



February 2016

# Kindy News

## Dates to Remember

**Annual General Meeting**  
Thursday, 3 March 6:00 p.m.

**Family Night**  
21<sup>st</sup> March, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Governing Council Meeting**  
7 April, 7:00 p.m.

**Kindy Fees Due**  
26<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Kindy Families,

Welcome to 2016 everyone, we hope it is a terrific year for you and your children. The beginning of a new year is an exciting time for educators - an opportunity to put into place new ideas gleaned from holiday reading, new children and families to welcome to the centre, that is, welcome into our kindy family.

We know that many families have enjoyed using the kindy space over the holidays and thank you for looking after Lemon, the chicken, and our plants. Several families met regularly to play and transition the children into the kindy setting, what a great idea!

Over the break there have been big things happening at our centre. We have a new kindy sign, to replace the one covered with graffiti. It has been a tradition for our families to take a photo of their child in front of the sign on the first and last days of kindy. Now our sign will shine, along with the child, in the photos.

The areas on either side of the slide have been adapted to the purpose that children have shown us they wanted – a climbing place. We will plant some grasses on the outer edges over the next few weeks. You will also notice that we have had the doors of the cubby house removed to make it more open and accessible for the children. A whirly bird has also been installed to remove some of the heat that develops on hot days. We have had the shadecloth over the sandpit replaced many other minor repairs taken care of over the break.

The learning environment will evolve over the coming weeks and months to reflect the interests of the children, offer exciting learning opportunities and reveal the learning taking place within the program.

We hope you and your child are excited about joining us for a year of learning, discovering, friendship and fun.



### **The Kindy Team**

Dannielle has experienced a back injury over the break and will be having surgery next week. She will return to the centre just after Easter. Naturally she is very disappointed about this, particularly as she has been looking forward to building relationships with the children and families, however, she will be ready to go once she returns.

During her absence Louise and Janet will step up into the Director's role in order to maintain stability at the kindy.

Connie Cowling, one of our regular relief teachers who knows the centre well, will join the team for Term 1.

We welcome our new kindergarten teacher Janet Stephenson to our team. Janet has worked extensively in kindergartens and preschools across the state. Most recently she was the Director at Minlaton Kindergarten.

As we have so many part-time staff at our centre we thought it might be helpful for families to have a day-by-day account of who is rostered on each day.

**Monday** – Janet, Connie, Josephine

**Tuesday** – Janet, Connie, Josephine, Cheryl

**Wednesday** – Louise, Connie, Josephine, Cheryl

**Thursday** – Louise, Connie, Josephine, Cheryl

**Friday** – Janet, Cheryl (alternate Fridays Louise and Connie)

### **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle**

A huge 'Thank You' to those families who were able to support us with their time to make the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle possible on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

As it was (nearly) a long weekend, many of our families were away, so we were thrilled at the response to our call for helpers.

We raised approximately \$1800 for the kindy. This has been earmarked to update our parent library and purchase some new

big books for the children.

Thank you to Peter, Rhys, Louise, Cheryl, Rebecca, Liz, Natalie, Barbara, Chrissy, Ben and Jeff. It was an amazing effort on the day with just under 75kg of sausages cooked and sold.

### **Nut Aware Kindergarten**

Our kindy is a 'Nut Aware' centre and we acknowledge the effort it takes for families to ensure the children's lunch boxes contain foods without nuts or traces of nuts.

We will be doing everything possible to ensure our centre is as nut aware as possible to keep children with allergies safe, and thank you for your support in this.

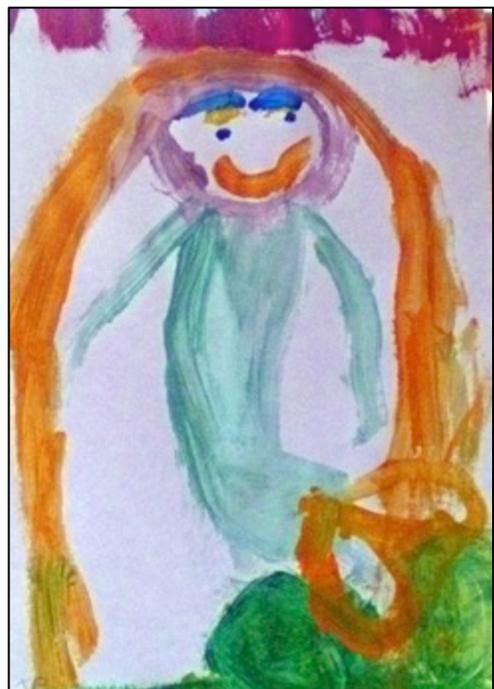
### **Facebook Page**

Did you know we have a kindy Facebook page? It is a great way for us to communicate with you, with reminders and messages about upcoming events.

