



Newsletter Term 4, Week 6, 2016

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

News from the Directors Desk

What a wonderful year we have had...the children played in pairs and in groups also enjoying some moments of solitude. They ran, jumped, skipped, dug, threw, climbed, slid, twirled, whirled and tumbled.

Their imaginations took them too many places - on the way they saw magical and wondrous things. There were adventures on the sea, in space, camping trips, visits to the other side of the world, past and pretend.

They took on many roles, mums and dads, brothers and sisters, animals, workers demonstrating strengths in their occupation and many, many, performers. They fought fires, monsters, sharks and dragons.

They organised their own games, taking turns, negotiating and problem solving.

At the end of the day these competent and confident learners had fun immersed in authentic play, play that engaged them, challenged them and taught them.

For some, this is where their early childhood education ends- it has been an absolute pleasure our friends and we wish you all the very best for your new journey. We know you will succeed with whatever you put your minds to. Thank you for sharing your early years of education with us at Larool.

Don't forget to look out for the welcome back afternoon tea for our school leavers at the end of Term 1 2017!

We are also looking forward to seeing many familiar faces back at Larool in 2017 and welcoming new families into our community in which will be another exciting year filled with laughter, learning and friendships.

Farewell for now...

We are soon to farewell Mrs Sharon Goodwin who will be taking 12 months leave for family reasons. Sharon will also be taking Wednesday off for the rest of the year - Monique will be assisting Lindy and Lynne in the Koalas Room on those days. We wish her all the best with her family and we will see her back in 2018.

Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

**Larool Pre-school Open Meeting of
the Management Committee**
Wednesday 7th December, 7.30pm

Christmas Concerts

- Joeys
Tuesday 6th December, 2.00pm
- Koalas
Wednesday 7th December, 2.00pm
- Wombats
Thursday 8th December, 2.00pm
- Possums
Friday 9th December, 2.00pm

Dress Up /Party Day

- Koalas and Joeys
Tuesday 13th December
Red/Green/White dress up theme
- Wombats and Possums
Friday 16th December
Red/Green/White dress up theme

Last Day of Term 4, 2016-
Monday 19th December

First Day of Term 1, 2017-
Monday 30th January

We are very lucky to have Mrs Margaret MacCulloch to be replacing Sharon for 2017! Margaret has worked at Larool before so may be familiar to some of you. She comes to us with many years of experience and will be a great addition to the team.

2017

We will be making some exciting changes at Larool in 2017.

Our Hours – in 2017 we will be changing our hours of education and care to 8.30am- 4.00pm.

Our Rooms - We will be swapping rooms!

Room 1 will now be home to the Joeys and Wombats

Room 2 will now be home to the Koalas and Possums

Our Teaching Team-

Director- Ms Monique Olthof - Mon to Thurs

Administration Officer- 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

Possum Class- Th/F

Mrs Danielle Mantakoul (ECT)

Mrs Leminda Yelland (ECT)

Mrs Brooke Jennings

Wombat Class- W/Th/F

Mrs Carlene Trainor (ECT)

Mrs Janelle Morrison

Mrs Lynne Meadows

Our Educators/Staff have completed First Aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis Management & Keep them Safe - Child Protection training.

Library day changes -

Koalas and Joeys library day will now be Tuesdays in 2017, Wombats and Possums will remain on Thursdays.

Our Wonderful Educators/Staff

We really do have an amazing team of educators who continue to inspire and create incredible teaching experiences for each and everyone one of your children. Thank you all for your dedication, knowledge and experience. We are so very lucky to have such a highly qualified and cohesive team dedicated to developing and delivering an amazing curriculum within a nurturing learning environment.

A very special 'Thank you' to our administration master - Mrs Valis! You are our amazing 'go to' girl!

You are all an enormous asset for Larool and we hope that you all have a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful break!

Management Committee and SPLAT

What can I say - we are so lucky to have such an incredible community here at Larool.

The members of the Management Committee and SPLAT represent the true value of the preschool/family partnership in their dedication, time and effort volunteering on behalf of all the children and families of the Preschool.

This year again we have had an incredible and passionate committee. There have been many decisions to be made on the future of Larool with discussions with council about our lease, changes in the government funding as well as all the day to day issues! The committee have been encouraging and supportive of decisions that benefit not only the current children but the future of our community preschool ensuring the continuation of this wonderful, nurturing, educational environment!

SPLAT has tirelessly worked throughout the year again to raise an amazing amount of money to go towards projects and equipment for the pre-school. This group of parents have amazing ideas, energy and commitment and help to make Larool such a beautiful and special place to be!

