



Newsletter Term 1, Week 6, 2017

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

News from the Directors Desk

A very big welcome to all our families – new and returning, to the Larool Community!

Thank you to those of you who made it to our 'Meet the Educator' evening. I am sure that you found it to be a very informative and useful.

Some of the discussions at the meet the educator evening included your hopes and wishes for your child. What a lovely way to begin the year!

We as teachers and educators have hopes and wishes for the Larool children as well!

We hope to:

- ensure that the children know we believe in them as individual little beings and hope that when they feel unsteady they know we are close by to help and guide them in their journey
- provide a safe learning environment to nurture confident and fulfilled learners in our community
- see and share the children's joy and happiness
- build engaged minds and imagination through inquiry, investigation, exploration, problem solving and friendships
- ensure that each child has FUN and enjoys the essence of being a child!

It's really a lovely supportive community we have at Larool and I hope your family has a wonderful experience this year.

If you ever have any questions, suggestions, comments or complaints please pop into the office and have a chat, phone or send me an email:

laroolpreschool@optusnet.com.au

.....if you do have an accounts/fees question though please email Melinda Valis (Administration Manager): larool-accounts@optusnet.com.au

Monique

Our 2017 Larool Team

Director (ECT)- Ms Monique Olthof - Mon to Thurs

Administration Manager- Mrs Melinda Valis - Mon, Thurs & Fri 9am to 3pm

Koala Class- M/ Tu/W

Mrs Margaret MacCulloch (ECT)
Mrs Leminda Yelland (ECT)
Mrs Brooke Jennings

Joey Class- M/Tu

Mrs Julie Tierney (ECT)
Mrs Lindy Hamilton
Ms Sarah Warner

Wombat Class- W/Th/F

Mrs Carlene Trainor (ECT)
Mrs Janelle Morrison
Mrs Lynne Meadows

Possum Class- Th/F

Mrs Danielle Mantakoul (ECT)
Mrs Leminda Yelland (ECT)
Mrs Brooke Jennings

Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

Larool Pre-school AGM

Thursday 23rd March, 7.30pm

Dinosaur Show

- Koalas and Joeys
Tuesday 28th March, 10.00am
- Wombats and Possums
Thursday 30th March, 10.00am

Last day of Term 1

- Friday 7th April

First Day of Term 2

- Monday 24th April

ANZAC Day public holiday

- Tuesday 25th April
Pre-school is closed

Hearing Check Tests- \$35/child

- Koalas and Joeys
Monday 1st May, 9.30am
- Wombats and Possums
Friday 5th May, 11.00am

Pre-school Photos

- Koalas and Joeys
Tuesday 9th May, 9.30am
- Wombats and Possums
Thursday 11th May, 9.30am



You're Invited to attend the Larool Pre-school AGM

Date: Thursday 23rd March 2017

Time: 7:30pm start

Location: 12 Larool Crescent, Thornleigh

We hope to see you there!

The AGM will include reports on the activities undertaken by the Management and Social Committees in 2016. The Committees for 2017 will be elected on the night. **This is a very important night for the pre-school and we would really love to see all our families represented.**

The Management Committee

Over the next couple of weeks why don't you think about joining the committee? You don't need any specific skills or experience - just a willingness to be involved.

Our incorporated management committee consists of parents of enrolled children who are elected at the pre-schools Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Management Committee is responsible for making decisions in regard to how the pre-school will operate including legal and financial decision making. The committee meets twice (2) a term for evening meetings at the pre-school giving their time to ensure we maintain a wonderful learning environment for both children and educators.

The Committee comprises of the following positions:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Ordinary Members x 6

Being part of the committee, either as an executive or an ordinary member enables you to be more involved in your child's pre-school years and gives you direct input into the decision-making of the pre-school. Participation as a member of the committee is a rewarding experience - committee members can be proud of their contributions and the fabulous pre-school.

SPLAT- Fundraising Social Committee

Maybe fundraising and social organising is more your thing!

It is a great way to work on many different activities and to meet other families. You have the opportunity to see your child in the pre-school environment while you are preparing, organising or even volunteering for the mothers or fathers day stall! The children love seeing you being part of the pre-school and getting involved.

You work as a team with the other SPLAT members and have lots of fun in the process. Meetings are usually once or twice a term (at the pub). There are even lots of things you can do to help without even having to attend meetings!

