

# The Buzz



from Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre

February 2022

## Welcome to MPC...

### A Warm Welcome from the Committee

Welcome to all the new and returning 2021 families. The kindy year has finally started and we are very keen to establish a routine that has been sorely missed by many families.

Firstly, thank you very much to the band of willing parents and MPC staff who worked feverishly to transform the kindy grounds into the inviting spaces they are now.

Thank you also to the teaching teams who appreciated the silver lining to be super organised and have a little more time to undertake Professional Learning considering a range of topics both visionary and practical.

Although COVID-19 continues to have an impact on families in a range of ways we aim to provide support and clear communications as the year progresses. Please reach out if we can help in any way.

Emma-Kate Clyburn (President)



Please email your child's teacher or call or your child's room directly for absences. If you are delayed in the afternoon and wish to book into After Kindy Care, please ensure you contact your child's teacher.

Please add your child's Unit phone number to your contacts.

Unit 1: 33552536

Unit 2: 33553899

Unit 3: 33552552

B&A Care: 0490 014 946

**The Committee would like to invite you to the Annual "Meet the Teachers" and Annual General Meeting evening on Monday 28th February. We plan to chat with the teaching teams and have the AGM while outside, keeping in mind our requirement to allow for 1.5 m distance between adults.**

**Refreshments and Meet the Teachers from 7.00pm.**

**RSVP on list near sign on folders prior to the 21st**

## News from the Director (Leanne Hunter)

I don't think any of us anticipated the way 2022 began, however resilience and adaptability have continued to shine through with families making adjustments wherever possible. The teaching team shared the care for children of essential workers attending during the first two weeks however everyone was keen to welcome all children on the 7th February.

The front courtyard was a buzz with children and parents sharing a range of feelings from joy that the day has finally arrived to mixed feelings of excitement and worry which is so normal for this time of year. I joined in with amusement with one set of parents who high-fived each other that they managed to get to the front gate before letting a few tears slip away!

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 and feel a sense of belonging to MPC. The initial phase of getting to know 'what to do' will pass very quickly as you and your child will soon have it mastered. 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 ***Saying goodbye...*** on MPC's blog accessed at <https://mpc.net.au/general/saying-goodbye/>

It takes time to get to know the pattern of the day and meet other children and families. 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 teaching teams, 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. Teachers write a few comments about the day to give you some 'conversation starters' with your child which will either be emailed or available to read near your child's sign in/out folder.
- ◆ 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).
- ◆ Please send a non-insulated lunch box as insulated bags prevent the cold air from keeping lunches fresh when placed in the fridge.

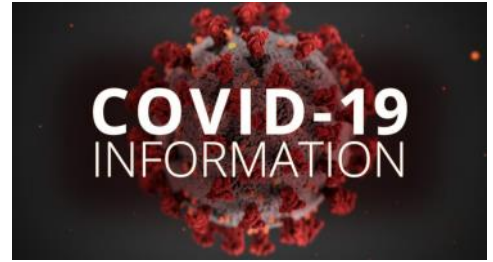
We hope you enjoy the year ahead at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre and we look forward as a staff team to getting to know all our children's families.

# MPC's COVID-19 Safe Plan (extract)

To read the full plan, please refer to the Policy folder in the central foyer.

## Guiding Principles:

- Seek updated information and respond to all Health Department directives.
- Be flexible, adaptive and positive.
- Focus on well-being of all stakeholders- children, families, staff members.
- Provide calm, accurate and regular communications to all stakeholders.
- Monitor, review and improve practices.



## Key strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include:

- To facilitate 1.5 m physical distancing for adults, starting times for each unit are staggered and entrance to each unit is specified:
  - ⇒ Unit 1 is via the front courtyard;
  - ⇒ Unit 2 is via their front courtyard;
  - ⇒ Unit 3 enters through the central courtyard and gate;
  - ⇒ B&A Care through the central courtyard and use relevant gates to access child's unit.
- Families are encouraged to arrive just prior to their child's starting time;
- Mask wearing for adults as mandated;
- Hand-washing for children is taught and supervised;
- Keeping unwell children at home;
- Staff to stay at home if unwell and abide with directives in relation to COVID testing;
- Teaching teams to monitor health of attending children. Parent will be contacted to collect unwell child.

## Summary of a couple of policies ...

Lady Gowrie, which is MPC 's Central Governing Body, regularly updates policies. These policies are then reviewed and discussed by the staff team and committee members along with 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.

**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 97% 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.

### When a child is unwell:

Where a child is showing any flu like symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, coughing) their parent/guardian is to be called and immediate collection of the child from the service requested. Staff continue to complete an IITI Record as per normal procedures. An isolation space where the child can still be supervised and supported will be established.

