



Larool Pre-school

Newsletter Term 1, Week 9, 2016

*Larool Pre-school, our community:
a place of laughter and joy, of friends and memories....*

News from the Directors Desk

Welcome to 2016 at Larool! We are very excited to meet our new families and see the returning families again. We are looking forward to another year of fun and learning - it's going to be great!

A few reminders:

Fees - Please remember that fees are due by Week 5 of each term.

Full Fees due:

Term 2: Friday 27th May
Term 3: Friday 19th August
Term 4: Friday 11th November

If you have spoken to Melinda or Monique and have arranged payment by fee instalments- fees will need to be paid in full by the last day of term. **Instalment fees due:**

Term 2: 1st July
Term 3: 23rd September
Term 4: 16th December

There are conditions with paying in instalments and you must speak to Melinda or Monique prior to the fees being due.

If fees are not paid by the due dates late fees will be charged.

Parking and drop off/pick up times- we understand that drop off and pick times are very busy but please be mindful of our neighbours and our own driveway.

- Make sure that you leave enough room for our neighbours to enter/exit their own driveway.
- Ensure that there is enough space for our families to be able to drive through to exit the driveway - this means only parking to drop off on the left hand side of the driveway.
- Parents should also ensure they hold their children's hands when arriving or departing the pre-school.

We use these reminders for the safety of all who attend the pre-school. Please help us keep your children safe.

We appreciate all the feedback that we can get - everyone's input is of immense value, especially those of you who have suggestions for improvement. Please feel free to pop by the office if you have any questions, feedback or suggestions!

Monique

Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

Friday 25th March

Good Friday- Public Holiday

Monday 28th March

Easter Monday- Public Holiday

Wednesday 6th April

Reunion- 2015 school leavers

Friday 8th April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 25th April

Anzac Day- Public Holiday

Tuesday 26th April

First day of Term 2

Tuesday 17th May

Photo Day

Thursday 19th May

Photo Day

Monday 6th June

Dinosaur Show- 10.30am

Friday 10th June

Dinosaur Show- 10.30am

Term dates for 2016

- Term 1: Thurs 28/1 – Fri 8/4
- Term 2: Tues 26/4- Fri 1/7
- Term 3: Mon 18/7- Fri 23/9
- Term 4: Mon 10/10- Mon 19/12





Management Committee Update

We had our AGM on Monday 14th March. Thank you to everyone who attended. During the meeting our new committee was elected.

President – Belinda Widdup (Phillipa- Koalas)

Vice President – Jackie Della Vedova (Sarah - Wombats)

Treasurer – Damian Smeulders (Eva – Koalas)

Amanda Guest (Arlo – Wombats)

James Sheppard (Annie – Koalas)

Mellissa Barter (Evie – Possums)

Kelly McDonald (Eve – Koalas)

Stephenie Gouws (Olivia – Wombats)

Dane Tierney (Zara – Joeys)

Jim Dai (Sidney – Wombats)

If anyone has any feedback or issues that they would like to raise with the management committee please feel free to contact us via laroolmgmt@optusnet.com.au



SPLAT Chat!

Larool Social & Fundraising Committee Update

SPLAT is looking forward to a big year in 2016!

First off we would like to thank our out-going Co-President Julie Tierney. Her amazing work as President for the last two years has seen over \$14,000 raised for the Pre-school!!! Everyone on SPLAT thanks Julie for her enthusiasm and hard work!! Although we are not willing to give her up so she will remain on the SPLAT Committee this year.

Our first fundraiser for 2016 is already under way and with lots of chocolate filling up Monique's office - it is going to be delicious! The Easter raffle will be drawn before Easter and winning families will be notified.



Our second fundraiser is Picture plates. This is always popular as kids can turn their artwork into their dinner plate. The quality of these plates is excellent (dishwasher safe too!) and each order will raise funds that go directly back to the Pre-school.



Help Needed: We are looking for a Graphic Designer to help with our major fundraiser. If you are able to assist please email:

amanda@long.com.au

If you want to join SPLAT you haven't missed the boat! Just join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131278023712699/>

There will lots more to look forward to from SPLAT in 2016 so keep an eye on the white board and your art folders.

