



TEACHERS' REPORT – FEBRUARY 2017.

The children have embraced joining the kindy train and chuffed into the world of Kindergarten very well despite some very sticky weather. Well done to the children and WELL DONE to the parents. We realise that going off to Kindergarten for the first time can be difficult for you too. We feel that the children are doing a great job getting to know the different staff members and we are gradually getting to know each of the children and where they are at in their development.

The first part of the term is all about the children getting used to separating from their parents and learning a new routine as part of a large group. The Dolphins and Seals have done a terrific job at picking up the routine and are quickly gaining confidence to explore the environment, to have a go at new things and to make new friends.

For the first few weeks of term we have been focusing on the topic of "I Am Me. I Am Special." We look at our physical attributes as well as the emotional sides of our personalities. This involves touching on feelings and how we treat each other (a theme that continues throughout the year.) Hence you may have noticed a lot of faces coming home as we look at the features that are actually part of our face. Please come in at any time and have a look at your child's work. We will then moved on to where we live ie Hillarys, Australia and we look at what this means ie the beach, outdoor life style and what is typically Australian. We will have our own Australia



Day celebration (week 8 Mon/Tues) and we will be asking the children to dress up as something typically Australian so thinking caps on in advance. We then hope to touch briefly on some of the other nationalities of the children in our group so that we can see how their traditions differ from ours. We also hope to have time to look briefly at the Aboriginal culture through stories and art work. Wow and that is just Term 1. Anyone who feels they may be able to contribute in some way to the program ie playing music, cooking etc please don't be shy we would love to make use of our parent resources.

We have just started our "Today's Ray of Sunshine" activity and I had the honour of being the first participant (only so I could model the process.) The children were encouraged to ask me questions and find out about things that I like. Through this activity the children will discover that they have similarities and differences with others in the group and that they are all special, valued members of the kindergarten. The photographs and comments from their turn as "Today's Ray of Sunshine" will be hung around the room on white card. If you haven't sent along your photographs yet please do so soon so that your child can take their turn. You will know when your child has had their turn as they will come home with a sunshine badge/ribbon. This activity also allows us to listen to the children's speech and whether or not we have any concerns about their oral language skills. We will contact you if we feel that your child could maybe benefit from a speech assessment.



We have also started our Phonological Awareness program. This kicks off with the ability to hear words in a sentence. It is an oral awareness



to start with so that when I say "My name is Joe", the children can clap out, jump out etc that there are 4 words in that sentence ie one jump per word. You will see us doing a lot of jumping across the mat as we practise our reading (they think they are very clever to be able to read.) If your child is interested you may like to reinforce this at home ie how many words are there in the title of our bedtime story etc? Don't push if they don't want to but most of the children enjoy this activity. From here we move onto breaking words into their syllables. These are all very necessary steps in the introduction of reading so please don't try to skip over them to the actual reading of books.

Another focus for this term is hand strength and pencil grip. If you are concerned about your child's hand/finger strength then activities such as play dough, using pegs, tearing paper, wringing out wet cloths are all useful things to do at home. It is vital that these skills are developed early on so that we can progress to holding a pencil correctly and then early writing. I will send home a copy of the Foundation Font that is taught and used at Hillarys Primary School and which we also use. Please don't allow your child to learn how to write their name in capital letters because it is very difficult to "unteach" them. Please use the font sample provided as well as the diagram of a correct pencil grip.

In the Maths area we are concentrating on counting and number recognition of numbers 1-10 as well as counting and forming groups of objects with an understanding of one to one correspondence.



As you may have noticed we have a digital photo frame in the window. Much of the learning that occurs at Kindergarten can't be taken home in their Kindy bags. Dramatic play, block

constructions, discussions at the fruit table, games and more are difficult to put into a portfolio as a record of learning experiences. Each fortnight we will endeavour to display photographs from some of the activities from the previous two weeks. We will do our best to capture every child each week however we will apologise now if we ever miss someone. These photographs will be kept on the kindergarten computer and we will give you a disc of your child's photographs at the end of the year.

Next week (week6) until week 9 we will be having a half hour of fun and fitness with a company called Funky Fitness. Nat the co-ordinator specializes in a program to develop young children's core strength, co-ordination, balance and crossing the midline in sessions that are all put to music. It is very high energy and we feel it is a worthwhile exercise to start off the new year. The kindergarten will cover the costs of these sessions.

We have also included another incursion this term called "Ricky Possum". This is a puppet show with a handler called Ricky. She is excellent with children of this age and she is basing the show on an Australian bush theme to fit in nicely with the Australian flavoured program. We know the children are really going to enjoy it as well as learn a lot along the way.

The children in each group have already completed their first session with Michelle Kalma. Both sessions went really well with the children adapting instantly to a different teacher. Thanks again to Michelle for the energy and enthusiasm she brings to our program.

Remember the rosters for parent helpers are on the noticeboard in the kitchen and thankyou to our liaison mums for co-ordinating these. We look forward to getting to know you and your child as the program progresses. Please remember that if you have

any concerns about your child or the program please see us, ring or email us to make an appointment. Finally another huge thank you to the brave parents who put up their hands at the AGM to take on the committee roles. Your enthusiasm has been over whelming.

Alison Ford, Michelle Kalma Julie O'Brien and Sandra Thompson.