



Seasons Greetings to our Families

We are so lucky in the Southern Hemisphere to have our Christmas Holidays during our beautiful summer. Best wishes to all and enjoy your marvellous family time over the next few weeks

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Families

During Term 4 we welcomed some new staff, Phillipa West, a recent school leaver heading to university to train as a teacher and Fusako Enomoto.

Our Committee Secretary, Janelle Cowan, submitted an outstanding grant request to Kuring gai Council and we have been successful. The funds will go towards purchasing all the electronic equipment needed for playing and projecting DVDs for movie time for the children

Enrolments for 2018. As everyone is aware, we have a large demand for sessions in 2018 and will be maintaining a wait-list for quite some time. We will contact waiting families directly as places come available.

We wish to say goodbye and all the very best to our Year 6 students, most of whom have attended WPOOSC since kindergarten. Goodbye and Good Luck in your endeavours to Josh, Logan, Georgia, Jack, and Chase

Looking forward to an exciting 2018.

Safe & Happy Holidays.

*Kind Regards
Sonja de Jong*



LEARNING OUTCOME 1
Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities



A LETTER FROM OUR EDUCATIONAL LEADER

Hi Families,

What an incredibly busy term we have had. It has been wonderful looking in more detail into our interests from last term and exploring new ones. This term we have engaged in a range of interests and projects with the children.

Our Reptile Show

We were so excited to have Aiden and Issac's mum, Jenny, a Ranger at Kuring gai Wildflower Garden, introduce us to some of her Reptile friends. The first animals Jenny brought out were some stick insects. One of the female stick insects was a Violet Winged Stick Insect that the children were very excited to see.

Jenny then showed the children an Eastern Longneck Turtle named Tiny which received many squeals of excitement as it ran around the circle.

The last animal was familiar to many children and was a Blue Tongued Lizard! Lots of the children said they have seen one like it in their own gardens. Fergus thought the lizard looked just like a possum! The children and staff had a fantastic afternoon learning more about these animals native to our area and we thank Jenny and the Kuring gai Wildflower Garden for a very enjoyable (and secretly educational) afternoon!

Around the world

Last term we loved hearing about each other's experiences around the world. This term we provided the children and families with a platform to share their experiences.

Based on the children's interest we spent the week focusing on a different country each week. The first week our Director, Sonja de Jong, was eager to share her **Dutch** culture. She provided us with a range of resources including clogs, books, music and cooking recipes, the Poffertjes were a hit! The children had a wonderful time engaging in craft activities and looking at the beautiful landscapes and sights in Netherlands.

The following week we explored **Austria**, Elsie noticed the similarities between Dutch and her Austrian background and was very eager to share it with us. We loved cooking, and eating, a uniquely Austrian dish of green beans fried with butter and breadcrumbs, *Fisolen mit Bröseln*

Luca and Maya were eager to tell us about their **Mexican** heritage and we all decided that's where we will travel next. We loved icing biscuits in bright colours and learning about life in Mexico. The children had a great time learning Mexican dances and making Mexican musical instruments.

Victoria asked if we could learn about **Greece** and supporting her interest and curiosity that is exactly what we did. Our Educators Rhianna and Eloise were able to share their experiences from their travels in Europe and knowledge of Greece. We took some time to describe some of the beautiful ruins and statues while we used clay and recycled materials to have a closer look at the details of these structure. We loved cooking baklava (*a special nut-free recipe*), this yummy and very sweet desert was a delicious new discovery for lots of the children. We also made spinach and ricotta triangles, Spanakopita, that we then ate for Afternoon Tea. We decided that the Greek people have so many beautiful recipes.



Music

We introduced our new karaoke machine this term. We have some very confident and regular singers and have loved watching them share their passion. Children's confidence and curiosity has grown as they watch their friends perform and are inspired by their favourite songs.

Our keyboard has also supported the children's passion for music. Teaching each other songs and learning from sheet music allowed the children to discover playing music and engaging with a piano.

Through our exploration of other countries, it has been fascinating to listen to different instruments, tunes and styles of music. Dancing and learning traditional choreography has been a fun way to engage with music.

Riddles

This term some of the children have demonstrated their creativity and witty sense of humour through riddles. Inspired by this we have created a riddle program. Each week the children are invited to solve the riddle of the week. This is displayed on the door near the office, with an envelope for children to



write their answers and another envelope were the children can write their own riddles. It has been so much fun revealing the answers and announcing the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Parents, we would love you to join us, if you know the answer to the riddle or if you have a riddle we would love to hear from you.