SPLAT Committee

What does SPLAT stand for? Social Parents of Larool Activities Team.
SPLAT is a sub-committee of our Management Committee. SPLAT is responsible for organising and co-ordinating social and fundraising activities throughout the year. What a great way to be involved at pre-school!



JOEYS- Monday/Tuesday

The Joey's have had a great start to the year. The children have settled in well and are starting to develop some lovely new friendships. The children have adapted well to the preschool routine and everyone is doing well labelling their items and bringing healthy snacks. Keep up the good work!

At the start of the year, the children were involved in a spontaneous treasure hunt around the garden. This experience enabled the children to work together and was the beginning of their friendship development. To follow up on this interest we had a scavenger hunt! This introduced the children to early literacy skills as they had to tick off their items on a list. The children once again worked together to complete the hunt. Over the course of this term we have continued to foster friendships and build upon the children's literacy skills. We have now begun children's sign in sheets, where the children are encouraged to find their own name and attempt to write it.

This term we also focused on families. The children loved making a mind map about their families and drawing pictures to illustrate who made up their family unit. From these drawings the children began asking the question "Who is the tallest in our class?" So this lead onto our class project over the course of an entire day, of measuring all the children in our class to discover the answer! (See if your child can remember who it was!)

Other interests that you may have seen the children involved in around the classroom included pattern making where the children were introduced to 'mandalas', counting and number recognition, dramatic play, in particular, ponies and babies, and more recently, hairdressing. The children have also shown great enjoyment in dressing up and have loved the recent addition of scarves! We have talked about different head coverings from around the world and read the story "The swirling hijaab." We have also begun our Artist Studio where the children have free choice over a range of materials. The children have demonstrated great respect for this area and have created some wonderful masterpieces using the collage and colour mixing pallets.

Looking forward we will continue to explore a range of sensory experiences (this can be messy!!!), gross motor, literacy skills, working on our pincer grip and creative expression. Starting next term we will also begin our Jobs Chart and we will be sending home a class pet (don't worry, it is only a toy!) once a week with a different child each week.

Thanks for a great start to the year!

Mrs Julie Tierney, Mrs Leminda Yelland, and Miss Brooke Shore.



POSSUMS- Thursday/Friday

So wonderful to meet so many new families in term 1. We are thoroughly enjoying your children and feel that all have settled in beautifully.

As educators we pride ourselves on constantly striving to create a learning environment for your children that is child centred and draws children into play and learning. Because of this we are working on creating an art studio in the classroom. Your children have already had a taste of such an area on our craft table, a space to feel free to create as they wish and to choose the art materials they want to work with. Come term 2 the Possums will have access to a much larger variety of art materials as we create a studio area within the room. The children had all had a lesson on how you can use the different types of brushes and how colours can mix to create others as part of our prep for this new area. We will keep you posted about this exciting new venture.

At the beginning of term 2 we will be having a university student. Her name is Mandy and she is currently in the second year of her early childhood studies. Welcome Mandy!

So far this term we have covered the core project of rules where the children created the rules for the classroom. Friends, where we learnt how to make a friend and what to do if you can't remember someone's name, and families. If you are yet to bring in your family photo we would love to see it. The children have beamed as they have presented their photo to the class.

We have also been on a treasure hunt, but not your average treasure! Leaves! It was recognised by some children in the class that the leaves have different shapes. This led us to looking through magnifying glasses at leaves and ultimately our leaf hunt! The children were given a small clipboard with a variety of leaves pictured. They had to find each leaf then tick it off on their board. Some children discovered that some leaves were not on their board so they drew them on.

You may notice your child attach their name to a pictured activity on our Play Choices board at goodbye circle. This is one way we get feedback from your child on what they like to do at preschool so we can continue to create a programme that reflects the children. Play choices help to create a love for learning.

Term 2 will be a big one with the introduction of class jobs, Buddy reports and scrapbooks. We can't wait!

