



Newsletter

WEEK 1 TERM 1: 27th January 2021



Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A big welcome to the 1st Term of 2021! At this time parents will be welcome to enter the main kindergarten room to settle the children but I would ask you not to stay for an extended length of time due to the current health requirements which will ensure that the maximum number of bodies is not exceeded inside the room. Should the health situation change I will advise you of new arrangements.

Shortly the kindergarten will be issued with a QR code which all parents will need to access or alternatively you may sign on a sheet at the desk on the verandah. There will also be two hands free hand sanitiser units provided on the verandah for adults to use, the children will be shown to the bathroom to wash their hands with soap. This is an important task for them as it not only supports lifelong health habits but it also is important in developing fine motor skills as they manipulate their fingers and hands by spreading the soap on them. *However at the time of writing this newsletter both the hands free sanitiser dispensers and the QR code are currently unavailable so until they are in use please could you enter from the Kindergarten Ave gate only, where there will be a hand sanitiser bottle available for use by adults before you enter the site. Once you have reached the verandah you will need to sign in on the sheet on the desk adjacent to the lockers.* If for any reason you would prefer not to come into the kindergarten you can hand your child over to a staff member at the gate.

This year the Learning Journals for each group will reflect the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) so that you are aware of the way the staff team are exploring ways to extend their teaching practice. There will be photos of the children, notations of their voices as well as their mark making examples as they play and learn along with notations from the teachers to describe the learning that is occurring relating to the QIP.

It is good to welcome back some families with younger siblings as well as meet many new families and I hope you will all find time to visit with us during the term and see the children at work. We are planning some visiting opportunities which will be advertised soon. We have organised each child's Individual Learning Plan which starts with the Child Questionnaire Form that most families have now returned. If you have not completed yours yet, (they were in the information folders given out at the introductory meeting last year) please could you do so as soon as possible.

We will be learning the National Anthem, Advance Australia Fair and talking about how we can all help to make our country a wonderful place for everyone to live. This can start right here in our kindy as we welcome and support each other in our learning journey. We will also be talking about the first Australians our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends and their continued contributions to Australian life and the environment.

An important time for Asian families will soon be here with the celebration of their New Year. This kindergarten has had a long tradition of celebrating Asian New Year and we are planning to continue this in the coming weeks with a welcome night for families from all cultures, further details following.

Kind regards, Cynthia Meredith

Diary Dates

New Year Welcome
Visiting Night
Wed Feb 17th
6:30--7:30pm
Everyone welcome

First parent meeting
Gov Council Meeting
Wed Feb 10th 7:30pm

Regular Events

Fridays
Playgroup 9:30-11:30am

Staff Team for 2020

Cynthia Meredith: Director, Louise Montesi: Teacher, Tess Gibbs: Early Childhood Worker, Crystal Morphett: Teacher (Tuesdays and Thursdays), Lenka Velisek: ECW, Lunchcare and Support Worker, and Margaret Cronin: Relief Teacher.

Curriculum Term Overview

The overview will be at the front of the Learning Journal. This is the starting point for the term and shows some of the activities which may take place this term but as usual we move with the children's guiding. You will notice there are some cultural events listed as the staff team believe that it is important for the children to continue to broaden their understanding of the many different cultures which make up our diverse nation. In this way we believe that they will develop empathy, tolerance and understanding of different ways of doing things and ideas which will help them as they grow and work with different people. We will be working with the children and their families so that the curriculum will develop with their voice. To begin we will be supporting the children to learn the routines, rules and responsibilities of attending kindergarten. In the coming weeks as mentioned previously we will look at the Asian cultures as we celebrate Asian New Year (a little later than the organised national celebrations) culminating in our first exciting Visiting Night-- **Wednesday Feb 17th from 6:30-7:30pm**. More details on page 3 of this newsletter.

