

Sea Breeze

Evans Head Pre-School Association Inc. Volume 16, Issue 2

Website: www.evansheadwoodburnpreschool.com

Email: evansheadwoodburnpreschool@gmail.com 10th February 2020

Week 3

What a smooth start to 2020 we have had. Very few tears from the parents and the children have been brave as well! Keep positive and calm if your little one starts to cling a few weeks in, and talk to an educator.

Communication

Remember 3 year olds are looking at the world from their own egocentric perspective. Talk to us if you are unsure of the messages they are relaying. Remember that other little people are all operating from the same perspective where they think they are the centre of the universe.

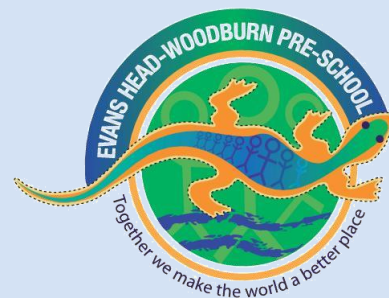
It is hard to share space and resources with 24 other little humans where everyone is still learning to regulate their emotions and how to navigate interactions and inevitable conflict. Your child may misinterpret a peer's clumsy knocking down of their blocks as deliberate and mean. Superhero friends can accidentally hurt their friends and not have the social skills to reassure their friend of the lack of intent. 3 year olds have often not developed the empathy to understand a companion's feelings.

Talk to your child about their day and reassure them that their peers are still learning how to be a good friend. Be empathic but positive and never label another child as NAUGHTY. Once you put a label on other children, your child will follow suit and will use that child's name to apply blame for anything that goes wrong for them at preschool from that time.

If you have concerns, bring them up with us, out of earshot of children.

RETURN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM NOW.

Every family is to have at least one member of our association.



Evans Head Centre:

1 Beech Street
Evans Head NSW 2473
Phone 6682 5235

Woodburn Centre:

Woodburn Street
Woodburn NSW 2472
Phone 6682 2993

Evans Head Woodburn Pre-School



Bandjalang Word of the Week

Bandjalang word:

Gwong

Translation:

Rain

Key Word Sign



Rain

Place both
slightly cupped
hands, fingers
spread and
palms down, above shoulder height.
Move formations down several times.

We Learn and Play on the
Traditional Land of the
Bundjalung People.

Working Bees

We have ordered a big supply of sand and soft-fall (bark chip) to top up the sand pit and fall zones for Saturday 15th February.

WE NEED YOU!

Please come and bring wheelbarrows and shovels if you have them.



We need to weed and mulch the gardens. Our wooden equipment all needs oiling to keep it in good condition and to prevent splinters. We need hooks put up, gutters cleaned, painting done.

So, block out some time to come along and show your child how to be part of a community.

See the list at each preschool for details.

If you cannot make it on Saturday, see us next week for any missed jobs that you can do at a more suitable time.

Emergency Drills

All week we will be practicing our snake drills, emergency evacuations and lockdown drills. This is done in a calm and fun way. If you happen to be around when a drill is underway, you will be included.

Educators talk to the children about what we are doing and why in a way that should not alarm them. We convey that everything is fine and we are just pretending so that we would all know what to do if there was a problem. This can be tricky with 3 year olds due to their language development and understanding of the world.

If your little one is confused, calmly reassure them that all is well and their educators are here to keep them safe and we just practice so everyone knows their job if there was a problem.

Driveway at Woodburn

Parking at our Woodburn campus is far from optimal. Unfortunately, this is out of our control.

Please park at the public pool and walk up the ramp or get some great exercise by parking in the school carpark off Woodburn Street and walking up to the preschool. There is cover and pram/wheelchair access all the way.

DO NOT PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY OR ON SCHOOL LANE!

Pedestrians need to use the footpaths on School Lane. If you are parked across footpaths, families will be forced to walk on the road with their young children.

Boomerang Bags

Please send an old adult sized t-shirt or singlet now. Your child will upcycle it into a bag for their wet or soiled clothes. Please wash it and keep it in their bag each week for laundry.

If you have any extra shirts you don't want, please send them as we will need spares.

Curriculum Night change of date

The curriculum night will now be 10th March. You will get an invitation soon.

Term 1 Fees – If you are paying by instalments, the first instalment (equalling at least 4 weeks of fees) must be made within the first two weeks and regular payments made to ensure your fees are always kept 2 weeks in advance at all times.

Please only use the **EFT Bank details** on the bottom of your invoice. Previous credit card/bpay methods are no longer available. Remember to use your invoice number as a **reference**.