Mrs Danielle Mantakoul, Mrs Leminda Yelland and Miss Brooke Shore



Wombats- Wednesday/Thursday/Friday

It's great to see how the Wombats have settled into the routine and getting to know the other children and educators. It's hard to become a member of a big group of 20 children and share the attention of the 3 adults when you are only 3 & 4 years old, but as they become accustomed to the routines and get to know and trust us, they are relaxing and enjoying themselves.

Some children still have difficulty with separation, even though they are quite happy during the day, and this is perfectly normal. It's best to take your child to an activity that you know they enjoy such as the sandpit or the water tray or the doll play, and spend a few minutes with him/her before saying goodbye and leaving. Please don't draw out your departure as that only makes separation harder and make sure you say goodbye! If your child is a little hesitant please let a staff member know when you are leaving and we can assist in this transition. You can always ring us if you are worried about your child, but be rest assured, we will ring you if they are not settling at all, or if we are worried.

We would love any input from you, about your child and your family, so please let us know what is going on in your lives, as this helps us to get to know your child better.

Our day is a busy one! In summer we begin the day exploring the outdoor activities and experiences, before toileting and washing hands for morning tea. We say a rhyme before we start morning tea so everyone starts together. We then transition to indoor experiences which include creativity and expression, construction, puzzles, home corner, manipulation, board games and book corner. After our mid morning experiences we have Music and Language groups before washing hands and sitting on the mat in a circle to eat our lunch!

After lunch is News time. There is a news basket with green news bags next to the sign in table. Please place your child's news in a green bag and write on the sheet titled "What is happening" what your child has bought in for News. Each child will have a turn each week. The News roster is listed >... **Please limit the news items to two things.**

Following News time we all go outside for gross motor activities. Gross motor consists of fundamental movement skills: running, climbing, balancing, ball skills, hopping, skipping, and leaping. We also play games and complete obstacle courses. Practice of gross motor skills improves depth perception, balance and a sense of a lateral world. As such, those who regularly work on these muscle groups tend to have a more finely tuned sense of balance, as well as where they are in relation to anything else around them as they move.

The end of the day is spent inside doing manipulation, construction and memory games We have the last story of the day before going home with parents, nanny's and grandparents etc... Each week I write a Daily Diary of what has happened in our room during the day and a slideshow showing our daily activities on the computer – please look at both!

At preschool we encourage independence with children's self help skills such as toileting (pulling their own pants up, washing their hands etc), packing and unpacking their bag including lunch boxes, putting their shoes /socks on (we will do up buckles and laces). Of course we are there to assist when required but we will encourage them to have a go themselves and it would be good if you would do the same at home. Children are so capable- they just need practice!!

If you have any suggestions or question please feel free to speak to us.

Mrs Carlene Trainor, Ms Sarah Warner and Mrs Janelle Morrison.

News Roster	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Zara	Olivia	Lachlan
	Jasmine	Arlo	Alice R
	Lucy	Georgia	Juliet
	Sidney	Alice W	Napier
	Louie	Evelyn	Annabelle
	Sarah	Loudon	Jack
	Niamh	Hamish	
	Max		



KOALAS- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

The Koalas have settled into 2016 with confidence. They adapted to a new routine/classroom without any difficulties. Starting outside every morning has been great, with the warmer weather. The Koalas are exploring the whole yard, utilising the gross motor equipment and construction themed sandpit outside Room 1, to involving themselves in imaginary/ dramatic play e.g. washing babies and cooking up a treat in the sandpit kitchen outside Room 2. The Koalas are developing their confidence in expressing their needs, wants, ideas to other Educators and children in the Joeys and Wombats class, alongside their own class peers and Educators.

Developing a 'Sense of Belonging' is important for children to feel safe and secure in their environment. This is something that is our focus on for Term 1.