Kindergarten Clothes

There is no requirement to wear specific clothes to kindergarten but each child will receive a kindergarten hat with a logo in the next couple of days (please bring an alternative hat for your child in the first week). The staff team encourage the children to wear their kindy hat as they provide good protection from the sun's UV rays, and this also adds to their sense of belonging to a special place of learning. In Term 2 the children will be given a kindergarten beanie which will provide warmth during colder days. There are polo-shirts and windcheaters with the kindergarten logo available in sizes 2, 4, and 6 for purchase from the kindergarten and the prices will remain the same as in 2020. Please speak with the staff team if you are interested.

As the children will be exploring all areas of the curriculum for their play learning we ask that they wear clothing and footwear which does not inhibit their climbing and provides protection from UV during the summer months (no thongs, or clothing with thin strapped upper tops).

Sun Sense Policy

In line with kindergarten sun sense policy we ask you to apply sunscreen to all the exposed areas of your child's body before they arrive at kindergarten, the staff team reapply sunscreen at the commencement of the afternoon session. If your child has allergies and needs to use a specialised lotion, send along the appropriate sunscreen clearly labelled, inform the staff team and this lotion will be applied at the same time for your child. The children will be required to wear their kindy hat while playing in the outdoor environment. Please remind your child when they arrive at kindergarten to put on their hat if they are going to play outside.

Daily Routines

Each morning the **children** need to enter the bathroom to wash their hands before commencing their normal routines as follows:

1. go to the spot board to put a 'velcroed' spot next to their name (Whilst we understand that sometimes it is quicker to do it yourself, with practice your child will learn to recognise their name and this is a big step towards their autonomous literacy.)
2. find their name in the alphabet pockets on the door and then choose a locker to make their own for the day by adding their name card and bag. Take lunchbox minus morning snack out

of bag and place this in the large box on the verandah so that this can be put inside on hot days.

At the end of the day we aim to have your child ready for you to collect with all their jobs done.

Adults please could you sign your name and details as indicated on the sheet provided at the verandah desk, when the QR Code arrives you may choose to use this instead or if you prefer continue to use the sign in sheet. This will also need to be completed when you enter to collect your child so please inform any other persons who are authorised by you to collect your child of the requirements for entering the kindergarten. If your child needs to be collected earlier than 3:30pm please speak with a staff member before collecting your child to ensure there is not confusion in the event of an emergency. Please do not send in an older child to collect your child as the staff team can only release the children to an authorised adult. In exceptional circumstances arrangements can be negotiated prior to the event.

Catastrophic forecast days

This kindergarten will be closed on days which have a weather forecast of Catastrophic. This will be advertised by the CFS the afternoon prior and Cynthia will be advised by the education department that the kindergarten should be closed. You will be sent a text message on your mobile phone to inform you of this and Cynthia asks that you respond to this message, otherwise she will need to ring you as well. Please can you ensure that the Bushfire questionnaire has been returned to the kindergarten.

"Shared Fruit"

Although 'Shared Fruit' is advertised as part of our curriculum it will not be happening until further notice due to the Covid policies. Currently there is a fruit fly outbreak in certain suburbs in Adelaide but this does not affect Hawthorndene at this time, however it does affect suburbs surrounding Hawthorndene so please read the attached notice for information about how this may affect you or your extended family.

First Governing Council Meeting for 2021 Wednesday Feb 10th 7:30pm

Would you like to contribute your ideas about how your child will be nurtured and supported to develop their early literacy and numeracy skills and learn to socialise and share with new friends? You are your child's first teachers and the staff team are keen to work with you to continuously improve the kindergarten facilities and curriculum program. You will have the opportunity to view and comment on the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) which has been compiled for this year and have further information on how the staff team will work with your children each day to support their development. Come along and share your suggestions, listen to the ideas of the staff team and other parents and get to know the rest of the kindergarten community, have a night off from your parenting responsibilities if you are able.

Family Visiting Night---Asian New Year Welcome Night—Wed Feb 17th 6:30--7:30pm

This year we will need to limit the numbers attending, due to the current restrictions. Therefore only parents and kindergarten children and their younger siblings may attend this event, no older siblings or extended family may attend. Please keep your family together during the time you are at the kindergarten. It will also be necessary to practice social distancing between adults who are not in your family unit and use the sanitiser provided as well as sign in using the QR code or the attendance list. We will have some interesting Asian activities for the children to do with adult supervision, and opportunities for everyone to practice writing in different languages using different alphabets. Our usual Dragon Dance finale will be adapted to meet the current restrictions but we hope you will still be able to enjoy a special time with your children and the staff team. There will be no food at this event.

