Stuart Park Preschool
Ashley St, Stuart Park NT 0820

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STAFF
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Class Teacher - Joy Brabham
Teacher Assistant - Rosa Lines
Teacher Assistant - Sharon Wade
Teacher Assistant - Naomi McCormack-Ross
Teacher Assistant - Cathy Henry

Term Dates 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School office opens for business</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia Day holiday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of school for students</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid term break</td>
<td>Friday, 6th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of term 2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of term 2</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Semester Break</td>
<td>Mon, 25th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day term 3 for students</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of term 3</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid term break</td>
<td>Monday, 1st Oct.</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day term 4</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Last day of term 4</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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Australia Day holiday 26th January
First day of school for students 31st January
Last day of term 1 5th April
Mid term break 6th April to 15th April
First day of term 2 16th April
Last day of term 2 22nd June
Mid Semester Break 25th June to 23rd July
First day term 3 for students 24th July
Last day of term 3 28th September
Mid term break 1st Oct. to 5th Oct.
First day term 4 8th October
Last day of term 4 13th December
Welcome to Stuart Park Preschool. We hope that your association with the Preschool will be a happy one for you, your child and for the whole family.

Beginning Preschool is an important step in your child’s life. Here at Stuart Park, we believe every child is special, with special needs, special interests and special characteristics. Your child is important to you and important to us, and we need to work together to help them grow, learn and develop, both as an individual and as a member of our school community.

We believe that a child’s parents are the primary educators of their children. It is our task to work in partnership with you to help nurture your child, allowing them to develop to their full potential during their time with us.

We hope this handbook will answer many of the questions you may have concerning life and learning here at the Preschool. If you have any further queries or concerns please feel free to contact us as we would be happy to talk them through with you.

...PHILOSOPHY...

*Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. Children’s immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being.*

-Early Years Learning Framework

The aim of Preschool education is to provide a program and environment that will assist children to make a smooth transition from the natural learning environment of the home to the more formal learning environment of the primary school. It is about laying the foundations for a positive attitude towards life-long learning. Our program focuses on the development of important social, physical and intellectual skills which provide the foundation for success in community participation and education for life. We strive to have each child working at his or her full potential in all areas, ensuring they feel good about themselves and confident when relating to others.

The most natural way for a child to learn at this age is through play. “It involves many different types of play including sensory, explorative, physical, creative, symbolic, projective, role and dramatic play and games with rules. All are important aspects of children’s learning and development. Play provides children with opportunities to express a sense of agency and demonstrate their competence and be leaders in their own learning. Play can provide children with a sense of belonging and being and supports the development of children’s individual and social identity.” (EYLF, 2009)
...OUR AIMS...

'Children’s learning is ongoing and each child will progress towards the outcomes in different and equally meaningful ways’

- Early Years Learning Framework

- To provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment
- To surround the children with a strong sense of rhythm - through their daily and weekly routines and, as the year unfolds, we celebrate each of the six Top End Seasons
- To provide clear boundaries that children know and respect
- To ensure that parents and teachers work together in the interests of the individual child
- To develop in each child an active curiosity about the world and a reverence for nature and all living things
- To nurture the child’s inner imaginative life, guiding and encouraging creative play
- To provide opportunities for self expression and creativity through the use of language, physical activity, play materials, art and music
- To surround the children with real life activities that are skilful, purposeful and worthy of imitation
- To acknowledge every child for the unique being they are
- To value and respect different cultural backgrounds our children bring
- To foster developing gross and fine motor skills and coordination
- To be ambassador for life-long learning by continually reflecting on our practice to help build better learning environments
...LIFE AT PRESCHOOL...

For young children, rhythm and repetition of routine is very important. Our daily and weekly rhythms allow the children to predict where the day or week will lead, helping create a sense of being and belonging that is essential in creating a safe and nurturing environment.

Our daily rhythm is marked by inside and outside times. The day begins inside when, on arrival, the children put their bags in their lockers and place their lunchbox into the fridge. We then spend some time settling into the preschool environment with our parents, doing puzzles, reading stories and playing games. We then gather for our greeting circle where we welcome each other and prepare for the day to come. The children are then free to involve themselves in the indoor learning environment and the stimulations it inspires.

The children then gather together again for a circle time where we enjoy group discussion, show and share, story times, songs, games, dances and rhymes. This is also a time when the class teacher can involve the children in intentional class teaching.