From time to time we will also post relevant articles and links to events in the community beyond the kindergarten.

Please send a 'Friend Request' to our administrator to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010205792032>



## **What Does Happen At Kindy?**

It may be of interest to you to know how our day runs. Below is a brief outline of our daily happenings.

On arrival the children are encouraged to unpack their own bag, putting their lunchbox into the fridge. They then put their bags into a locker in the foyer.

**Signing In** - This year we are sending a strong message to our children, families and visitors that this is a place where literacy is very important. One of the most visible ways is our new 'sign in' sheets, which encourage children to write their own names. It has been wonderful to see the children signing their names each morning, and to see the different stages of 'mark making' that is evident.

If your child is not yet writing their own name, it is a significant achievement for them to even be recognising their own name amongst all of the others. Encourage them to attempt the first letter as a start.

You are most welcome to stay to do a puzzle, play with the dough, read a book with your child or chat with other parents and caregivers.

**Gathering Time** – We have an informal sharing and discussion time at the beginning of each session.

**Inside/Outside Play** – Children are encouraged to choose where they would like to play, both indoors and outdoors.

**Inside Discovery** – Hands on learning with an emphasis on developing our fine motor skills (using our hands and developing hand-eye coordination), creativity, problem-solving, literacy and numeracy.

**Outside Discovery** – An opportunity to develop our gross motor skills (using the big muscles in our bodies) through hands on learning.

**Snack** – Children are encouraged to recognise their own hunger and have a snack as they need.

**Group Time** – A literacy focussed time which ends with a shared story.

*Our program is a play based one. Children of kindy age learn best through play, exploring their environment and the materials offered in their own way, at their own pace.*

## **Learning Projects**

Our program is based on the Early Years Learning Framework, with a focus on intentional teaching through Project Work. The children and teachers work alongside each other, learning together as each project develops over the course of a term.

### **What is a Project?**

A project is an extended in-depth study of a real world topic that is worth knowing more about. It involves inquiry based learning.

Project work gives children:

- the opportunity for self-initiated learning, opportunity to really get into something and to investigate what appeals to them,
- to learn from resources like books, the internet and adults,
- to plan something, work the plan, struggle, fail and fix it thus encouraging perseverance,
- to work in small groups as a team on something that they care about,
- to build self images based on confidence in themselves as learners and the ability to overcome challenges,
- to see reading, writing, measuring, counting, adding and subtracting as skills they value.

This term our project is based on the concepts of 'Belonging and Identity'. We will be exploring big ideas about who we are, what we have in common and our differences, communities we belong to and our families.

## **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 **Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March** 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 food to share.***

## **Governing Council Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of our Governing Council will be held on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** at 6:00 p.m. The Governing Council ensures that parents, families and the community contribute to the decision making and running of the Kindergarten. We encourage you to consider joining the Governing Council, which meets twice a term, to share your ideas and perspectives to enhance the short and long-term goals of our centre.

## **Contact Details**

Please ensure your contact details are updated on your child's file throughout the year.

We are keen to email newsletters and learning stories to families in addition to the hard copies that sometimes get left behind in the children's name pockets. Please provide the staff with your current email address to ensure you don't miss out on important information.

The email address for the kindergarten is [dl.5628.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.5628.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

## **Things to Remember**

- ☉ Please make sure your child's things are labelled, e.g. hats, drink bottles, clothes, etc.
- ☉ Ensure there is a change of clothes in your child's bag. Children get distracted when they are busy and sometimes have accidents.
- ☉ Apply sunscreen before arriving at Kindy (we will reapply at lunchtime for full-dayers).

## **Screening Checks - An Update**

Many of our parents and guardians volunteer at our preschool to support their child's learning.

To make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time, the Department for Education and Child Development has updated its relevant history screening policy and procedures.

***As a result, parents and guardians who volunteer to directly support their child will no longer require a relevant history screening.***

***This will mean many of our volunteers can help out sooner.***

A screening is still necessary for parents and guardians who are volunteering at school camps and sleep overs, as well as those hosting billets and homestay students.

As has always been the case, a screening is not needed to attend single events or activities at our preschool. These include concerts, fundraisers, swimming week or sports day.

Screenings are just one measure used to help keep children safe. Everyone who works with children plays a part in child protection, including watching out for inappropriate behaviour.

Find out more about relevant history screening and keeping children safe at [www.decd.sa.gov.au](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au).

We hope you and your child have a wonderful first week at Largs North Kindy enjoying the experiences we have set up and the warm, inviting environment we aim to create. We trust you all feel welcome and supported in this big step in your child's life.

Dannielle, Louise, Janet, Connie, Cheryl and Josephine