the Dolphin Room

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Kristy	Kristy	Lyn	Kristy	Kristy
Lea	Lea	Lea	Lea	Lea
Colleen	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen
Sarah	Sarah	Sarah	Vickie	Vickie
Dervla	Dervla	Vickie	Dervla	Dervla

2021 Educators in the Rainbow Room

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Lyn	Lisa	Lisa	Lisa	Lisa
Sonja	Sonja	Sonja	Teacher	Teacher
Imogen	Imogen	Imogen	Imogen	Imogen
Trish	Trish	Trish		

Staff News

Lea, one of the educators in the Rainbow Room this year, is recovering well from her partial knee reconstruction and will not return to work until the start of next year.

Unfortunately, Allana Murray, our new Early Childhood teacher, within the Rainbow Room, who was appointed at the start of Term 4, resigned after 4 weeks due to personal circumstances. We are planning on interviewing

next week for a new EC teacher who will commence Term 1, 2021.

Imogen Gentle, our 2020 Trainee has had her training extended to June 2021, due to the impact COVID-19 has had on her TAFE training.

Management Committee 2020

On behalf of the Berkeley Vale Pre-school community and educators, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents on our Management Committee. Thomas McConaghey and Sonya Cheng leave our service, and their respective roles at the end of this year and have been long standing committee members during this time. Casey Romanos and Sam Stasinowsky will be returning for 2021 and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to ensure Berkeley Vale Pre-school remains a viable pre-school service supporting local children and families.

There is a great deal of work that these Committee Members have been involved in behind the scenes, during their own time, and it is greatly appreciated. Our pre-school cannot operate without a parent-run Management Committee and we are extremely grateful for all their support, input and efforts throughout the year. Any parents who would like to become involved in 2021, you are encouraged to contact me so that we can discuss this further.

2021 Free Pre-school

The NSW State Government recently announced that community-based pre-schools, like ours, will be financially supported to ensure "free pre-school" is offered to children and families in 2021. I can confirm that this is correct, with written confirmation from the Early Childhood Directorate that our operational funding will be honoured until the middle of 2021. This a fantastic win for our families, and all we ask is that you pay the \$50 annual family registration fee. If you have yet to make this payment, please ensure that this is done by Friday, 4th December.

Farewell and Best Wishes

We would like to farewell all our children and families that leave us at the end of the year as their child/ren transition to school for 2021. For many of you, this marks the end of a long association with our service. Best wishes for the future. We will look forward to welcoming all returning and new children and families in the new year and on behalf of the Berkeley Vale Pre-school team we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and holiday season for whatever that may look like for your family.

Best wishes to all and happy holidays,

Colleen Templeton and Berkeley Vale Pre-school
Team