There is a conscious pause in the session’s activities when we come together for the sharing of morning or afternoon tea. Here, children are encouraged to set the table with plates, cups and name tags before seeing what is inside our lunchboxes or eating our cooking on Wednesday! This is a valuable social time where children are given quality time to talk with our friends.

After we have all helped clear away the dishes, the children venture outside. This time of the day is for fun; messy play in paint; water, sand and mud; for big, fast games; riding bikes and scooters; running, kicking balls, climbing, jumping and balancing. This is also a time for pottering in the garden, weeding, planting and watering seedlings, digging for worms or finding nooks and crannies in which to hide or build cubbies.

At the end of the session everyone helps to pack away equipment, before singing our goodbye song. The children are then collected for home or child care.
...OUR WEEKLY RHYTHM IS MADE UP OF SPECIAL DAYS...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Days</th>
<th>What to bring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Show and Share</td>
<td>natural things from your children’s surroundings, bush, beach or garden or something they have made</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Bring back borrowed book in labeled library bag</td>
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<td>Semester 2 - Early Childhood Assemblies</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening Indoor/Outdoor day</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooking day</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Term 4 - Primary School Orientation Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yoga/Sensory Motor</td>
<td>Come in Bathers &amp; Sunscreen, Bring towel, change of clothes &amp; labeled plastic bag</td>
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<td>Swimming when informed</td>
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...PRESCHOOL CLOTHING...

Uniforms are not compulsory at Preschool, however, we do sell a Preschool T-Shirt at a cost of $25. These are available at the Primary School Office and here at the Preschool.

All children must wear a hat to play outside as Stuart Park School has a `no hat, no play` policy. The hat must have a wide brim all around and be of sufficient width to adequately shade the nose, ears and back of the neck. Appropriate footwear must also be worn. The best types of shoes are runners or strong sandals that securely attach to the feet. Footwear such as thongs, slip-ons and high heels are not suitable for Preschool. Because children sometimes need to take off and put on shoes during the day, Velcro is certainly a good option for shoes.
...AGE OF ENTRY & ENROLMENT...

Stuart Park Primary and Preschools follow the Department of Education and Training's 'Age of Entry' Policy. This Policy says that any child who turns 4 years of age before 30th June is eligible to enter preschool at the beginning of that school year.

For example:
Children who turn 4 years of age before 30th June 2012, start preschool in January 2012.

Preschool is not compulsory and so parents do not have to enrol their children. We would recommend that if your child is eligible for preschool entry, you visit the school to discuss placement.

...MOVING ONTO TRANSITION...

The 'Age of Entry' Policy also affects entry into Transition at the primary school. Children who turn 5 years of age before 30th June are eligible to start Transition at the beginning of that school year.

For example:

...ENROLMENT AT STUART PARK PRESCHOOL...

The Preschool is at present only accepting enrolments from children who live within the Stuart Park priority enrolment area or who attend a child minding facility within this area.

If you have a child who is already enrolled in the primary school then enrolment of a further sibling will be accepted even if you have moved outside of the area.

Entry into the preschool is based on positions being vacant and there is the possibility that children will need to be put on a waiting list if positions are not available.
SESSION TIMES

The Preschool currently runs a morning session and an afternoon session. These sessions run five days a week, from Monday to Friday.

- The Morning session runs from 8:00am to 11:00am.
- The Afternoon session runs from 11:45am to 2:45pm.

Both sessions are 3 hours long and follow the same teaching program. Both session groups have access to the primary school library once a week and an excursion usually once a term.

ATTENDANCE

If you are going on holidays or your child is ill, please contact the Preschool and let us know. We are required to report any unexplained absences and your child’s position may be given to another child on our waiting list.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality when collecting your child is very important as your child may worry if she or he is left behind. Also, please be aware that teaching staff require time for their lunch break or lesson preparation and staff meeting time. Supervision of students during these times can be problematic.

WHAT TO BRING TO PRESCHOOL

Every day, children will need to bring their lunchbox, a complete change of clothes and a hat. In this lunchbox we ask parents to supply a morning/afternoon tea which may include a small sandwich, some cheese and biscuits, little cut up pieces of omelette or a little tub of spaghetti bolognaise. Snack ideas include a piece of fruit, little bags of natural pop corn, yoghurt, dips and veggie sticks, dry cereal or dried fruit (no nuts, peanut butter or nutella please).

BIRTHDAYS

On this special occasion, you are welcome to bring along a cake or muffins so your child can share his or her birthday with friends. We do request that no lollies or other sweets are brought on that day. The school has an 'Allergy Awareness Policy’ so we do ask that you let the preschool know beforehand of your intention to bring along food.
...BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT...