If you would like to nominate for a position but are unable to attend the AGM, please complete a nomination form and place it in the "OFFICE" box in the HUB by Friday 17th March 2017.



Management Committee Update...

Welcome Back! With the pre-school year back in full swing everyone seems to be settling in well!

As you are all aware Larool is run by a dedicated group of parents who form the Management Committee. This year a new committee will be elected at the AGM on **Thursday 23rd March**. We welcome every member of the preschool community to attend.

Attending the AGM and joining the management committee or SPLAT gives you an opportunity to have a say in how the preschool is run and where funds raised by you are directed.

I am Pips mum in the Koalas classroom, so if you see me in the playground feel free to stop and have a chat about what your family's needs are, or you can always email the management committee laroolmgmt@optusnet.com.au

It was lovely to meet a few of you at meet the teacher night and I look forward to a great year at Larool.

Belinda

President

Larool Management Committee



SPLAT Chat- Larool Social & Fundraising Committee Update

Welcome back to new and returning families!

What does SPLAT stand for? Social Parents of Larool Activities Team. SPLAT is responsible for organising and co-ordinating social and fundraising activities throughout the year, made up of a group of parents that love to help out and raise money for our wonderful Preschool!

The SPLAT team will be gearing up in the next few weeks after the AGM to begin our fun for the year. If you think you may like to help out with ANYTHING at any stage of the year, please join our Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131278023712699/?ref=bookmarks>

Last year we had a group of 25 parents, both mums and dads, and we are hoping for more this year to make it even better. It's a wonderful way to get to know more parents in the community, and have some fun as well.

We meet only once a term at Pennant Hills Pub, usually on a Thursday evening around 7.30pm.

Our fundraiser for Term 1 will be the Easter Raffle, details will be coming out in the coming weeks in your art folders so make sure you CHECK THEM!

In conjunction with having 2 Co-Presidents and a Treasurer on the SPLAT Team this year, we are looking to have a Major Fundraiser Co-ordinator, which heads up a small team of 4-5 parents to organise the Grove a Thon (disco) this year. If you think you are interested in this role or have any further questions about the role please contact me – snep7@hotmail.com OR come to the AGM and stick your hand up for it! It would not be a difficult role, simply someone that loves to help! Since we have done this event last year, it would be a lot easier this time around as well since we have all the files handy.

Hope to see you at the Pub for our first meeting!

Cheers

Stephanie O'Kane-Sheppard

Co-President SPLAT



JOEYS- Monday/Tuesday

The children in the Joeys class have had a very happy, calm and settled start to the year. They have been enjoying getting to know the teachers and other children, and finding out about all the fun things we do at Larool preschool.

Our day usually begins outside, (weather permitting!) where we have fun exploring the playground and the experiences set up before morning tea. After morning tea, we come inside for indoor play. Lots of activities based on the children's interests and current learning opportunities are explored such as space, creative painting and drawing, building, playdough, puzzles and home corner.

At 12:30 we tidy up for an extended music and drama group time with Mrs Tierney. The children have really loved learning new songs and playing a range of musical games.

After lunch we come inside for quiet rest and relaxation time, before splitting into two groups for gross motor activities and literacy time. Mrs Hamilton takes the gross motor group outside, and Miss Warner takes literacy inside. Some of the things we have been focusing on in gross motor time are turn taking, following instructions, climbing over the equipment and balancing. During literacy time, Miss Warner reads different stories to the group and they look further into our interest topics. The children were very engaged as we discussed the recent hail storm!

The Joey's have also shown a strong interest in animals, construction and imaginative play. These areas of interest have been a great resource for enabling the children to play together and build their friendships. We will continue to foster these interests and extend their knowledge. The children also enjoyed making their own playdough this term. They were able to follow the instructions, wait their turn and were introduced to new terminology such as stir and knead.

This term we will also be focusing on self help skills. This includes encouraging the children to look after their own belongings, including packing their own bags, washing hands, going to the toilet and opening their own lunch boxes.

If you have any questions relating to your child, please don't hesitate to ask! Looking forward to learning more about your children this term!

Mrs Julie Tierney, Mrs Lindy Hamilton, and Ms Sarah Warner.

