Term two has started in a rush with lots of excitement and industry heading into our ‘Mothers Day Pamper Mornings” on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The children have all worked very hard and are very excited about welcoming their special guests into the environment so we are hoping that you will all be able to make it. Please don’t forget that the start time is 10am sharp (it is very difficult to contain 15 excited 4 year olds) and that you must bring a bowl for your feet and a small towel. We are looking forward to a relaxing (well for you hopefully) and enjoyable morning.

The cooler weather has arrived and with it we have already witnessed the start of sniff, coughs and colds. We realize that a large majority of four year olds spend the entire winter with a runny nose and we don’t expect them to stay away for all of that time but please use common sense when deciding whether or not your child should attend. We know that in most cases the children don’t like to miss the opportunity to see their friends but please don’t let them make this important decision. Apart from spreading germs amongst their peers they will also struggle to keep up with the tempo of the program if they are not 100%

It is great to see that the children are all drinking our filtered water with no juice in sight and the majority of lunches seem appropriate. Please don’t over face your child with food. If they have a sandwich and a piece of fruit then just one small treat is probably sufficient and if the treat is not sealed in a wrapper even better. We are still spending a lot of our time opening very well sealed packaging.

Of course with the cooler weather will come the rain. We will still endeavour to complete an obstacle course in the morning prior to the bell ringing. It is a great way to start the day and
allows the children to run off a bit of steam and greet their friends before we are asking them to sit and listen. The only time we will not have an obstacle course is if it is pouring down and then we will retreat indoors and complete a puzzle with our parents before the bell rings. If it is just cold we will still be outside so come prepared with a jacket (sorry tough love). It is very important that your child completes the course with you so that you can see the skills that we are working on. I know that a lot of children simply want to run off and play but we would appreciate it if you could reinforce our routine ie fruit in the bowl, lunchbox in the box, hat on, hang up their bag and then complete the obstacle course. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. On the subject of rain as I mentioned at the AGM in January our program is based on the inside and outside environment and we really try to make use of the outside year round. If it is just raining a little I don’t mind if the children bring rain coats, rain boots etc so that we can investigate the magic of puddles and mud. Please put a change of clothes in their bag so that if necessary they can get changed as well as maybe some dry shoes. Of course we wouldn’t adventure out if there was a storm but a little rain is not a problem.

I was very pleased with the progress the children made last term in the naming and recognition of syllables. They all did very well with this new concept. This term we have introduced the concept of rhyming. Our aim is that the children are able to hear words that rhyme, identify rhyming words and produce a list of words that rhyme (nonsense words are acceptable in this case.) The children have a lot of fun with this process but you may find that they want to rhyme everything that comes out of your mouth. Look out for story books that make use of rhyming words because this is a fun way to reinforce the concept. We will also continue to develop the children’s concept of print and how books ‘work’. That is text, pictures, title, author, illustrator, left to right reading skills etc. From the reading that we do the children will start to retell simple stories in their own words, sequence events of a story and discuss characters within a story. We have also introduced initial sounds. We start with doing a lot of work with their name’s initial
sound which most of them now know. They will now start to recognize the sounds their friend’s names start with and then other naming words. It is very important to keep it real and concrete for them and connected to their world. In the numeracy area we will continue to work on number recognition of numbers 1-10 as well as forming groups for each of these numbers and counting a group of objects with 1-1 correspondence. We will continue to explore and investigate terms involved with measurement, time, money etc. Later in the term we will introduce the concept of patterning and the identification of a pattern. This will also lead into grouping and looking at objects that have common features.

Next week we will be reading the story of “The Rainbow Fish” a beautiful story that allows us to investigate the concepts of friendship, sharing and conflict resolution. From here we will discuss the underwater world of the ocean, the properties of water as well as touching on our Waterwise messages.

As mentioned in a previous report for the remainder of the term Miss Ashleigh Burn will be present in the centre as she completes her final practice for her Teaching Degree. From about the middle of the term Ashleigh will be running almost all of the program under my guidance. I will of course still be in the room as an assistant. Please don’t hesitate to talk to Ashleigh if you have any concerns. This will free me up a little to conduct some of the one on one testing that we are required to do as well as give some extra attention to children who haven’t quite grasped a new concept. We can never have enough hands on deck so it will be a very productive term. Of course we have had some other staff changes as well and for this I apologize but unfortunately it has been unavoidable. The Education Department has insisted that all teachers clear their accumulated Long Service Leave which has resulted in a lot of staff being on leave at one time. This is happening across the state not just in Hillarys. In Term 2 Michelle Kalma is filling in for the teacher at Hillarys Primary School and so that is why we now have Ms Natasha Malinovic teaching with us on Fridays and for a few hours on Tuesday. We also have Mrs Sian Clack with us on Mon–Thursday mornings for three hours a day.
provide some Special Needs Assistant time. Once we have got through Term 2 we will need to face Term 3. I know I should be excited about it but I feel very guilty as if I am abandoning ship but I have to take my Long Service Leave for Term 3. Luckily it seems that Michelle Kalma will be able to pick up the full time teaching load and I know the children will be excited to see her back. The program will be set before I go and I know I am leaving everything in very capable hands. For this reason I have decided to do the three weeks of bush dancing with Phil Pierce at the end of this term and then have the family Bush Dance on Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} July (details to follow) so it will be one less thing for Michelle to deal with.

Looks like another busy term ahead so enjoy every minute.

\textit{Alison, Julie and Sandra.}