



February 2019

Welcome to MPC...

A Warm Welcome from the Committee

Firstly, thank you very much to the band of willing parents who worked feverishly on a hot morning to transform the kindy grounds into the inviting spaces they are now. Thank you very much to the wonderful group of parents, under the organising hands of Chris who transformed our playgrounds from a wild jungle to inviting play spaces

Thank you to all parents who attended our MPC Meet and Greet and Annual General Meeting on Monday night. We would also like to congratulate and thank the following parents for taking on positions on our 2019 Management Committee:-

President	1\3	Emma-Kate Clyburn
Vice President	2\3	Sue Walker
Secretary	3\2	Rebecca Sorensen
Treasurer	1\3	Jen Mortenson
Grants Officer	3\2	Michelle Ng
Maintenance Officer	2\2	Brad Kenney
Marketing Officer	1\3	Tracy Constable
Personnel Officer	2\2	Belinda Hapgood
Events Officer	1\3	Jackie Taylor
Working Bee Co-ordinator	1\2	Sara Pengelly
Workplace H&S Officer	3\3	Aaron Channer

We wish everyone a fruitful and exciting year together at MPC in this our 70th year!

70th Planning Meeting: Saturday 9th February from 2pm

If you would like to find out more and help our band of volunteers, come along!



What's on at MPC

Saturday 9th Feb

Playgroup commences 9am to 10.30am. All welcome 0-5 years. \$12.00 "come and try", then \$50.00 for 5 sessions.

Sunday 24th Feb

Family morning at MPC

Saturday 17th March

2nd Working Bee for the year 8am to 12pm

We hope you have had a happy introduction to Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre and trust that you and your family will settle into kindy life quickly. The Play mornings were a fabulous way for children to become a little more familiar and build on their sense of belonging to MPC. Parents and children separating and saying good-bye is very straightforward and for some families it can be challenging. Time and practice often eases this process as the teaching teams support individual children (and parents) to move from moments of sadness to feelings of calm and excitement. Keep your eye out for a Blog written by Madonna and myself with many strategies to support saying separation.

Many parents, rightly, gave themselves a high five for even getting here on time! It takes time to get to know the routine and meet other children and families. Thanks Madonna for being here for the first two weeks to chat with families and provide an opportunity for parents to take a breath after drop-off before continuing on with the day. Madonna will be a familiar face on some days at Before and After Kindy Care. Becoming familiar with everyday kindy life will continue for some time and it is important to remember that everyone at MPC is here to help. We expect that there will be very many questions, expressions of joy and worry. Please remember that we believe that there are no silly questions at MPC!

Teachers are always happy to talk with you and please remember drop off and pick up times are busy with greeting and farewelling all children and families. You are welcome to wait for a few minutes in the afternoons, email or call later in the day.

Starting kindy, like many changes, can be a big thing! Even for children who are familiar with walking through the front gate, there are changes with children, group dynamics, teaching styles and the like. Sharing space, equipment and adult attention takes on a whole new meaning. Some children may also be adjusting to changes in their feelings as they find their place and space within a group of children. Sometimes challenges occur. Our response is to explain and support and allow time for children to adjust.

These first few weeks are a really important time for staff members, children and families to get to know each other. We ask that you consider the following:

- ◆ We are aware that for some families, dropping off and collecting your kindy child has to be co-ordinated with other children, however we encourage you to arrive as close as possible to your group's starting and finishing times. This enables your child to settle into the day and make connections with other children as they decide where to play. This will also help with car parking as each group should have enough time to leave before the next group is ready to start.
- ◆ Please remember to check your parent pockets on your unit verandah and noticeboards for information. In the central courtyard you will find noticeboards for B & A Care, Sustainability, Educational and Community News. Some information about the day can also be found near your child's unit entry gate or verandah. We do try to write a few comments about the day to give you some 'conversation starters' with your child.
- ◆ Have any of your contact details changed over the holiday break? Please ensure staff members have the correct phone numbers and up to date information about your child.
- ◆ Getting into a routine takes time....please don't worry if initially, lunches are not all eaten, or if your child seems unusually tired, cranky or doesn't want to tell you anything about his/her day. Your child may share information later in the day when relaxed (sometimes in the bath or while reading a story at night).
- ◆ Information about Food and Drinks can be found in the Parent Information Handbook. Please send a non-insulated lunch box as insulated bags prevent the cold air from keeping lunches fresh.
- ◆ Summer weather is an added difficulty for the children and adults at the moment. We actively encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. Please make sure your child has loose comfortably play clothes which he/she can easily manage and doesn't worry about getting painted or dirty.
- ◆ We suggest you apply sunscreen and insect repellent (if required) before your child starts each morning. This is available near all sign in areas.

