

Welcome back to term 2.

We hope you had time to wind down from Term 1, enjoy some time with your friends and family and get ready for the busy-ness of Term 2 that's ahead.

HAPPY 41ST BIRTHDAY RICHMOND PRESCHOOL

This week we are celebrating 41 years.

The children will all be receiving a little party gift during the week and we will be cutting our Birthday Cake on Thursday 3rd May at 11am. If you are able to join us for cake you're more than welcome and we would love it.

We have a BIRTHDAY BOOK that we will be putting photos and comments in, see an educator to have your photo taken, so it can be added.

A little history....

Richmond Preschool opened its doors on Mon 13th September 1976 with 13 children attending for the first day and 3 educators. Richmond Preschool was officially opened on 16th April 1977 by Mr. Kevin Rozzoli State Member for Hawkesbury. We are celebrating 41 years since we officially opened.

Richmond Preschool has always relied on parent helpers. In the beginning parents played vital roles in helping in the office, preparing fruit and cutting up craft. Our parents are still valuable in being on the management committee, supporting in fundraising and joining in activities.

Richmond Preschool has educated and cared for over 4000 children in its 41 years and remains to be a high quality well regarded community based service in the Hawkesbury and hopefully will remain the same for many many more years.

Thank you for being a part of our preschool 'family'.

FAMILIES WEEK /OBSTATHON/BOOK FAIR

For the week of Friday 11th -Thursday 17th May we will be very busy with our Annual Obstathon, Scholastic Book Fair and open classrooms for Families Week. During the *Book Fair*, we have a large number of books from Ashton Scholastic which you can purchase; the bonus is the preschool receives a percentage from the sale of these books. Preschool will also have a "wish list", with books that you can purchase and donate to our preschool library. Books can be paid for by cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS or put on your account (if your fees are not outstanding).

The *Obstathon* involves the children completing a set of 10 obstacles several times. The children enjoy this, especially getting a stamp each time they complete an obstacle. Each child has been given a form to get sponsorship (donations) from family and friends for this. We will be looking for help with the *Obstathon*. If you can help for about one hour from 9.15am please let Nerida or Jacqui know. Thank you and we look forward to a fun week.

As it is also *Families Week* we invite Family members to spend some time each morning from 8.45am, in our classrooms with your child. The children enjoy showing off their classroom and all the things they are involved in as well as you meeting their friends.

We would also love to create a preschool "Family Tree". Love hearts will be going home this week for all families to add too, "My family is special because..." and then we will add them to our tree. Please return you heart as soon as possible.

FEES

Please remember to pay your fees when they are due. If for some reason you cannot pay by the due date (14th of the month) please let Jacqui or Nerida know. We do not like having to ask about overdue fees. If fees are not forthcoming then the Management Committee will be notified and they will address the issue. This will place your child's position at preschool at risk. (As per our Fees Policy and Information Booklet)

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

It's important that the Educators know when your children arrive and depart their classrooms. At times the classrooms can be very busy with activities, children and parents but we still need you to ensure that an educator sees you. Please make sure you let an educator know you have arrived and are leaving.

WINTER PROGRAM

During Term 2 and 3 our outdoor play time is now from 11.30am till 1.15pm. This is to make the most of the warmer days and avoid the cooler mornings.

"Every child is gifted...they just unwrap their packages at different times."

FOOD

Please, please, please ensure that you are sending appropriate food and drink to preschool each day for your child. We are finding a few sweet treats are making their way into lunchboxes. If you can keep these for your child when at home would be greatly appreciated. *It is Richmond Preschool policy that all children are*

provided with nutritious food whilst at preschool. The Department of Education and Communities regulations require our service to monitor this. We appreciate your support and understanding with this.

We are trying to limit the amount of rubbish and waste that we are producing at lunch and snack time. If you can be mindful of this when packing your child's lunch, by packing in reusable containers and not using disposable wraps. Lots of the schools already do this...encouraging 'nude' foods or 'naked' lunchboxes.

Also, at times drink bottles fall out of the fridge door when the children open it and they may be damaged. The children don't need the most expensive or designer bottle, simply something that can be used for preschool (with the least amount of parts that can break). We are concerned that having glass drink bottles may result in breakage if they are dropped as well.

Our aim is for Richmond Preschool to be a **nut free** preschool. Please do not send along any products which are peanut based e.g. peanut butter, nutella, satay or whole nuts or that have nuts in them. This is for the safety of children we have attending that have a life threatening allergy to nuts.

PARENT LIBRARY

Have you noticed our parent library in the locker room? We try and provide a variety of books that may be of interest to you and you can borrow these for up to 2 weeks. We also have a 'Share a book' box on the sign in table. There are several children's books your child might like to share with you at home in here....simply take one home, enjoy it, and bring it back when you're finished for other families to enjoy.

LOST PROPERTY

We are still finding lots of belongings that are either not labeled or not taken home each day. Please check the basket under the sign in shelf or in your child's classroom for anything that may belong to you or you may have misplaced.