Our committee members on both Management and SPLAT are voluntary members who have truly done a fabulous job. Thank you Thank you Thank you!



Library Volunteers

Thank you to our wonderful library co-ordinator and of course all the library volunteers. The benefit to the children having early literacy skills reinforced through our library is amazing. The children look forward to picking their new book for the week and it is also great practice for school!

Family Helpers

Throughout the year we have had many families assisting us at pre-school doing odd jobs: putting equipment together, drilling, building, helping with cleaning, organising, cutting, wrapping, cooking and tidying up - thank you all!

Monique



SPLAT Chat- Larool Social & Fundraising Committee Update

What an amazing year!! We would firstly like to thank all the parents of SPLAT who have helped run our many fundraising and social activities – we are an awesome team and thank you all for your hard work and dedication to making SPLAT a success.

Treasurer – Judy Elston
Library – Cherie Robertson
Committee
Cameron Saunders
Lisa Hatton
Julie Tierney
Andrea and Leigh Bornstein
Carolyn Delapierre

Jocelyn Forsyth
Claudine Kimber
Kristie Whitehead
Julia Lehepuu
Chloe Cullen
Sophie Denne
Nicky Woods

We want to also thank all the parents of Larool for their continued support of all our efforts. We well and truly exceeded our \$5,000 goal and all of what we raised goes back to the pre-school for resources that benefit all our children.

Dads Night Out

The Larool Dad's enjoyed a night out at Pennant Hills Hotel earlier in the term. We heard a great time was had by all and thanks to Cameron Saunders for organising.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards will be on sale till the 25th of November. They are just \$2 a pack and come in two different designs. Each card also contains seeds for Swan River Daisies you can plant.

Dress Up Days

We will have two dress up days Tuesday the 13th and Thursday the 15th of December. **The theme is Red, Green and White** and we ask for all families to put forward a **gold coin donation**. All money raised will go to Bear Cottage at Manly.

If you think you might like to join SPLAT in 2017 just search Facebook for our group and ask to join. The more people we have to lend a hand the less work everyone has to do! We meet just once a term and always at the pub – so it is fun!

Cheers

Amanda, Steph & the SPLAT Team



Thank you Amanda.....

On behalf of the SPLAT Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a special person who has been a part of the Larool and SPLAT Team for the past 5 years with all her three children attending Larool. Amanda Long will be leaving us this year as her youngest will be embarking on his school journey. Amanda has served on the SPLAT Committee for 5 years and more notably as President for the last 2.

The amount of time, help, enthusiasm and commitment she brings to ensure that fundraising events are organised and smoothly run is second to none. From organising raffle prizes, preschool discos, BBQs, mother's day stalls, father's day stalls, picture plates, Easter raffles, pub meetings... She has done it ALL!

Amanda would have helped raised over \$15 000 for our preschool in the many years she has been here. A person like Amanda does not come around very often and we are so grateful for all she has done for our preschool. We will greatly miss your smiling face and your beautiful family.

Steph O'Kane- Sheppard – Co President SPLAT 2016

Please join us...



2016 Larool Christmas Concerts

All starting at 2.00pm sharp!

Joeys- Tuesday 6th December

Koalas- Wednesday 7th December

Wombats- Thursday 8th December

Possums- Friday 9th December





***Congratulations Brooke and Dan!
Wishing you a life full of love, fun and laughter....***



JOEYS- Monday/Tuesday

We have had a great start to Term 4!

The children really enjoyed the visit from Grace's Grandfather, Mr O'Byrne. He brought in his giant telescope to show us and talked to us about its different uses. We used it to spot Jimmy the Raccoon who was faaaaaar away in a window at Hannah's house! From this experience we have followed on with the interest and we have learnt about planets, please be sure to check out our amazing display in the book corner. The children have worked together to learn about all of the different features of planets and then they created art works to represent their understandings.

The children have also taken an interest in learning about the different countries on planet earth and we have spoken about different greetings around the world and the different types of clothes that can be found.

The Joeys have also been enjoying a range of collaborative construction projects. They have been very involved in building and creating different structures using the cups. They have also enjoyed building paddocks for the ponies. These projects have shown just how far the Joeys have come over the course of the year, they are working co-operatively, sharing, turn taking, planning, collaborating and best of all, having fun!

We recently had a visit from the Bush Turkey in our backyard! The children had so many questions that we decided to do a special research project! We discovered that it is actually called a BRUSH Turkey, the male has a yellow wattle, the eggs incubate inside the nest as it keeps them warm and they eat insects, seeds and fallen fruit.

During gross motor the children have developed their balancing and climbing skills well. This term we will be focusing more on ball skills including catching, throwing and bouncing. These skills can be very tricky and would be worth trying at home too!

