30th January, 2012

Dear parents, grandparents and care-givers,

Welcome to a new year at Largs North Kindy. A big thank you to all the families who took care of Rosie over the holidays. We really appreciate it.

This is a big year for the staff as we are venturing into unchartered waters for a couple of reasons:

Firstly, with the start of the Universal Preschool Program at our kindy—that is 15 hours of kindy for all children and the changes that are associated with this. You should have all received a sheet that explains the changes from the beginning of this year either in your pockets or in your enrolment package. If you haven’t got one, please ask a staff member.

Secondly, the National Quality Standards operate from this year and as the year progresses, we will continue to work on making sure that we cover all the quality areas to meet the standards. This is a very new system for preschools and indeed for all Australian Early Childhood settings and hence there is a very big learning curve for all of us. You will receive a family information pack this week from the Commonwealth Government. Please go to the website www.acecqa.gov.au for more information.

Some of the impacts these changes have on our kindy are:

- Lunch is included in the program, so this has meant a change in the fee structure. Fees are set at $100 per term for everyone. This equates to $2 per session. There is no separate cost for lunch care. Accounts will be put in the pockets at the end of the week.
- This means that staff will be supervising larger numbers of children at lunch time and will individually take a rostered 20 minute lunch break somewhere between 11.20 am to 12.40 pm.
• If you would like to speak to a staff member, the beginning or end of the day would be preferable rather than at lunch time as we will be involved in supervising the end of the session and lunch time.
• We have purchased another fridge and cleared a space for it in the foyer, but it will not arrive for a couple of weeks, so if you need to, you can put your child’s lunch in the box provided and it will be kept in the air conditioning or put a cold pack in their lunch boxes. There is some space in the fridge in the kitchen, but it is limited.
• There are some changes to the times that staff will be working. Both Liz and Louise are working extra days. Louise will be at work for half a day on Mondays to support the lunch period. Liz will be working every Thursday and Friday, as well as Monday and Tuesday. Bev and Cheryl’s times have changed somewhat as well. Please note the roster near the sign in sheet.
• Playgroup has been moved to Friday afternoons 1.00 -2.30 pm.

Other reminders!
• No hat-no outdoor play.
• Thongs are not appropriate at kindy. They need shoes or sandals that are appropriate for climbing.
• A spare set of clothes is a good idea as children often get wet or muddy at kindy or for those little accidents. We do have spare clothes, but children often prefer their own. Everything labelled please!
• We will be applying sunscreen during the lunch period for those children who stay all day-unless you ask us not to. Please apply sunscreen on your child before they come to kindy.
• Check your communication pockets regularly.
• Snacks—we don’t stop your child eating anything that you have packed for them in the way of snacks, but please ensure that there are no nut products as we have several children with nut allergies. This includes nutella and peanut butter, as well as some muesli bars. We do encourage the children to eat the healthiest part of their snack first eg fruit before the muesli bar. Thanks to all of you who make a real effort to include a healthy selection.

Please be patient with us during this teething period. We will be reviewing our decisions at the end of the term and we value your opinion.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year with you and your child.
Jane Louise Liz Cheryl Bev