Mrs Meadow's has implemented some great ideas to achieve this:

- Gathering each morning around the 'Yarning circle' (calico material) to say good morning and introduce the day and the activities provided. A yarn circle is an idea borrowed from our Indigenous Australians and is a safe space to share information, knowledge and stories. This is our way to further connect and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures at Larool. We personalised our circle by adding each child's and Educators handprint as well as drawing pictures of choice.
- Block people- small full length laminated pictures of each child that can stand up. When children build amazing constructions they can display it on the bench with their block person beside it, to visually tell their peers who created it. The Koalas have also included their block person in their wooden block buildings.

Introducing more loose parts to our preschool day has proven popular amongst the group. Loose parts have included: material pieces; natural items- leaves, gumnuts, small black lids; interesting collage items- dollies, recyclable birthday cards; ribbons; ceramic tiles of different sizes. Using loose parts allows the Koalas to be self-directed in their creativity. Nothing is right or wrong, it is all about the process, exploring and manipulating the resources to investigate, assemble, invent and construct.

Some interests this term have been child-initiated and Educator initiated:

- Colour mixing- from hand prints to finger painting.
- Growing seeds
- Making instruments eg. tambourines
- Measurement eg. height
- Space eg. creating planets
- When we were young eg. bringing in baby photos

Thank you for bringing in your family and baby photos to contribute to the program.

Mrs Sharon Goodwin, Mrs Lynne Meadows and Mrs Lindy Hamilton





Our environment has seen many changes over the past few years.

We create a rich and beautiful learning environment with materials that respect children's learning.

Our curriculum promotes rich opportunities for children to learn and foster valuable educational outcomes.

Each room has 3 dedicated educators including an early childhood teacher to support individual learning in small group and larger group settings.

Throughout the day, the children experience a wide range of play-based activities forming the foundation of learning and preparing your child for their future learning!

We are very proud of the environment the educators create and the learning that happens at Larool.

We regularly add photos of experiences, activities and the pre-school environment to our facebook page so please have a look! Don't forget to 'like' us!

www.facebook.com/laroolpreschool

Food and Children!

Sometimes it is not easy.

How much is a serve for a child? What do I pack in their lunch box? What do I give them for dinner? Are they eating enough fruit and veg?

Did you know children aged 3-6 years should eat each day:



More information on healthy eating, meal/lunch ideas and serving sizes can be found at:

- www.eatforhealth.gov.au
- www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au
- www.raisingchildren.net.au
- www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au
- www.rch.org.au

These websites also have a lot of information on a variety of interesting topics - worth a look!

I also have lots of information I can provide you - just pop into the office.



Reduce, reuse and recycle

Reusable plastic containers, paper bags and paper lunch wrap work as well as snap lock bags, freezer bags and plastic wrap.

Let's all work together to become environmentally responsible and model sustainability to our children.

Any Feedback for us?

Finally.... As always we love to hear your feedback here at the pre-school, the good and not so good. Often there are questions or concerns that come up, so it's important that you tell us what's on your mind. You can call, email, speak with the Director or your teachers, make an appointment, write a note or drop an anonymous note into our fee box—we appreciate the time that our families make to give us feedback and we take it all on board. You can also provide feedback, suggestions and comments regarding our educational program - let your teachers know!

Please email me or tear off below (pop into the Office box) with any suggestions/comments, information about the newsletter or things you would like to see in the next issue.

laroolpreschool@optusnet.com.au

Name (optional): _____

Suggestions and Comments: _____





Larool Pre-school is committed to contributing to our community.

ALLEN & SHEPPARD



Selling or Renting Your Property? We want to help you and Larool Pre-school

Allen & Sheppard are a proud sponsor of Larool Preschool. As part of our ongoing support of the Preschool and those associated with them, we wish to extend this **offer**:

For every home listed and sold with Allen and Sheppard Real Estate, referred to us by or listed and sold by either a past or present Larool family, **Allen & Sheppard will donate a further \$500** to the Preschool and a further **\$500 will be given in free advertising** for the property.

Alternatively if a referral is made to manage a property for rent, we **will donate \$250** to the Preschool and manage the property for the first **3 months free of charge!**

For any real estate advice, please don't hesitate to contact James Sheppard 0404 863 233 (Father of Annie Sheppard Koalas Room Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)



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