



Larool Loop....



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

From the Directors Desk

Here we are approaching the end of the year and what a year it has been!

As always at this time of year we will be saying fond farewells to families and friends ready for their new journeys - we wish you all the very best! Don't forget to look out for the welcome back afternoon tea for our school leavers at the end of Term 1, 2018!

We are also looking forward to seeing many familiar faces back at Larool in 2018 and welcoming new families into our community in which will be another exciting year filled with laughter, learning and friendships.

It is also the time of year for thanking everyone who makes Larool so special!

Thank you to our early childhood teachers, educators and staff. We are so fortunate to have such a highly qualified and cohesive team dedicated to developing and delivering a stimulating curriculum based within a nurturing learning environment. And who can forget to thank Mrs Valis for your amazing and many skills!

Management Committee and SPLAT

Our Management Committee and SPLAT represent the true value of a community based pre-school. Thank you for your dedication, time and effort volunteering on behalf of all the children and families of the Larool community.

We have had a great year with many decisions made and throughout it all the committee has been encouraging and supportive with outcomes that benefit not only the current children but the future of

Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

Nurse Nolene

Tuesday 14th November 11am

Thursday 16th November 2pm

Dental Health Talks

Tuesday 21st November

Thursday 23rd November

Both talks at 10am

Christmas Concerts

2pm sharp!

Tuesday 28th November- Joeys

Wednesday 29th November- Koalas

Thursday 30th November- Wombats

Friday 1st December- Possums

Water Safety Talks

Tuesday 5th December

Thursday 7th December

Both talks at 10.30am

Toys N Tucker

Last day for donations Monday 11th December

Children's Christmas Party and Dress Up Day!

Tuesday 12th December

Friday 15th December

Gold coin donation

Dress up theme is everything Christmas!
Money raised will go to Bear Cottage.

Last Day of Term 4

Monday 18th December



our community pre-school ensuring the continuation of this wonderful, nurturing, educational environment!

SPLAT has been very busy this year raising an outstanding amount of money this year and assisted with the wonderful Pre-school improvements including our new cubby house! We all love it.....thank you....

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

Library Volunteers

Thank you to our wonderful library co-ordinator - Cherie 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!

Management Committee

President – Belinda Widdup
Vice President – Laura Westbrook
Treasurer – James Sheppard

General Members:

Amanda Guest
Dane Tierney
Kelly McDonald
Laura O'Smotherley
Annie Russell
Kirsten Dicks
Damian Smeulders

Library Co-ordinator

Cherie Robertson

SPLAT Members

Co-Presidents – Stephanie Sheppard & Jocelyn Caddy

Treasurer - Judy Elston

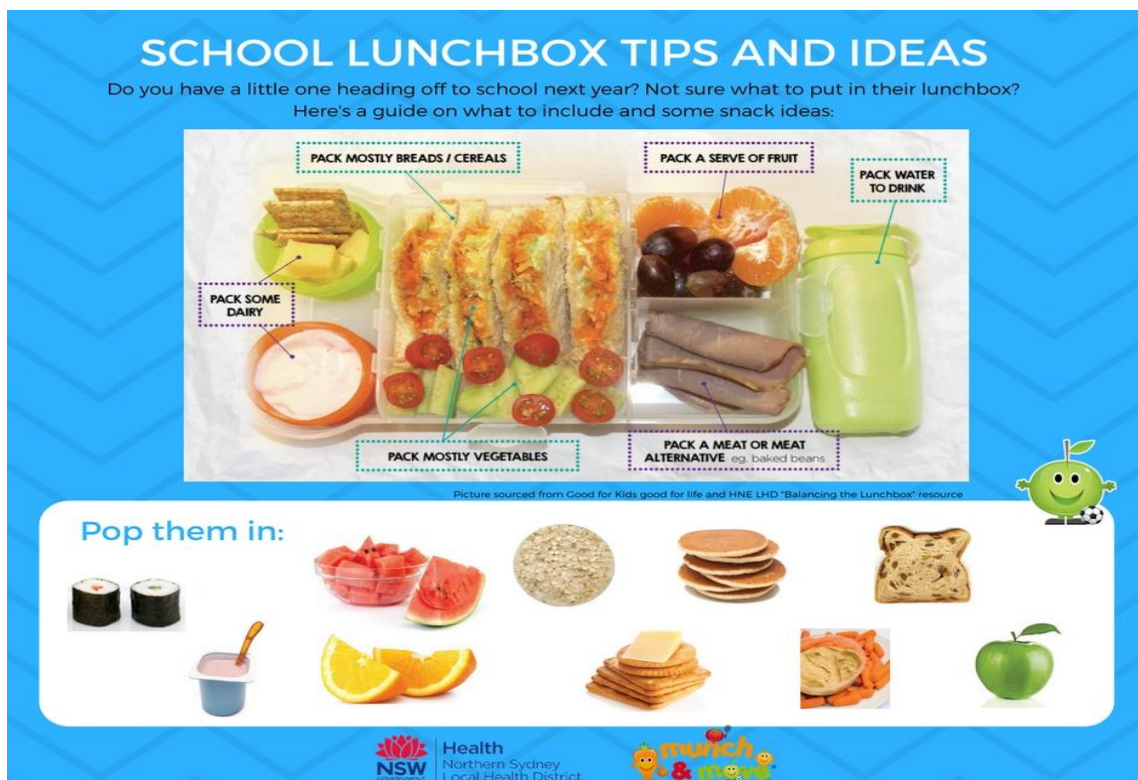
General Members:

