“Children and young people are at the centre of everything we do”

February 2015   Newsletter Number 2

Diary Dates:

Governing Council Meeting -Tuesday 10th March 7.30pm. All welcome
Kindergarten Closure Day – Tuesday 7th April. No kindy on this day.

Curriculum

As part of our curriculum we try to help the children make connections between home and kindergarten. Please keep us informed of special events, experiences or interests that your child has when not at kindergarten. We have an area at kindergarten where we write up ideas that the children give us of things to explore and learn at kindergarten and we invite you to do so as well. You will find our interests and ideas board on the window near the child’s bathroom entrance. Please feel free to add a sticky label, a photo of your child engaging in a favourite or new experience or your ideas for extending our curriculum on this board.

With great excitement we are already seeing caterpillars in our garden and we have a chrysalis to observe. With the tadpoles and caterpillars has come interest in lifecycles and opportunities to investigate what happens during the life cycle of different creatures. The butterflies give us great opportunities to work with children on developing their discrimination skills and already they are involved in matching, learning about symmetry and discriminating according to attributes of colour, size and shape.

We have also begun investigating creatures that live underground and those that do not have eyes (Mon/Wed group). Children in the Tues/Thurs group have begun investigating different fruits and have been making smoothies.

Staff have begun to work with children in using objects to arrange in different ways. Arranging allows the teacher to watch what the children organize with the materials and then support their knowledge through talking about such concepts as number, shape, length, space and area. These experiences are really important to children’s development of math understanding.

We are already seeing children learning to work together and many of the learning experiences that we present at the moment are designed to encourage children to take turns, listen to each other and to cooperate in joint tasks. As children become more able to do this the complexity of the learning experiences will be increased.

As the children begin to gain confidence at kindergarten we will start investigating places of interest in our community that we can visit. We will however need parent volunteers to help us to achieve this so if you are interested in assisting on a regular basis please see me for a Child Related Screening Application Form. It is now the requirement of all schools and preschools to ensure that parent volunteers who are involved in regularly helping be cleared to do so through this process. The kindergarten will meet the cost of the application fee.

Parent Help Roster
To assist all staff to work with the children at every opportunity we ask that parents consider adding their name to our parent help roster. By coming in at 2.30pm on one or more occasions to help with the end of day clean up you will enable us to maximise the number of staff that can support the children at the end of the day group time. Sometimes children need one to one support at this time to focus and concentrate and by having the three staff working with the children at this time we can help the whole group to get the maximum learning from this time. Like wise if you can come in and share a skill or interest you have with the children, eg music, dance, cooking, sewing, art, craft, computer etc we would love to have your involvement. Just let us know a good time for you.

Kindergarten Closure Day
The Department of Education and Child Development approve three closure days per year for staff to attend or hold in house training and development as a whole team. Please note that our first Closure Day for 2015 will be on Tuesday 7th April. Staff will be investigating and looking at how we use the new Numeracy Indicators for Preschools on this day.

Governing Council Update
Thankyou to everyone who attended the AGM.

Congratulations to the following people who have been elected to our Governing Council:
Sarah Norris, Alecia Cozens, Martha Depasquale, Shauna Henty, Sarah Perkins, Kate Hubl, Shelley Gardner, Rachel Sag, Caroline Ledder, Sally Fatchen Alison Ebeling, Fiona Dyer and Leah Camilleri. I look forward to working with you all during the year.

The first meeting of the new Governing Council will be held on Tuesday 10th March. Agenda items for the first meeting will include the kindergarten budget for the year, fundraising ideas, family events and the priorities of the Holdfast Partnership. I have included a feedback section at the end of this newsletter for families to add any ideas they may like to have included in the discussion and decision making. All meetings are open meetings so you are all welcome to attend at any time.

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A copy of the 2014 Annual Report will be posted on the website shortly or copies can be borrowed from the kindergarten if interested.

**Community Lottery.**

Our kindergarten participates each year in the Peoples Choice Community Lottery to raise funds for the Centre. We ask that each family sell a book of tickets for us as the total profit from the sales comes to the kindergarten and can be used to purchase new equipment books etc for the children. It is important that when you receive your tickets you make sure they are not lost as we need to account for each book on return of the tickets. We are not able to return part sold books so please try to sell all of the tickets in the book prior to returning them to us. Tickets will be due back to the kindergarten by mid term two.

**Fees**

Reminders have been placed in notice pockets for this terms fees. The Bank Details for online payment of fees is as follows. Likewise payment can be placed in the fees box located at kindergarten.

- **Internet transfer** - Your payment can be transferred on-line directly into the kindergarten account.
- **Bank SA**
  - **Seacliff Community Kindergarten**
  - **BSB** 105 042
  - **Account** 186241640

Please ensure that your child’s name is included as transaction notes so that your payment can be correctly allocated.

Payments received without identifying details will not be receipted or credited to your account until proof of payment has been provided.

**Health and safety**

**Allergies**

Please be aware that Seacliff Kindergarten is a nut free centre. We ask that you do not send products with nuts in them to the Centre.

We ask that you ensure that all emergency contact details are up to date. If phone numbers or addresses change please let us know.

Please remember our Kindergarten Policies including Health and Safety Policies are available on our website or in the foyer of the kindergarten.

Throughout the year the staff will work with the children to develop their understanding and skills in keeping themselves safe and healthy. Two programs that we will shortly begin are the Eat a Rainbow Program and the Keeping Safe Curriculum. The Eat a Rainbow Program introduces the children to lots of different fruits and vegetables and encourages children to experience the tastes of a rainbow full of foods. We will encourage the children to prepare and cook different foods. To support the program we encourage parents to think about putting as many fresh and colourful foods into your children's lunch boxes. In this way we can talk with the children about their lunch boxes and also record the things they bring along to see if we can create a rainbow every day. On some days we might have a colour day and ask you to send a particular colour vegetable along. Visits to the market and other places of interest around food will be arranged. We would love parents to help us with some cooking. We are also interested in simple recipes we could use.

The Keeping Safe Curriculum is a requirement of the Department of Education and Child Development and aims to help children to identify when they may be feeling unsafe and to have ways to seek help if needed. The program at kindergarten level incorporates understanding of emotions, their body and their rights to keep it safe. We will work with children to identify people they can go to if they need help and encourage you to talk with them about family networks as we get to this part of the program. Helping children to interact with others in positive and purposeful ways is a big part of our program as is helping children to have the skills to protect themselves now and throughout life.

**Fundraising ideas / Centre Improvement Ideas**

As the Governing Council will meet in a couple of weeks we will be looking at Fundraising ideas for the year. If you have any suggestions of fundraisers you would like to see happen at the kindergarten please let us know by returning this section to the kindergarten. Likewise if you see areas for improvement of the facilities, resources or other things that you think should be considered throughout the year please add them to this list and return them to us by March 10th.

**Fundraising ideas:**

**Ideas for Centre improvements/projects:**

**Excursion/Family Event Ideas**

**Parent workshops**