



Term One - Week Six

# Gulgong Pre-School Newsletter

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President: Reanne O'Rourke

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Website: [www.gulgongpreschool.com.au](http://www.gulgongpreschool.com.au)

Dear Parents,

What a busy start to the term we've had!

We are excited to be participating in lots of community activities and events over the next few weeks. With upcoming visits to Pre-School from students of Gulgong Public School, and invitation's to join both GPS and All Hallows for their Easter Celebrations. In preparation for their Easter Celebrations, we will be crafting our own Easter Hats at Pre-School to join in both schools Easter Hat Parade's. Shortly, we will be sending home permissions forms for these excursions, if they could please be returned asap.

## COMING SOON!

Due to popular demand, we have ordered Gulgong Pre-School T-shirts and bucket hats for our Pre-Schoolers. T-Shirts will be available in a range of inclusive sizes and colours.

With the rising costs of living, we wanted to keep these super affordable for our families, so we are charging a very close to cost price. These will be available to purchase from our office in approximately 2 weeks, depending on production. We will be stocking sizes 2-8, however, we can order different sizes if required.

**T-Shirts \$20.00**

**Hats \$25.00**

This uniform is NOT compulsory, however is an option to wear if you're interested in saving the 'good' clothes from being paint and dirt logged.

We will let our families know when they arrive.

Happy Pre-Schooling,

Sam Seis & Rachel Peninton

Directors

Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard.

## Belonging

Experiencing belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong to diverse families, neighbourhoods, local and global communities. Belonging acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, trusting relationships and affirming experiences are crucial to a sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

*Early Years Learning Framework V2.0*



# Yindyamarra

'Respect, be gentle, polite, honour, do slowly'

We Acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are located, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that Acknowledgement to Elders past and present and all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Connecting to Country

Our classes have begun to learn our Acknowledgement of Country which we share each day. Our Acknowledgment includes the Wiradjuri word Yaama (Hello) and key word sign. This was developed by our friends at Mudgee Community Preschool and approved for our use by the Gulgong Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. As we learn about and take part in our Acknowledgement of Country, we discuss the meaning and importance of our respect for the Wiradjuri Nation and our own connection to country. We are committing to care for our plants, animals, waterways, air, land and each other.

*Hello, hello, hello and how are you? I'm fine, I'm fine and I hope that you are too.*

*Yaama, Yaama, Yaama and how are you? I'm fine, I'm fine and I hope that you are too*

*Thank you Wiradjuri we Acknowledge you today. Thank you Wiradjuri for the land on which we play.*

*Thank you Wiradjuri we respect and we will care, for the plants and the animals on our Wiradjuri land.*

## Our Sustainable Future

We have been very busy learning about reusing and recycling, and our classroom recycling systems are up and running! We are identifying what our lunch box rubbish is made from, which bin it belongs in, where the rubbish goes after it has been collected and how some of these items can be recycled into new products.

To further reduce our waste, Gulgong Pre-School has joined TerraCycle and BIC's 'Best in Class' recycling program to recycle our markers and pens, as we sure do go through a lot of markers practicing our pre-writing skills! Gulgong Pre-School is now a public drop off point, earning us points that can be used to support some of our other sustainable practices. We accept pens, markers, highlighters, and empty correction tape and fluid which can be dropped off in the foyer. Thank you to those who have already contributed, we have already sent off our first 2kg package!



Belinda Buckle,  
Sustainability Leader

## Quality Improvement

Reflecting on how we design our environment and deliver programmes is a vital part of providing quality education and care. We are continually adding to our Quality Improvement Plan and our Pre-School community input is a very important part of this process. Feedback is welcomed and can be given at any time using the Family Voice feedback display in the foyer. We also undertake reviews of each of the 7 National Quality Standards, through surveys, staff training and meetings. Results are shared on Storypark.

This term we are reviewing how we support **Children's Health and Safety** (National Quality Standard Area 2), this involves how children are protected from illness and hazards. Family feedback forms have been placed in your child's mail pocket and can be returned to the feedback box in the foyer if you would like to contribute.

Further information about the National Quality Standards can be found at: [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

Rachel Peninton,  
Educational Leader

## Pre-School Hours

Just a reminder, Pre-School hours are from 9.15am until 3.15pm.

We really appreciate your punctuality as our Pre-School staff are not licensed to supervise children outside these hours. Thank you.

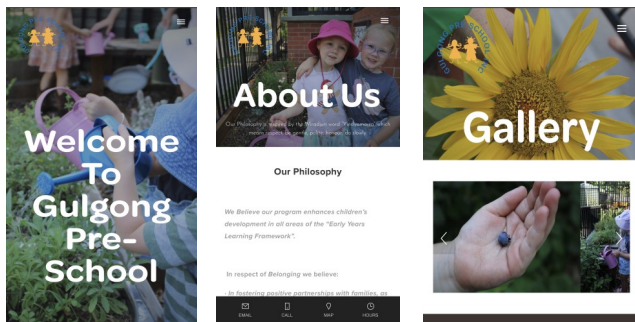
## New Website

Our Website has had a fresh new update! We'd love for you to check it out, at:

[www.gulgongpreschool.com.au](http://www.gulgongpreschool.com.au)

Here you'll find featured photos of our Pre-Schoolers and their learning spaces, information about our service and our current newsletters.

Our Website will be regularly updated as we continue to add photos and keep our information relevant.



## Library

Our library is open in both classes!

