

# Banks St Kindy News

June 2016

Issue Three

**H**ello everyone! Its coming up to the half way point of the year (who can believe it!), and what a great year it has been at Banks Street Kindy so far. We've had Under 8's, some great artwork created with a canvas from each group, an adventure through Banks Street Reserve, and a working bee that left the kindy looking great. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in various ways during the last two terms - its with your support that the kindy runs smoothly and our children get the most out of their time at Banks Street.

In the next few weeks we have a **Bunnings BBQ** coming up (on 19th June), and I hope everyone will be able to contribute or help in some way. Look out for more communications on this. This will be a significant fundraiser, with money going toward some of the new IT equipment recently purchased to assist the staff and children, with plans being considered for another nature garden at the front of the kindy as well.

If anyone has any feedback, question or comments, please feel free to contact me anytime. See you at kindy for a playdate!

Craig Schofield  
President  
[craigschofield@hotmail.com](mailto:craigschofield@hotmail.com)

ph 0413 951 651

## TERM 3 DATES

Group A (Bees) finishes Term 2 on **22<sup>nd</sup> June**.

Group B (B'flies) finishes Term 2 on **24<sup>th</sup> June**.

Group A commences Term 3 on **11<sup>th</sup> July**.

Group B commences Term 3 on **13<sup>h</sup> July**.

### Some Messages from the Director...



Check out the short list for **Children's Book Week** in August – have you shared any of these books with your child?

<https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2016>

Did you join the **Little Stars Reading Club** at your local Council library?

10 Privacy tips for parents and carers – **internet safety**

[www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au)

[www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

[www.idcare.org](http://www.idcare.org)

### **FINE MOTOR IDEAS....** Bookoola Ink

Children need to be able to hold and use pencils correctly before using them in a classroom context. However they can not be expected to write if they haven't yet developed the strength needed in their hands and fingers. There are plenty of easy ways to strengthen these muscles. For some interactive ideas head to:

[www.tishylishy.co.uk/finger-gym](http://www.tishylishy.co.uk/finger-gym)

[www.theimaginationtree.com/2013/09/40-fine-motor-skills-activities-for-kids.html](http://www.theimaginationtree.com/2013/09/40-fine-motor-skills-activities-for-kids.html)

The Committee has voted to continue to offer the **five day fortnight programme** in 2017. After Hours Care will not be offered by Newmarket State School next year. Families with children enrolled at Banks Street Kindy in 2016 and eligible for Prep in 2018 will be emailed a form to complete, as to whether they want to reenrol their child in 2017 and in which group. Responses will be required by 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**The Uplift Project:** In many impoverished countries, women can't buy bras (especially maternity or mastectomy bras) as they're not available. They also feel a tremendous obligation to meet the needs of their families, so spending money to buy any type of bra for themselves isn't seen as an option. Please donate!! *Leave your donations in the box in the Staff/Parent Room, by the end of Term 2 please.*

**Out of Box** – how many sleeps to go? Let us know what you're planning. Mrs Lock is taking her Grandchildren to "Little Red Riding Hood" a ballet presented by the Queensland Ballet Co.

### **OTHER HOLIDAY IDEAS:**

#### **Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre**

149 Karawatha Road, Acacia Ridge

Tuesday – Sunday 9am – 4pm

31780330

[www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

#### **Redlands Indigiscapes Centre**

17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba

10am – 4pm

[www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au)

The children's area at the **Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens**

**Project Wild Thing** is a film-led movement to get

more children (and their families!) outside and reconnecting with nature. The film is an ambitious, feature-length documentary that takes a funny and revealing look at a complex issue: how our children are becoming increasingly disconnected from nature.

*Wednesday 15th June 2016*

*Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre*

*29 Kedron Ave, Mitchelton (near the train station)*

**Preparing for Term 3** – are your child's spare clothes size and season appropriate? Are your child's hat, washer, water bottle, lunchbox and other belongings named? Have you checked inside your child's water bottle – is it clean or is there a science experiment in progress?

We look forward to each family/parent joining us for a **playdate** next term.

### **WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY?**

**WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL** at Northey Street Farm is on the **18 June 2016**. Northey St have started planning for our annual celebration of living in harmony with the seasons, the Winter Solstice Festival. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing lanterns, displays and decorations. If you have a few hours to spare in May and June, please contact Ronni Martin on [educationandsupport.mgr@nscf.org.au](mailto:educationandsupport.mgr@nscf.org.au)

#### ***OPENING EVENT - FEAST WITH THE BEASTS OF ALDERLEY***

Join City Planning Committee Chairman Julian Simmonds, Councillor Andrew Wines (Enoggera Ward) and project artists to celebrate the opening of the SCIP.