Cameron Saunders
Julie Tierney
Leigh Bornstein
Kristy Smith
Karlie Taylor
Laura O'Smotherley
Annie Russell
Lisa Lehepuu
Savina Stebbing
Katie Hokin
Naomi Taylor

On a final note, I would like to thank all our families for their contributions of time and fundraising donations.

Have a wonderful, happy and safe Christmas. Enjoy your time together!

Monique





Management Committee Update...

The Management Committee has had a quiet year this year! This has been possible because we have such amazing staff. A special thank you to Monique Olthof and Melinda Valis who keep the Pre-school running smoothly and take care of all the behind the scenes stuff. Thank you also to all our amazing educators. Without these amazing educators our children wouldn't have the experiences that they do.

A special mention to Julie Tierney, Margaret MacCulloch and Leminda Yelland for all their extra efforts around the Pre-school. You may have noticed on returning this term that the grounds looked amazing! This was thanks to a team of parents and teachers who gave up their own time during the school holidays to be part of a working bee that included the final construction of the cubby house.

With 2018 fast approaching, please have a think about how you can contribute to Pre-school. It's my final year here at Larool and time to pass the presidents hat on. The Management Committee is a great way to be involved in operating decisions within our pre-school. Without the Management Committee there is no Pre-school! We meet twice a term and even sometimes have wine and nibbles! It's not a huge commitment of your time, but is really rewarding to see your ideas and decisions come into place within the pre-school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Larool community for an amazing 5 years. My 3 children have all flourished at Larool and as a result have become capable independent learners at Big School. The last day of term 4, 2017 will be the end of an era for our family and a few others within the Pre-school. It has been an honour to work with everyone on the Management Committee and the staff alike.

I Hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and New Years.

Belinda Widdup
President
Larool Management Committee

For our School Leavers!

What a great NSW Government initiative for families with children from Kindergarten to Year 12.



**CLAIM YOUR
\$100 ACTIVE KIDS
VOUCHER**

The NSW government has announced that as of January 2018, families will be eligible to claim \$100 vouchers for every school-aged child in the household, to cover the costs of registration and participation in sports and fitness.

The voucher will not be means tested and is available for every child in the family from Kindergarten to Year 12, annually for the next 4 years.

The initiative recognises the importance of keeping children physically active and healthy and is part of the Premier's Priority of reducing children's overweight and obesity rates. For more information on the initiative visit www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids





The Big Move – Making the Larool to School Transition Easier

Most children have now attended school orientation and have had a small taste of what will take place in their new kindergarten classrooms. As parents, we can help our child in many ways to make that transition easier through simple yet highly effective strategies.

