Principal: Marg Erwin

160 Portrush Road, Trinity Gardens 5068 Phone: 8333 2557 Fax: 8431 5492 Director: Catherine Day



**Trinity Garden’s Children’s Centre Newsletter, Term 1, Week 2**

IMPORTANT MESSGE TO ELC PARENTS

School children are not allowed in the ELC yard at any time unless under supervision by an adult. School children must be supervised at all times including when adults are inside the ELC collecting their preschool child.

If children arrive after school they will be sent to the front office.

**Key Dates**:

Tuesday, 11 February – **Blue Group acquaintance night 5-5.45pm in the ELC**

Thursday, 13 February - **Gold Group acquaintance night 5-5.45pm in the ELC**

Wednesday, 19 February – **Parent talk: Dealing with Big Feelings with Mark LeMesurier. 7pm in the Children’s Centre**

Monday, 9 March – **Public Holiday**

Thursday, 19 March – ELC Welcome picnic 5pm (details to come)

Dear Families,

Welcome to all our families, it has been a pleasure to re-connect with some families and meet others for the first time over the past few weeks. We have been busy getting to know each other and laying the foundations for developing strong relationships and a sense of belonging in the Children’s Centre programs and ELC.

**Healthy Food**

It has been wonderful to see so many lunch boxes filled with delicious and healthy food in the Occasional Care and Early Learning Centre! There has been a fabulous variety of foods from sandwiches to tuna patties, sushi to vegetable sticks!

Please ensure treats are saved for home as it can create issues for children if they too don’t have a treat food. Healthy eating is a focus for us all, we believe the less packaging the better for you! We appreciate all the effort and time you have put into your child’s lunchboxes, it does have a positive effect on their health.

Reminder – no nuts



**Our learning in the Early Learning Centre**

We are enjoying getting to know all of our new children and their families. We are developing relationships through ‘Play Spaces’ in the mornings and appreciate you bringing your child to greet us and then going off to play or staying with us to say goodbye. This assists all of us to get to know each other and helps your child to feel safe and secure at kindy.

Our focus this term will be to develop a sense of Belonging. We are supporting the children to get used to the transitions and routines throughout the day which also supports them to feel safe and secure. We are singing songs, reading stories and playing games which support the children’s developing sense of belonging.

We look forward to seeing you all next week at Acquaintance Night (see below for more information).

Shelley and the ELC Team

**Acquaintance night in the Early Learning Centre (preschool only)**

We invite all parents and carers to come along and find out more about our preschool program as well as meet and get to know other parents of children in your child’s group. We would like you to share with us your hopes and aspirations for your child this year as a basis for getting to know you and your family.

We also welcome any feedback or suggestions you might have to support your child’s learning. See the key dates at the top of this page for details.

**Occasional Care**

Welcome back everyone!

We are off to a busy start, with new families’ enrolled and more registering interest. Our main focus for most of Term 1 (and beyond) is on building relationships, both with families and with the children in our care. There is always a re-settling period even for our regulars, as it is a long time since they have last attended, and new relationships to build.

Our Literacy focus has also been on relationships. We have a gorgeous story basket on the book "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell. This story explores the way that three baby owls cope when they wake up to find that their Mother has gone hunting! Coping with separation from the parent/carer, expressing feelings, and building resilience are all themes that the children connect strongly with. Ask your children about the Owl Babies. My favourite is Bill. He always says "I want my Mummy", and finally when she returns, "I love my Mummy"! When we sit with the children reading this story they love us to substitute their own names in for the Owl Babies. We are also including an Acknowledgment of Country in each of the Playgroups and Occasional Care sessions. This is very simple, with actions that the children can join in with as we say the words together. We look forward to sharing this with you.

Our Numeracy focus is on Quantifying - counting how many. There are numerous games, songs, rhymes and finger plays which use counting from 1-5, both forwards and backwards. A couple of our favourites are Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, and Five Little Ducks. We also use stories, and activities with number focus, and many incidental conversations as we go about our daily routines.

We have been celebrating Chinese New Year by making lanterns and kites, and reading books that talk about the different animals and celebrations that happen at this time. As part of our numeracy focus we will also use counting in other languages.

Happy New Year!

Alison and Kirsty

**Family Practitioner update**

Hi everyone,

I hope you had a good summer holidays. This term on Wednesday afternoons I will be studying an Introductory Certificate in infant mental health. It is amazing how infants grow and develop and what changes we can notice. This course will also cover how to understand what is happening inside an infant and how to best help that infant’s emotional development. I will share some learnings in future newsletters.

Emma, Family Practitioner – alternate Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays.

**Team Work**

The Children’s Centre Team recently participated in some training and development on Cultural Competence held by Gowrie SA. From this learning we have created our own Acknowledgement of Country for the children, it is written in a way that is easy for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers to join in. You may like to adopt our saying and acknowledge the custodians of the land we live and play on too while at home …

We care for Kaurna land (touch ground)

We care for Kaurna Sky (reach up)

We care for Kaurna Water (make a wave motion)

We touch our hearts and say thank you Kaurna people, EVERYONE (arms open wide)

**Community Development Update**

Here we are in Week 2 Term 1, 2020

“Welcome” to all our new families and children starting for the first time and also our returning families back for another busy and fun year ahead.

I hope you are all coping with the changes and new experiences of starting Kindy or attending a program here in the Children’s Centre for the first time?

Sometimes it can take a while to settle in and other times it all fits well, and transition is smooth.

I’ve had a busy start back for the New Year on the Community side of things. The sad start to the year here in South Australia with the Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island fires leaving so many families heartbroken and devastated. I have been involved through my work in preparing and packing the “Return to Kindy/School Backpacks”

http://backpacks4sakids.org/

I spent a morning helping with fellow Community Development Coordinators to pack these backpacks for boys and girls that were affected by the fires at Backpacks for SA Kids. It was great to all work together and pack over 150 backpacks that were ready to go out to these kids before they started back at kindy/school last week in the Lobethal and Woodside areas.

I look forward to seeing and catching up with all the new Preschool parents at the two Acquaintance nights next week in the Early Learning Centre.

Take Care,

Cathy ☺

***Have a wonderful term everyone!***

***Catherine Day, Director & The Trinity Gardens Children’s Centre Team***