PARENT INFORMATION/RESOURCES

On the sign in table there are two folders filled with information on a huge range of subjects. We encourage you to flick through to see what's available. If there is something you are interested in, let us know and we can photocopy it for you. If there's something specific you are after ask one of the educators and we will help you out.

TAX TIME

With Tax time approaching us shortly just remember that Richmond Preschool is a registered service. Receipts cannot be used for tax purposes (family tax) but you

can get a rebate from Centrelink if you have your receipts.

HELP NEEDED

We are in need of a handyman/gardener to do some work for us...They are not big jobs but we are unable to do them ourselves. If you know someone that might be able to help us out for a couple of hours a week, please see Jacqui. Also if you have some spare time you might be able to complete a job for us.

UNWELL CHILDREN

Winter = colds. During the colder months during Term 2 and 3 a lot of children get colds and are coughing and have runny noses. **Preschool is not the place for unwell children.** Please be considerate of the staff and other children at preschool and keep your child at home when they are unwell. They will get better much quicker if it is tackled straight away and they are able to rest.

Don't forget that if your child is unwell and is put on antibiotics by the doctor, that it is preschool policy that they *cannot attend for 24 hours after beginning antibiotics*. Please also remember that the educators do not administer medication other than asthma medication, with a current asthma action plan, to children at preschool.

“Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each child.”

ARTWORK

Don't forget to check the drying racks each day on departure and the boxes in the locker room, to take your child's work home with you. Educators do keep work samples and use artwork to decorate the room, we also put all unclaimed work, in the boxes in the locker room, but we also 'recycle' unclaimed artwork every couple of days. Sometimes children like to have everything that they have done and boy can they remember exactly what belongs to them.

FEEDBACK

We really value your feedback.

There are many ways you can let us know what you are thinking and what's important to you and your child.

We have the "what's happening in your life" books on the sign in table, comment sheets on the bench inside the classroom, a suggestion box and we are always happy for you to talk to us.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT

If the educators can be of assistance in any way please let us know we are always happy to help you out.

Please talk to the educators in your child's room or talk to Jacqui if you feel that we can be doing more for your child or not meeting your needs. When thinking about this don't forget that your child is not the only one in the room each day, even though we try very hard to meet each child's needs each day.

Don't forget if you have spare time on your hands you can always come and help out at preschool. We can always do with an extra pair of hands to help out. Let an educator know if you want to give it a go.

REMINDER

If someone other than yourself or partner will be picking up your child from preschool it is important that you let an educator know. Educators will not let your child leave with any one that has not been authorised by you that day (even if we know this person and they have picked up your child before)

WHATS ON THIS TERM

Term 2 - 2018		
Wk 1	Monday 30 Apr	First day of Term 2
Wk 2	Friday 11 May	Book Fair / Obstathon / Families Week
Wk 3	Monday 14 May	Book Fair / Obstathon / Families Week
	Tuesday 15 May	Book Fair / Obstathon / Families Week
	Wednesday 16 May	Book Fair / Obstathon / Families Week
	Thursday 17 May	Book Fair / Obstathon / Families Week
Wk 5	Monday 28 May	Mini Beasts
	Wednesday 30 May	Mini Beasts
Wk 6	Thursday 7 Jun	When I Grow Up Pantomime
	Friday 8 Jun	When I Grow Up Pantomime
Wk 7	Monday 11 Jun	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
Wk 7	Tuesday 12 to Friday 15 Jun	Favourite Colour Week
Wk10	Monday 2 to 6 Friday Jul	Sing-a-long 2pm
	Friday 6 July	Last day of Term 2

WOW!!! What a busy term we will be having.

SOMETHING NEW TO TRY

Mini Choc Honey Hotcakes



Ingredients

2 x large eggs

1 cup buttermilk

2 tsp honey

1 tsp vanilla essence

1 cup self-raising flour

1 tbs cocoa powder

Canola or olive oil cooking spray

250g punnet strawberries, halved

1 tbs maple syrup

Reduced fat vanilla yoghurt or ice-cream, to serve

Method

1. Whisk the eggs with buttermilk, honey and vanilla.
2. Sift flour and cocoa into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre, add buttermilk mixture and whisk to combine ingredients and produce a smooth batter.
3. Heat a large non-stick frying pan and lightly grease with cooking spray. Drop tablespoons of the batter into hot pan, allowing room for spreading.
4. Cook over a medium heat until bubbles start to appear on the surface of batter. Turn hotcakes and cook other side until golden. Remove from pan and keep warm.
5. Continue with remaining batter, re-greasing pan with cooking spray as necessary.
6. Mix strawberries with maple syrup.
7. Serve warm hotcakes topped with strawberries and yoghurt or ice-cream.

Serve Makes 14, Preparation time 10 minutes, Cooking time 20 minutes

Wishing all our mothers and grandmothers a Happy Mother's Day for Sunday 13th May. Relax and enjoy your day.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

—Mr. Rogers