

"The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences." Maria Montessori



MESSAGE FROM MARY

We are all very excited to commence the new year, the children are very happy to be back and are busy exploring both new and familiar activities. We have welcomed three new children and their families to our little community (with 1 more starting next week), and they have all transitioned beautifully and are making lots of new friends.

Our focus for term 1 is all about community and to support this we will be having incursions from many of our front-line workers, Police, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue, and Surf lifesaving. It is so generous of these people to take time out of their busy schedule to share their time and our children and to give the children the opportunity to experience these services in a child friendly and positive way.

With our newly laid turf and new garden gates fully installed we can now encourage more free flow between classroom and garden, giving the children the opportunity to develop their gross motor skills and experience more outdoor learning. Karen and Naomi have developed a plan to engage the children in looking after the garden and we will be adding some exciting play activities as the term progresses. We are looking forward to a great term one.

Mary Batterham Principal.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS – LITTLE ACTIONS MATTER



You are your child's greatest teacher and when they see you contributing to their school life, they learn to be kind and generous individuals who will in return contribute to a better and more tolerant community.

One of our school activities that you can involve your children with is doing the weekly school shopping, the main purpose of parent participation in this activity is to help engage your child in learning practical life skills. The children are always

delighted to bring the shopping and then preparing and share the food they bought, it helps them make connections to how food is sourced and to make good food choices. It also connects with all areas of the curriculum for example, maths, language, and society and culture. This small gesture can be a real educational experience for your child and that is why I encourage you to continue with this activity.

IN THE CLASSROOM

NEW FRIENDS

We are so excited to welcome new friends to the classroom....



Kai is a very caring boy. He has settled into the routine at Karuna and has found friends with Louis and Christopher. He is busy in the classroom and particularly practical life activities and is very keen to learn all activities in the classroom.



Joshua is a delightful child. He enjoys playing with duplo and exploring the puzzle maps. He is forming friendships with his peer group but is also happy to work on his own.



Melinda (Lindy) – Is a gorgeous girl. Lindy has embraced her new environment and is an inquisitive, gentle soul who is making friends with many children. She has embraced life at Karuna with full gusto.

MEET SHARYN

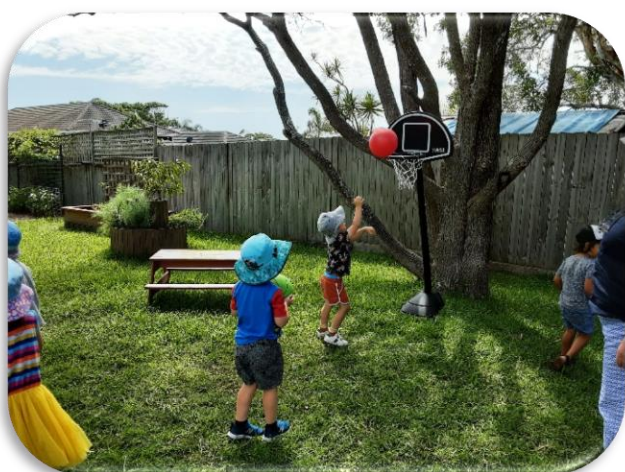
We are so lucky to have our new music teacher Sharyn join us at Karuna Montessori. Sharyn is an Early Childhood Music Educator with a Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education and Care. She has over 20 years of experience teaching both general music lessons and the piano. Sharyn's musical journey began at five when she took up organ and piano lessons. After leaving school Sharyn completed a Bachelor of Health Science and worked within the disability sector for many years. After having her two children she became passionate about children's education and renewed her love of music to begin her teaching career. It is her passion to instil a love of music by providing a fun and stimulating environment to learn. She is looking forward to becoming a member of the Karuna team and getting to know your children.



GARDEN, PLAY, GARDENING AND THANKYOU

A HUGE thank you to our teacher Karen, her husband Pieter and their two teenage boys, who spent many days in the summer holidays tidying and updating the garden and playground. 2Tonnes of soft fall was manually moved into place along with 1Tonne of sand to top up the sandpit. They also lay some new grass and stepping-stones which have vastly improved the garden – thank you very much! The children have been making the most of the lovely weather and enjoying the playground and garden. We had our first small harvest of 2021, with some potatoes and carrots. We have our lovely parent volunteer Naomi who comes and takes small groups of children for gardening on a Tuesday morning, we

are always on the lookout for more parent helpers, please let Anna know if you can help out.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 20th February – Working Bee. 8am-12

Tuesday 2nd March – Firefighters Visit

Wednesday 3rd March – Clean up Australia Day with Scouts. Nth Curl Curl beach

Monday 8th March – Henny Penny Hatching eggs

Tuesday 9th March – Police Visit

Wednesday 17th March – Parent Information Evening Session. Practical Life.

Friday 26th March – Crazy Hair Day for Indigenous literacy

Tuesday 30th March – Surf Lifesaving Australia Incursion

Wednesday 31st March – Easter Hat parade. Last day off School. Finish 12noon.

HOUSEKEEPING

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The children celebrate their birthdays in class by bringing in a photo and story for each year of their lives. Mary shows these to all the children and for each year of life the child walks around a pretend sun carrying the coloured globe. Parents are welcome to attend. It is customary to donate a child's book for the classroom book corner or a plant for the garden on your child's birthday.

Children are also welcomed to bring in plain cupcakes (with no icing please) on their birthday to share with other children.

Please contact Anna a couple of weeks prior to your child's birthday to book the celebration.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS - READING WITH THE CHILDREN

In term 1 we are inviting our mums or dads into the classroom on a Monday to take small groups of children for reading. The time is 10.30am for about 30 minutes.

Please register with Anna via email.

WORKING BEE

Our next working bee will be held on Saturday 20th February, 9am-12pm. We would be grateful for a wonderful turnout as there are a lot of jobs to do around the pre-school for the start of the new year. Children are welcome to come and help and to see the hard work that goes on to keep their surroundings beautiful.

4-YEAR OLD VACCINATIONS

If your child has recently turned 4 please do not forget to update the office if they have had their 4-year old vaccinations.