We hope you enjoy the year ahead at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre and we look forward as a staff team to getting to know all our children's families.

News from the Admin team....

TERM ONE FEES

Invoices for Kindy Fees have been placed in all parent pockets and are due for payment by **9th February**.

Fees can either be paid by cash, direct deposit into our bank account (preferred option) or credit card (a 1% surcharge applies).

If you would like to pay your fees in instalments during the term, please see Chris or Sue in the office for a "Fee Payment Plan", or email the office and we can send the form through to you.

If paying by direct deposit into our bank account, **please return your invoice to the office** (via the Fees Box on the wall near the counter) so that we can attach a receipt and return to you.

Health Care/Pensioner Concession Cards/DVA Gold Cards

The Queensland Government offers subsidies to families who have a health care card or equivalent concession card by providing a subsidy to our Centre to reduce the cost of their child's kindy fees.

If you or your child have one of the above Government Concession cards, please ensure the office receive a copy of your current card A.S.A.P. **if not already provided to us.**

OFFICE HOURS

The office will open on **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.30am to 11.30am** for all enquiries, purchases of merchandise and payment of fees.

AUTHORISATIONS TO COLLECT CHILDREN. If you would like to add additional persons to the list of nominated adults who can collect your child please see your child's teacher or Chris in the office to complete the required form. Children can **only** be collected by persons listed on your child's file.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the year and putting names to faces!

Chris Nicoll (Office Administrator)

MESSAGES FOR TEACHERS...

Please remember to phone your child's teachers if your child is going to be absent.

Please use your child's **Unit phone number**.

Unit One: 3355 2536

Unit Two: 3355 3899

Unit Three: 3355 2552

B & A Care: 0416579696

Alternatively if the matter is NOT urgent, you may like to email your child's teacher:-

(teacher's name@mpc.net.au)



Please feel free to explore the front courtyard if you are here a few minutes before your child's starting time.

There are books to read and the watering cans are also ready if you and your child would like to do a little watering!

MPC philosophy (Extract)

At Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre we view children as individuals and social learners. We believe in the importance of inclusion and acknowledge that children come from diverse backgrounds and bring unique strengths, experiences and understandings of their world. We recognise the Turrbul people as the traditional custodians of this land on which we learn and play.

The fundamental focus for all decision making is the well-being of children and their growth and learning. In the learning environment, play is valued as a significant means for learning and allows opportunities for children to co-create the curriculum. Play can provide insights into children's interests, skills, beliefs, joys, anxieties and frustrations. We encourage healthy, sustainable practices and value everyday, incidental and intentional experiences.

We believe that the connections made through listening, playing, talking, noticing, wondering and questioning provide a rich and significant context for children's learning. We consider partnerships as integral components of the curriculum. Opportunities are created for families to share - in all aspects of our learning community. We encourage children, families and staff to make meaningful connections and develop a sense of belonging, place and well-being within the Mitchelton Pre- Schooling Centre environment and the broader community.

TERM ONE KINDY FEES & B & A CARE FEES DUE : 15th FEBRUARY

Contact the office if you would like to pay your account in instalments during Term 1. Invoices were emailed to all families prior to the start of Term 1. Check your email!

News from Before & After Kindy Care....

The B&A staff team are looking forward to getting to know you and your children.

