



August 2015

# Kindy News

## Dates to Remember

**Governing Council –**  
4 August and 15 September  
7-9 p.m.

**Patch Theatre Excursion**  
18 August

**Family Discussions –**  
17 August – 7 September

**Kindy Fees Due –**  
28 August

**Working Bee –**  
29 August 10 - 2

**Family Night –**  
Wednesday, 9 September  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Welcome to Term 3, we have a very busy term planned and lots of exciting developments to enhance our program. Some of these are inspirations from our visits to other sites on our child-free day last term.

### Beach Kindy

This term we will start intentionally visiting the beach more regularly. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful environment, almost on our doorstep, we have decided to schedule extended beach time for each child every fortnight. Louise has already sent home the note which divides the children up into small groups and includes the dates for the term...only rain (or excessive wind) will stop us from going. The note with the children's groupings is also prominently placed on the sign in table for your reference.

Beach kindy sessions allow the children an extended, uninterrupted time exploring the beach, discovering natural treasures - large and small – connecting with nature and each other, and as a part of these experiences, develop understandings and skills necessary to care for the environment.

*“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it. Perhaps this is what Thoreau had in mind when he said, “the more slowly trees grow at first, the sounder they are at the core, and think the same is true of human beings.”*

David Sobel

We need an adult helper for each beach visit to ensure these visits are safe and successful for everyone.

## The Mystery Boxes

Simone is currently setting up two beautiful boxes for the children to take turns at bringing something special or significant to them to kindy for sharing.

The focus of this experience is on oral language development. Research clearly shows that children who have strongly developed oral language skills will find learning to read and write a more natural development of their communication.

“Oral language is the foundation for the development of literacy skills and is considered to be a strong indicator of later reading, writing, and overall academic achievement” in Oral Language Anne Bayetto, Flinders University.

<http://www.appa.asn.au/projects/Oral-Language-article.pdf>

This article, although written primarily for teachers, will provide you with some perspectives of oral language development and might be handy as you start thinking about moving into school communities next year.

The ‘Mystery Boxes’ will come with instructions as to what to put in them. It is worth considering having conversations at home to prepare your child for sharing with a focus on the prompts under the lid.

Choosing who will have the boxes at any one time will be done randomly, just like the selection of who takes Nam home currently works.

## Family Night

Each term we invite you to come and celebrate our learning. *We will share the work we have developed in our project.* This term we will be holding our Family Night on **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September** from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Please add this date to your calendar and join us as we celebrate the children’s learning for the term, have a play and enjoy a meal together.

***Families are asked to bring a plate of savoury food to share.***

## Governing Council

Our Governing Council is has already been very active and has a number of things coming up. It is not too late to join the council and have a say in the running of the kindy.

This term we will be meeting on Tuesday nights, **4 August and 15 September**. We start the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and finish at around 9:00 p.m.

## Kindy Photos

We will have the kindy photos available for purchase until they are collected by the photographers on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Payment needs to be made prior to taking the albums.

## Kindy Excursion

We are very excited to be heading off to Patch Theatre Company’s ‘The Moon is a Balloon’ on August 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be a wonderful experience for the children, a note with full details and permission form will be placed in your child’s pocket soon.

## Fundraising

### Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

A huge ‘Thank You’ to the families who were able to donate their time, money or goods to our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle last term. We raised \$2101.39 which will be put towards purchasing new learning resources for the children to use.

## Entertainment Book

Thank you to those families and friends who have purchased the Entertainment Books from our centre over the past term. We still have a few books available for purchase. Please see a staff member for details.

## Pictureplates

The orders for the Pictureproducts have been sent off to be made into beautiful plates, clocks, mugs, mousepads and calendars. They will be back in approximately 8 weeks.

## Learning Project

This term our inquiry project will be based around the big idea of “Old and New’. We have started our group discussions and some of the quotes from these are on the large pinboard on the western walls. Please take the time to have a quick browse of these to see the depth of thinking of the children.

We will be bringing in some ‘old’ items for the children to discuss over the next few weeks. If you have any old technology you are willing to let us borrow, please bring it in.

We will be sharing this learning at our Family Night later in the term.

## Studio

In the holidays we began to set up our ‘Studio’ area under the verandah. The children now have the opportunity to make more choices about the materials they would like to create with in this space, such as which colours they would like to create with, etc. Over the next few weeks we will gradually introduce

additional items for them to select.

Part of this experience is balancing the rights of the choices, with the responsibilities that having choice brings...huge learning for any person, let alone 3-5 year olds. They have taken on the challenge exceptionally well and we have already noticed a change in the type and quality of work being developed in this

area.

## No Hats This Term

In line with our Sun Safety Policy there is no need for hats this term as we try to soak up as much Vitamin D while the UV levels are in the

‘safe’ zone.

## Parent Opinion Survey

We will be sending out copies of our Parent Opinion Survey soon for families to complete. This can be done online or hard copy.

## Family Discussions

In Term 1 many of our families were able to take advantage of our offer for a time to meet with our teachers to discuss their child’s transition into the centre. It was a terrific opportunity for our team to learn more about children in their lives beyond the kindy gate.

We encourage families to book a time for our upcoming discussions in order to discuss how your child is tracking and talk about the next transition – to school – that will come along much sooner than any of us would like.

Teachers will approach families to organise a mutually suitable time for these meetings in Weeks 5-7.

## Parking

Please remember not to park over our neighbour’s driveways. We have noticed that several neighbours have felt the need to purchase signs for their driveways to ensure they can access their homes at all times.

It was noted last week that one neighbor was seen taking photos of cars which were parked over, or close to over, their driveway.

## Learning Folders

Please remember to bring your child’s Learning Folder back so we can continue to add to them.

## Kindy Fees

Due to an expensive start to the term, with photos, Pictureproducts and the Patch Theatre Excursion we will send out our fee notices mid-term to reduce the financial stress on families.

Don’t forget that you are able to arrange Centrepay, through Centrelink in order for payments to come directly from your Family Payments into the kindergarten account.

## Working Bee

We will be holding a working bee on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> to give our yard a tidy up and ‘rediscover’ our mud pit. If you are available we will be starting at 10 a.m. Please bring your own tools, such as a shovel, gloves, secateurs, etc. Lunch will be provided.

## Woolworths Earn and Learn

We are collecting stickers for the Earn and Learn program.

We were delighted to have a former parent, who works at Woolworths, offer to collect stickers on our behalf from customers who might not have an affiliation with a school or preschool. When we looked at the way we can redeem the points earned we have found that this is done through one of our own preferred suppliers and they can be used for a wide range of resources that we would normally buy.

There is a box on the sign in table with the Earn and Learn logo on it for you to place stickers.



## Permissions

Do we have a completed permission form to use your child's image or artwork?

We are starting to collate the photographs for this year's Kindy Memories DVD and need written permission to include your child's photographs or any group photos that have your child in them.

Last year's families really enjoyed getting their DVD with a compilation of photos that provided an insight into the happenings of the kindy year, many of which don't appear in your child's learning folder.

We would also like to be able to use these photos in our newsletters.



## Facebook

We have set up a Facebook page for families to join. After lots of research we have decided to start a group each year and have families send a friend request so you can see our posts. Our posts will mainly be reminders about upcoming events, what has been happening in the program and links to articles or pages we believe will be of interest to you.

Photos of children will not have their faces shown in order to protect their online identity.



We trust this newsletter finds you all well, although we know that the colder weather and being indoors more often does bring on the winter colds.

Dannielle, Louise, Simone, Connie, Cheryl, Amy and Josephine