- When you get your child's uniform, let them wear it... everywhere! This encourages a sense of ownership and pride, and helps to give your child a sense of belonging before they get to school. Don't be too concerned with it getting dirty, as once at school this is inevitable.
- When at orientation, take your child down to the toilets for them to go while you are present. While you won't be able to go in, your child may appreciate your presence for their first school toilet experience.
- If you don't already know, find out other classmates who will be attending the same school. Just as we like to see a familiar face when starting a new job, children like to see one too when starting school.
- If choosing a new lunch box and drink bottle over the holidays, ensure you take your child with you when purchasing so you can ensure ease of opening and closing. Children need to be independent with all of their food items.
- Sometimes school orientation can stir up little worries. If this happens to your child, let their Early Childhood Teacher know so they can assist, as they have quick access to resources such as books that can help deal with concerns.
- Once orientation is complete, put school talk on the back burner. While it may feel for you that school is close, it is still quite a way away for little people. Too much talk about school can cause feelings of anxiousness and can be overwhelming. If your child is asking you questions about school, answer them simply and move on. A couple of weeks before beginning; start to engage your child in school conversations. Don't know what to say? Share some of your own positive school stories and if you can recall, what happened on your first day?
- When talking about school avoid statements like "you are going to love it" or "it will be so much fun". Children's ideas of what fun is can drastically differ to yours so keep it factual. "At school they have a bell, you make lines, there are computers". If you want your child to walk into school excited, pull in on their interests. If they love writing, tell them this is what they will do at school. There is always something that will be of interest to them, you just have to point it out.
- Sometimes children can believe that once they complete their first day in kindergarten that they are finished their school journey. To help you explain, think of something that happens regularly that your child can relate to that will help them better understand school attendance. I would tell my children that when Dad goes to work, they would go to school.

While school presents a big change, children who are developmentally ready to go will thrive on the change of structure, have made new friends by the end of term one, and will enjoy the new challenges that school provides them with.

We look forward to hearing talk of new stories and friends when visiting at the pre-school reunion early 2018.

Danielle Mantakoul



SPLAT Chat-

Larool Social & Fundraising Committee Update

Another fantastic year!! Thank you to all the parents of SPLAT who have helped run our many fundraising and social activities – these would not be possible without you! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to making SPLAT a success.

An extra huge thank you goes to Judy Elston who has been the SPLAT Treasurer for a number of years. On top of doing an amazing job as Treasurer, Judy is always willing to lend a hand and is an incredible member of the team. This is her last year at Larool (with Alex) and their family will also be leaving the area to continue their journey in Canberra. We will miss you all but wish you the best of luck!

Treasurer – Judy Elston

Library – Cherie Robertson

Committee

Cameron Saunders

Julie Tierney

Leigh Bornstein

Kristy Smith

Lisa Lehepuu

Annie Russell

Laura O'Smotherley

Karlie Taylor

Savina Stebbing

Katie Hokin

Naomi Taylor

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.

Dress Up Days

SPLAT will be running a Dress Up Day for the preschool to raise money for a wonderful charity Bear Cottage. The days are Tuesday 12th and Friday 15th December and the theme is Christmas! Wear your favourite Christmas colours or outfit. Please bring in a gold coin donation to be collected by the teachers on these days.

Thank you to Stephanie Sheppard!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steph for all the amazing work that she has put into SPLAT as President over the last 2 years as well as her efforts as a part of the team prior to that.

The success of SPLAT relies on dedicated parents to help raise funds for the Pre-school as well as to organise social events that make our wonderful Pre-school such an important part of our community. Steph has brought an amazing amount of energy and fun to the team and I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside her this year. We appreciate the dedication and time that she has volunteered over the last few years and the thousands of dollars she has helped raise to give our children and the pre-school additional resources.

Massive thank you from Jocelyn (Co-President) and the SPLAT team!