Christmas

As we prepare for Christmas we have continued our exploration of countries and traditions around the world. It has led us into discussions about how others celebrate Christmas or even if they do so at all. We looked at images of Swiss people wearing hats and carolling, a Dutch scene of St Nicolaus and Piet his helper. Sonja brought us in her Menorah and a beautiful book showing us photos and explaining the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

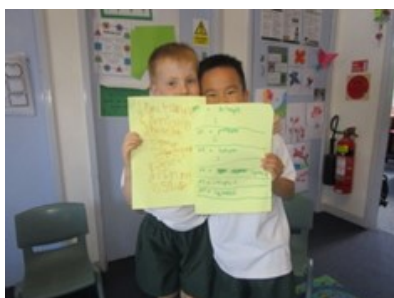
We have loved our Christmas theme in the craft room, the children created a range of Christmas 3-D structures including angels, reindeers and tree decorations. To encourage the children's own creativity, we provided a large range of materials, encouragement guidance and support. In our last week of school wrapped their own presents. They used their own art paintings, cellophane, boxes, ribbon and shiny tags. Doing it themselves was a great opportunity to have pride in what they have created and ownership of their work. The children valued the opportunity and wrapped their presents with joy, showing the educators what they had done. We hope you enjoy your creation.

We loved making Christmas cookies, the children helped us cook and cut out the biscuits into angels, stars and Christmas trees before decorating with icing pens.

We have had a great year and we are looking forward to seeing you all again next year for more learning and playing together. We wish you the very best of the Festive Season and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



All the Best
Jacqui Bonser



FAMILY PHOTO WALL

Please bring in a Family Group picture for our wall, the more the merrier. The children love telling us about everyone in the photo



Cardboard boxes are the basis of many a creation and we would like families to bring in (or bring back!) empty small boxes, *please ensure that the boxes have not contained any egg, meat or nut products.*

We would also like small recycled items for craft such as lids from soft drink and milk bottles, ribbons, cardboard tubes (no toilet paper) egg boxes and recycled paper is always needed.

If your office has any non-confidential paper for recycling or you have changed logos and have surplus stationary please bring it in.

More deliveries to the community at Tingha, just in time for Christmas.

Thanks to our families for your generosity



Allergies & Asthma

To comply with regulation you need to update Action Plans annually and inform us of changes in your child's medical needs. All medication (even Ventolin in bags) requires a Medication Authorisation

DROP-OFF, COLLECTION & NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

Mornings

Parents must sign and add the arrival time. Staff check mid session, and sign the children out to school and extra-curricular activities.

Afternoon

All children must come directly to the hall COLA when the school bell has rung, staff will sign the children in and begin afternoon tea. For extra-curricular activities we sign each child out to and check return to OOSC. Staff perform a mid session roll call. Parents must sign out and add a departure time. Please discuss this with your child.

A reminder—if a brother or sister under 18 yrs. is collecting your child we require a formal letter to hold in our files. Collection by anyone unknown to staff requires photo I.D.

Absence

We have mentioned absences in every newsletter but are still having *ongoing unexplained absences*. It is vitally important to notify our office in writing if your child will be absent in the afternoon, an email is preferred.

We will accept a phone call or a phone message if absolutely necessary.

Staff are spending a huge amount of time calling parents, leaving messages and waiting for a call back. We will apply a charge of \$10 **EVERYTIME** we have to call to check if a child has been taken home or was absent from school. We must also emphasize that **IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WEST PYMBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION TO INFORM US OF ABSENCES.**

OFFICE TIME & ENQUIRIES

We are generally happy to see you when you bring in and are collecting your child but at times we may be busy with other duties, so for a quick chat we can usually help you but for any issues that require a longer discussion please call and make an appointment.

For consultation and notification of new medical conditions please ring for an appointment.

Please avoid coming in at 9.00am, We are busy with kindy group time before school and it is very distracting for the children.

And again, on the end of school bell at 3.10pm, we are focused on afternoon tea and checking arrivals.

ACCOUNTS

Please remember that all accounts are due in advance for the term. Invoices are sent out each term in WEEK 2 and payment expected in full by WEEK 4 at the latest.

Make sure we have your CRN numbers so that you can receive CentreLink rebates. We prefer that you nominate Pay to Service with CentreLink.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have received your account. We send accounts, and messages, out from our HUBWORKS processing system, so please check they don't end up in your junk mail folder. Let us know promptly if you don't receive an invoice.

ANNUAL FAMILY REGISTRATIONS will be billed in TERM 1 of each year, all families new to the Centre will be billed on enrolment.