Both the Primary School and Preschool have adopted the `Tribes` Philosophy that promotes:
- Appreciations, No Put Downs
- Right to Pass
- Mutual Respect
- Personal Best
- Attentive Listening

An important role of Preschool is to provide children with strong models of how to negotiate well with others. We aim to help children learn social skills by providing them with appropriate language to express themselves and strategies for conflict resolution. We believe that children who respect and care for themselves, others and the environment, develop self confidence and social responsibility. From the outset, clear boundaries are set and discussed with the children and a system of reminder, warning and consequence is in place to help children to understand these boundaries. If you would like more information, we are happy to discuss our strategies with you.
...SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE...

The School Dental service is available to all preschool and primary school children through clinics located in most primary schools. Stuart Park’s Dental Clinic is located in the library building to the right of the school admin block. To ensure your child is enrolled in this service, be sure to fill in the dental consent on your child’s enrolment form. Children are examined and treated to suit their individual needs. For any queries about your child’s dental health, phone the school clinic on: 89815250. If the clinic is unattended, you can contact the Casuarina Dental Health office on: 89226466 for emergency bookings or further information.

...CHILDREN’S HEALTH....

In cases of minor illnesses, please use your discretion in deciding whether or not to send your child to preschool.
A child who is heavy with cold or flu will not benefit from preschool – even if he or she insists otherwise – and usually infects other children and staff. Responsible decisions by parents do help to protect the health and well-being of other members of the preschool and we would be grateful for your consideration.

A child who becomes ill during a session will be removed from the group to rest in a quiet place – a parent or other contact listed on the records will then be notified. The child will not be released to anyone other than the parent, except with the direct permission, either written or telephoned, from the parent.

Children with infectious diseases or head lice must be excluded from Preschool for a specified time.
Any open wound must be covered prior to the child’s arrival at Preschool.

...MEDICATION OF STUDENTS...

There are strict guidelines governing the administration of medicines/drugs by school staff. Where possible, medication should be administered by parents before coming to Preschool. If medication is to be administered by school staff, the appropriate medication form must be filled out and signed by the parent. Unlabelled drugs will not be administered so please keep medication in its original container.
...TREASURES FROM HOME...

While we do not wish to dampen your child’s enthusiasm, we would appreciate it if TOYS brought from home were limited to those received on SPECIAL OCCASIONS, e.g. birthdays. Treasures can be lost and broken - please have your child leave them at home.

Children are, however, encouraged to bring to Preschool any type of interesting specimen, e.g. rocks, shells, flowers, insects or animals, as these can be a rich opportunity for investigation and group discussion. Tame and friendly pets are also welcome on prearranged days or Show and Share days.

...Parent Contributions...

These contributions are requested by the Pre School parent body. Though the preschool is now funded by the NT Government on a per student basis, the contributions enable us to provide the following:
- a higher level of resources for our preschool;
- excursions to relevant learning places such as the Botanical Gardens, shopping centre or gymnastics;
- specialists from the community to work with the students;
- ingredients and cooking materials;
- our gardening program

The preschool parent body suggests an amount of $60 per term. Please be assured that no resource or facility will ever be withdrawn from a child should you choose not to make this contribution.
These contributions are made through the Primary School office.

...NT GOVERNMENT VOUCHER...

The NT Government makes available a voucher to the value of $75 for each preschool and primary school student. This can be used to purchase the preschool t-shirt or hat. It is redeemable at the primary school office and will be posted to you in January.
...PARENTS IN THE PRESCHOOL...

We love to have parents at our preschool as parents play an important role in the preschool program. Each parent has a unique set of talents and interests so don't be shy about offering your assistance. (Be the kind of person you want your child to be!)

There are a number of ways you can assist us in providing your child with the best possible education at Preschool:

1. Supporting and encouraging your child to develop a positive sense of self-worth
2. Discussing any problems or worries directly with the teachers
3. Visiting the preschool and joining in the day's program
4. Reading the newsletters (every Wednesday) and notice boards
5. Collecting junk materials for collage and carpentry
6. Offering to share any hobbies, interests or expertise you may have with the children (e.g. Playing an instrument, gardening, fabric painting/printing, sewing, pottery, cooking, carpentry etc.)
7. Participating in each term's social night
8. Assisting with garden working bees
9. Helping with Preschool fundraisers

...Vegetables harvested from our Preschool vegetable garden...