

# Leapfrog Newsletter

May 2011

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

## Sponsored Walk — Saturday 28th May 2011

Walk starts 3pm at the Visitor's Centre, Back to Leapfrog for BBQ at 4pm

This year our annual Sponsored Walk is on Saturday 28th May.

This is a great day out for all the family, and the walk is suitable for all ages (although strollers are not recommended). We encourage you to collect "sponsorship" for your child to complete the walk and the money raised will go directly towards improving our school.

We meet at the kiosk at the Pak Tam Chung Visitor's Centre at 3pm and set off on the Pak Tam Chung Family Walk which takes around 45 minutes to complete. The walk leads back to Leapfrog where you can enjoy a BBQ, Bar, Raffle, Face painting..... Please bring cash for yummy food and drinks!

As a non-profit organisation, fund-raising is essential, and is our only means of upgrading our environment or buying new equipment for the children.

Please support us by coming along and enjoying the fun



## IMPORTANT DATES

- May 28<sup>th</sup> Sponsored Walk.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> public holiday no school
- June 30<sup>th</sup> last day of school -

### Break-up parties:

Kindergarten: June 30<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm (all Kindergarten children)

Hoppers: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 9-11am (all Hoppers and Super 2s welcome)

Wednesday pm PG: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2-4pm

Tadpoles: Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup> 9-11am

- July 4<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Leapfrog summer program
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> first day of school - Autumn 2011

# Leapfrog Summer

## Summer Kindergarten - "Synthetic Phonics and Numeracy"

For unaccompanied children aged 3-6 years (Children must be already attending a Kindergarten program)

July 4<sup>th</sup> - July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Monday - Friday, 9.00am-12.00pm

\$1,500 per child per week, \$2,800 for 2 siblings

Led by our Principal Louise Heap; daily Mandarin-through-Play with our Mandarin teacher Vivian Wong.

## Summer Playgroup - "Fun in the Sun"

Children aged 1-6 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent or helper

July 4<sup>th</sup>-July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Monday - Friday, 9.00am-11.00am

\$120 per child \$200 per family (up to 3 kids)

Come and play in our beautiful playground and classroom - paint, sand, water, messy stuff, toys, bikes, cars, slides and a fun circle time!

More details on our website [www.leapfrogkindergarten.org/summer](http://www.leapfrogkindergarten.org/summer)

# Art and Craft

## Why and how do we teach it?

By Louise Heap

Art and Craft activities form an important part of the day at Leapfrog Playgroup and Kindergarten. Many of the projects are linked to our planned 'Themes', and serve to enhance the children's understanding of a topic. When designing and making lycee packets as part of our 'Chinese New Year' celebrations in February, for example, we looked at commercially produced packets, discussed their use, and thought about who we might give them to ourselves, and why.



Creativity is not just about teaching the techniques of drawing and painting, in which the children are given lots of opportunities to develop their skills by experimenting with colours, patterns and designs. It can be an important form of communication, which might be more accessible to a child than using words. Describing their work, however, can also prove to be a valuable way of using and developing their vocabulary.

Art and craft activities can incorporate many skills such as problem solving and decision making (which materials can be used, and why), planning, learning to predict an outcome, social cooperation, including sharing and taking turns, and discussing and respecting the ideas of others, and developing physical dexterity and hand/eye coordination in terms of pencil or brush control, threading, arranging, cutting and so on.

### The Role of the Adult

- Create a stimulating, interesting and colourful environment, inside and outside the home.
- Provide space, time and resources for exploration. Build up an interesting and varied collection of recycled and bought materials.
- Cover surfaces properly before beginning, and then don't worry too much about making a mess - make cleaning up part of the process.
- Take your lead from the interests of the child, rather than imposing your own ideas each time.
- Work alongside your child. Get them to tell you what to do, instead of the other way around.
- Give plenty of encouragement, valuing originality rather than imitation.
- Focus on the process, not just the finished product.



*'Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.'* (Pablo Picasso).

# Kindergarten News

Our first two weeks back after the Easter break consisted of only four days each, but were nevertheless full of incident and adventure, as you might expect.



The K2 and K1 classes have been revising all of the phonics and numeracy work that has been covered so far this academic year, and will continue to do so until the end of term. This will give them a good strong grounding from which to make further progress when they return, fully refreshed from their holidays, in August.

In Art and Craft, the topic of 'Summertime' has inspired the creation of some beautiful butterflies, bees and ladybirds. These have been made from pieces of coloured cellophane, and have the same effect as stained glass when the sun shines through our windows. A similar idea was used for our Mother's Day cards, and the Mummies were also presented with home-made blossoms and paper flowers for this special occasion.



In addition to this, we have been learning the song of 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic', which has inspired the children to work on teddy collages and lunch-boxes for teddies.

We said 'Goodbye' to Ion and Milo, who have now left for their long Summer break in Sweden, and 'Happy Birthday' to Hilary, who is now three years old. Finally, a warm seal of approval was given to our colourful new 'Circle Time' mat, by both children and adults alike.

It looks like the start of yet another action-packed term at Leapfrog Kindergarten!

Louise Heap



# Playgroup News

We welcome back all our Playgroup children and hope they all had a visit from the Easter Bunny! The cold season is now definitely over, and it is time for some summer fun. Don't forget to bring a change of clothes to Playgroup (why not keep a spare set in your child's tray?) as there will be lots of water play to counteract the heat.

This month's topic is "the Ocean" and we will learn all about the different creatures who live in the sea. Following on from this will be "Beach Fun" in June, and let's not forget the Daddys; Father's Day is coming up on June 21st!







## Enrollments for next school year



We are delighted with enrollments for Kindergarten next year, but we still have a few places left in K1 (children born in 2008) and K2 (children born in 2007). Please let us know if you are interested in our Kindergarten program for your child, and please pass on the message to any friend who may be interested!

## Successful course in CPR, First Aid and Children common illnesses

This course, run by Sarah Walker, and hosted by Leapfrog is certainly something we would like to repeat in the future. It was rated highly by all attendees, two of which gave us this feedback:

"This is my second time doing this kind of course, so it was a very good refresher for me. The instructor Sarah Walker was very good, her instructions were clear and the equipment and materials used were excellent."

Antoinette Brana

"This course was great, I'm really glad I signed up for it. All explanations were very clear, with plenty of repetition of the important points. I certainly enjoyed it, and I learned a lot."

Geeske Abadjian

**Summer is coming..**

and with that the harsh sun rays that can do so much damage to our skin!


**Leapfrog Kids are SunSmart Kids!**


		
<b>SLIP</b>	<b>SLOP</b>	<b>SLAP</b>
on a t-shirt	on sunscreen	on a hat



Please make sure your child has a suitable hat for outdoor play, and apply sunscreen (spf 30) before coming to Leapfrog each morning or afternoon

**Spare Clothes**

Please remember the children will need plenty of spare clothes in the summer months as there will be lots of water involved when the temperature increases

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