

**Term 3, 2017 - Turner Preschool Term Letter**  
**Gudgaur group – Wednesday - Friday**  
**Sandy Home / Trina Meredith**

**28 July**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our winter term. We are looking forward to new experiences such as our whole school Artists' and Writers' Festival, as well as lots of wondering, inquiring and exploring through play. Trina and I have enjoyed listening to the children's stories about the holidays. Every child has contributed to these group discussions, showing us they have developed a great sense of belonging to preschool and that their confidence has greatly increased from the beginning of the year. The interactions of the children both amongst themselves and with the teachers have been positive to see as they further develop friendships and learn about dealing with conflict. The children are endlessly enthusiastic about being at preschool 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. We will also 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. Our Learning Journeys which take place in week 8, which is an opportunity for children to share their learning in preschool with families.

**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 our explorations of culture we would like to invite our families to come in and share aspects of their family culture with the preschool children. Sharing helps children to 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**

Every day, we continue to enjoy stories. We share quality texts that incorporate fabulous illustrations to help the children to interact with the books. The children are then encouraged to show their ideas about books through the activities such as pictures and writing. We will build our understanding about how writing works. Some key understanding are, that writing contains a message, that text in English is written and read from left to right, that the words on a book's cover gives the title and other details such as the name of the author and illustrator, that the cover picture generally suggests what the book is about and that illustrations convey meaning and relate to the text on the page.

Speaking 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 print is read. The children will 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. 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 practice recognizing 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 and stories.

## Numeracy

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

- repeated patterns
- recognising small groups of items 1-5, without counting
- using informal measurement to comparing height, length and volume
- matching groups to number names – symbols/words/pictures
- saying numbers in order
- understanding counting and the idea that the last number you say is how many there are in the collection
- identifying 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 to count everyday objects such as asking them to count out knives and forks when setting the table and seeing how many numbers they 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 into 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

Sandy Home and Trina Meredith

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### Special Preschool term 3 dates for your calendar

*Please note: These dates are correct as of time of printing this letter. Please regularly check the website, as well as the fortnightly newsletters for any changes and additions, as well as whole school events.*

#### Week 3

Thu 3/8      Excursion National Portrait Gallery and National Gallery of Australia - departing Turner at 9:30am (Gudgaur Group)

#### Week 10

Thurs 21/9      Declan the Music Man incursion 2pm