Everyone is encouraged to wear the traditional attire of their own culture, along with the staff team, if you are able. If you don't have another culture which you connect with you may like to wear red as this is considered a happy colour in Asia.

Snack suggestions for kindy

- We suggest that fruit is a good choice for your child's snack, however we understand that is not so for some children, and for those affected by the current fruit fly restrictions this will not be possible. Perhaps some dried fruit, vegie sticks/ cherry tomatoes will be suitable or rice crackers, dried crackers or pretzels.
- There are lots of suitable options however, it would be appreciated if you would please not send yoghurt for a morning snack. Despite its dietary benefits, it is difficult for children to manage on the steps where we eat out fruit, and a spill is not only messy but also dangerous for some children due to allergies.
- As there are some children with food allergies, remember our No Nuts policy, this includes packaged foods which may have been prepared in factories where nut products were processed. Please check the labels as these products will not be allowed for the safety of all.
- Pre Packaged snack /processed foods high sugar and fat, including chips, chocolate and LCM Bars, and sweets will be sent home as an after kindy treat as they are not in line with our Healthy Eating policy and indirectly put pressure on other children and their families. If you would like to give your child treat as a reward for a long day at kindy, perhaps a swing in the park, or walk together is a healthier option.
- Water is the only liquid for the children's drink bottles as this is recommended as a preferred option for protecting children's teeth, and cordials or juice can make a sticky mess when spilled which attracts ants. Your child can always fill their drink bottle from the water container provided, and we can supply a cup if they leave their bottle/cup at home.

Kindy Fees

Kindy invoices will be emailed to you shortly so please could you pay them as soon as possible so they can be finalised by our voluntary treasurer (please let Cynthia know if you do not receive an invoice). One term's fees are \$155 but you may like to pay all of the term fees at one time which will amount to \$620 this would be most appreciated. If you need to pay this term's fees over a few weeks please speak with Cynthia to arrange this.

Star our Kindy Budgie....

needs a loving family to look after her each weekend, add your name to the list on the art cupboard if you can help with this care. You don't need special training or licences and all equipment, food etc is provided.

Washing Roster

Here is another way you can show your support of the kindergarten program. The staff team really appreciate your efforts. We have smocks and towels which need a wash each weekend, so don't miss your chance to help with this task, apply to a staff member now you don't need any extra training just pop them in with your normal wash.

Sreyne Soeurn—Sponsor Child in Cambodia—

This kindergarten supports the education and wellbeing of a young girl in Cambodia named Sreyne Soeurn through the World Vision organisation. She is 5 years old and lives with her mother in a village. We believe this is an important part of our curriculum in supporting the children to gain an understanding of diversity and of others who are less fortunate with material goods than ourselves. We will learn about her progress and her lifestyle together as well as general information about

Cambodia from time to time. Later we will share details of how we can raise the money for her support together. In past years we have held a regular Market Week which we hope to do again but at this time it is not possible, so this is an activity which we are putting on hold.

Emailing of newsletter:

Emailing the newsletter saves paper and time however some parents may wish to have a hard copy to read later please let the staff team know if you would prefer a hard copy and we can print it out for you. There will be some available in the plastic sleeve above the Learning Journal table at the front entrance. If you would like extended family members to receive a copy to enable them to keep up with what is happening at kindergarten please speak with Cynthia.

Take Home Box

If your child is looking for a special art work that has not been displayed, check the " Take Home" box under the spot board table. (However, it is cleared at the end of each Friday, if you would like something special kept longer on a Thursday, say, til the next week, let staff know)

Literacy Hint:

Next time you are using a recipe / instruction booklet show your child the words, numbers and steps involved. They may even be able to help you in your task, and make the need for literacy purposeful.

**Our Best Wishes for a great term of learning together in play,
Cynthia Meredith, Louise Montesi, Tess Gibbs, Lenka Velisek and Crystal Morphett.**