



WEST BATHURST
PRESCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

January/ February 2021

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear families

Welcome to West Bathurst Preschool for 2021.

All the educators and staff at preschool would like to welcome all of our returning families and children as well as families and children that are new to preschool.

We are all looking forward to working with your child and there are many fun and educational experiences that will promote in your child a sense of belonging, being and becoming at preschool.

Vanessa Miller

Director

STAFFING FOR 2021

Please find attached a short biography and details of work for each of the preschool staff for 2021.

Quality Learning
Environments

West Bathurst Preschool has been successful in our application for \$15000 that will be used to improve the learning environments at preschool



for children. The grant was offered by the NSW Department of Education under the Quality Learning Environment Program. We will be utilising the money to install toilet partitioning in both bathrooms as well as making improvements to our nappy change area.

Preschool had a visit from Paul Toole last week, to congratulate us on our successful application.

We are hoping the works will be completed in the next school holiday period. Stay posted for some finished photos.

STAFF CAR PARK

A friendly reminder to all families that the car park in front of the preschool building is **for staff parking only**. Please do not park in this car park as it is dangerous when the preschool bus is leaving and returning.



The Community House carpark is not to be used for parking. Council has requested that the carpark is reserved for use by Community House patrons only.



The church car park is the designated preschool parking area for families.

Please note; this carpark is used by a number of other facilities.

PLEASE HOLD YOUR
CHILD'S HAND.

THIS CARPARK IS BUSY, AND CARS ARE
COMING AND GOING THROUGHOUT
THE DAY.



Meetings with educators

The staggered starts have worked perfectly and have allowed most families an opportunity to settle their child and meet their child's educators. After your child's first day, pick up and drop off at preschool will occur in the foyer. We wish to work collaboratively with families and face-to-face discussions are more difficult with this arrangement. Educators in each room would like to offer you an opportunity for you to meet with your child's educators in Week 4 to discuss how they have settled into preschool.

These meetings will be held between Monday 15th February- Friday 19th February 2021. Meetings will meet Covid-19 restrictions, for example, social distancing will be maintained, and surfaces will be cleaned in between each meeting. We also ask that no toddlers or other children accompany you to these meetings.

If you would like to book in a time with your child's educator, please feel free to ring preschool on 6331 5582. Most appointments will be held between 3.30-5.30pm, although some appointments may be available during the day. Please ring and speak with Emma or Vanessa to book a time with your child's educator. It is also possible to book a phone appointment if this is more convenient, please ring preschool to make a time. We are also happy to communicate with you by email if this is more convenient for you.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Next

Meeting:

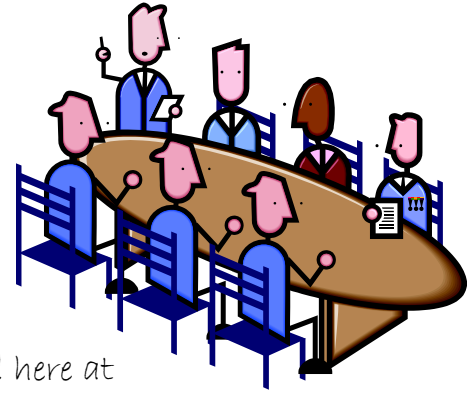
Tuesday 16th

February

2021 @

5.30pm

Meetings held here at



preschool-

7 Wark Parade Bathurst

Childcare is provided.

Everyone is welcome.

New and returning families are encouraged to attend.

Fruit/vegetable container



Morning tea at preschool has always been a shared experience for the children as they sit and chat while they eat their fruit or vegetable. Sometimes morning tea is eaten as a 'picnic' outside and most often it is eaten at the tables in the classroom.

Could you please remember to send your child's morning tea vegetable or fruit in a separate container /bag to their lunch. This will assist the children in identifying morning tea fruit/vegetable.

Don't forget to send the fruit/vegetable as your child needs, i.e., cut up orange or whole pieces if they can eat it this way etc.

Thanks for your assistance with this matter.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

The preschool is rated on quality by the National Quality Standards.

Each of the seven areas are given an individual rating and West Bathurst Preschool has an overall rating of 'Meeting' the National Quality Standards.

Please visit www.acecqa.gov.au/families for further information.

Please find attached an outline of the seven quality areas.

From time to time we seek feedback from families regarding these seven aspects of preschool. This year we will be utilising Survey Monkey to do this. We welcome all feedback. Links to surveys will be sent via our 'HubHello' communications system.