*Date: Saturday 18 June 2016*

*Time: 11am-2pm*

*Location: Corner of Samford Road and South Pine Road, Alderley*

The event will feature food trucks and entertainment, community stalls, free face painting, kids' activities, free native plants, lucky door prizes and an Australian wildlife display.

## 'SNOW' AT SNOW4KIDS

Snow is a free daily art installation from nationally renowned Indigenous Australian artist Craig Tapp. Craig, a descendant of the Aboriginal people of the Moreton Bay Region, Quandamooka Yulu Burri Ba – 'place of the people of land and sea' will create a snowscape history of the Moreton Bay Region using carved and coloured snow (inspired by the natural coloured sands of the Quandamooka) to tell a traditional Indigenous Dreamtime story. This attraction, running from June 25 to 28, will encourage interaction between the children, the artist and the artwork.

**Date:** 25th – 28th June 2016

**Time:** 9am – 4:30pm daily.

**Location:** The Courier Mail Piazza, South Bank

**Cost:** FREE

## SNOWMAN BUILDING

The Snowman Building sessions at Snow4Kids Park will offer bucket-loads of snow for kids to get creative and build their very own Snowman! Along with the snow, there will be heaps of decorations to make their snowman truly original. Don't forget the camera!

**Date:** 29th June – 10th July 2016

**Time:** 9am – 4:30pm daily. Sessions every half hour. Last session at 4pm.

**Location:** Next to the Snow4Kids Park in The Courier Mail Piazza, South Bank

**Cost:** \$10\* per child, per 25 minute session. Ticket covers entry for one accompanying adult (children must be supervised by an adult).

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your session.

\*Online bookings will incur a booking fee.

[Click here to book a Snowman Building session at Snow4Kids.](#)

To find out more about Snow4Kids in 2016, please visit <http://sillysnowmen.com.au/>



## ART ACTIVITY IDEA—GRAVITY ART

**“Activity Challenge: Use the force of gravity to create a work of art.**

**Discuss with your child, “What is Gravity?”** Gravity is what keeps people and objects on the ground and causes objects to fall toward the Earth. Give examples (apple falling from tree, pencil falling from table, etc).

Gravity Painting is using the Earth's gravitational pull to direct the paint. To see an example of gravity painting, check artists like [Amy Shackleton](#). It is amazing the result she gets without using a paintbrush.

### Materials:

Washable Paint, Water, Pipette (medicine dropper) or Spoon, White Foam Board (or cardboard) Tissue Paper, Glue (mixed with a little

water), Paint Brush, Permanent Marker

**Step 1:** Prep your work space with a drop cloth and an easel or support to hold your foam board.

**Step 2:** Mix your paint with a splash of water. You want to water down the paint so it can flow easily down the paper.

**Step 3:** Drip the paint on the paper with a pipet (medicine dropper) or spoon.

My two young artists enjoyed using the spoon to get good size drips. Watch gravity do it's work. Your artist may wish to manipulate the drips by turning the board as the drips run down.

**Step 4:** Once your paper has dried, ask your child "what you can turn the drips into?". You may wish to turn your painting upside down or on its side to spark an idea. Use your imagination to think creatively about what you see in the drips.

**Step 5:** Add colour and creativity to turn your drips of paint into a work of art.

We used one of our favourite collage techniques by painting with glue over tissue paper. You could also paint or add colour with markers instead of creating a tissue paper collage.

My three year old, M recently learned about flowers at preschool and immediately wanted to turn her drips into a flower garden. We cut petals out of tissue paper (I did assist her with this task) and she thoughtfully arranged the petals to create her flowers. As she worked we discussed the different parts of the flower and combined science learning with her art.

My five year old, Lil B, wanted to make his painting into grass with bugs and insects. He started by layering green tissue paper to create grass. He got the idea to add dirt and insects underneath the ground. He drew details with permanent marker for his insects and bugs. As he worked, we discussed what an insect was, what body parts they had and what type of environment they live in.

Ask your child questions along the way to stretch their creative and critical thinking skills. The great thing about process art is there is no wrong way to do it. Let your child lead the project with their imagination.

### **Reflection**

As with any scientist or artist it is important to reflect upon the project, even for young artists. Lil B decided that next time he wanted to use blue paint for the gravity painting so it would look like rain in his painting. M decided that she wanted to add blue to the background to represent the sky.

To us, Art naturally fits along with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The fusion of these core subjects helps produce innovative and creative thinkers and problem solvers. For more STEAM ideas check out our [Pendulum Painting](#), [Simple Machine Brain Drawing](#) or [Build a Rain Shelter](#) Engineer Challenge."