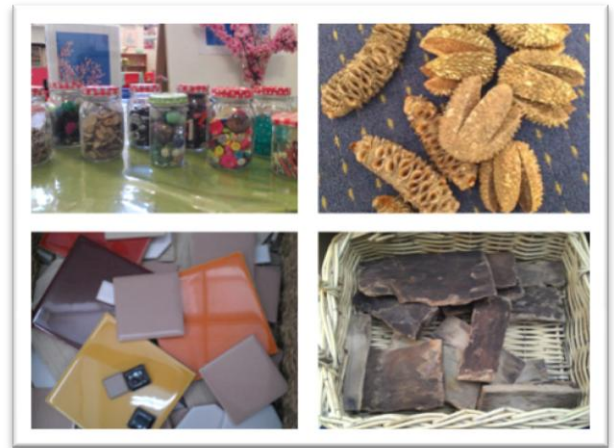




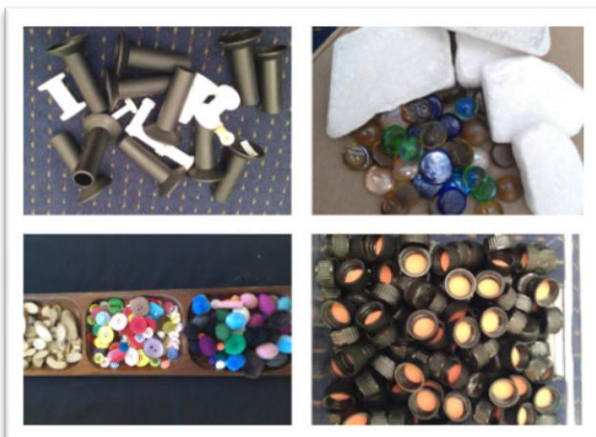
Loose Parts? What does that mean?

Have you ever walked into the Pre-school room and thought “Why is there a tray of coloured rocks?” or wandered around the outdoor playground and been curious as to why the teachers have left out a big crate of gutters and logs? Well, I am hoping to answer those questions for you!

Loose parts is quickly becoming a commonly used term within the Early Childhood setting and it basically refers to anything that can be used in an open ended manner. Loose parts can range from rocks, gems, pebbles, stones, feathers, and pom poms, to larger items such as boxes, tubes and logs. Many loose parts experiences utilise recycled materials such as bottle tops, boxes and empty yoghurt containers.



As you all know by now, PLAY is an integral part of children’s learning. Loose parts is a way of enabling children to engage in meaningful learning through play. When you walk into a pre-school room, *you* may see a tray of brightly coloured rocks, sorted into coloured groups, children on the other hand, see something completely different!! They may see the rocks as the perfect ingredients to pour and measure into a bowl to make spaghetti bolognaise! If the teachers were to add some tongs and jars, all of a sudden this experience turns into a fine motor activity, children learning to grasp and manipulate the tongs, and exploring maths as they work out how to classify the stones by colour or size. Add lids to the jars with different size holes and suddenly the children are problem solving how to fit the rocks into the jars and then the jars become musical maracas! The possibilities are endless for loose parts and are a great tool to encourage the children to think and use their imaginations!



When we set up the Pre-school environment we are really trying to encourage the children to think and encourage them to ask questions such as “What can I do with this?” or “How does that work?” We are always striving to develop problem solving, creative thinking and working co-operatively. We recently had a perfect example of this in the outdoor playground. As the weather has been warmer, the children have been much more interested in water play. A crate was left outside near the tap in the playground, in the crate there were some recycled gutters, a small piece of hose pipe and a hollow log. A group of children headed down to the loose parts and started pulling everything out, they attached the hose pipe to the tap, threaded it through the hollow log, lined up all the gutters down to the sandpit and

all of a sudden they had a water source for the sandpit! The children were having difficulty getting their buckets under the gutters to collect the water, so they got together and worked out that they could use some large logs to lift the gutters up off the floor, it took a lot of engineering to work out how to balance the gutters and ensure that the water still travelled downhill but they got!!

This amazing project took the children a lot of time to build, however the skills that they utilised and learnt were amazing. The children used their imaginations, collaborated, hypothesized, problem solved, experimented, created, built and best of all, played and had fun!

Loose parts are great for encouraging open ended learning, they help to develop creativity, imagination and a range of cognitive skills. Children can gather up the parts, they can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, taken apart, sorted and put back together again! Children become the experts and can design their own play and learning.

Loose parts are materials that **can** be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

Loose parts can be used alone or combined with other materials. There is no set of specific directions for materials that are considered **loose parts**.



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.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 Joeys Room Monday and Tuesday)



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