Before and After Kindy Care aims to provide a relaxed caring environment for children to enjoy before and/or after their regular day. All children attending MPC are welcome to use this additional service on either a permanent basis or casual (just for the occasion when you aren't able to drop off or collect at your usual children's day program hours)

Hours of operation for the program are:-

Every morning	7.30am to 9.00am	Every afternoon	2.30pm to 5.30pm
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If you wish to make a permanent booking, please call in to the office to complete a "permanent booking" form. Permanent bookings receive a 25% discount off the Casual Rate. **Fees for Permanent OK Care bookings will be invoiced and payable in advance.** Alternatively you may use this service on a casual basis – please add your child's name to any session you wish them to attend in the B & A sign in/out folder in the back courtyard. Invoices for casual use will be issued twice per term and payment will be required within 7 days.

Further information is available on our website, from the admin staff, teachers and in the Parent Handbook.

Where is...?

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (Qklg)
MPC/Gowrie Policies
INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES
Working Bee Rosters (to change to a different day)
MPC's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)



What is a **Quality Improvement Plan**?

The National Regulations require approved services to have a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The aim of a QIP is to help providers self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care and to plan future improvements. The QIP also helps the regulatory authorities with their assessment of the service. A QIP helps providers to document the strengths of their services and to recognise areas for improvement. The provider (MPC) should develop a QIP which reflects the unique circumstances of the service and its community. Educators, children, families and the community should all be involved in the self-assessment.
http://acecqa.gov.au/faqs/quality-improvement-plans/#QIP_1

Staff members, past parents and committee members collaboratively and continually review, add progress notes and add new QIP's. I would highly recommend you take the time to flick or read through MPC's QIP when you find a few free minutes.

IMMUNISATION

It is strongly recommended that all children have their immunisation schedule up to date before commencing at our Centre. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, all families will be notified.

Any non-immunised children will be required to be withdrawn from the centre until the risk has passed in accordance with the NHMRC exclusion guidelines.

Please inform a staff member if your child or other members of your immediate family contracts a vaccine preventable disease. Historically, MPC has had an immunisation rate of enrolled children higher than 95% with a small percentage of children non-immunised for a variety of reasons.

Following your child's 4 year old immunisation, please send a copy to the office. For further information, please refer to the Immunisation Policy located in the Gowrie Policy folder in the central foyer.

MPC Enrolment Lists 2020 to 2022

- ♦ Do you have younger children?
- ♦ Do you want the option of sending them to MPC?
- ♦ Is their name on the Enrolment Waiting List?

Do it now!you will then have peace of mind, knowing you don't have to think about it anymore. It's easy. Complete a form online or collect one from the office. Complete an additional form if you are considering MPC 3's group. (MPC does not have a sibling policy).

DO YOU KNOW A LANDSCAPER?

We are currently seeking quotes to complete garden landscaping works in the Unit 1 front courtyard.

Please see Chris in the office if you have any recommendations.

Parent Calendar

The Parent Calendar for 2019 will be uploaded on to our website in the coming days and updated throughout the year.

Family Welcome Morning at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre

Sunday 24 February

Come and join us between 9.00am to 10.30 am

Let your children show you around and see how they spend their days here at Kindy!

Morning Tea will be provided from 10 am.

RSVP by 22nd February (at Unit sign on area)



Experience the fun of
PLAYGROUP
at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre

- ✓ Welcoming all children 0-5 yrs! (including families not enrolled at MPC)
- ✓ Facilitated by one of our MPC staff members
- ✓ Runs every 2nd Saturday during school terms*
- ✓ Offering a stimulating, safe and friendly environment for families to come together to play and build relationships.
- ✓ Email admin@mpc.net.au to register your interest

*approximately



29 Kedron Ave Mitchelton
(next to the train station)
phone 3355 2535 • mpc.net.au



WANTED!

Recycled and Reusable- some examples

Cardboard boxes, cartons and cylinders
Glass jars and baby food jars
Beads and buttons
Carpet and lino samples
Ribbon, fabric samples, hessian, wool and fur pieces
Tins, containers and lids
Sheets, blankets, cushions
Different kinds of paper (A4, A3, architect paper), tissue, wrapping...
Baskets
Trays
Ceramic pots
Wooden plates
Wooden boxes
Old cutlery and cooking utensils
Pots and pans
Vases
Table clothes
The list goes on ...