



Newsletter

WEEK 8 TERM 1: 16th March 2021



Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear Everyone,

There has been some great learning at kindy recently but we are still encouraging the children to discover each other's names, simply by asking each other. This is a skill that for some, takes time but is really important in building relationships with others. One of the ways we encourage this is with 'Partner Painting' where one child who is keen to paint asks another to join them in the activity, most of the paintings thus far have simply been two children painting on the same large sheet of brown paper but as this activity continues through the year often there emerges a joint theme where a theme or idea is taken on by both children and their painting overlaps.

The staff team have been listening and observing the children using mathematical language in their play and supporting them to extend their thinking as well as developing their theories. Our literacy focus is to extend their skills through book making and some children have already started expressing their ideas visually by making a book. We will be showing the children the way in which authors construct story books as well as information texts and how books are compiled. We have also been exploring some of the symbols which Aboriginal people used to record stories and important information for living. These records were often painted on rock walls and help nonindigenous Australians understand and appreciate more of Aboriginal history and their story writing.

Many of the children have brought in their family posters and been able to share some of their own story with their peers and adults. It has been great to see the way even those children who have seemed quite retiring have 'stepped up' and shown enthusiasm in presenting.

Our excursions to the Kaurna Cultural Centre added to everyone's knowledge and understanding of the first Australians and I hope the children have shared some of their learning with you. This is a continuing focus of our learning journey together.

The staff team are looking forward to having the new fast speed wireless internet connected very soon which will enable connectivity in the outdoor learning area and complement our work with the children. Over the past few weeks several workers have come and gone and all tell us that the next one will be able to connect us so hopefully that will be very soon, this is an initiative of the education department, there is also a programme to update all of our IT equipment shortly.

I look forward to sharing more of the improvements to the kindergarten environment at the upcoming Kindergarten AGM this week, the details are on the next page.

Kind regards, Cynthia Meredith

Diary Dates

Kindergarten Governing Council
AGM Wed March 17th 7:30pm

Special guest speaker
Matt Haslett

How can I support my child in a
positive transition to school?
7:30pm- short talk then short
meeting---9pm

Family Funtastics Celebrations
Days

Wed 7th April & Thurs 8th April
Visitors at 10:30am

Regular Events

Fridays

Playgroup 9:30-11:30am
All preschool children welcome

AGM Kindy Governing Council Meeting for 2021 Wednesday March 17th

Please make this meeting a priority on your calendar. Matt Haslett, Behaviour Coach for Mitcham Hills Partnership of which Hawthorndene Kindergarten is part, will be our guest speaker sharing about how to give your child a good transition from kindergarten to school. At this meeting we need to appoint the executive officers for 2021, **Chairperson, Secretary, Voluntary Treasurer 2021, HPS Representative, Literacy/Lending Library Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinators, Grounds and Working Bee Coordinators**. There are also some general committee positions. This is a great chance to get to know the staff team and understand some of the behind the scenes working of the kindergarten as well as get to know some of the other parents in a more relaxed format. I hope to see you there! Come at 7:15pm and enjoy a coffee and supper before Matt's talk at 7:30pm the rest of the meeting will not be lengthy and should be well finished by 9pm. If you would like to volunteer for the above positions before the meeting please speak with Cynthia today.

Kindy Fees

Please could you finalise your account as soon as possible. If you have trouble paying on line please check the numbers on the account notice. You may still pay in cash by placing the money in an envelope and placing this in the butterfly box on the kitchen counter (ask a staff member if you are unsure of the where this is). 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.

Belair Men's Shed

A big thankyou to the Belair Men's Shed volunteers who recently donated some balance bikes to the kindergarten. They are smaller than the ones we already have and this is useful for some of the smaller children to get started on the bike track.

Recycle bottles need emptying

As mentioned in the previous newsletter the kindergarten is trying to find ways to recycle, reduce, repair and reuse resources to support the environment and one way is to collect 10cent deposit containers. Our large blue bin is now nearly full and a volunteer is needed to take the containers to the recycle depot for the deposit money. Is there anyone who can support our programme by doing this important task?

Family Funtastics Fundraising Days

This year we are planning to hold our Annual Family Funtastics Days with health considerations in place. We are requesting that only one family adult member attends (younger siblings are welcome) so that social distancing can be maintained with the adults. This year there will be two Funtastics Family Fundraising Days. Wednesday 7^h April and Thursday 8th April so that all of the children will be able to demonstrate their gross and fine motor skills as they move around the obstacle course 4 times (laps). Families are encouraged to ask their extended family and friends to sponsor their child for each lap of the course. The money raised will be used to fund a special dance program in term 2. *Sponsorship form is at end of the newsletter.*

The day starts at the normal time for the children so that they can have a chance to try out the course before their cheer squad (parent/carer) arrives. Spectators are asked to arrive at 10:30am. The staff team and volunteer helpers construct the course early on the first morning and it is left up for the second day. To ensure the safety of the children and the success of the event we need parent volunteers to supervise some of the activities on the day so that the children can be

