The Northern Nursery School

Director’s Newsletter January 2015

“We consider relationships to be the fundamental, organizing strategy of our educational system.”  Loris Malaguzzi, 1993

A Warm Welcome to You from us all at the NNS

Happy New Year and welcome to all our 2015 children and families. We are really looking forward to a wonderful year together, getting to know all our new children and families, meeting up again with returning families with young siblings who are beginning their NNS journey and to be reunited with all our last year children and families who are now our 3 day children. We are so excited to see you again and to see how the children have grown over the holidays.

The first few weeks will be a time of settling in for all of us, even our teachers who have moved rooms with our children from last year. We welcome Sue Mayer to our team this year; Sue is an early childhood teacher working with our Melaleuca 3 Day Group, and we look forward to all that she will add to our extraordinary team of teachers. I am delighted and proud to work with such an experienced team that brings a diversity of skills, passions and talents to our program. Together they will create a marvellous program for each and every child at the NNS.

Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy believed in the metaphor of ‘education as relationship’, and this became the fundamental principle behind his philosophy and pedagogy. He believed that “education must focus not on the child considered in isolation from others, but instead on the child seen as interconnected with particular others in nested communities: home, classroom, school, neighbourhood, city, region, nation, and eventually extending out to include the whole world.”

Every day we see the power and significance that relationships hold within the learning environment and within our lives. This is particularly significant and visible this week, as we see friends reconnect with one another and openly invite new friends into their play with new friendships being formed as children build a sense of relationship and belonging at the NNS. It highlights the significance of the co-construction of knowledge, as together children find out about themselves, others, and the world around them through thoughtful and considerate interactions. Our over arching focus this year is to strengthen ‘Connectedness’ in all things we do; our question is ‘how do the connections we make with people and place, influence our learning and sense of wellbeing?’.... more about that later.....

MORNING MEETINGS WITH CHILDREN

every morning at 9.15am.

This is an opportunity for children to build on project work together as they share, discuss, debate, brainstorm, plan and predict, engaging in and enjoying the processes of learning how to learn. This supports them in building on their communication and social skills and ability to take responsibility, be independent and resilient in life.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent teacher meetings begin on Friday the 20th to Friday 27th of March. These meetings will give you an opportunity to share with your teacher about your child and goals you have for them at the NNS.
I have included in our first newsletter some of the things about the Northern Nursery School that I hope will interest you plus a list of dates for Term 1. I hope that if you know in advance what is on, you will be able to attend. The more you get involved in the life of our preschool, the richer the relationships and the environment is for all of us and especially your children. To begin, let me introduce you to your exceptional, thoughtful, creative and caring teachers...............

ROOMS and QUALIFICATIONS

**MELALEUCA 3 Day Group**
- Sue Mayer  Early Ch Teacher
- Kate Fennelly  Associate Diploma & Bach of Arts
- Tam Smit  Primary teacher with Special Ed cert.

**2 Day Group**
- Jo Krabman  Early Ch Teacher
- Kate Fennelly  Associate Diploma & Bach Arts
- Tam Smit  Primary teacher with Special Ed cert.

Kate Fennelly is Assistant Director

**GREVILLEA 3 Day Group**
- Kelly Simpson  Early Ch Teacher
- Shagoon Chawla  Associate Diploma
- Liz Cohen  Associate Diploma

**2 Day Group**
- Kelly Simpson  Early Ch Teacher
- Shagoon Chawla  Associate Diploma
- Liz Cohen  Associate Diploma

*Shagoon and Liz are currently studying the Early Childhood Degree of Teaching*

**LILLY PILLY 3 Day Group**
- Anna Cimarosti  Early Ch Teacher
- Di Thornton  Associate Diploma
- Caroline Arthur  Associate Diploma

**2 Day Group**
- Anna Cimarosti  Early Ch Teacher
- Di Thornton  Associate Diploma
- Caroline Arthur  Associate Diploma

*Caroline is currently studying the Early Childhood Degree of Teaching*

**SPECIAL ED TEACHER**
- Kate Brown  Early Ch Teacher Special Education  Works Tuesday to Friday 8.30 to 1pm

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
- Jane Ferguson  Works Monday to Thursday 10.30 to 3.30

**DIRECTOR**
- Paula West  I will generally not be here on Wednesdays, so please come and see me any other time.
If you would like to meet with me to discuss something privately, please let me know, I am available between 9.20 to 10am and 2pm to 2,30pm, please let me know

**POLICIES**
To find out about our policies please look at our NEW web site. We especially would like you to read the policies on Children’s and Health, including the Medication, Illness the Food & Waste free policy. It is important to know our practices when bringing your child/children to our preschool as you are agreeing to support and abide by our policies. Also if your child is unwell, please ring to let us know. We will ring you if your child is unwell at preschool and will ask for them to be picked up if they have a temperature or diarrhea and/or vomiting.