Annual General Meeting

Monday 23rd March 2020, 6:30pm at Evans Head Pre-School

Please come along and hear what is happening in our preschools. All the staff will be there as well.

A huge thank you to the 7 parents who have formed our Management Committee over the past year.

Present: Belinda Fayle
Vice President: John Bruin
Treasurer: Aaron Kennedy
Secretary: Amy Barker
Ordinary Member: Wendi Gow
Ordinary Member: Kathryn Thomson
Ordinary Member: Michel Fowkes

Some of the committee will not be returning, so if you are considering nominating, please have a chat to a committee member, myself, Lisa, Michelle or Cath for some background information.

All positions will be vacated at the AGM and members will vote for our 2020 committee members.

Why join the committee?

As a not-for-profit association, we MUST have a Board or Management Committee to oversee the running of our two services by law.

It is an important role, but not a difficult one. You will join a group of friendly, supportive and interested people. They meet twice per term (that's only 8 meetings per year) to hear what is happening in our preschools and make decisions for the common good to keep our services viable.

All training is FREE and you will learn valuable skills to assist you to return to the workforce in the future, such as how a meeting operates, communication skills and an overview of how a small business operates. Employers see involvement in community organisations as a highly desirable attribute.

If you would like a reference, we are more than happy to provide you with one. So, pick up vital work and life skills in a non-threatening environment to get work ready and to feel you are playing a valued role in our little community.



Bushfire recovery assistance

NSW Government is delivering bushfire recovery assistance to help people and businesses impacted by bushfires including the clean-up of NSW residences and eligible businesses.

To register for assistance:

- Use the Service NSW [Disaster Assistance Finder](https://disasterassistance.service.nsw.gov.au/) tool to get a personalised list of available programs and services you can apply for (you will then receive a follow-up call within 10 working days).
<https://disasterassistance.service.nsw.gov.au/>
- Call the Disaster Welfare Assistance Hotline on 1800 018 444.



Health
Northern NSW
Local Health District

Don't be rude to food!

Fussy eating is normal, in fact well over half of toddlers and preschool age children will display fussy eating behaviors' before they reach school. It's part of a child's development – a way of exploring their environment, the food you provide and of course a way to assert their independence.

Remember that you are the parent – and a parent's job is to provide foods that a child likes, and is learning to like (new foods), and it's the child's job to decide what they will eat each meal.

Parents
provide,
children
decide.

-FUSSY EATING
MANTRA

Keep your expectations realistic, start with small steps such as a child touching or licking a food, and keep meal times stress free and positive. Praise the progress, and ignore the fuss a child may display.

And when in doubt remind your children **"Don't be rude to food"**. Create a positive vibe around the table by questioning children about the colour of food; or whether a food is crunchy or soft; or sweet, sour or salty, rather than letting them complain that they don't like it.

For more information go to:

<https://www.picnicproject.com.au/category/24-36-months/>

"Knowing what normal looks like and remembering that normal is a range helps us to begin to identify when a child is developing differently. For example, knowing three-year olds use sentences of three to five words can help to understand their language development."

To read more, go to:

<https://thesector.com.au/2020/02/03/advice-to-share-with-parents-how-do-i-know-if-my-child-is-developing-normally/>

Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library

Evans Head Library ph 6660 0374

The News Corp editorial team is interested in tracking down Australia's youngest library member for the Raise a Reader campaign.

There are no age restrictions on joining the library so if you have a new born why not get them a library card?



Evans River STEP Co.

Bee Hotels & Bees Wax Wraps

\$15.00 each (\$5 goes back to Evans Head-Woodburn Preschools!).

Available at Evans Head Preschool.

WHAT'S HAPPENING... at Evans Head Pre-School?

Welcome to all of our new families and welcome back to returning families. We have had a wonderful few weeks settling into the preschool year at Evans Head and we can't wait to see what the year has in store for play and learning.

Educational leaders at both services had the opportunity to have family meetings before the children started preschool. These have been so beneficial in getting to know not only the children better but learning about families and culture. We can plan and program for children's learning more effectively when we have a better understanding of their learning styles. If you didn't have the opportunity to have a yarn please make a time with me.

