Welcome

Dear Parents and Caregivers
Welcome to the beginning of a new year at Seacliff Community Kindergarten. We look forward to our involvement with you and your child over the coming year. Please remember that settling into kindergarten often takes time and we need to be flexible and responsive to the children's needs over the coming weeks to make their start to kindergarten happy and successful. Please keep your eye on the noticeboard near the kitchen to find out about our program and the learning experiences planned for the term. Newsletters will be sent home once a month (generally after the Governing council meetings) and will provide you with information regarding our program and any upcoming events and excursions. The whiteboard at the western entrance of the kindergarten will provide daily information and updates.

Parent Help
As a community kindergarten we will be calling on parents to help in a number of ways during the year. At times you will be rostered to help with fundraisers or working bees. You will be invited to come along to excursions and other events and at times asked for your feedback or comments. Likewise you may like to come into the kindy to share a skill or join in with the activities of the week. This year we would be really keen to have some parents help us put together some new literacy kits for families to borrow and to help us to expand our veggie garden. If you are interested or would like more information about what this involves please let us know.

If you would like your child to be able to borrow our library books from the kindergarten please complete the section at the end of this newsletter and return it to the kindergarten. We will then register your child as a borrower and you can borrow one book or literacy kit at a time as often as you like. The staff will show you how to use the borrowing system once registered.

Curriculum.
As we have many new children beginning kindergarten this term we are keen to get to know them and to build strong relationships with each child so that we can make the program relevant for them. We will initially take time to observe and interact with each child so that we can identify priorities for their learning over the coming term. A short questionnaire asking you for some information about your child and family has also been attached to this newsletter. By informing us of your knowledge of your child’s interests, strengths and learning needs you can assist us in our planning. Information about our curriculum priorities will be provided through the newsletter and displayed near the kitchen.

Learning Stories
As your child progresses through their kindergarten year we will write learning stories for you to read and share with them. These stories will then go into their own portfolio book at kindergarten. We hope these books become a wonderful rich record of your child’s learning and that they help your child grow in their love of learning. Each learning story will have a section for your feedback, comments and reflections. We would love to know from you how you and your child have related to their experiences and invite you
to add any comments you may have to their stories. The portfolio books will be available near the children’s library books for you to read and share with your child at any time.

Please send two healthy snacks with your child each day. (one morning and one for the afternoon) in addition to your child’s lunch. We aim to promote a healthy approach to eating and seek your support in achieving this. If you are sending a drink bottle please ensure it contains water.

As we have children with severe allergies at kindergarten we request that you do not send nut products with your child.

Name all children’s belongings including clothing, lunch containers etc.

Please ensure that your child wears footwear suitable for climbing while at kindergarten. Thongs and crocs can be difficult for children to run and climb in and pose a potential risk to their safety.

Please ensure that your child has a sun hat in their bag at all times. Our sun safe policy is in place from September until the end of April. During this time children must have a hat to play outdoors. Please apply sunscreen at home if you wish your child to have added protection. You may also send along a container of sunscreen to be placed in the bowls in the kitchen so that we can help children reapply after lunch.

Starting time for kindergarten is 8.45am. Please ensure that you sign your child in on arrival and let us know if someone else will be collecting your child by writing it in the parent communication book. We will not release children to others without your permission.

Emergency Procedures
To ensure the safety of your child in case of an emergency we teach the children the kindergarten evacuation procedure and practice it each term. The children are taught that if they hear the whistle blow in continuous bursts they are to follow the whistle to the safety spot. Staff have clear responsibilities in the procedure and will contact parents if a real emergency occurs. The procedures are displayed in the kindergarten. Please take time to look at them or speak to a staff member if you wish to know more. If your contact details change please let us know so that we have accurate information in case of an emergency.

Seacliff Community Kindergarten
Library Borrowers 2014

I  ..............................................................................................parent, would like to register my child  ................................................... to borrow library books from the kindergarten.

Signed............................................................................................... 

Annual General Meeting
Each year the kindergarten seeks nominations from parents to become part of the kindergarten’s Governing Council. The Governing Council is essential to the running of the centre as we are very much a community managed service. Your involvement helps us to keep growing and improving our programs and facilities for families and children. Please consider nominating for the Governing Council. Nomination Forms will be issued shortly. I am happy to speak with anyone who would like to know more about the various functions of the committee and positions that you may wish to consider. The nominations will be presented at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in late February/early

Fees
Fees Invoices will be placed in children’s notice pockets shortly. Preferred form of payment is by Direct Transfer to the Kindergarten Account however cash or cheque are also accepted. Once received our finance officer will receipt your payment and place a copy of the receipt in your child’s kindy notice pocket. Thankyou in anticipation.