

21 Kybunga Terrace, Largs North 5016
Phone: 8248 1353 Fax: 8341 9916
Email: Connie.Cowling540@schools.sa.edu.au

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER



Important Calendar Dates

Semaphore EXCURSION

Wednesday, March 29

Governing Council

Thursday, March 30 at 7.00 p.m.

LAST DAY of TERM 1

Thursday, April 13

STUDENT FREE DAY

Monday, July 24

Semaphore Excursion

Dear Families,
Part of our Term 1 Project related to Belonging, Identity and Community, we have invited our Kindergarten Community to participate within our larger community, visiting services located at Semaphore Road. This will be an immersive learning experience for the children. Further details on consent form.



Child Protection Curriculum (CPC)

You will have received a flyer via the Family Pockets, regarding "Keeping Safe" (CPC). Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us and elements of this Curriculum are explicitly taught, with the overarching messages:

"We all have a right to be safe"

"We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust"

Please see the flyer for further details and feel free to approach us with any questions arising.

Children's learning

Children have developed their sense of belonging as the term has progressed – getting to know and learning names of peers and educators, seeing their names and photos displayed (Name Cards and Learning Folders), being aware of the routine and contributing to setting up play areas, for example the brick hammering experience: children assisted with fencing off the table area, made signs indicating what was happening and the turn taking process and risk assessment which resulted in the need to wear protective clothing - goggles, gloves, ear muffs and helmet.

Educators have planned according to children's interests. Over the last few weeks some of the learning experiences that have evolved are:

- Hand prints at the easels → finger painting → soap suds and sponges → colour mixing with gloop.



- Dancing with streamers to music → building a stage inside from blocks for dancing → creating a dance space on the top platform
We have also experienced the extremes of the life cycles with the joy and excitement of watching the caterpillars turn into butterflies and the sadness following the death of Apple the Bantam chicken.
We often record children's voice which provides an insight into their existing ideas and knowledge. Please take time to read these in the daily reflection book (on the sign in table), displays and Learning Folders.

Literacy and Numeracy

Have you noticed the snapshots of literacy and numeracy learning displayed on the window, left of the sign in table? Literacy and numeracy is intertwined in all areas of children's play and daily life. These snapshots are just a small sample of this learning.
Did you know the Numeracy concepts 'straight', 'curved' and 'bent' are about shape?:

- Using everyday words to describe shape such as 'a raindrop', 'egg shape', 'curved' and 'round' are important for helping children understand shape.
- Over time children will use words such as 'triangle', 'square' and 'circle'. These words help children to talk about shapes in their environment.
- Noticing and studying shape is important for learning geometry later.

(Source 'Early childhood literacy and numeracy: Building good practice', DEEWR, Fler & Raban).

Consent Forms – Media

We are hoping to create a more visually engaging newsletter by incorporating photos from daily kindergarten experiences. The newsletter is uploaded to the Kindergarten website. A few families are yet to complete the DECD Media Consent form that was provided with your enrolment pack and since been placed in Family Pockets for those not yet returned. If you have previously signed the form and have reconsidered media release, please inform a staff member, so we can update your form.

AGM for GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council AGM held on Thursday, February 23 was a highly productive evening. We welcome; Nikki – Chairperson, Jen – Vice Chairperson, Andrea – Secretary, Mel – Fundraising Representative, Lana – WH&S, Emily, Liz, Amy and Gemma to the Governing Council and look forward to a collaborative journey towards high quality outcomes for children and the site.

We welcome further members to the Council, if you would like to contribute to decision making processes throughout the year. Please note: All welcome to attend meetings, however, only members can vote where required. For more details please see the display near the entrance.

Sustainability and Nude Food

Lunch box ideas -Many of you provide a multitude of healthy options in your child's lunch and snack boxes and we applaud you for that. We encourage you to continue to do so. The concept of 'Nude Food' has been introduced and embraced in education settings over the last few years and we encourage you to get on board as much as you can. Natural foods that are not pre-packaged are primarily best for your child's physical and intellectual health – they are great brain food! However they are also better for our environment and importantly, better for your budget. Here are a couple of 'Nude Food' ideas...Buy yoghurt in a large tub, rather than individually packaged small tubs or squeeze packets. Then put it in a re-usable (squeeze or Tupperware type) container. This can be washed and re-used for years to come. Pre-pop some corn kernels, instead of buying individually pre-packaged popcorn. Stored in an airtight container, it will last for several days and is a great, healthy snack for your children. If they help you pop it you will also be engaging them in a great scientific experience.



Apple – Our chicken

Sadly, Apple our white Bantam is no longer with us. The children have had discussions about lifecycles and this has been a valuable learning experience. A family has offered us another chicken to keep Lemon company and hopefully we'll meet her very soon.

Thank you to Lindy and Louis for finding Apple a resting place.

Daily routine on arrival

Please ensure that each day when your child/children arrive that they independently do 3 things...

Put their bag away – by doing this themselves they will be able to find it later in order to access and put away their belongings.

Put their lunch or snack in the fridge – as above, if they do it themselves they will be able to find it later.

Sign themselves in – We ask that the children write their names themselves on the sign-in sheets. It doesn't matter if what they write does not yet look like conventional 'writing'. Mark making of any kind is an important stage in the development of this skill. One of the most powerful ways children learn is by practising, so please allow them to do this themselves. We will be tracking the children's development in this area by collecting samples of their name writing on the sign-in sheets over the course of the year, so please do not write it for them, otherwise we cannot do this accurately.

Old towels required

We would welcome donations of old towels for water, mud and other sensory play.

Family Night

A Family Night will be held on Tuesday, May 30th next term. We will discuss the format and time of this event at Governing Council. In the interim we welcome you to contribute ideas, such as whether it should be an informal or formal event etc.

Learning Folders

Many families have been sharing in some of the learning at kindergarten by viewing their child's folders during the term. We would like to invite you to take your child's folder home during the school holidays (the last two weeks of April). We invite you to share these with your extended family and contribute your own learning about events that happen within your family. Folders can be taken home during the last week of this term. Please return them in the first week of term 2.

Fees

Fees were placed in family pockets recently. Thank you to families who paid. If you have not received an invoice, please see a staff member.

SA Dental Service

Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, preschool and most children under 18 years at School Dental Service clinics.

Call now for an appointment.

Your clinic is: Le Fevre School Dental Clinic

Phone: 8449 3364

If you require a hard copy of the newsletter, please see a staff member.

Thank you,

Connie, Chantel, Cheryl, Janet, Louise