Fees and Health Care Cards



Preschool will be FREE to families for two days per week during 2021. If your child attends for more than two days a week, fees will be charged for the additional days. The daily fee for more than 2 days per week is \$28 per day.

To assist us with our funding obligations, could you please provide a copy of your health care card, if you are eligible. If your card has expired, please provide a copy of your new one. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

2021 DATES TO REMEMBER



Stay tuned to this space for all of the fun and exciting events at preschool.



Also, 'Like' the preschool's Facebook page for reminders of up-and-coming events.

StEPS vision screening- Tuesday 9th February-
Friday 12th February

Committee Meeting- Tuesday 16th February
2021 @ 5.30pm

Term 1 end- Thursday 1st April 2021

Term 2 begins- Monday 19th April 2021

Vanessa Miller Director

Available at preschool
Monday- Friday from
8.30-4.00.

It is an absolute honour to work within a team with such experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of early childhood education. I

completed a Bachelor of Education degree at Charles Sturt University in 1999. I have been the Director of West Bathurst Preschool and EarlyStart Kelso Preschool for the past eight years. Prior to this I was the Director of another service near Lithgow for seven years and overall, I have been in the industry for over 20 years.

I have three beautiful children, Jarryd (26 years), Luke (21 years) and Charlotte (20 years). I have a black cavoodle named Luna, who often visits the



children at preschool. I enjoy gardening, photography, reading and decorating in my spare time as well as spending time with my family.

I absolutely love what I do and have professional interests in the areas of Aboriginal education, the role of males in children's education, learning environments and children's emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Please see me regarding your child, enrolments, staff and any enquiry or concern relating to preschool.

Emma Clarke
Administration
Officer

Available at preschool Monday-Friday from 8.30am-4pm.

I started working with the team at West Bathurst Preschool at the beginning of 2020.



I have a Certificate 111 in Business Administration and Children's Services.

I love to bake and being outdoors, spending time with my family.

If you have any enquiries, please call or pop into the office any time.

Kate Johnston
Butterfly Teacher
and Inclusion
Support
Coordinator

Available in the Butterfly room Tuesday and Wednesday and available in the Inclusion Coordinator role on Monday, Thursday, and Friday.



I started teaching in 2015 after completing a Bachelor of Education- Early Childhood and Primary here at Bathurst Charles Sturt University.

In 2019 I completed a Masters of Special and Inclusive Education degree and really enjoy working within each class group at preschool.

I love my work at preschool, and I look forward to meeting you and your children.

Kate Brown
Butterfly Room
Leader and
Educator

Available in the Butterfly room on Thursday and Friday and in the Buzzy Bee room on Monday and Wednesday (and Tuesday for programming).



I am currently in my 8th year of working at West Bathurst Preschool. I have the privilege of working across the centre working in both the Butterfly and Buzzy Bee classrooms.

I am in my first year of studying Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 years), through Charles Sturt University.

I believe that every child has the right to gain an early childhood education prior to the commencement of school. My philosophy is reflected through the practices of play based learning. Children learn and interact through play and I encourage this through my teaching on a daily basis.

I am a lover of cats and enjoy playing sports. I look forward to meeting all families and working closely with your child.

Kelera Serukai

Team Support and Educator

Available in the Butterfly room on Tuesday and Wednesday and across all rooms on Monday.

I was born in Fiji and have been a naturalised Australian for the past 26 years. I'm known as 'Lella' for short. I'm married to Nero, a tradie and solo trader with his own air conditioning and refrigeration business.

I have two children, DJ (25 years old) and Timmy (23 years old). I have one 4-legged baby, a Pomeranian. I enjoy cooking, travelling, free hand drawing and choir singing.



Alannah Nolan Educator

Available in the Ladybug room on Monday and Wednesday and in the Butterfly room on Thursday and Friday.

I have worked in Early Childhood since 2018. I love spending time with my friends and family.



Tegan Kilby Educator

Available in the Frog class on Monday and Friday and in the Butterfly room on Tuesday and Wednesday.

I have worked in Early Childhood since 2015.

I love working with children alongside their families/carers. I come from a family of 10 children, 6 boys and 4 girls.

I love sport, especially soccer, and animals.



Alexandra Mann Ladybug Teacher

Available in the Ladybug room Monday- Thursday (and Friday for programming).

