

**Term 3, 2017 - Turner Preschool Term Letter
Gulambany Group – Monday-Wednesday
Sandra Shepley**

26th July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to term 3, Trina and I have been noticing how much the children have grown this year! Many children have reached individual milestones such as writing their name, riding the tricycles or balance bikes independently, contributing to group time conversations and holding on to the monkey bars and moving from one bar to another. The children are communicating with their peers and teachers and developing their oral language skills. They are very settled within the preschool environment and really developing their sense of belonging. The children are endlessly enthusiastic which is wonderful to witness and makes our job that much easier.

Families are always welcome to visit the preschool and there are many ways to be involved this term. Some parents enjoy spending a few minutes at the start of the day sharing an activity with their child. This term we have our Artists' and Writers' Festival and we invite parents with expertise in this area to talk to us about how they can be involved. Early in the term we are visiting both the National Portrait Gallery and National Gallery of Australia as part of our lead in to the Artists' and Writers' Festival and later in the term we will have a visit from Declan the Music Man who will introduce the children to many musical instruments as part of our One Place, Many Stories Inquiry Unit. We also have our Learning Journeys which take place in week 8.

Inquiry Unit – One Place, Many Stories

During term 3 we will be investigating the many different cultures that make up our community. We will be exploring how people from different cultures celebrate important events and how they live their day to day lives. We will be looking at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture in some of our art, story and cooking experiences as well as celebrating the aspects of culture that the children share with us through their 'culture bags' (brown paper bags) which will be given out soon. This inquiry follows on from our term 1 inquiry *Our Place* where we looked at what it means to belong to groups such as our family and preschool.

Speaking and listening is strongly linked with literacy skills and this term the children will have opportunities to retell stories that are important to their families as well as stories which are well known to them. Children will explore the culture and traditions of their own family, what countries their family originates from and the traditions and artefacts that make their family unique.

The learning experiences will focus on expanding the children's understandings and knowledge within the *Early Years Learning Framework*, with a specific focus on the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities

- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
- Children respond to diversity with respect

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media

Guest Speakers

To support explorations of culture we would like to invite our families to come in and share aspects of their family culture with the preschool children. When children hear stories from people who have lived overseas, they learn about other cultures, people and their own place in the world.

Some things that you may consider sharing

- Do you have a favourite family recipe that you could come into preschool and cook with the children?
- Have you lived in or do you originate from another country? Are there aspects of this culture and your experiences that you could share?
- Are there games, songs or dances that represent your family's culture that you can share with the preschool children?
- How does the place you are from impact on who you are?
- Do you have any special objects which you could show the children such as ornaments, books, or symbolic gestures which are meaningful to your family? What is special about your family culture; can you share it with the children?

If this is something that you would like to do, please see your child's teacher to arrange a suitable time to come and talk with the children. We look forward to some fabulous learning for the children about their family culture and hope to hear from some guest speakers soon.

Literacy

During term 3 we will continue to use familiar books to explore stories. We will be constructing our own versions of those stories where the children will tell the story in their own words and create the artwork for the pages. We will also be retelling texts such as *Tiddalik*, to practise sequencing stories. Our dramatic play area is set up as an airport and the children have already enjoyed choosing places to visit and flying off to them. The children are showing interest in rhyming words (words that have the same sounding ending) and are often identifying rhyming words in texts so we will capitalise on this interest by using rhyming stories and discussing the words which rhyme within them.

Talking and listening is always a focus in preschool and the children will continue to use props and puppets to explore stories, as well as create their own stories and games. We also continue to read stories aloud together at the same time to develop the children's confidence in reading and assist them to become familiar with how writing is read. The children will also be given opportunities to join in with chants and repetitive texts such as *Wombat Stew* and *Cat Sat on the Mat*. Our class pets and Wondering Box will go home throughout this term. Please bring these back as soon as possible so all children have a chance to speak. This helps build children's confidence in speaking.

We continue to give the children daily activities for them to practise recognising and writing their own names and some are learning to write their surnames as well. We are encouraging them to write their name on their artwork, as well as sign on to our class roll each day. If your child is interested in writing at home, please encourage them to write with lower case letters. Many children come to school writing their name in all capital letters and this confuses them when we teach them to write their name a different way and is also a hard habit to break.

Numeracy

Our numeracy activities involve using quality literature, manipulatives, songs and chants to enable the children to:

- explore patterns
- recognise small groups of items 1-5, without counting
- compare height, length and volume
- match collections to number names – symbols/words/pictures
- say numbers in order
- count and build their understanding of the idea that the last number you say is how many there are in the collection
- identify what comes before or after a given number between 0-10
- recognising that when you count, you count each item in the collection only once (1:1 correspondence)

We also encourage you to help your child count everyday objects such as asking them to count out knives and forks when setting the table and seeing how many numbers you can find on signs, in shops and everywhere else you might visit frequently.

Learning Assets and Dispositions

This term we will continue to focus on being a self manager, encouraging the children to take care of their belongings and unpack their bags for themselves. In addition, we will be looking at being good communicators, learning to be confident and respectful in our communications. Building learning assets will support the children as they move onto Kindergarten.

We are looking forward to having many of you visiting our classroom this term and sharing traditions and travel experiences with us!

Kind regards

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