POSSUMS- Thursday/Friday

A very big welcome to our new families and those returning, it has been an absolute delight getting to know your children. Most have now settled in with very few tears of a morning. If your child is still a little apprehensive about preschool, understand this is a normal part of such a new experience and should in time settle as they become more familiar with the environment. If they do get teary or anxious, simply acknowledge feelings and reassure them by saying you always come back. If you can't settle your child at an activity, please ask a teacher for assistance.

In term two we will start our CAPS days. Here we invite you to come and spend some extended time at the preschool to 'Come And Play' or simply sit and watch your child take part in the happenings of the classroom.

In the classroom we have started to create the rules of preschool. Here the children have been asked to come up with rules they think we should have to keep everyone happy and safe. Some of these have been, share the toys, listen to the teacher and your friends, walk inside, everyone can play and all your belongings go into your bag. As we progress through the term the children will be encouraged to think of more as we as a class come across problems we need solutions to such as who packs away after activities time? Yes of course it's everyone, but the children will be encouraged to come up with this solution themselves and to explain why it is the best one! When children create their own rules with guidance, they feel more ownership of them and far more likely to follow and even feel proud of them.



We have begun our first two core projects being family and friends. Most children have now brought in their family photo and have thoroughly enjoyed standing up in front of the whole group explaining to classmates and teachers who everyone is. Talking about family helps children to link preschool to home, to understand that their family is also important to us as a preschool community assisting a sense of wellbeing. We have also been looking into temperature, numbers 1-5 and colour mixing.

Please feel free to come and see Mrs Mantakoul if you need to discuss any concerns you have. We look forward to getting to further know your children and yourselves as the term progresses.

Mrs Danielle Mantakoul, Mrs Leminda Yelland and Mrs Brooke Jennings

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.



You would have by now received an email to introduce you to Storypark!

Storypark is a secure online program where we can share with you the amazing learning, experiences and news that happens here at Larool. Families can log in anytime to your personal account and view new items uploaded about your child and catch up on news from the class (compatible with any android device or iOS).

This is a very exciting and new adventure for Larool and an amazing platform to share with your family and for your family to share with us!

You will receive regular updates on your child and the class as well as photos and news.

What do you need to do now? All you need to do is accept the invite which will be sent over the next week and enjoy.

More information is available at:

<https://storypark.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200158537-For-Families>



Remember to protect your children's skin at preschool!

Children need to:

- Wear a broad brim hat that shades the face, neck and ears.
- Wear sun safe clothing that covers as much of the skin (*especially the shoulders, back and stomach*) as possible – no singlets or dresses without sleeves.

Sunscreen is available at the pre-school to apply on arrival at the sunscreen station.



General Reminders:

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

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, pedestrians and our own driveway.



- *Please ensure that you leave the footpath clear to allow pedestrians to walk on the path.
- *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 1 side of the driveway (space for only 3 cars parked behind each other)- we MUST leave a drive through section!**

*Parents should ensure they hold their children's hands when arriving or departing the pre-school.

*The driveway is one way - you only enter at the bottom of the driveway.

Nut aware Pre-school- Please remember we are a nut aware pre-school which means no nuts or nut products are to be sent in your child's morning tea or lunch. This is for the children's safety.



Label everything- Please make sure ALL your children's belongings are clearly LABELLED - this includes lunch boxes, drink bottles, food containers, clothing, hats and shoes! You can buy labels, make labels or just use a permanent marker!

Koalas- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

We have had a wonderful start to the year in the Koala room. The children are very settled and following the daily routines with enthusiasm and ease. Our buddies Blinky Bill and Nutsy have started their home visits. The children are enjoying sharing their adventures with the class when they bring the buddies back to preschool. Our koala friends will be coming home to visit soon!

We have been exploring colours this term and learning how to mix them together to make new ones. At the 'Art Studio' area, the children are encouraged to experiment and create with the emphasis being on the process rather than the product. We are busy collecting small boxes and have begun to design and construct sculptures this week. The children are learning to use tape to join boxes together. This is a great way to refine fine motor skills and has developed out of the children's interest in building with the blocks. We will give the children the opportunity to paint and or decorate them if they wish.



Outside we are encouraging the children to participate in a wide variety of experiences. The Mud Kitchen is very popular and many amazing pies and cakes have been made. It is a creative, hands on, sensory experience where pretend play flourishes. What fun it is to get messy and what better way when with mud! Please send your child in old clothes so that they are comfortable cooking up a storm.

