



Larool Loop....



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

From the Directors Desk

What a wonderful start to the year we have had! The children have settled into their classes so well with very few tears.

Our Curriculum - We continue to use the national Early Years Learning Framework as a guide to our curriculum planning. This play based curriculum incorporates child development theory and an understanding of children's individual learning reflecting their interests, needs and strengths.

The dedication, talent and boundless care shown by our educators is the magic that assists to transform your children into the independent, confident and assertive individuals ready to take the next step in their education. Part of this magic is creating a beautiful learning environment, both inside and outside, that invites curiosity, exploration and wonder for each and every child.

Did you know? Each holidays all the staff come in for at least 1 day for a staff development day. During our upcoming holidays in April we will be refreshing our CPR skills, reviewing our philosophy, reflecting on Term 1 and looking at any changes for Term 2. We will also be busily writing a settling in summary for each of your children which we will upload to EDUCA early in Term 2. These summaries will include interests, friendships and aspirations. I am sure that you will enjoy reading them.

Evacuation Drills and Lock Down - This term we have already practiced both our evacuation drill and lock down! We conduct these drills each term at a variety of times during the day.

Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

Last Day of Term 1
Friday 13th April

First Day of Term 2
Monday 30th April

Mothers Day Stall
Monday 7th May
Thursday 10th May

Children's Photo Days
Tuesday 8th May
Thursday 10th May
Digital Flashbacks
www.digitalflashbacks.com.au

African Drumming Workshop
Tuesday 5th June 11.00am
Thursday 7th June 11.00am

Last Day of Term 2
Friday 6th July

Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write, and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child.

Magda Gerber



It only takes a few minutes, however the importance of these drills is vital to ensure that all children and educators/staff know what to do in an emergency situation. An emergency plan for fire and emergencies is displayed at the exit in each classroom.

Now would be a great time to talk to your children about what to do at home in an emergency situation.

See the links below for Fire Safety at Home.

- Fire and Rescue NSW – Community and home fire safety information
<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=879>
- Rural Fire Services – Great information, there is also a 'my fire plan' app to download!
<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan>

Registered Care Childcare Benefit Changes - From the 2nd July 2018, the Registered Care Rebate will cease. Families can still claim for Registered Care that is provided before 2nd July 2018. You will need to lodge your claim within 12 months from the date care was provided.

Children and Allergies - We have a number of children who are at high risk of Anaphylaxis.

We ask that you do not pack any **sesame or sesame products, peanuts or nuts or peanut/nut products** in your child's morning tea, lunch or crunch n sip.

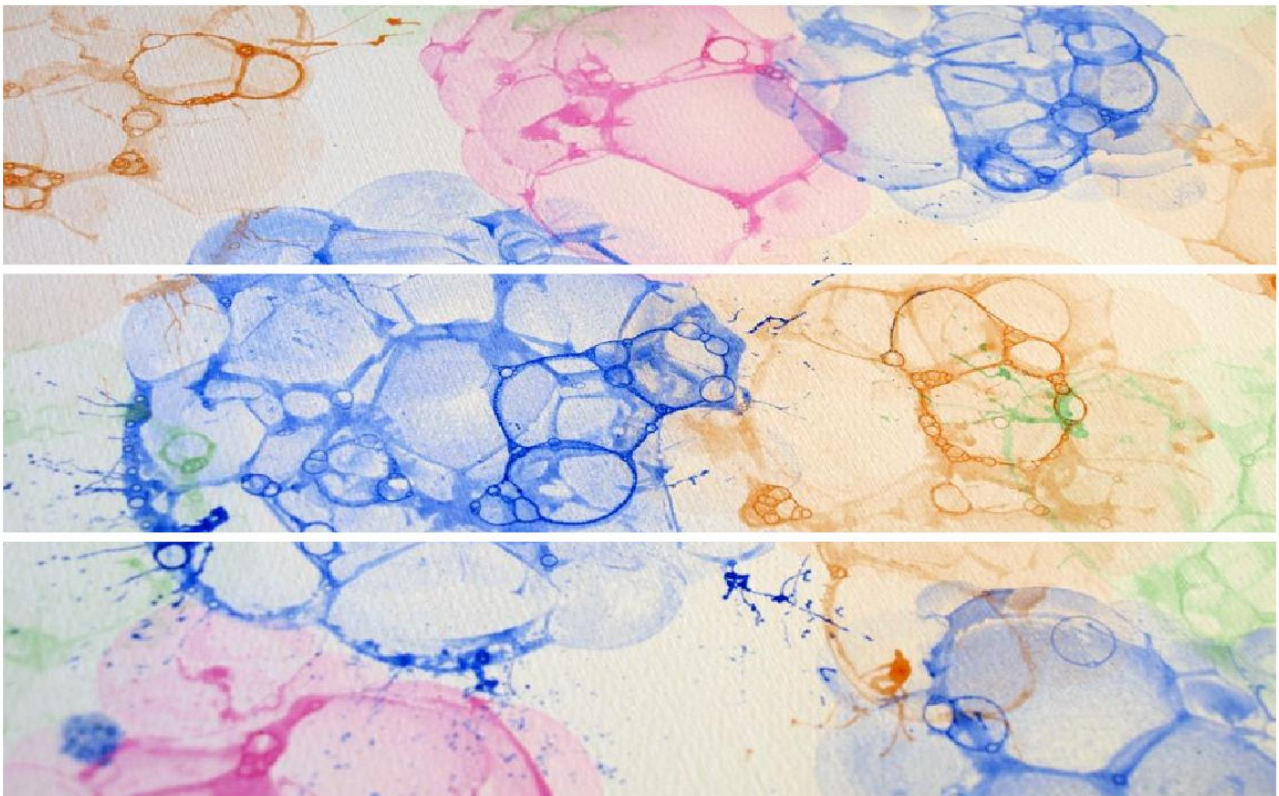
Your actions help to support these children and assist in providing a safe environment for everyone!