Where a child has a temperature reading **of 38.0 or higher** this initiates a call to the parent/guardian asking for the child to be collected.

# News from the Admin team

## TERM ONE FEES and B & A CARE PERMANENT BOOKING INVOICES

Invoices for Kindy Fees and B & A Care (if applicable) have been emailed to all families and are due for payment by **18th February**. Please check your spam/junk folder if you have not received it and move to your usual inbox so you don't miss future emails from us.

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.

## Health Care Cards/Pensioner Concession Cards/DVA Gold/White 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, or where children identify as ATSI.

If you or your child have one of the above Government Concession cards, and you haven't advised us on your enrolment documentation please drop into the office.

## OFFICE HOURS

The office will open on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am to 3.00pm** 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 and year and putting names to faces!

## MPC Enrolment Lists

### 2023 to 2025 are OPEN!

- ◆ 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**, and offers and choice of groups for new enrolments are allocated in strict waiting list order.



**Parking** at schools and kindergartens is always challenging particularly at the beginning of the year.

### 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.
- Check for parking in the railway carparks.
- 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, please DO NOT park in the 10 min zone.
- Please consider parents with babies and young children with prams.



*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.*

Key words which underpin our Philosophy:

Relationships

Play

Well-being

## 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 7.00am to 9.00am

Every afternoon 2.15pm 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.

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

## 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)

⇒ Education and Care Laws and Regulations

⇒ MPC/Gowrie Policies

⇒ MPC Historical photos

⇒ 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>

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:admin@mpc.net.au) to register your interest

\*approximately

29 Kedron Ave Mitchelton  
(next to the train station)  
phone 3355 2535 • [mpc.net.au](http://mpc.net.au)



Jo is looking forward to welcoming you to Playgroup.

### TERM ONE DATES:

12th Feb and 26th Feb

12th March and 26th March

**TIME:** Saturday mornings 9am to 10.30am

**COST:** \$10.00 per session (payable on the day)

Kindy on Saturday is quite different to sharing the space with a big group of children. Their parent/s and maybe siblings are also there too! This may be an opportunity for your child to become even more familiar with our lovely kindy spaces and for you as parents to chat with other families in this area.

Playgroup is open to any families with children up to 5 years (they don't have to be enrolled at MPC), so feel free to let your friends and neighbours know about our Saturday playgroup.



# Have you seen the Parent Library?

Our Parent Library is 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 - Food
- Supporting children's learning
- Diverse needs
- Gardening/Sustainability
- Guiding children's behaviour
- Personal growth and understandings
- Books to read with children. (These books are useful to prompt conversations about sickness, death, positive mindset, perseverance, different ways of being, being brave, managing anger and other emotions, trying new foods, PTSD and many more.)



May be useful if your child is missing you at kindy.

May be useful for managing fears and worries. Thinking about them in a different way.



## If you are here early...



Please feel free to explore the front courtyard if you are here a few minutes before your child's starting time. You might find some stingless native bees busy at work.

There are books to read in the front meeting place or comfy couch.

## Have you seen more re-cycling possibilities at MPC?

Building sustainability understandings is very important to us at MPC. Your children are already learning to sort fruit and vegetable scraps and any other rubbish they may have. Option include:

- Food for the worms and compost bins
- Containers we can wash and use for collage
- Soft plastics (which we take to Coles/Woolworths collection stations)
- Rubbish which can't be re-cycled.

It is incredible pleasing to note that many children are bringing lunchboxes with little or no packaging. Thank you families.

**In the central courtyard, we have another re-cycling stations with containers for collecting other materials that can be re-cycled including:**

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Bread tags
- Coffee pods—Aluminium only please.

Once the container is full, these recyclables are packed and sent to Terra Cycle Australia for processing into other items. This link provides more information [www.terracycle.com/en-AU/](http://www.terracycle.com/en-AU/).

As an added bonus the kindy receives points which can be converted to donations. MPC will donate to Ronald McDonald House at Herston.

Putting these items in these containers is another great opportunity for you to talk with your child about re-cycling and the positive ways they can contribute to 'looking after our world'. Who know where this knowledge and everyday practices will take your children. The ripple effect can be very powerful!

### ***WANTED for use in our Kindy program!***

#### ***Recycled and Reusables***

Cardboard boxes, cartons and cylinders (except toilet rolls)

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...

Trays	Ceramic pots	Wooden plates	Wooden boxes
Old cutlery and cooking utensils		Pots and pans	Vases
Table clothes			
The list goes on ...			