**Food & Waste free policy:**
Please can I ask you to relook at our food policy as it will help you to bring the foods that comply with our policy, please read the rationale behind this.

**Foods that don’t comply** are cup cakes, cakes, banana breads, sweet muffins, processed foods full of preservatives such as biscuits, sweets, chocolate, etc.

**We are a waste free preschool** so please could you use recyclable containers instead of cling wrap and silver foil.
Do come and see me if you would like to know more and I know your teachers will speak to you if they have any concerns.
We are a NUT free centre.
We also have children in our 3 day groups who have anaphylactic reactions to EGGS, sesame seeds, chick peas, so none of these products please on these days. (e.g. vita wheats, humous, egg sandwiches etc)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
As we are a Community Based Not for Profit Organisation, we need parents to be involved in the management of our service. The NNS has a Management Committee (MC) that meets at 7.30pm, twice a term, currently on a Tuesday. The MC is responsible for the governance of the preschool, overseeing the financial management, employment of staff and current and future directions of the NNS. We are very fortunate to have such thoughtful and capable people on the MC, who volunteer their time and expertise to ensure the continuing well being of NNS. As some of our MC members will be standing down due to their children moving on to school, we will be seeking nomination from our parent body to stand as Board Members. Parent representatives serve a one or two-year term and either step down or stand for re-election at our Annual General meeting every March at the end of their term. All parents that have nominated must attend the AGM and speak briefly about themselves and what they would like to contribute to the Board of Management. We have been very fortunate to have a highly functioning and involved Management Committee, led by our very experienced Chairperson Jessica Keen, who are all invested and committed to building on quality of the service we provide. A notice will be displayed in the foyer asking for nominations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) Tuesday the March at 7pm followed by the first MC Meeting for 2015.
Every year we hold our AGM in March where we report on the previous year’s finances, achievements and general outcomes and most importantly, elect new parents onto the Board of Management. There is also the opportunity for questions to be raised and discussion to be had about the preschool, the program or any other issues that may arise. It is a great opportunity to raise issues and talk to the members of the MC. The AGM will be immediately followed by our 1st MC meeting for 2015. Please let me know if you would like to attend the AGM and if you have any items to be added to the Agenda.

FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Having a Fundraising Social Committee makes such a difference to the wellbeing of the preschool in so many ways. Last year our parents raised $40,000 enabling us to provide children with additional resources and improvements to the preschool, continuing to provide children with an environment that is rich with the potential for learning. Over the years we have renovated the large outdoor areas, built both decks, re-landscaped the Melaleuca garden, increased our environmental footprint through installation of rainwater tanks, solar panels, and purchased additional resources to support the activities and program that we offer. We really appreciate the generosity of all our parents not only for our children now but also for the future generations that will follow.
To raise this money the Fundraising Social Committee arranges a major fund raising evening midyear, which all parents are expected to attend. They also arrange many other wonderful social functions, our first one this term is our Family Fun Day, which is such fun for all the family. We look forward to seeing what can be achieved this year, so please let me know if you would like to get involved. We will be holding our first meetings on Tuesday the 17th February and Thursday 19th February at 9.20am to discuss responsibilities and plans. A notice will be displayed in the foyer asking for nominations.

ROOM PARENTS
We are also seeking three parents from each room to nominate as Room Parents. The Room Parents main responsibilities are to build relationships within their child’s room between parents by arranging at least 3 social events a term that include organizing dinners or coffee mornings or visits to the park after preschool etc. Room Parents are also a link between the preschool and the families in their group, passing on information quickly via email or telephone if the need arises and they also support the Fundraising Social Committee when necessary. Please let me know if you are willing and able to take on this important role, a notice will be displayed in the foyer asking for nominations. I look forward to working closely with you this year.

INFORMATION OPPORTUNITIES WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
If anyone would like to know more about a specific area concerning children or families please let me know as we can run small information sessions with guest speakers to facilitate, answer queries and contribute their
knowledge. These sessions are very useful and interesting, where you can share and discuss ideas, experiences and issues and work out strategies or directions that support your family. We will be holding two sessions this term, one on nutrition and the other about child behavior.

**IN-HOUSE INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT OUR APPROACH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATIVITY.**
We will be arranging a time where you will have the opportunity to be hands on in experiencing what it feels like to intentionally create something using a wide range of mediums available, your choice in which ones you choose. It will be a wonderful evening of working together and experiencing the richness, joy and satisfaction that comes from focus and self expression.