If you ever have any questions, suggestions, comments or complaints please pop into the office and have a chat, phone or send me (Monique Olthof- Director) 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





School Readiness or Everyday Readiness.....

By Julie Tierney

School Readiness programs are such a hot topic when your child enters pre-school. Parents want to ensure that their child has all the necessary skills to enter school with and are not being disadvantaged. But what does that mean? What are the important skills that children need to start school with and how do we achieve this at Larool?

At Larool, we believe that 'School Readiness' is embedded in every aspect of our program. It is not a set time of the day; it is ongoing throughout our day, every day.

It begins as children arrive at pre-school. Children firstly need to develop their self-help skills, this involves unpacking their bags and putting it in their locker, signing themselves in and settling into play. It also includes being able to take off a jumper when they get too hot, use the toilet when necessary, and are able to open their own lunch boxes at meal times. Children's ability to look after their own belongings and developing their independence is an important aspect of school life.

Literacy skills are always an important issue for parents. Literacy is taught throughout the day at Larool, from listening to stories, looking at books, participating in drama, the writing table and sign in tables for children to develop their name recognition, pencil grip and writing skills. Children engage with print throughout the day and in a range of experiences and there are ample opportunities for writing, drawing and language development. This is all encouraged in a fun, play based manner, where the children are able to engage with literacy on a level that is meaningful to them.

We strongly believe that children learn through play, and this is particularly evident with maths. We have a range of games that the children love to play as well as more open ended activities for developing these skills. We love using 'Loose Parts' in the pre-school room. These can include items such as shells, stones, buttons and beads. The children can use these open ended materials in so many ways, from sorting them into colour or size, creating patterns or simply counting them. Add some number cards to the experience and children can begin to identify numerals through their play. And of course, puzzles are a great tool to develop problem solving skills.

Social skills are another important aspect of school readiness. Children need to learn to co-operate and be respectful towards other children in their class. They learn skills such as sharing, turn taking, empathy, kindness and understanding. Children also learn about conflict resolution and how to deal with difficult situations, this is important for when they head to 'Big School' and they are suddenly confronted with a big playground full of children and only one teacher on duty! We foster children's ability to communicate their feelings as well as encouraging them to be a good listener. All of these skills are developed and fostered in the classroom when they interact with each other; play in homecorner, listening to books, and share ideas in the blocks area.

Finally, we understand the importance of fine and gross motor development. It is really important that children are able to work on their fine motor skills in a fun and engaging manner. This can include activities such as cutting, gluing, painting and drawing in the Art Studio, using the challenging construction toys such as tool-o and manipulating the small parts. The children also enjoy using the mushroom pegs to create patterns whilst unknowingly developing their pincer grip! The children also have ample time outdoors to develop gross motor skills as well as a set time, referred to as 'Stretch and Move' where the children are given different tasks to complete such as climbing on the obstacle course, following instructions, throwing games, and being able to complete simple fundamental movement skills (hopping, skipping running etc).



At Larool, we pride ourselves on our caring and friendly environment and Educators that are passionate about supporting children's learning. We hope that this helps you to have some insight into our daily program and that everything that is available for the children has a purpose.



Management Committee Update...