I have worked in early childhood education for over 30 years, working here at West Bathurst Preschool since 2000.

I met my husband Peter at High School in Canberra and we have two adult boys, Jack and Tom, I also have a cat called Oz. I did a Bachelor of Teaching degree at Charles Sturt University and Mothercraft Nursing in Sydney.

I like the great outdoors, going for walks, fishing with my family, and reading when I get the time. I am passionate about supporting your child's education.

Mandy Cottam Educator

Available in the Ladybug room from Monday- Thursday.

I have worked in Early Childhood for over 20 years. I have three boys.

I love animals and have a dog, cat, and birds.

Judy Hummelshoj Team Support Educator

Available in all rooms from Tuesday- Friday.

I have been associated with West Bathurst Preschool for more than 28 years, firstly as a parent and then as an educator.

I have had the privilege of helping to guide many children from anxious 3-year old's starting their preschool life to those same children ready to leave preschool and head off to 'big school'. I am the proud Gramma to six grandchildren.



**Meike Kristensen
Buzzy Bee Teacher**

Available in the Buzzy Bee room Monday and Wednesday (and Tuesday for programming).



I have been at West Bathurst Preschool for over 20 years. I have two adult children and look forward to having grandchildren one day! I like to garden, cook and go to the beach in my spare time. I have a passion for children’s emotional and social development as well as helping them to establish early literacy and numeracy skills. I view the family as most important, and really value your input.

I look forward to meeting you and your child.

**Jo Soetens
Educator**

Available in the Buzzy Bee room Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.



I have been at West Bathurst Preschool for eleven years. I enjoy reading and spending time with my family.

**Margo McDaid
Buzzy Bee Teacher**

Available in the Buzzy Bee room Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.



I am an early childhood trained teacher. I have been working at West Bathurst Preschool for 33 years; I am almost part of the furniture. I am so lucky to have seen so many children come through our preschool over the years. Sharing these early childhood years with you is such a privilege.

I have my own children aged 27, 24 and 20. I love to sing and tinkle on the piano. I also love to read, grow vegetables and go to the beach.

**Kristy Gibson
Frog classroom leader**

Available in the Frog class on Monday and Friday (and Thursday for programming).



I began my Early Childhood career out of high school..... many, many years ago.

I have worked and lived in England, Sydney, and Melbourne but I love to call Bathurst home. I have worked at West Bathurst Preschool for nearly 10 years, taking time off to raise my son who is in Year 1.

**Natasha Delahey
Educator**

Available in the Buzzy Bee class on Monday and Wednesday and in the Butterfly class on Thursday and Friday.



Some of the children call me Tash or Tasha. I have been working with children for several years now. I first started after I had my second child and I love every minute. I enjoy creating new learning environments and expanding on the children’s knowledge and interests. When I’m not at preschool, my two children and I enjoy riding our motorbikes and playing soccer. I look forward to meeting you all and creating lovely memories of preschool.

**Selina Sullivan
Trainee educator**

Available in the Ladybug class on Tuesday and Thursday.



I am currently a trainee at West Bathurst Preschool, and I have loved every bit of it since the moment I started.

I enjoy getting out and running around the playground and playing games with the children. Most days you will find me kicking the ball, playing hide and seek and generally having fun with the children. I also love doing all indoor activities with the children.

I am a young mother of three children, 2 beautiful girls and a handsome little boy.

Lizzy Evans

Educator

Available in the Frog class on Monday and Friday.

I have been enjoying working at West Bathurst Preschool for over 6 years.

My loves are my husband, two children, a girl and a boy, a Ragdoll cat Lacey-Lou and a dog Lily. I enjoy reading non-fiction, walking, and going to the movies.

I love working at preschool, and I enjoy seeing the children change through the year in their learning and social networks.



Maria Rossiter

Educator

Available in the Buzzy Bee class on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

I have been working at preschool for over 4 years. I'm a blessed Mum of four adult sons and Nan to six amazing grandchildren.

I love to sing and dance and I enjoy every aspect of life at West Bathurst Preschool. As part of the team, I see my role is to encourage and journey with your child through every learning experience while in our care.



Janette Gale **Preschool bus driver**

Available at preschool Monday - Friday each morning and again in the afternoon.

I am married and have three grown children (2 boys and 1 girl). I am a grandmother of 2 beautiful boys and twins to come.

Prior to coming to preschool, I worked at Scots School for 34 years. I love to play sport and watch my family in their chosen sports.