<http://artfulparent.com/2015/03/gravity-painting-a-steam-art-project-for-kids.html>

### **And from the perspective of an Occupational Therapist:**

Working on a vertical surface promotes the wrist extension and shoulder stability necessary for control of the fine movements involved in writing.

When working on a vertical surface, paper or work should be positioned just above eye level.

# Outdoor play

**Outdoor play is a big part of healthy growth, learning, development and wellbeing for your child.**

## Why outdoor play is important

Playing outside gives your child the chance to explore the natural environment and have adventures. She can play favourite games, test her physical limits, express herself and build her self-confidence.

Outside play can also mean more mess – and more mess often means more fun!

When your child is outside, he probably has more space and freedom for big movements, like running, jumping, kicking and throwing. Physical activities like these are good for his health, fitness and physical development.

Spending time outdoors might lower your child's chances of being [short-sighted](#). And a bit of [safe play in the sun](#) can be good too – small amounts of sunlight exposure can help boost [vitamin D](#) levels.

## Getting your child into outdoor play: ideas

It's a good idea to encourage your child to play outside several times a day.

Outdoor play doesn't have to be a big deal, particularly if you have an outdoor space at your home. Especially with older children, sometimes all you need to do is **shoo them out the door and watch them go**. When younger children are playing, they need you to keep them safe from outdoor hazards.

Many younger children love to 'help'. This means that outdoor play can include working with your child on everyday tasks, such as weeding, sweeping the driveway, watering vegetables or hanging clothes on the line.

Making time to **visit your local park, oval or playground** is a low-cost and easy option, especially if you don't have a yard. Your child will probably have even more room to run around there and might meet other children.

If you can walk to the park, you can also teach your child about [road and pedestrian safety](#) on the way. Even younger children can hop out of the stroller and walk for a little while. Walking together shows that you value and enjoy outdoor activity too. Other outdoor, active transport activities include [riding bikes or scooters](#).

As your child gets older, you could encourage her to try a structured outdoor activity, such as junior [sport](#).

## Outdoor play for different ages

Outdoor play helps **your baby** learn about different surroundings, and can make him feel more comfortable with the world around him. Some ideas for outdoor play with your baby include:

- [tummy time](#) on a blanket or towel
- crawling on grass, under outdoor furniture or through old boxes
- watching trees move and listening to birds
- looking at different coloured cars, street signs or traffic light signals.

**Toddlers** are keen to explore the world around them and test out their growing physical skills. Outdoor play for your toddler might include:

- throwing and chasing balls
- wheeling, pushing or pulling different toys and objects over increasing distances and across



### did you know ?

The more children play outside, the more active they're likely to be.

different surfaces

- walking, running or jumping into puddles, around trees, over stones or cracks in the footpath, or towards favourite objects
- playing in sand, mud or small amounts of water (but **always supervise water play** to prevent drowning accidents).

**Preschoolers** are learning to play with other children. They're also big on make-believe. You can make the most of this stage with outside play ideas such as:

- games of chasey, hide-and-seek or kick-to-kick
- crawling through tunnels or climbing over fallen trees
- moving in different ways with colourful leaves, flowers, scarves or streamers
- building a castle out of boxes, clothes baskets or outdoor play equipment or furniture.

Your **school-age child** is becoming more involved in structured play, like sport, but it's still important to make time for free play outside. At this age, children still enjoy:

- building and creating with equipment, furniture or other things they find outside
- playing tiggy, chasey or tag
- climbing trees.



Wet or wintry weather doesn't mean you and your child have to stay inside – in fact, it can fire up your child's imagination and creativity. You could try walking with an umbrella and raincoat, watching leaves float after rain, and jumping into or over puddles in gumboots.

### Bumps and bruises when playing outside

It's natural to worry that your child could hurt herself when playing outside. Sometimes your child might be worried about trying something new. This is **all** a normal part of outdoor play, and these worries shouldn't keep your child from playing outside.

It's OK for your child to push the play boundaries outside, where he has room to run faster, climb higher and jump further.

It might mean some tears, a scrape or a fall, but 'risky play' helps your child learn from mistakes and bounce back.

Children who have been kept away from these outdoor experiences are more likely to get seriously hurt when they have outdoor experiences.



'Risky' play experiences are an important part of how your child learns and develops. They help your child understand her limits, think for herself, cope with challenges and gain self-confidence.



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### More to explore

- ▶ Why play is important
- ▶ Rough-and-tumble play
- ▶ Physical activity for younger children
- ▶ Physical activity for school-age children
- ▶ Children's physical activity and injury prevention