ASCOT KINDERGARTEN

To offer an open ended, innovative program that encourages children to have a voice and opinion regarding their early years education and develop skills they will be able to apply in their everyday life.

**Important Dates:**

- **Sun hats & sun cream** - 1st week of September
- **Blue & Red “Someone I Love” Evening** - Monday 2nd September
- **Green & Yellow “Someone I Love” Evening** - Thursday 5th September
- **Reticile Encounters** incursion for Green & Yellow Groups - Wednesday 11th September
- **Working Bee** - Sunday 8th September 10am-1pm
  - Term 4 **Fees due** - Monday 16th September
  - Last day of Term 3 - Friday 20th September
  - **Bunnings BBQ** - Saturday 5th October

**The Sage Garden Incursion and our new Vegetable & herb garden!**

We are all so very proud and happy with our new vegetable and herb garden. All the groups had a fantastic time on the 25th & 26th of July, planting our gorgeous edible plants with Natasha, including planting their very own broad bean to take home! We have seen and heard lots of stories about how children’s beans are growing and changing (or not growing and changing) at home. Keep the photos coming!

Over the last month we have watched our herbs and vegetables grow and change in our kinder garden and children and educators have diligently cared for and watered the seedlings and created a scarecrow to scare away the birds. It has been such a fantastic opportunity for the 4 groups to work together to share a common interest and take shared responsibility for something we they all helped to create. We are looking forward to harvesting our vegetables when they are ready and plan to do some more gardening before the end of term!

**News & Reminders**

**Sun Smart Policy**

Beginning the first week of September all children are required to bring a sun smart hat to kinder - one that covers the child’s face, neck and ears and apply sun cream to their exposed skin before they arrive.

**Fees & Concession Card Holders**

Please ensure that you pay fees on time and if you have any issues with payment make sure you communicate with our fees officer - Janine or your child’s kinder teacher.

Concession Card / Health Care Card holders - Please make sure you bring in each new card that you receive so we have a record of your card and its expiry date.

**Staff News**

As many of you maybe aware Katie will be leaving Ascot Kindergarten at the end of 2013. Whilst we will be very sad to see her go, we are happy that she will be with us until the end of the year and excited for her that she is going on to do great things in the future! We hope to see her back again for a visit one day...Thanks Katie for all you have brought to the kinder! We will all miss you! xxx
Term 3 has been a fun and happy term for Blue Group. Children are becoming more confident within their environment and in their interactions and bonds are strengthening between children and their peers and educators. The Mini Maestros program has been a huge success with the majority of the group joining in every Tuesday with Jennifer to sing, dance, role play and play a variety of instruments. The half hour sessions promote an awareness of rhythm, beat and musicality as well as encourage children to express themselves through music and movement and to participate in a large group experience and focus for a sustained period of time.

Sitting down to eat fruit together (especially after a Mini Maestros session) remains a popular social experience with small groups of children gathering together to help prepare and then enjoy the fruit and vegetables whilst chatting and getting to know each other better.

Other favourite experiences which have been explored and revisited over the term include, outdoor cooking with natural materials, bike riding, painting with water, jumping and walking on stilts, play with cars and trucks, taking care of our garden, Lego, puzzles and painting!

We have experimented with some new sensory experiences like cloud dough, gingerbread play dough and goop (which have sometimes been inspired by the interests of children in Green group) and have been great for children to engage with and talk about - which helps to develop their expressive language skills as well as their social interaction as they communicate thoughts and feelings with their peers and educators.

Story-time at the end of the day is a much loved time for the group to gather and enjoy a song, or book or both! Some of the books we have loved over the last few weeks are; Wombat Stew, Stuck, The Little raindrop, Oodles of Noodles, and Dragon in a Wagon. The new poem we learnt (when Natasha came to garden with us) is called The Little Cherry Stone and we recite it together as a group most days and our favourite part is eating all the cherries at the end for our tea!

For the remaining weeks of term we will continue to enjoy our Mini Maestros sessions and our story times and place an emphasis on engaging in play in small groups in between.

Hope to see lots of families at our “Someone I Love” Evenings!

- Steph
Katie:
I look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces at our upcoming “Someone I love” play evening!

The spring weather is finally upon us and the children have been watching our lovely new veggie garden grow taller and stronger. We have added more physical challenge to our outdoor learning area this term with hanging ladders and high jumping planks. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the new equipment and I often hear squeals of delight and confident calls of “look what I can do!” coming from these areas. In thinking about challenge we have been talking to the children about risk taking versus dangerous behaviour and putting the onus on them to start considering questions such as “Am I safe?” “Are my friends safe?” Of course when you ask children these questions there will inevitably be moments when they choose the more dangerous option. And if accidents occur we ask children to not be discouraged but to learn from what happened and take away valuable knowledge to their next experience. (that being said we would ALWAYS step in if we felt any child was in danger of serious harm)
The spring weather is finally upon us and the children have been watching our lovely new veggie garden eagerly for any signs of change. They have diligently been watering and caring for our garden and we look forward to harvesting soon!

Yellow Group

It has been another busy term for Yellow group, and many children have moved into a more independent stage of their learning. This term children are reflecting one of the key concepts of the EYLF and one of the ideas that underpins our play based philosophy, which is that whilst at Kindergarten children’s “play is a context for learning that allows for the expression of personality and uniqueness”.

Our programming this term has focused largely around sensory experiences, with many children requesting the creation of weird and wonderful sensory materials including cloud-dough, goop, slime and finger paint. Initially these experiences were focused around exploring the properties of different materials, and using trial and error based problem solving, to create ideal an play medium. However as the term has progressed the children have begun to develop their play with these materials incorporating role play and story telling. To extend this interest we have introduced the “ginger-bread man play dough” story telling experience, it has been incredibly popular thus far, and has had an added bonus of making the room smell delightful! These sensory moments have also linked to our emphasis on small group experiences. These experiences alternate between being teacher and child led, and offer children prolonged moments of engagement, where valuable conversation and idea sharing can occur. The need for these smaller experiences has developed as the children’s need for more challenging engagement has progressed. Often these groups become heated discussions on relevant topics where children voice complex and challenging ideas that require thoughtful answers and discussion amongst peers.

It is not only the children’s minds that have need to be challenged this term but also their bodies, as they grow taller and stronger. We have added more physical challenge to our outdoor learning area this term with hanging ladders and high jumping planks. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the new equipment and I often hear squeals of delight and confident calls of “look what I can do!” coming from these areas. In thinking about challenge we have been talking to the children about risk taking versus dangerous behaviour and putting the onus on them to start considering questions such as “Am I safe?” “Are my friends safe?” Of course when you ask children these questions there will inevitably be moments when they choose the more dangerous option. And if accidents occur we ask children to not be discouraged but to learn from what happened and take away valuable knowledge to their next experience. (that being said we would ALWAYS step in if we felt any child was in danger of serious harm)
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Katie :-)