The Joeys love music time. They have had lots of opportunities to play with the musical instruments outside and we sing lots of songs during group times. We have been practicing for our Christmas concert and the Joeys are very excited! We have been fostering the children's love of music and have been talking about bands, orchestras and conductors! We are looking forward to Mr Odams, who is in charge of the bands at Normanhurst West Public School, coming to show us some of his brass instruments later in the term! We love having visitors in our classroom so please feel free to share any skills!

We are looking forward to a busy end of term and continuing to develop our fine motor, number recognition and co-operative play skills alongside our continuing projects.

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

POSSUMS- Thursday/Friday

This term we have focused on transition to school having discussed topics such as what you do there, what goes into a school bag, what to do if you don't have anyone to play with and what are the different areas inside a school. A big thank you here to Gail and Charlotte who ran around their schools taking photos for us. It has been so lovely to hear the children talking about their orientation experiences and we look forward to more stories as orientations continue.

We have also been recently looking into the world of flowers. Amy, Sayaka, Evie and Cindy have been keen painters at the art table painting from still life. At group time we looked at the different parts of a flower and what they were called. To better understand how plants drink, we then put some celery and daisies into some coloured water to see how they suck the water up. This then led us on to discuss that some of the flowers in the classroom were different. Why did they not need water? Yes of course, they are plastic with the children knowing they didn't need sun, dirt or water. Believe it or not, this then led us on to the discussion of how plastic reacts to sun!



At preschool we are making a Christmas table. On this table will be a small tree just waiting to be loved. We have asked the children to please bring in a small tree decoration, not precious, to add to the tree. (These will be sent home end of term.) We want to encourage a classroom community spirit and show the children that if we all contribute to something, we can make it wonderful, and experience a true sense of Possum Community Christmas. We are now in full swing preparing for our Christmas concert. We have set aside a wonderful part in our performance for one lucky parent, maybe it will be YOU! No, hiding up the back won't work.

A big thank you to all casual staff over the last 6 weeks especially Miss Sandra who was adored by all children. Welcome back to Mrs Yelland and Miss Shore. Yes, the children still call her Miss Shore as requested by the bride herself.

Goodbye circle will now be at 3.10 to help with the parking issue. Thanks to Claudine for letting us know.

Mrs Danielle Mantakoul, Mrs Leminda Yelland and Miss Brooke Shore

Remember to protect your children's skin at preschool!

Children need to:

- Wear a 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.



WOMBATS- Wednesday/Thursday/Friday

It is so hard to believe that we are half way through our last term together. We have observed and watched these beautiful and wonderful children grow and develop over the year. The educators have watched them master cutting with scissors, holding a pencil in a dynamic grasp, forming friendships and solving all sorts of problems large and small.

The Wombat children are in the midst of a very busy fourth term of Preschool, preparing for Christmas and new challenges for 2017.

Also this term we have been following a slightly revised daily routine. The children begin the day by playing outside followed by morning tea. After morning tea the children come inside where they can do their art and craft followed by cognitive and manipulative games, construction and dramatic play. Then we do language and music time. After lunch we have News Time followed by gross motor, and then have free play outside until 2.45. Then we come inside for a small group time and story. This daily routine may alter due to rainy days and other events.

Our interest this term so far have been-

- Growing things and gardening
- Science experiments
- School and the different uniform that each school children wear.
- And finally Christmas- and how the children and families celebrate Christmas

News topic this term:

- Big school items e.g. school bag, hat or uniform.
- A drawing that the children have done.

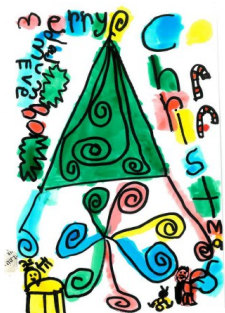


- A favourite book.
- A Christmas item.

Finally, the Wombat teachers would like to express our thanks to the parent community for your support, encouragement and friendship over this year. We have all worked hard to provide what we hope has been a stimulating and rewarding year for each individual child in our group. We wish each of our beautiful Wombat children all the best for next year.

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

Koalas- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday



Where has the year gone? So far Term 4 has seen most Koalas venture to school orientations in preparation for next year. Parents have reported that their children have been excited to see their “Big schools” and to start getting acquainted with their surroundings and their routine. For some children school visits have been emotional and upsetting. Adapting to change is not easy for some of us and can be filled with worry and anxiety. Going to school is a big step in your child’s life. Moving away from the security of Educators/ friends and a predictable routine at Larool, into a larger environment with more children and new Teachers is an adjustment. It may take longer for your child to feel comfortable at school compared to their peers, but it will happen.

