



Centre Update from Catriona

Last night was our first Governing Council meeting and we welcomed new members Lisa Palin, April Hamilton and Sarah Wolfel. Our business for the meeting included: an induction, finance reports for January, approving our operational budget for 2021, we raised \$1092 from the Peoples Choice Lottery, we heard about the preschool numeracy project, other topics of discussion included the cleaning contract, computer upgrades, building improvements and future upgrades, the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and a COVID-19 update.

All our meetings are open to everyone and if you are interested in joining please see me or a governing council member. There is a list of members near the sign in sheet.

Education Management System (EMS)

I am pleased to share that our preschool has been selected to be part of the implementation of the new state-wide, online Education Management System (EMS), being rolled out by the Department for Education.

The EMS is the most significant upgrade of public education's curriculum and school administration systems in more than 20 years, and will eventually replace a range of systems currently being used in our preschools and schools.

Staff from our site have received training and working in the new system from 24 March and prior to this you might see staff from the Department on site as they make sure we are ready to use the new system.

We will endeavour to continue to operate as normal, however please bear with us if responses take a little longer than usual.

FAQs for Parents

What is a private cloud?

The private cloud is a secure online storage hub that holds all of the information within the EMS, including the program itself. Private clouds are flexible, meaning the department can customise the cloud environment to meet the specific needs of the EMS.

Diary Dates Term 1

Monday 29 March

Student Free Day — no preschool on this day.
Catriona and Heather are attending a training program.

April 1 All Day

Family excursion to Cleland Wild Life Park

Easter 2 April—5 April

Wednesday 7 April

Governing Council meeting
7.30pm

Thursday 8 April

Last day of term 1

Monday 26 April

Term 2 starts

Banking details

STIRLING EAST KINDERGARTEN
BSB 105 079
ACCOUNT NUMBER 305235040

TERM DATES 2021

Term 1: 27 Jan - 9 April

Term 2: 26 April - 2 July

What is the difference between a private and a public cloud? What are the benefits of a private cloud?

The private cloud is dedicated to the protection of only the Department for Education, as opposed to a public cloud which can host many different organisations at once. The benefit is that a more restricted approach gives the department higher levels of control and security over the data being held in its own private cloud.

Physically, what or where is the cloud?

The private cloud is being stored locally in a physical data centre in Australia.

How long is it stored for?

Information will be stored in the private cloud and is subject to the same disposal policies as any information held by the department. For further information on storage, management of records and the information lifecycle, refer to the departments Information Management Policy.

How is information safeguarded?

Information held within the EMS is subject to the same security policies as any other information held by the department today. For further information on storage, management of records and the information lifecycle, refer to the department's Information Management Policy.

QR CODE

Please ensure you all use the QR code when you are dropping off or picking up your child. There is a manula sing in sheet for those without a phone. Like businesses, staff can be fined if you fail to sign in. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Preschool Photos

On Tuesday 16 March and Wednesday 17 March, Kidzpics will be with us for the morning to take our preschool photos. In your notice pocket on Tuesday is a photo envelope to complete and return to us. Vonny has contacted the families to arrange a set day if their child doesn't attend on either of these days. Payment is preferred through the photographers online system. Please return your envelope with all the details completed by Monday 15 March.

Preschool Student Free Day

Each year the Department for Education approves several Student Free Days to enable staff to participate in professional development. The governing council approves these days along with the Education Director and last year Heather and I were fortunate to secure training places in a new numeracy program the department is introducing this year (there were only 30 positions state-wide). The 2020 governing council approved a student free day on Monday 29 March to enable us to participate in this training. This means there is no preschool session on Monday 29 March and the centre is closed.

As with school student free days there is no "catch up" day available.

Family Excursion to Cleland Wild Life Park

So far 29 children have returned their excursion consent forms. Please return your form ASAP if your child is attending so we can confirm all child numbers and adult numbers by 19 March. There is no charge for your preschool child and we subsidize the entry cost of one adult. The entry cost for the first adult is \$15.00 and other adults is \$22.50. Please let me know if you have a membership which gives you free entry as you will need to bring this on the day. Younger children are most welcome to attend this excursion and all children under 4 years of age are free. The walking paths are pram friendly. Please complete the attached consent form and return it as soon as possible.

This excursion is for everyone regardless of what days they attend preschool normally.

The BUZZ list

The BUZZ list is designed to let you contact other parents and let them contact you for play dates and catch ups. If you would like to add your phone number the list is now up on the wall to the right of the sign in desk.

Cooperation and Collaboration

Over the past few weeks we have been working our way through the beginnings of the Child Protection Curriculum; recognising feelings, emotions, naming some parts of our bodies as we traced around and painted outlines of ourselves. As we continue on this path we have been reading some stories looking at kindness, fairness and friendliness with peers. The stories we have read so far are : *Find Out About Kindness* by Pat-a-Cake, *This is Our House* by Michael Rosen and *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister. The children have engaged in open discussions about negative behaviours in the books along with the positive solutions that are found. We will continue with this focus as the children settle into their kindy year and learn to manage the various social situations that arise in a positive manner. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1 & 4.1.

← These numbers refer to the early learning framework outcomes and the literacy and numeracy indicators.

Along with the group discussions we are using areas within the planned activities to encourage cooperation and collaboration e.g. the nest/spider web swing where three children can enjoy swinging together. This requires children to have to work together, communicating what is happening, what they want to happen, as well as listening to other. Here are some of the comments we have heard while the children use and wait for their turn on the swing.

“wow, how did you get that high?”

“sit down, I can do it”

“Hey, you’re pushing me over”

“Can you do it after me?”

“Now there is three of the swing”

“It’s nearly finished”

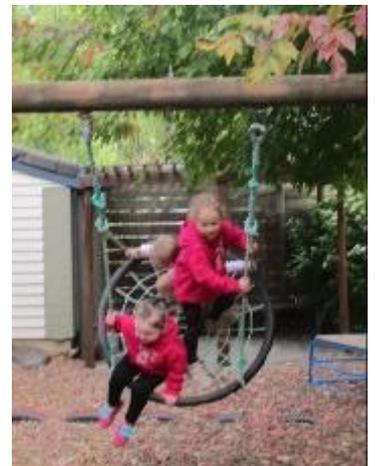
“Now can you please get off”

“Who is going to push?”

“Try not to go too high. I’m not used to too high”

“Stop, we can all have a turn”

These are all good examples of children positively communicating what is going on for them in play to their peers. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1 & 4.1.



Cultural Understanding

With building children's understanding around Indigenous Australians a core part of our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) we continue to make this a prominent part of our day with saying the Kurna Greeting and introducing other concepts or respect. Over the past week we have also introduced the Australian Aboriginal flag. We have had discussions around what the different colours represent; building on children's understanding of our land and the children were keen to share where they had seen the flag when out and about with family. Many noted that they had seen the flag outside the Stirling library. 1.3, 2.1, 2.2,

Preschool Shop

Our preschool shop in the outdoor learning environment has promoted and encouraged a range of foundational mathematical and literacy skills. Children have been communicating, negotiating roles, experimenting with symbols to create lists and signs, sorting and grouping food, lining up and sequencing, estimating prices, counting, recognising numbers and making calculations. Children have been sharing their knowledge and experiences of supermarket shopping through their play. 4.3, 5.1, L1, L4, N3, N4



Healthy Harold

The children were excited to meet Healthy Harold this week. Focusing on topics of connecting, belonging and wellbeing the children engaged in stories, videos and games to extend their understandings. 3.2, 2.1