**CHILDREN’S ENTERTAINMENT**
Every term we have professional artists visiting the preschool for the children’s enjoyment and education. This involves all the children and they come together as a large group to listen to stories, watch theatre, see a puppet show or experience musical extravaganza. Please have a look at the calendar so you can discuss it with your children.

**WORKING BEES: fixing puzzles etc**
We would like to hold a working Bee this year to maintain our decks and cubby houses. In the past we have been so appreciative when parents have taken on jobs such as mending our puzzles, fixing wooden equipment, covering books etc and these tasks never seem to come to an end. So if you feel like donating your services in any way, please let me know; especially if you have a jigsaw and would like to cut out the missing pieces of puzzles that we have lost, or fix wooden equipment, we are very grateful for any support. I will let you know when we will have a working bee to re-stain our decks and cubby houses and hope you can join me in Term 3.

**UPDATING ENROLMENT AND EMERGENCY DETAILS FOR RETURNING CHILDREN**
We will be giving out 2015 forms to all our returning families and ask that we get them back by Monday as it is our legal responsibility to have current details for all children.

**OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES & COMMUNICATION FOLDERS & INFO**
We open our doors at 9am every day. The preschool closes at 3pm, so please make sure you are here before this time so you can talk to your teachers about your child’s day. If for any reason you are going to be late, do ring us so we know. Please check your communication folders every day and read the children’s journal if time permits. We will give you a take home sheet at the end of your week, and it’s lovely to read this as a family with your child at dinnertime or bedtime.

**Please think about volunteering as a Room Parent, on our Fundraising Committee or Management Committee or within your child’s room or helping me!**

“Volunteers are just ordinary people with extraordinary hearts. They offer the gift of their time to add value, to listen, to inspire, to build, to grow, to learn. Volunteers are just ordinary people who reach out and take a hand, and together make a difference that lasts a lifetime.”

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**Alby’s Bicycle**

We all look forward to the year ahead, working with you and your children, in this very special place called the Northern Nursery School.

Paula West & the Staff Team of 2015
The Northern Nursery School - 2015 DATES TO REMEMBER
Staff Development Day – CHILD FREE- First Day of Term 1, 2 and 3 and last day of Term 4. These dates may be changed throughout the year and other events added.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>Tuesday 27th January to Thursday 2nd April 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JANUARY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff Development Day Child Free Tuesday 27th January</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 27th</td>
<td><strong>Staff Development Day Child Free</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th</td>
<td>9.00am First Day Term 1 3 Day Groups</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th</td>
<td>9.00am First Day Term 1 2 Day Groups</td>
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<td><strong>FEBRUARY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 24th 7.30pm Management Committee Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 17th</td>
<td>9.30am Meeting for all Social Club and Room Parents 3 Day Parents</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th</td>
<td>9.30am Meeting for all Social Club and Room Parents 2 Day Parents</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24th</td>
<td>10am Jannawi – With You With Me 3 Day Groups</td>
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<td><strong>MARCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 26th 10am Jannawi – With You With Me 2 Day Groups</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday 5th</td>
<td>7pm Welcome Drinks for all Parents</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17th</td>
<td>3.30pm Afternoon Tea for all children who left in 2014</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th</td>
<td>7 to 8.30pm Creative ART EXPRESSION for all Parents with the staff</td>
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<td>Friday 20th</td>
<td>All day - Melaleuca 2 Day parent / Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>Monday 23rd</td>
<td>All day - Grevillea 3 Day parent / Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24th</td>
<td>All day - Melaleuca 3 Day parent / Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24th</td>
<td>10am Hula- Hoops and Handstands 3 Day Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 26th 10am Hula- Hoops and Handstands 2 Day Groups</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday 25th</td>
<td>All day - Lilly Pilly 3 Day parent / Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th</td>
<td>All day - Grevillea 2 Day parent / Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th</td>
<td>10am Hula- Hoops and Handstands 2 Day Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th</td>
<td>All day - Lilly Pilly 2 Day parent / Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td><strong>APRIL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday 29th 9.30 to 12.30pm Family Fun Day at the NNS ALL Families</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday 1st</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 3 Day Groups</td>
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<td>Thursday 2nd</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 2 Day Groups</td>
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<td><strong>APRIL</strong></td>
<td><strong>TERM 2 Monday 20th April to Friday 26th June 2015</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20th</td>
<td><strong>Staff Development Day Child Free</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st</td>
<td>9am First Day of Term 2 3 Day Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd</td>
<td>9am First Day of Term 2 2 Day Groups</td>
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