This term we will talk about school eg create a school chart - ‘What school are you going to ?’; discuss feelings and how to solve problems that may arise at school; What do we need to bring to school ?; What will we learn at school ?etc. It has been great to see some Koalas already coming in wearing their new school uniforms and looking older and wiser than when they first stepped into the Koala class in February.

In small group sessions we have focused on turn taking and developing our memory recall skill. The Koalas have enjoyed playing snap with visual cards that are very similar to each other. They have really paid attention to the detail on each card and “snapped” the matching pairs. Playing a ‘Go Fish’ game has extended the Koalas memory, as most have successfully been able to turn 2 cards over (each turn) and found a matching pair, by remembering where particularly cards were located on the mat. Mrs Meadows has used real objects in her memory game with the children eg 5-7 items are on a tray, they are covered up, one is removed and a selected child had to guess what item was missing. It became more challenging for our clever thinkers when two items were taken away each turn.

In our language and literacy sessions, we have learnt the sounds of each alphabet letter using picture cards and a song (“Ants in the Apple”). Learning the sounds of letters is the first step in reading phonetically (sounding out words). We have also learnt the months of the year, in particularly when our birthdays are. The Koalas are becoming more aware of letters/ sounds in their Christian names (not just their first letter) and their friends/ families names. With everyone’s help in a group session we were able to put Mrs Goodwin’s alphabet cards in order (with little teacher assistance). A favourite transition literacy activity of the Koalas is when a child is asked to stand up and clap out the syllables in their names before they go and wash their hands for morning tea. Most children can now successfully clap their full name out (including middle name).

A big Thank you to Gia - Lucas’s Mum for coming in and doing our hair in special styles with her hairdressing tools. This was a follow up from an interest in hair dressing that we set up as a dramatic play experience in the classroom.

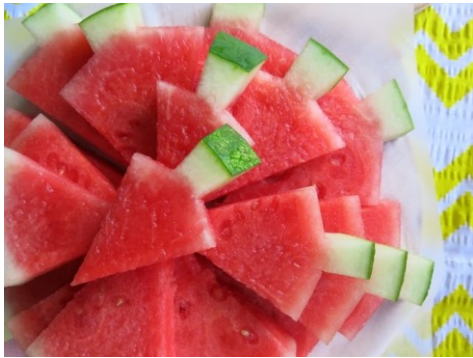
We have had a wonderful year with your child, seeing them grow and develop into independent and confident learners, ready to take on the world and all the challenges that school brings.

Mrs Sharon Goodwin, Mrs Lynne Meadows and Mrs Lindy Hamilton



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....

Yummy treats to try...



Watermelon trees

Reindeer Biscuits



Snowman pizza!

Fruity Santa hats



A spot of Craft...



Christmas decoration with ribbons on a stick!

Christmas Playdough

Ingredients

- 2 cup plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 tbs oil
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 drops green liquid food colouring

Method

- Combine plain flour and salt.
- Add water, food colouring and oil. Mix until ingredients are combined.
- Knead well.
- If consistency is too wet add a little plain flour.

For an extra Christmas feel add a few drops of peppermint essence!

Add cookie cutters, beads, buttons and sparkles to decorate!



Handprint Christmas tree
CanVas!

Christmas paper chain



Grow your own Christmas tree!



Use some of your child's creative art and craft to create:



handmade cards and
wrapping paper.....



or
a beautiful keepsake photo book
with pictures of your child's art!





What have we done with your SPLAT fundraising money?

We have purchased some fabulous resources this year with money raised from SPLAT....here are a few of the bigger pieces....



Thank you to all.....

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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.

laroolpreschool@optusnet.com.au



Larool Pre-school



Larool Pre-school
Children's Christmas Party 2016

When: Tuesday 13th December

Dress: Red, Green and White

What to bring: morning tea /drink bottle
 and a

Gold coin donation (*proceeds to go to Bear Cottage in Manly*)

It will be an exciting day with a party lunch (provided), party games, water fun (weather permitting- so please pack a change of clothes), a movie (G rated)!

Example of what the children will have for lunch!

Mini Jelly Cups



Cupcakes



Popcorn



*Fruit
&vegetable
platter*



Mini pizzas



*Water ice
blocks*



Keep your eye out for the invite with permission slip attached!



You're Invited!



to attend an

Open Meeting

of the Larool Pre-school
Management Committee

We hope to see you there!

Date:

Wednesday 7th December 2016

Time:

7:30pm start

Location:

12 Larool Crescent, Thornleigh

