



from Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre

February 2020

Welcome to MPC...

A Warm Welcome from the Committee

Firstly, thank you very much to the band of willing parents who worked feverishly after significant rain 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 Leanne and Shirley who transformed our playgrounds from a wild jungle to inviting play spaces. A big thank you to **Scott, Brad, David, Scott, Rebecca, Jeremy, Simon, Shaun, Ben, Shirley and Leanne** who worked so hard during the first WORKING BEE.



Thank you also to the teaching team who, aside from welcoming children to their play mornings, spent two days together discussing a range of topics including Action Research Projects for 2020 including

- * Focus words for MPC philosophy.
- * Sustainability – what else can we re-cycle?
- * Bee & butterfly homes.
- * Indigenous games and language.
- * Community book swap.

You will hear more about these projects during the year.

The Committee would like to invite you to the Annual “Meet the Teachers” and Annual General Meeting Evening on Monday 18th February beginning at 7.00pm.

Please see the attached invitation for further information.

Emma-Kate Clyburn

President 2019

What's on at MPC in Term 1

Monday 18th February

Meet the teachers and AGM.

Saturday 22nd Feb

Family afternoon at MPC

Saturday 14th March

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

News from the Director (Leanne Hunter)

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 smooth for some and can be challenging for others. 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. You may like to read an article written this time last year ***Saying goodbye...*** on MPC's blog accessed at <https://mpc.net.au/general/saying-goodbye/>

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. You may have noticed some MPC teachers in the morning for ***Coffee and Calm***. Shirley (Monday and Tuesday), Hayley (Wednesday) and Janette (Thursday and Friday) are 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. 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 however drop off 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 different 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 general response is to explain, validate feelings, support and allow time for children to adjust. As always, individual differences are considered which sometimes determines an alternative response.

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 when placed in the fridge.
- ◆ 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.

Summary of a few kindy policies ...



Lady Gowrie QLD
Community
Kindergartens

Lady Gowrie, which is MPC 's Central Governing Body, regularly reviews policies. These policies are then reviewed and discussed by the staff team and committee members along with any interested parents before being adopted. The essential

information from many policies is included in the Parent Information Handbook and all policies are available for viewing in the central foyer. We also endeavour to highlight new policy information in the newsletter from time-to-time. Information about three policies follows.

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 National Health and Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines.

All parents are requested to inform a staff member if their child or other members of the 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 not-immunised for a variety of reasons.

Please ensure that MPC has your child's updated immunisation record. For further information, please refer to the Immunisation Policy located in the Gowrie Policy folder in the central foyer.

Managing a high temperature at kindy: quick reference of procedure before administering paracetamol.



{The normal temperature for a child is up to 38 degrees celsius. A high fever is when the child's temperature is equal to or greater than 38.5 degrees celsius. }

- If a child is suspected of having a high temperature staff will assess the situation and take immediate steps to reduce the temperature (remove excess clothing) and take the child's temperature.
- Child's temperature will be taken and re-taken after 10 minutes. No Paracetamol is to be administered at this time.
- When temperature is under 38.0 C, staff will continue to monitor.
- Where the child's temperature is 38.0 C to 38.4 C parent/guardian will be called to inform them that their child has a fever, that their temperature will continue to be monitored and if it reaches 38.5 C, discuss consent for administration of Paracetamol. If parent/guardian has not already collected child, he/she will need to be collected now.
- If child's temperature reaches over 39.0 C and Parent / Guardian/ Emergency Contact cannot be contacted, to give verbal permission and/or collect the Child an ambulance will be called while continuing to try to locate Parent/Guardian/Emergency Contact.

(If child deteriorates at any time, parent and/or ambulance will be called and first aid plan followed.)

Please talk with your child's teacher if you need further clarification.

Administration of Medication.

- Parents are asked not to bring their child to kindy until at least 3 doses of any new medication have been administered and if child is not well enough to attend.
- Where a child is receiving medication at home (including paracetamol) but not at kindy, Parents/ Guardians will provide to staff (in writing), details of the medication, its purpose and of any possible side effects.
- Where medication for long term conditions is required, Parents/Guardians will provide the Service with a letter/Action Plan/Management Plan from the child's medical practitioner or specialist providing details of the medical condition, correct dosage (as prescribed) and how the condition is to be managed.
- Medication will only be administered if it is prescribed by a registered medical practitioner, in its original

Who's who in the ZOO! (Please add your teachers number to your mobile)



Sue and Chris



Leanne



Vanessa



Jo



Shirley



Kim



Janette



Louise



Anna



Sue



Hayley



Hannah



Yvonne

MESSAGES FOR TEACHERS...

