TEACHERS’ REPORT MAY 2014.

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 18 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 co-operation 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 when I screened them at the end of the term. This term we will be introducing 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 first seven weeks
of this term we will have Ms Sarah Russell in the room as
she completes one of the final prac’s of her degree. As from
about week 3 Sarah will be controlling the program as the
‘teacher in charge’ so please don’t hesitate to talk to her
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
do as well as give some extra attention to children who
haven’t quite grasped a new concept. On this note we have
also be lucky enough to acquire some additional teaching
time for the remainder of the year. This is of a result of
being a Community Kindergarten as we have to do all of our
own administration. In real terms it means an extra three
quarters of a day but I am not interested in removing myself
to the office for this time because it breaks the program up
too much. So what I have chosen to do with the time is to
use it as additional support time for both groups in the
morning. Mrs Jenny MacFarlane will be joining us on a
Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9-11am. During this time
again we will complete testing requirements, provide extra
help for some and possible extension for others. We are very
lucky to have this time and it will definitely enhance our program.
Another piece of news is the appointment of a new Principal at Hillarys Primary School. Mr Bembridge has moved to Nedlands Primary School and Mr Ron Chesney has been appointed for Term 2 and 3 at Hillarys. At this early stage I cannot see any reason why this would affect us as a group but you will be kept updated.
Looks like another busy term ahead so enjoy every minute.

Alison, Julie and Sandra.