Already we have witnessed so much new and interesting learning. Children are making new friendships, exploring their environment and learning through play. This year, one of our ongoing projects will be focusing on "place" and "country". We acknowledge country every morning, paying our respects to the traditional owners of the land where we work and play. Throughout the day we care for our preschool environment, taking time to immerse ourselves in the awe and wonder nature has to offer. We are inviting families this year to come on this journey with us, using literacy as the impetus to share your family's connection to country and place. Shortly we will be sending home a journal and the story of possum magic. If you are not familiar with the story of Possum Magic it is well known children's book by Australian author Mem Fox. Grandma Possum and Hush travel around Australia on a quest to make Hush visible again after Grandma used her magic to make him invisible. This story sits perfectly with our own learning about the Aboriginal nations of our land. For some time, we have been listening to a podcast called "Little Yarns" at rest time. Each "Little Yarn" takes us on an adventure to a new place to learn the language, and most importantly, to enjoy the yarns about travel and a new place. If you are off on a holiday or planning on a visit to somewhere special, please let us know. We would love your family to take Hush the possum on an adventure with you. Alternatively, you can take Hush to the local places that are important to your family.



(The children exploring their identity and connection to place)

All families have been invited to our documentation on the Google platform. There are two folders one for photographs and the other has your child's summative assessment. This document will be added to throughout the year. We include group and individual learning stories. You will not see a new entry every week, we document significant learning. There is also an option for you to add comments, we love to see family interaction with our programming and documentation. Keep an eye out for the email for more information.



Kirby Jayne Barker - NSW
Department of Education
Early Childhood Educator
Award Finalist

We are very proud of all of our educators and their commitment to children and our sector. Late last year Kirby was named a finalist in the Seven News Young achiever's awards for NSW/ACT. Her category is the Department of Education Early Childhood Educator Award. March 20 is the date of the award ceremony, which will be held in Sydney at Dolton House, Darling Harbour. You can also vote for Kirby as part of the People's Choice award. Follow the link until you see Kirby, scroll down and hit send. There is also a link across our social media platform Facebook and Instagram.

Cath Gillespie
Educational Leader
Evans Head Pre-School

WHAT'S HAPPENING... at Woodburn Pre-School?

I would like to send a warm welcome back to all of our families, for another year of connection and learning, and extend that welcome to all of our new children and families who are just starting the journey with us. It has been a very settled and exciting start for us, and we are super eager about the possibilities of the year ahead for your children.

Thank you to all those families with new children who gave their time, and came along for a meeting with me before the start of the term. I found them incredibly beneficial, gaining a little knowledge about your family and how your child's learning style can best be supported by us, and also such a special way to start our relationship. Many families were interested in the AusIdentities questions, and where their child's learning style fitted in with the results. If you would like to know which animal your child aligned with, please see me. We will be sending home some information on the various learning styles shortly, and what motivates and stresses them. And if you missed out on a meeting, please see me to fit in a time that suits. If your child is returning this year, and you are interested in learning about this, please also see me.




Our biggest bittersweet news to start the year, is the announcement of Lauren's engagement to her partner, James, over the holidays. We are so happy and excited for them both, and wish them a lifetime of happiness together. Unfortunately for us, however, they are moving to Sydney to pursue their careers and start their life together, and this week will be Lauren's last week with us. Lauren has brought so much to our centre over the last two years, and we are going to miss her on our team immensely!! Her sense of fun, determination, professionalism, and love, care and advocacy for the most vulnerable in our community, are some of her stand out qualities!! I'm sure you will all join me as we wish her so much for the exciting journey ahead, in her new life, new home and new job!! And we are all looking forward to being her bridesmaids!! (Hahaha, only joking Lauren!!) On the positive side, we have received many awesome applicants for her position, and are looking forward to the selections very soon.

Thanks to you all for such a great start to the year, I hope that you have found it a smooth transition for you and your child. Please, if you ever have any concerns, questions, requests, or you are just wondering about something, please don't hesitate to talk to me or the team about anything. Nothing can't be asked, and experience shows that almost anything can be sorted out by bringing up any concerns quickly, and with confidence in knowing that we are solely here for the very best interests of you and your child. Hope to see as many of you as possible for our working bee next weekend. It's a fun and rewarding morning!!

Michelle Stanley-Jones
Educational Leader
Woodburn Pre-School



February 2020

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
A						1	2
B	3 <div>EH Jellums attend preschool </div>	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	10	11	12	13	14	15  Come any time between 7:30am and 12pm	16
B	17 <div>EH Jellums attend preschool </div>	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	24	25	26	27	28	29	1 Mar

March 2020

Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
B	2 <div>EH Jellums attend preschool </div>	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	9	10 Curriculum Night	11	12	13	14	15
B	16 <div>EH Jellums attend preschool </div>	17	18	19	20	21	22
A	23 AGM Evans Head Preschool 6:30pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
B	30 <div>EH Jellums attend preschool </div>	31					