Our AGM was a success! We would like to thank our outgoing Committee members for their support, commitment and hard work - **Belinda Widdup (President) and Dane Tierney** - we could not have done it without you!

Thank you to Annie, Laura W, James, Amanda, Kelly, Kirsten and Laura O for stepping up again!

Our 2018 Management Committee are:

President - Annie Russell (Margo's mum - Wombats)

Vice President - Laura Westbrook (Caden's mum - Koalas)

Treasurer - James Sheppard (Rosie's dad - Koalas)

Secretary - Amanda Guest (Estelle's mum - Possums)

Members - Kelly McDonald, Sarah Gray, Kylie Leach, Naomi Taylor, Kirsten Dicks and Laura Osmotherly.

You are able to contact the President at laroolmgmt@optusnet.com.au

Larool Management Committee



SPLAT Chat-

Larool Social & Fundraising Committee Update

Thank you to the 2017 SPLAT volunteers especially the key roles played by **Stephanie Sheppard, Jocelyn Caddy and Jude Elston**. SPLAT again made such a positive impact on the pre-school and we are ever so grateful.

Our 2018 SPLAT Fundraising Committee are:

Lisa Lehepuu, Cameron Saunders, Laura Osmotherly, Mamata Titus, Naomi Taylor, Katie Hokin, Savita Stebbing, Carolyn Roberts, and Annie Russell.

If you would like to help out the SPLAT committee at any stage throughout the year (even if it is just once or twice), please join their closed Facebook group called "SPLAT Committee - Larool Pre-school Thornleigh" so you can keep in the loop!



Class Parents

Joey Class - Savita Stebbing (Zanna & Mahyia)/Carolyn Roberts (James R)

Koala Class - Katie Hokin (Alyssa)

Wombat Class - Alison Sluis (Violet & Nina)

Possum Class - Siobhan Marshman (Eleanor)



By Carlene Trainor



Sustainability is living in harmony with the natural world around us. The UN's Brundtland Commission described it as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

At Larool we focus on environment protection and social development. A key element of which is education - encouraging people to participate in environmental sustainability and teaching them about the effects of environmental protection as well as warning of the dangers if we cannot achieve our goals.

We encourage the children to be responsible members of the community and to think about the size of their footprint on the environment. We “foster an appreciation of the natural environment, develop environmental awareness and provide a platform for ongoing environmental education.” (Belonging, Being & Becoming- EYLF, 2009)

They can take the information they have learnt at Larool and share it with you and other family members. Sharing of information is a great way of getting the message across about the importance of looking after our environment by doing things like recycling.



At Larool we are working towards being more sustainable and have introduced a new recycling station. The recycling station is designed to teach awareness to the children about what can be recycled and how to minimize our general waste.

The recycling station has 6 bins with pictures on them so the children know what goes in each bin.

- Food scraps – which go straight into the compost bin, which in turn is used on our garden;
- Soft plastics – such as cling wrap and zip lock bags, are taken to Woolworths and are eventually recycled into hard plastic furniture;
- Lids/yoghurt pots – are washed and reused in our art and craft areas where the children use them in their creations or as loose parts play (if you have these items at home, please wash them and drop them in our bin);



- Paper/cardboard – some items are used in our art and craft areas for box construction and other items go into the yellow council recycling bin. We are now even recycling our paper towel!
- Plastic bottles containers – plastic bottles are used in our art and craft areas for our children to use in construction;



- General waste – anything we can't be recycled or repurposed is disposed of in the red council bin

We all can make a difference

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics the average Australian generates approximately 2140kg of waste per year. That is a lot of waste for one person. Only about half of that waste gets recycled each year.

While there has been a 51% increase in the amount of waste recycled over the last 5 years, there is still much more we can do. By educating our children and instilling in them behaviours at an early age, we will increase the awareness of recycling and develop more sustainable practices.

So how can you reduce the impact of your household rubbish? Ask yourself do you really need that product, can I refuse that plastic bag and can I recycle this product, or how can I reuse this product. Your environment will love you for thinking about these questions.

So take action on reducing your general waste and make recycling a second nature in your household. We have at Larool!

Want more information?

Hornsby Councils waste and recycling website

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/waste-and-recycling

Planet Ark <http://planetark.org/>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

[www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/1370.0~2010~Chapter~Waste%20\(6.6\)](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/1370.0~2010~Chapter~Waste%20(6.6))

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!



Finally.... we love to hear your feedback, the good and also the 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. laroolpreschool@optusnet.com.au

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💻: www.laroolpreschool.com.au



www.laroolpre-school.educa.com.au



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 Koalas Room Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday)



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