



Newsletter

Important Dates to remember

Beach Kindy	Tuesday 21 st February Wednesday 1 st March Thursday 9 th March Wednesday 15 th March Tuesday 21 st March Thursday 30 th March Wednesday 5 th April
Term One Interviews	Monday 13 th February to Thursday 23 rd February
Pupil Free Day – No Kindy	Thursday 2 nd March
Governing Council AGM	Tuesday 7 th March at 6:00pm
Mosaic Workshops	Sunday 5 th March and Saturday 18 th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday – No Kindy	Monday 13 th March
Photo Days	Wednesday 29 th March, Tuesday 4 th April
Easter Monday – No Kindy	Monday 10 th April

Hello

Wow! We have had a great start to the year. The children are settling in nicely, forming friendships and adventuring through the environments at kindy. We are very proud of all children and are excited about the year ahead.

Governing Council

We will be holding our Governing Council AGM on the **7th March 2023 at 6:00pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend. The council meets in weeks 4 and 8 of each term on Tuesday. If you would like to be involved in supporting the kindergarten further this is a great opportunity.

If you wish to nominate yourself to participate on the council for the year please speak to Amy at kindy or email her. Please note Governing Council members are required to complete their RAN Certificate similar to volunteering.

February, 2023

Absences

We have had a few children absent for various reasons. It has been very helpful to receive communication about children's attendance. If your child is absent please ring the kindergarten on 8248 1353, there is answering machine we check each morning.

Children Sign-In

One very important arrival task is the opportunity for children to sign-in by themselves. It is perfectly fine if your child is unable to write their name in a conventional manner as of yet, as it is about growth and development. We use the sign-in sheets to collate samples to compare each individual's growth over the year. Feel free to encourage them to correct their pencil grip and copy their name from the sheet, however we kindly ask that they make their own marks on the page.

Lunch Boxes

We currently have several children attending this year with allergies to some foods. We ask that you ensure there are no products containing nuts in your child's lunch box for the safety of all children.

We have had a few enquiries in regards to the amount of food children eat at Kindy. In the early days at kindy everything is very exciting and sometimes eating is not a priority for the children in their day. We do eat lunch as a group each day and encourage children to have something to eat then. The children are also encouraged to eat their snacks at any time of their choosing across the day. If you have concerns please speak to an educator. Please ensure all belongings are labelled.

Framed Photo

This term as part of our program is our inquiry project considering 'us and our community'. As part of this inquiry we are learning about what to expect at kindy in terms of routines and expectations, but also discovering our individual identity. We would love for families to provide a framed photo of your family. The children will share their photos at group time. We will keep the photos displayed at kindy to admire all year. If you would like to be involved, please provide a framed photo at your earliest convenience. Thanks to those who have chosen to provide one already.

Seesaw

This year we have chosen Seesaw for communicating the day to day learning, reminders and notices. A letter containing log on details was provided early in the week via the family information pocket.

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Term One Interviews

We hold a 'check in' interview for families who would like to meet with their child's cohort educator about their child's time at kindergarten so far. These interviews are completely optional. The interviews are planned to occur in Weeks 3 and 4 of Term One (13th February to 23rd February). You should have received more information via an email in regards to how to book in if you wish.

We will be holding 'Goal Setting' interviews in Term 2 which are strongly recommended to ensure the ongoing success of each child for the remainder of the year. These dates will be confirmed at a later time.

Family Information Pockets

In the foyer are our family information pockets. We place notices, lost property and range of items in these pockets for families to collect. Please ensure you check your family pocket regularly.

Sunscreen

Some families have highlighted the need for their child to have a particular sunscreen. To support our abilities to ensure your child is safely protected from the sun we ask that you discuss this with an educator, if you have not already. The sunscreen needs to be clearly labelled and stay at kindergarten, we will communicate when it needs replacing. Sunscreens in the form of creams, not sprays, are preferred.

Beach Kindy

We will begin our Beach Kindy program shortly. A note and consent form has already been distributed. We do seek volunteers to support these excursions. All volunteers must complete the RAN training (link included in this email). There was a slight error in the beach kindy note discussing COVID vaccinations. Adults who are unvaccinated are welcomed to volunteer however you are required to return a negative RAT test on the morning of your volunteering opportunity. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

Drakes Community Dollars Program

We are a registered member of the community dollars program. This program is an opportunity for us to raise funds to purchase goods from Drakes to support our learning program. We generally purchase things for our cooking/baking experiences or even useful items for making playdough or other fun things. Now this is where you can help, grab a Drakes Community Dollars keyring from the basket on our welcome table and scan every time you shop at Drakes. For every \$2 spent at a participating Drakes stores, 1c will be accredited to our fund.

Learning Program

Each fortnight we meet to plan for the next fortnight. There are many considerations to take into account when planning the program.

We look at our terms inquiry 'us and our community'. As part of this we are supporting the children to build relationships with each other. The children are learning about our kindergarten expectations and routines, caring and respecting each other; and the kindergarten environments and resources. We also consider the Child Safe Curriculum and our sites improvement plan. But the most important consideration is the children's voice, things like their interests, requests, curiosities and wonderings all play a huge part in our program.

The learning program is displayed above the welcome table for everyone to see. It will also be uploaded to Seesaw.

Preschool Quality Improvement Goal

Each year we set a goal of improvement to support educators professional learning development and children's learning growth. This years goal is: 'To strengthen children's wellbeing for better learning outcomes and engagement'.

We will be working closely with an Occupational Therapist to better upskill educators to understand the needs of children.

Mosaic Workshops

For a few years now we have been running mosaic workshops for families to come and make a mosaic for our welcome walkway at the entrance to kindergarten.

The mosaic workshops are run by our resident artist Kaz Pedersen. A note will be in your family information pocket shortly with more information.

Amy, Louise, Jenna, Katy, Wendy and Nicole