Please remember to phone your child's teachers if your child is going to be absent or if you are delayed in the afternoon and wish to book into After Kindy Care.

Please use your child's Unit phone number.

Unit One: 3355 2536

Unit Two: 3355 3899

Unit Three: 3355 2552

B & A Care: 0416579696



Jordy



Selvi



Paris



Kim



Kimber



Shari



Pam

Are you finding it challenging to read all the notices?

A parent a few years ago told me her secret for keeping up with reading notices. Her process was:

- ♦ sign in and take note of notices requiring immediate attention in the unit;
- ♦ on her way out she would scan the noticeboards in the central foyer to see what's new;
- ♦ come in early one afternoon a week to read what she was interested in.

Being a systems person, this appealed to me. Maybe it will appeal to you!

News from the Admin team

TERM ONE FEES

Invoices for Kindy Fees have been emailed to all families and we have had 2 email addresses they will have been sent to both addresses. Payment is due by Friday **14th February, unless you have sent in a Fee Payment Plan**. 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.

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

Tax Deductible receipts for the \$100.00 Building fund Donation will be put in parent pockets—thank you in advance for your contribution to the major upkeep and maintenance on our buildings by making a contribution to our Building Fund.

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.



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!

A child's mind is not a container to be filled but rather a fire to be kindled.

Dorothea Brande

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.

As you would be aware from recent news articles mosquitoes are prolific at the moment in Brisbane after the rain and MPC is no exception!

We are currently trialing some new outdoor spray canisters with a hope that this may provide more protection for the children and staff. The centre uses a natural insect repellent from the "MooGoo" range of natural products for children for whom we have parent permission to re-apply insect repellent during the day. Please spray mosquito repellent on your child particularly if they react to bites before you leave home or at the centre.



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

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. See Chris or Sue in the office for further information.

Where is it?

The following documents are on the shelf in the wooden cupboards in the central foyer, ready for your reading pleasure!

⇒ Curriculum documents:

- * Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- * Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (Qklg)

⇒ Laws and Regulations

⇒ MPC/Gowrie Policies

⇒ 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. MPC developed a QIP which reflects our unique context and the community.

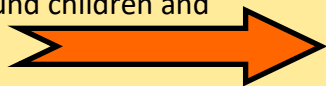
Teachers, educators, children, families and the community are welcome to contribute to the QIP.

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment/quality-improvement-plans>



Have you seen the Parent Library? It's tucked away on the left as you enter the foyer. There are fabulous books which prompt thinking about a broad range of topics centred around children and families. Topics include:

- Healthy eating
- Supporting children's development
- Guiding children's behaviour
- Personal growth and understandings ...



MPC Enrolment Lists 2021 to 2024

- ◆ 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).



Bits and Pieces!

Car parking is tricky particularly at the beginning of the year.

MPC is in a designated SCHOOL ZONE.

Please be considerate to other parents. If you anticipate taking more time to settle your child, please park away from the 10 minute zones in front of MPC. (e.g. Blackwood Street)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please obey the NO STANDING and LIMITED TIME parking signs.

Arrive only 5 minutes prior to your Unit's starting time.

Park in Blackwood St and walk on the pedestrian walkway beside the train tracks.

Arrange carpooling with friends once your child is familiar with the centre.

If you're planning to stay for a short time in the morning, **DO NOT** park in the 10 min zone.

Please consider parents with babies and young children with prams.



It is another opportunity to choose patience! HMMMMMM!

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

A colorful poster for a playgroup. The top half has a blue background with the text 'Experience the fun of PLAYGROUP' in large, white, bubbly letters. Below this, it says 'at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre'. There are two circular inset photos: one of a child jumping and another of a child sitting at a table. The bottom half of the poster has a white background with black text. It lists the dates and times for the sessions, the cost, and a description of the environment.

**Experience the fun of
PLAYGROUP**
at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre

Welcoming all children 0-5 yrs!
(including families not enrolled at MPC)

DATES during TERM 1 and 2 2020:
8th and 22nd Feb, 7th and 21st March, 2nd, 16th and 30th May, 4th April, 13th and 27th June,

TIME: Saturday mornings 9am to 10.30am
COST: \$50.00 per family for 5 sessions,
or "Come along and try" for \$12.00 (1 session)

Offering a stimulating, safe and friendly environment for families to come together to play and build relationships.



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