

# Virginia Preschool Newsletter

Week 10, Term 2, 2018



It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of term two. Once again it has been an exceptionally busy term with lots of impressive learning transpiring. The children have now all adapted well to preschool routines and have become a settled and cohesive group. Many new interests, fascinating ideas and interesting questions have emerged from the children this term. This led to us extending learning in certain areas and introducing new topics such as the 'Solar System'. We also included music (musical instruments), dance/co-ordination, finger gym and ball skills to our small group time experiences. This proved to be very popular amongst the children and was an effective way to further develop the children's listening skills and to increase body awareness, co-ordination, strength and balance.

Some of our learning experiences and activities for this term have included:

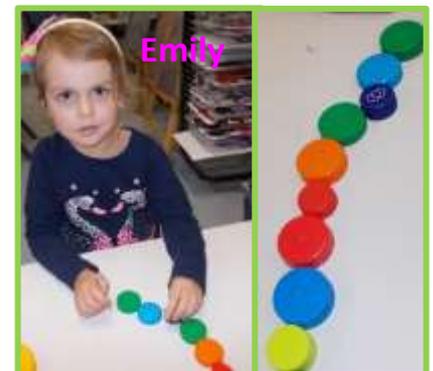
## Safety

As a continuation of our 'Safety' topic from last term we had our long awaited and highly anticipated visit from the MFS. Fire-fighters spoke to the children about fire safety including, the number to ring in the event of a fire (000), the importance of families having a 'home fire escape plan' and smoke alarms in their homes. They also explained how imperative it is to exit a building at the first sign of fire and if you are in a building that is filled with smoke get 'down low on all fours and go, go, go'. The children were also lucky enough to have a turn sitting in the fire engine and squirting the fire hose.



## Sorting and Patterning

One of our focuses in mathematics this term has been on 'Sorting and Patterning'. To make patterns, children first need to be able to recognize that objects have different attributes (e.g. size, shape, colour, texture) and then be able to sort objects according to these attributes. Once children have developed these skills they are then able to move onto predicting what comes next in a pattern, generating their own patterns and then describing patterns including, how and why patterns may occur.



Kate sorted these balls by size and ordered them accordingly. Alyssa created her own pattern with a repeating unit of three, using colour as attribute (white, black, red, white, black, red etc.) Emily created her own pattern with a repeating unit of three, using size as the attribute (small, big, big, small, big, big etc.)

## Shades of Colour

We have been looking at different shades of colour. Children experimented with the theory of colour, discovering how to make a range of new colours by mixing different combinations of the primary colours red, blue and yellow. Children also mixed varying amounts of white paint to coloured paint to create an array of different shades.



Domenic



Tony



Charlie

Emily



P.J.

## Hygiene/Germs

With the 'Cold and Flu Season' upon us we revisited how to minimise the spread of germs and the links between good hygiene and good health. This included the importance of hand washing, when to wash our hands, wiping our noses and coughing and sneezing into our elbows (Superman cough). We also learnt how easily germs are spread due to the fact that the average person touches 300 different surfaces in 30 minutes. To make this learning more visible to the children, we all given 10 pictures of germs to place on items they would have ordinarily touched in 1 minute. This was a very powerful demonstration that left staff amazed at all of the enthusiastic hand washing that was occurring.



## Grandparent's and Special Person's Day

Many children's grandparents and special people visited them at preschool on Grandparent's and Special Person's Day. It was nice to see the pride on the children's faces as they showed their Grandparents and special people around the preschool, introducing them to their friends and engaging in some of their favourite activities together. Many children also chose to share their work in their learning portfolios. The learning portfolios contain samples of artwork, learning experiences, photos, checklists of concept knowledge and samples of early writing skills. Parents and families are welcome to view their child's portfolio at any time.



## Oral Hygiene

To promote the importance of good oral hygiene the children have been involved in brushing their teeth at preschool this week. We have been discussing the impact that unhealthy food and drink can have on our teeth, why we need teeth and how to brush our teeth correctly. Virginia Dental Surgery was also kind enough to give us some extracted teeth, and x-rays to of teeth containing cavities to show the children.



Maddi

Zac

Theo

Tristan

Holly

## Fun Run

Thank you to all of our families for their generous donations and their help and support on the days of the Fun Run. Over \$1,500 was raised that will go towards the purchase of much needed outdoor furniture and resources for underneath our veranda. The children were all so enthusiastic and did an amazing job completing in excess of 18 laps each.



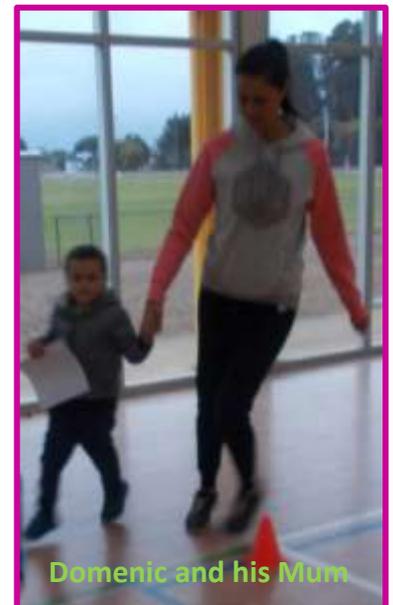
Nathan & Max



Kyran



Mya



Domenic and his Mum



Practise prior to the Fun Run

## Farewell

Farewell to Jayden and Addyson who will be leaving us this term. We would like to wish them the best of luck on the rest of their educational journeys. They will be sadly missed by many of their friends. Welcome to Claire and Annabelle who will be joining us next term. We would also like to wish Jess the best of luck and good health as she leaves us to go on maternity leave. Jess is hoping to visit the children next term after the arrival of her baby. Belinda will be replacing Jess, increasing her days from 2 to 4.



## Learning through play

When we are playing we are developing our confidence, creativity and imagination, our language, social and cognitive skills and learning to make sense of the world around us. We are exploring emotions, developing empathy, learning to participate, contribute, co-operate, concentrate and negotiate. We also develop our motor skills, co-ordination and attention spans while learning to invent, predict and problem solve. Play is our brain's favourite way to learn!

Here are some examples of our play:

