

PRETTY MUCH ALL THE HONEST TRUTH TELLING THERE IS IN THE WORLD IS DONE BY CHILDREN – OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



ON *this* MONTH

AT SMARTY PANTS ELC

Save the Koala Month -----	1-30
Early Childhood Educators' Day -----	2
Father's Day -----	6
Child Protection Week -----	6-12
International Literacy Day -----	8
Sea Week -----	12 - 18
Talk like a Pirate Day -----	19
World Maritime Day -----	24
World Rivers Day -----	27

Children's photo day-Date to be confirmed for October.
Kindy children only or by specific request



SEPTEMBER NEWS

Once again we have another jam-packed month at Smarty Pants, full of amazing events and more fantastic opportunities to learn and grow! Thank you so much to all parents/carers for your continued support throughout these strange times. We are finally beginning to find some normality again! First of all, we would like to wish a huge warm welcome to Miss Kelly who has joined our team as our Kindergarten teacher! Kelly is a fantastic asset to our team and we are very fortunate to have her! Look out for the amazing changes that her and the kindy children are going to be making to the room over the next couple of months! Welcome!

Just one small reminder to please send your child to the bathroom on arrival to wash their hands! Huge thanks to those parents who are still doing that, you are highly appreciated!

As the weather is beginning to heat up quite substantially, please ensure that your child comes equipped wearing weather-appropriate clothing or have a change in their bag. We are always happy to change clothing halfway through the day if it suddenly becomes roasting hot!

Last but definitely not least; we would also like to wish a HUGE Happy Father's Day to all of our amazing Daddies, Step-Dads, Foster Dads, Grandad's and Father-like figures at Smarty Pants. You children are very blessed to have you in their lives!



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' DAY – SEPTEMBER 2

Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services for their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care.

It's a chance to say thank you to Australia's early childhood educators on a very personal level by service operators, families and their children, as well as collectively at the national level.

Find our more here.

WORLD RIVERS DAY – SEPTEMBER 27

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of our rivers, strives to increase public awareness, and encourages the improved stewardship of all rivers around the world. **Where is your local river? Find out more here.**



STRAWBERRY MUFFINS WITH CITRUS HONEY GLAZE



INGREDIENTS

Muffins

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup (180 ml) lightly flavoured olive oil
- 1 cup Greek (or natural) yoghurt
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (OR extract)
- 1 cup buckwheat flour (OR 1 cup plain wholemeal flour)
- 1 cup plain wholemeal flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup (fresh or frozen) strawberries, PLUS extra strawberries sliced, to decorate
- zest and juice of 1 orange

Glaze

- 1 tablespoon honey
- Juice and zest 1 orange
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (or extract)
- 1/2 cup icing sugar, sifted

METHOD: Muffins Preheat oven to 180 C, line a 12-hole muffin tin with papers. Set aside. Place the eggs, oil, yoghurt, sugar and vanilla into a large bowl and whisk to combine. Add the buckwheat flour, plain flour, baking powder and salt and using a wooden spoon gently stir to combine. Do not over mix. Gently fold through the strawberries and orange zest and juice. Evenly divide the mixture between the prepared tin. Top each muffin with a slice of strawberry. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until a skewer inserted removes cleanly. Cool for 5-10 minutes before placing on a wire rack to cool completely.

Glaze - Place the honey, orange juice, zest and vanilla into a small bowl and whisk to combine. Add the icing sugar and stir until smooth. Drizzle glaze over the cooled muffins. Serve immediately.

Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

App reviews

A mixed bag of apps to keep pre-schoolers entertained and learning.



THE LORAX

Oceanhouse Media | AGE 4+ | \$9.99

If you care about the environment and want your child to care too, then the Lorax App is a no-brainer. The classic Dr. Seuss book comes to life with this app thanks to its interactive activities and exquisite animation. The app has won the Academic Choice "Smart Choice Media" award as well as the Parents' Choice Award Silver Honour award. The story is about how industrialisation destroys environments and this app teaches environmental awareness in a very approachable way.

BANDIMAL

YATATOY | AGE 3 to Adult | \$5.99

BANDIMAL is a fun and intuitive music composer that lets kids discover the creative world of making music. Set up a drum loop, swipe through animals to change instruments, compose melodies, change loop speeds and add a quirky effect on top. Amusing animals animate in hilarious ways as you perfect your song.

WORLD OF PEPPA PIG

Entertainment One | AGE 3 – 5 | FREE

The World of Peppa Pig app offers your family a safe and ad-free environment, filled with lots of learning and fun!

Tailored towards the development of pre-schoolers, there are plenty of games, videos and activities for your little ones to enjoy and grow with.



FOCUS: This year isn't ideal, but let's make the best of it!



My father has helped me around many twists in life's road with his saying, "What's real isn't always what's ideal, and what's ideal is rarely real." I've never felt it more applicable or helpful than while parenting and educating during COVID-19. Things are not ideal in many, fundamental ways, and yet here we are. Though hopefully not forever, this is our reality, and probably will be for a while.

This begs big questions for parents and educators alike—do we anchor on what is ideal or on what is real as we support our kids during such a wild time? Do we hold kids precious and protect them from this reality, or do we help them to navigate within and adapt to it? Which will help them to thrive more in the long term?

My vote: Let go of 'ideal' and parent for real.

In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or to step back into safety. —Abraham Maslow

Kids will roll with it if you let them.

Humans—especially wee ones—are naturally quite resilient, adaptable and hopeful. Kids don't rage against reality like we adults often do—they tend to roll with things, especially if we give them the okay and support to do so.

Kids don't suffer the loss of the ideal

Many of us are torn between the ideal and real—between taking and foregoing chances to help kids adjust to this moment. It's a hard balance to strike. Many people are leaning into this new normal and bringing their children along, showing them how to learn new ways of doing things and make this new reality work. On the other hand, I have heard equally caring adults grow fiercely attached to an ideal view of life for kids.

For example, I've heard people say that it would be psychologically damaging to ask a child to keep social distance from a friend or loved one. For sure, it feels neither natural nor easy for kids to hold back from being close and even embracing one another or their elders. Again, as an early childhood educator, I would certainly not advise it under normal circumstances. That desire to touch is a sweet feature of our early days on the planet. It is also understandable that educators and parents alike find it easier *not* to ask kids to even try, especially if you live in a place where you may be judged when your child needs reminders or practice.



But is it really damaging to ask kids to learn to keep close to family while keeping a 6-foot bubble from others? Really? The alternative to asking kids to learn to keep social distance can mean isolation from friends and family, lost chances to be among other people and feel part of a community. For many families, that would also mean not seeing grandparents who are at risk. Is that a better option? And what lesson does avoiding these social encounters teach our kids?

Let's put ideal in our back pocket and parent for real

"Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new centre of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand." —Oprah Winfrey

So much of how our kids adapt to new challenges is how we present and respond to those challenges. That has never been more true than it is now.

Let's never lose sight of what is ideal. Let's agree to look forward to days when it's easier, more natural and more free to let our kids be and play like kids have long been able to do. But, let's not let the ideal be the enemy of all of the good lessons and good chances to be together that are real in this moment.

(This article was edited to fit into the constraints of this newsletter. To read the article in full follow the link below. Fitzgerald, Meghan. (2020). *Motherly: To families starting school: This year isn't ideal, but let's make the best of it.* Retrieved from <https://www.mother.ly/child/how-to-model-resilience-during-pandemic>



SHAPE HOUSES

Children begin to recognise and name shapes around 2 years old. Simply naming shapes you see around your home or out and about is a great way to build their understanding. These houses are a really easy and low-prep shape activity. You can easily put them together with supplies that you most likely already have at home. Simply cut out a range of shapes from different coloured paper. Include a big rectangle or square for the main part of the house, and a large triangle for the roof. (Of course, like with all art activities there is no right or wrong way to do it, a triangle house is just as perfect as a square one.) As your child/ren create their homes ask them which shape they have decided to use for a roof, the windows. Make real world connections by asking them 'What shape are our windows in this house?' Use glue to stick the shape house together. **Find more early literacy activities here**





Immune health and the technical terms that go along with it, are being spoken about and referred to now more than ever. But what do they exactly mean and why is it so important?

What Is the Immune System? The immune system is the body's defence against infections. The immune (ih-MYOOON) system attacks germs and helps keep us healthy.

What Are the Parts of the Immune System? Many cells and organs work together to protect the body. White blood cells, also called **leukocytes** (LOO-kuh-sytes), play an important role in the immune system. Some types of white blood cells, called **phagocytes** (FAH-guh-sytes), chew up invading organisms. Others, called **lymphocytes** (LIM-fuh-sytes), help the body remember the invaders and destroy them. One type of phagocyte is the **neutrophil** (NOO-truh-fil), which fights bacteria. When someone might have bacterial infection, doctors can order a blood test to see if it caused the body to have lots of neutrophils. Other types of phagocytes do their own jobs to make sure that the body responds to invaders. The two kinds of lymphocytes are **B lymphocytes** and **T lymphocytes**. Lymphocytes start out in the bone marrow and either stay there and mature into B cells, or go to the thymus gland to mature into T cells. B lymphocytes are like the body's military intelligence system — they find their targets and send defences to lock onto them. T cells are like the soldiers — they destroy the invaders that the intelligence system finds.

How Does the Immune System Work? When the body senses foreign substances (called antigens), the immune system works to recognise the antigens and get rid of them. B lymphocytes are triggered to make **antibodies** (also called **immunoglobulins**). These proteins lock onto specific antigens. After they're made, antibodies usually stay in our bodies in case we have to fight the same germ again. That's why someone who gets sick with a disease, like chickenpox, usually won't get sick from it again.

This is also how immunisations (vaccines) prevent some diseases. An immunisation introduces the body to an antigen in a way that doesn't make someone sick. But it does let the body make antibodies that will protect the person from future attack by the germ.

Although antibodies can recognize an antigen and lock onto it, they can't destroy it without help. That's the job of the T cells. They destroy antigens tagged by antibodies or cells that are infected or somehow changed. (Some T cells are actually called



"killer cells.") T cells also help signal other cells (like phagocytes) to do their jobs.

Antibodies also can: **Neutralise toxins** (poisonous or damaging substances) produced by different organisms. **Activate a group of proteins** called complement that are part of the immune system. Complement helps kill bacteria, viruses, or infected cells.

These specialised cells and parts of the immune system offer the body protection against disease. This protection is called immunity. Humans have three types of immunity — **innate, adaptive, and passive:**

Innate immunity: Everyone is born with innate (or natural) immunity, a type of general protection. For example, the skin acts as a barrier to block germs from entering the body. And the immune system recognizes when certain invaders are foreign and could be dangerous.

Adaptive immunity: Adaptive (or active) immunity develops throughout our lives. We develop adaptive immunity when we're exposed to diseases or when we're immunised against them with vaccines.

Passive immunity: Passive immunity is "borrowed" from another source and it lasts for a short time. For example, antibodies in a mother's breast milk give a baby temporary immunity to diseases the mother has been exposed to.

For more information on immune health see:

<https://drwillcole.com/functional-medicine/8-ways-to-naturally-boost-your-childs-immune-system>
<https://www.superhealthykids.com/recipes/top-10-immune-system-boosting-foods-kids-ideas-recipes/>

Hirsch, Larissa (2019). Kidshealth.com, Immune System, retrieved from <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/immune.html>

THE SEA | Did you know September 12 – 18 is 'Sea Week'? It is Australia's major national public awareness campaign to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. Here are a few activities you can do with your children to build their appreciation of the sea!

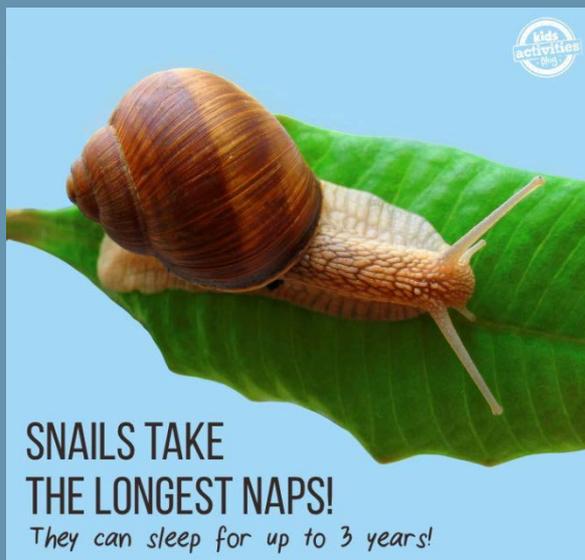
Do you live near the ocean? Visiting the sea provides endless opportunities for discovery. Next time you are at the beach take time to actually talk about: What lives in the ocean, what the animals in the ocean eat, whether the water is salty (taste it). Look in rock pools and talk about what you can see and what might live there.

Look closely at shells, who and what might use shells? Take a bag and collect rubbish safely. When you find old fishing line or plastic, explain to your children what these items can do to sea life.

Even if you don't live near the ocean you can still talk about all these points. You may have another waterway near you, you can visit. Or use YouTube to help children visualise the topics you're talking about.

There are some brilliant activities you can try [here](#)





SNAILS TAKE THE LONGEST NAPS!

They can sleep for up to 3 years!

RANDOM FACTS THAT YOU WON'T BELIEVE ARE TRUE.

Do you have a child who absolutely loves random facts? These are some of the facts that our kids have thought were hilarious. They didn't believe they were true!

1. Kangaroos cannot walk backwards.
2. Sea Lions have rhythm. They are the only animal known to be able to clap in beat.
3. While you sleep you can't smell anything, even really, really bad or potent smells.
4. Your brain uses 10 watts of energy to think, and does not feel pain.
5. Glass balls can bounce higher than rubber ones.
6. The smallest country in the world takes up .2 square miles, it is the Vatican City.
7. Hippopotamus milk is pink.
8. Your fingernails grow faster when you are cold.
9. Applesauce was the first food eaten in space by astronauts.
10. The average person spends two weeks of their life waiting at traffic lights.
11. Don't like mosquitos? Get a bat. They eat 3,000 insects a night.
12. A typical cough is 60 mph, a sneeze is often faster than 100 mph.
13. There are 31,556,926 seconds in a year.
14. Cans of diet soft drink will float in water; regular soft drink cans will sink.
15. On Venus, the planet, it rains metal.
16. Baby koalas are fed poo by their parents after they are born, this helps them digest Eucalyptus leaves later in life.
17. Cows can walk upstairs, but not down them.

Source: kidsactivitiesblog.com/76701/50-random-facts/



All of the staff and children at Smarty Pants would like to wish a huge happy birthday to the following children and staff for September:

2nd- Patience who is turning 1

13th- Miss Peta

14th-Luna Engle who is turning 5

20th-Hunter who is turning 4

We hope that you all have a wonderful day!



5 Minute MOVES

Get Up & Move Dice Game

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Make two giant dice out of boxes. On one, write action words like "jump, climb, run." On the other, write direction words like "in a circle, like a monkey, forward." Throw the dice and do what they instruct. ("Jump like a monkey.") This will get you moving too!

For full instructions, visit [Growing a Jeweled Rose](#).

Feedback  is always welcome