Mrs Margaret MacCulloch, Mrs Leminda Yelland and Mrs Brooke Jennings

WOMBATS- Wednesday/Thursday/Friday

A very warm welcome to our new family and welcome back to our returning loved families.

The children have begun to settle into the preschool routine now, and are starting to relax and trust the educators and developing relationships with the other children, and getting to know each other's names. 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 we are definitely getting there.

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 he or she enjoys 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 please make sure you say goodbye to your child (don't sneak away) so they can learn to trust you, and know that when you say you are coming back later, that you actually do come back. Make sure you let an educator know when you are leaving if your child is a little hesitant. Please ring us if you are worried about your child, and 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. We begin outside in free play, before we have morning-tea sitting on a mat outside. We say a rhyme before we start so everyone starts together. Then we have indoor experiences which include creative and expressive, construction, puzzles, home corner, manipulation, board games and book corner. After our mid-morning experiences we have Music and Language groups.

After music and language time the children come together as a whole group for a story. After lunch we have gross motor. Gross motor consists of running, jumping and climbing, ball games and obstacle courses. Practice of gross motor skills improves depth perception, balance and a sense of a lateral world and fundamental movement skills. 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.

News time is after gross motor -There is a news basket which will be placed near the sign in table that the children can place their News in, there is also a sheet titled "What is happening "so you can write what your child has bought in for News. Each child will have a turn each week. Also can you please place the news in one of the green bags thank you Afterwards we have News time. The children are dismissed to the bathroom before having lunch. After lunch we do gross motor outside. Gross motor consists of running, jumping and climbing, ball games and 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 last part of the afternoon 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...

At preschool we will encourage your child to be independent in their self-help skills such as going to the toilet themselves (pulling their own pants up, washing their hands etc.), putting their morning tea box/lunch box away, putting their shoes and socks on (we will do up buckles and laces). Of course we are there to help them along the way but we will encourage them to have a go themselves and it would be good if you would do the same at home, as they are capable at this age, but they do need practice!!



Over the last two weeks we have been talking about families, friends and the life cycle of a butterfly. In the next coming weeks we will focus on colours of the world and Easter. If you have any suggestions or question please feel free to speak to us.

Mrs Carlene Trainor, Mrs Janelle Morrison and Mrs Lynne Meadows



What to bring each day:

Bag



Drink bottle with water



Hat Broad brimmed or legionnaires



Morning tea snack



Lunch box



Crunch n Sip- Fruit



Pillow/sheet bag (if required)



A full change of clothes, including underwear, along with a warm top/t-shirt in case of a weather change.



Don't forget your library bag once a week on:
Joeys and Koalas - Tuesday
Wombats and Possums - Thursday



Any Feedback for us?

Finally.... we love to hear your feedback, the good and not so good. You can call, email, speak with the Director or your teachers, make an appointment, write a note or drop an anonymous note into our office box– we appreciate the time that our families make to give us feedback and we take it all on board.

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The Nothing Poem!

When children come home
At the end of the day,
There's a question they're asked
As they scurry to play.

"Tell me, what did you do at pre-school today?"

"Nothing. I did nothing today!"

Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks,
or found beautiful rocks.

Maybe I painted a picture of red and blue,
Or heard a story about a mouse that flew.

Perhaps nothing means that I observed a bird's nest,
Or counted to ten with Mrs West.

Maybe today was the very first time
my scissors followed a very straight line.

Perhaps I learned a new song, from beginning to end,
Or maybe I played with a special friend.

When you're in pre-school and your heart has wings,
"Nothing" can mean so many wonderful things!

– Author Unknown



OUR COMMUNITY

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 Rose Sheppard Joeys Room Monday and Tuesday)



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F 02 9875 4545

www.allenandsheppard.com.au

Native Plant Giveaway



Saturday 25 March, 2pm - 5pm

Using local native plants in your garden can attract native wildlife, are better suited to the local soil type and require less water than introduced plants. Ratepayers from all Hornsby Shire Council suburbs are invited to come pickup free native plants for their garden.

Please bring your current Hornsby Shire rates notice and ID.

Venue: Thornleigh Community Centre

Location: Corner Phyllis and Central Avenues, Thornleigh

Cost: free

***If you don't need any plants for your garden at home-
Larool would love you to donate the plants that you pick
up on the day to us!***