



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

Robyn's News

PG. 3

What have we been learning?

PG. 4

Governing Council News

5 & 6

Snippets



Belonging



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Diary Dates

Term 1 2021

March 4 th	Stay and Play
March 8 th	Public Holiday
March 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	My Child and Me parent course 7pm
March 18 th	Harmony Day
March 23 rd & 31 st	Mobile Junkyard
April 7 th	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens excursion
	Last day of Term 1
FUTURE DATES	Term 2 starts April 27 th May 5 th - Mother's Night May 19 th - Curriculum Night May 26 th - Magic Beach Excursion

Robyn's News

At our recent pupil free day, staff had the opportunity to finalize our Quality Improvement Plan for 2021. In the plan there are 2 main goals, which I will share with you over the next 2 newsletters.

Preschool Quality Improvement Plan Goal 1

Children will increase their capacity to take risks and self-regulate so they can successfully engage in their learning and quality interactions.

What is self-regulation & why is it important? Self-regulation is the ability to manage our own emotions, behaviour and thoughts in a range of situations. To be successful in learning, children need to be able to self-regulate (that is do it themselves, not have someone do it for them).

What about 'taking risks'? We continually encourage children to take 'safe risks' at preschool giving them the opportunity to succeed independently and develop the confidence that they are capable learners.

How will we do this? One of the ways we can do this is by modelling – through our behaviour and by describing some of our strategies and thought processes. This includes getting 'stuck' and reflecting on strategies that helped us succeed. We encourage children to 'try 3 before me'- 1) think, persist 2) ask a friend to help 3) ask an adult.

The most important step in all of this is that children have a sense of Belonging.

By developing a sense of Belonging in each child they will gradually develop the confidence to trust the staff, their environment and themselves, which will allow them to self-regulate and to step out of their comfort zone (take risks).

From our philosophy statement Belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong. (E.Y.L.F, 2009)

We Believe,



body and spirit.

- In the diversity of **families** in our community and that each family has the right to a service responsive to their individual needs.
- That **families** are children's first and most influential educators and staff are committed to working in partnership with parents and the community to ensure a safe, welcoming, stimulating and relaxed learning environment.
- That **effective communication and trusting relationships** support the development of each child's social skills.
- That each child has the right to a learning environment that engages their heart, mind,

As you can see- the families of our Centre play a vital role in attaining our Goal. As staff, we also want parents to have a sense of Belonging and we are providing a number of opportunities for you to engage with us over the next few weeks.

Stay and Play is a new initiative this year. Each term, in week 6 we are inviting parents to stay and play between 9 & 10am. We would love to see you next Thursday for our first Stay and Play- but don't worry- if you are unable to make it there will be 3 more opportunities this year.

My Child and Me is a FREE Parenting SA workshop which will be offered over 3 evenings at the Kindy. The topics covered include

- Brain & child development
- Understanding behaviour
- Parenting styles
- Positive approaches to guiding children's behaviour

You can register your interest with staff, dates are on the front page of the newsletter

We are excited to watch the development of children and relationships over the year as we learn and grow together.

Robyn



Our Learning

How wonderful it is to have all our friends back at kindy!! 😊



BELONGING – Experiencing belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and a wider community. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become. (EYLF, 2009)

It is for this reason that for the most part of term one, we spend a great deal of time, building relationships with, and getting to know our pre-schoolers. We have been gathering information from each other and celebrating each other's uniqueness.

All of this, supporting children's sense of belonging and helping them form positive self-identities to approach their learning.

We have been delighted to watch this group of children embracing their preschool experiences, reaching out and beginning to form friendships, explore their interests and adjust to the many new routines and transitions throughout the day.

We have noticed lots of imaginative play amongst the children and many of them engaging in collaborative play and constructions already.

Other highlights of the term so far have included,

- ❖ Our first family picnic.
- ❖ Our incredible ice cream shop play
- ❖ Gardening and harvesting in the Huerto (Vegetable garden)
- ❖ Sharing in Chinese New Year celebrations
- ❖ Cooking pancakes, playdough, ice cream and dumplings!
- ❖ Exciting sea animal research with real life artefacts

We have so much to look forward to for the rest of the term and year ahead. But for now, we are happy getting to know each other and our awesome play space here at Woodside Preschool. Sayonara, Kathy, Jodie & Jane. 😊



Quick reminders

Lunch boxes and fruit –don't forget that fruit needs to be placed in children's bags and not in their lunch box. We know those Bento boxes are fantastic with all of their individual compartments, but please keep fruit out of them. We encourage children to independently access their fruit when they are ready for it (with some gentle reminders) and if their fruit is buried under 30 lunchboxes in a big tub it can be quite tricky for them to get to it. If you are unsure of our healthy eating policy it is available for you to check on the preschool website. The main points are that we don't allow nuts, chocolate or confectionary.

Library Books– Thank you so much for supporting our Library Borrowing, it is an important part of our Literacy Programme. Library borrowing is on **Tuesdays** and we need both the library book and the library bag returned together. Children aren't able to borrow another book if we don't have their library bag.

Governing Council

Thank you to everyone who attended our Family Tea and AGM a few weeks ago.

We would particularly like to thank our new Governing Council. We look forward to working together throughout the year.

Members of this year's Governing Council are:

President– Tom Lord

Secretary–Becc Tanner

Treasurer– Stephanie Robinson

Members–Zoe Berwick

Bonnie McShane (Playgroup Rep)

Karla Marshall

Julie Gontar

Laura Giadresco

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th March at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings, with only members able to vote.