If your child would like to borrow books from the library, they will require a library bag. These can be purchased at Pre-School for the cost of \$5.

Once your child has borrowed a book, they can enjoy that book at home for the whole week and return it the following week.

## Birthdays

We support celebrating our families cultures and traditions here at Pre-School, and birthdays are a very special occasion! You are welcome to send along a birthday cake or 18 cupcakes or ice blocks so your child can share their important day with their friends and teachers.



## Emergency Evacuation Drills

Over the past 2 weeks, we have been practicing our Emergency Evacuation drills. Our Pre-Schoolers have very carefully listened to instructions and are now aware of what to do in the event of needing to evacuate Pre-School safely. We will practice these drills every term.

## Vacancies for Affordable Pre-School

Just reminding our families and the greater community that the NSW Government is providing **fee relief** to families in 2024 through the Start Strong Affordable Pre-School initiative as part of their Early Years Commitment.

We do currently have **4 yr. old vacancies**, particularly in our Thursday and Friday classes, if you know of anyone who has a child requiring access to Pre-School, please encourage them to reach out to us.



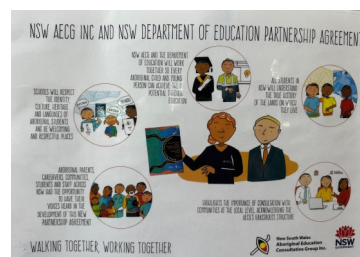
## Pre-School Committee Meeting

Our Pre-School **Committee** meets monthly.

Our AGM will be held at **6:30pm, Thursday 14th March** at Pre-School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Pre-School are an active member of the **Aboriginal Education Consultive Group** which meet termly to discuss First Nation People's perspectives on education within our local area. The AECG welcomes any new members or visitors to come along to meetings.

The next AECG meeting will be held at **4pm, Wed 8th of May** at Gulgong Public School.





# What's been happening in our classrooms?

## Sam's Class

Our important focus over the past couple of weeks has been to form those trusted meaningful relationships with each child within our class, and to embed the routine so the children feel secure in knowing 'what's next' in the day. During so, we've had a lovely time discovering each child's unique personalities and interests, which is mostly what our daily program has been tailored around so far, so our Pre-Schoolers feel a sense of belonging to our class and greater Pre-School community. In Particular, our recent interests has created lots of buzzing excitement around our room as we have engaged in endless amounts of imaginative play through our 'Pre-School Café'. This space has provided our children with many opportunities to express their dramatic creativity though role playing. We've also had an interesting time observing and experimenting with the law of physics! Our Pre-Schoolers have been busy engineering roads and ramps for our cars, trucks and trains, while exploring speed, gravity and momentum as they use their problem solving-critical thinking skills to trial their different techniques.



## Wendy's Class

What a great start to our Pre-School experience. The children have all settled in beautifully and have quickly established some lovely relationships with the staff and their peers. There have been lots of valuable opportunities for enriching the children's social development through dramatic play in the home corner and during outdoor play. This term our focus has been on helping the children feel safe and confident in their new surroundings and developing the class routine. We have established our group mat time routine where the children have listened to many stories and have learned a few new finger plays and action rhymes. We have enjoyed lots of music and dancing activities upstairs with a focus on rhythm, beat, tempo and developing our listening skills and ability to follow directions. We have also been working on name recognition, the first letter of our name, colour mixing, counting songs and games. We have continued to focus on re-cycling and our understanding of where rubbish goes, as well as learning about living on Wiradjuri land. We will continue to extend and embed Sustainable practices and Wiradjuri perspectives into our everyday program throughout the year.



## Term Dates 2024

Term One	Tuesday 30th January—Friday 12th April
Term Two	Monday 29th April—Friday 5th July
Term Three	Monday 22nd July—Friday 27th September
Term Four	Monday 14th October—Friday 20th December

# What's been happening in our classrooms?

## Eliza's Class

What a great start to Preschool we have had! For the beginning of this term, we have been focusing on settling into our new environment and making connections with the Educators and Children. Our group times have consisted of lots of nursery rhymes using hand and finger puppets, felt boards and picture cards. Which the Children have all done a great job at contributing to and staying engaged in. The children have shown lots of interest in dramatic play cooking in the home corner, so to extend on that, we had the opportunity to bake some real vanilla cupcakes as well as engage in some Food craft which we have displayed in "Our Kitchen" area! Sensory and craft exploration has also been a big hit over these first few weeks with engaging in lots of different experiences getting messy and creative. Everyone has done such a great job settling into their new environment!



## Rachel's Class

We have had a wonderful start to the year. Our class has felt very relaxed with all the children settling back into routine and reconnecting with friends and educators. The children have been very social and have created some great spontaneous dramatic play inside using puppets, dress ups and our cubby to act out favourite games and stories. "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" has been a definite favourite and has been acted out many times! This class loves crafting and sensory play too, so to combine these interests we have been working on a "bear hunt" display, the children have really enjoyed creating artworks to represent each part of the story. This project has so many learning outcomes; we are exploring speech and language, working memory, imagination, social skills, creativity, fine motor and much more. We have had so much fun!



## Upcoming Events

Wednesday 6th March—Visit from Gulgong Public School for Well-Being week

Thursday 28th March—"Easter Hat Parade" excursion to Gulgong Public School & All Hallows

Friday 29th March—Good Friday Public Holiday & Monday 1st April—Easter Monday Public Holiday

Monday 8th & Thursday 11th April—"Things that Creep and Crawl" incursion