



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

From the Director

PG. 3

What have we been learning?

PG. 4

Occasional Care

5 & 6

Governing Council News

Snippets



www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au

dl.4676_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

12 Moffet St Woodside 5244

83897103

0409684855



Diary Dates

Week 6 Term 2 2020

May27-June3rd	Reconciliation Week
June	
8th	Queen's Birthday Holiday
9th & 16th	Mobile Junkyard
23rd	Pupil Free Day
24th	Governing Council meeting
1st July	Last day of Term- Disco
FUTURE DATES	Term3 starts July 21 st Pupil Free Day- Sept 2nd

Robyn's News

WOW! What else can this year throw at us?

One of our Learning Goals for Woodside Preschool children this year is '*Children will increase their capacity to take risks and self-regulate so they can successfully engage in their learning*'. It is interesting to note that this goal was set at the end of 2019- well before Bushfires and COVID19!

At our Curriculum Information Night- way back in March- we shared with the parents the focus we place on children developing Dispositions for Learning. You will have noticed in the Statements of Learning and Sharing Books sent home at the beginning of term that we have reflected on each child's development of Learning Dispositions.

When children are comfortable to take risks in a safe environment and when they are able to manage their responses, emotions and reactions (self-regulate) we help children know who they are and how they feel.

In 2020 we have had the opportunity to see firsthand why it is so important for children to have these skills. Our priority throughout this year has been on creating hope for the future, being positive in our ability to manage challenges and controlling the things we can control.

So, what have we learnt from COVID19?

- **Children are able to manage changes when they are supported by trusted adults.**

As a staff team we tried to minimize the number of changes to routines and ensured that staff were in place to help children through those changes (drop off, pick up routines in particular). They have taken each new challenge on board and grown in independence and ability to take responsibility for themselves.

Strategies such as our cuddle toy shelf, increased focus on mindfulness and relaxation techniques and consistent routines continues to support the individual needs of each child and provides them with ways to manage their emotions and responses.

- **Children rely on adults to convey confidence**

When we as adults are confident in the choices and decisions we make and are consistent in our approaches, children learn that while the world around them may be changing, they can rely on those they trust to guide them through. Through this, they learn how to regulate their own responses.

When we instill confidence in each child's ability to manage, they will give it a go!

- **Being outside all day is not that bad!**

Towards the end of Term 1 when we began to spend as much time as possible outside (as per health advice and to minimize time spent cleaning rather than teaching) we needed to keep the doors closed to 'enforce' this change. Now (6-7 weeks down the track) our doors are constantly open and children rarely venture inside, even when cold and rainy! We are moving towards a few more indoor activities and have recently had heaters installed on our verandah to support the impending winter, but staff are planning on buying more thermals as we feel that most children will continue to spend a lot of time outside.



As we have previously mentioned- ***we will not ask anything of children that we are not confident they can handle.***

You will have received a letter with your child's Statement of Learning asking for your feedback and providing an opportunity for you to request a Sharing Meeting with staff if you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's progress with staff members. ***If you haven't returned or have misplaced this form please let us know ASAP so we can plan our meeting times.***

If you have any concerns around how your child is managing the challenges of this year, we would encourage you to request a Sharing Meeting so we can support you with this.



Robyn

Our Learning

After all of the uncertainty and changes we experienced last term, kindy is now feeling a lot more normal. The children are so happy to be back in their safe place. They are rekindling old friendships, working together and getting busy with the important job of learning through play. We have been impressed with how well every child has managed the changes we have had to put into place. The children have certainly developed their resilience, adaptability and flexibility over the past few months!

Woodside Preschool prides itself in being an “All-Weather Centre”, and we have definitely experienced all types of weather this term! We’ve thoroughly enjoyed spending so much time outside in the fresh air, exploring and interacting with the environment. The cold, frost, wind and rain hasn’t slowed us down one bit! Being outside has provided us with many opportunities to extend our awareness and appreciation of nature. We’ve delighted in watching Autumn leaves blow off trees and flutter to the ground; we’ve felt the cold air on our faces and hands and discovered ways to warm our bodies; we’ve watched the storm clouds roll in and felt the rain fall; we’ve observed puddles forming and had great fun splashing in them. This is all valuable learning that could not be experienced if we spent our days inside.



Some curriculum highlights over the past five weeks have been :



- **Campfire Kindy** – We discussed fire safety and bonded with each other as we drank warm milo around the campfire.
- **National Volunteer Week** – We decorated the kindy fence with red streamers, ribbons and butterflies to show our appreciation for all of the volunteers that help our community.



- **Mindfulness Cubby** – We transformed our cubby house into a quiet, cosy space where we can go to calm down, self-regulate, relax and think.
- **Rhyming** – We have enjoyed reading the “Pig the Pug” series and other humorous books, which has extended our understandings of rhyme and rhythm.
- **Flag Making** – We explored the concepts of shape, size and position by designing our own flags and participated in a flag marching parade.
- **Mother’s Day** – We celebrated our Mums and showed appreciation for everything they do for us (we hope you enjoyed your hand-made Mother’s Day gifts!)
- **Number Awareness** – We searched for hidden numbers in the kindy yard and discussed what we know about our favourite numbers.
- **Making Potato People** – We read the book “The Potato People” by Pamela Allen and created our own potato people using potatoes and collage materials.
- **Kindness** – We have explored ways that we can be kind and helpful at kindy and at home.



We have our fingers crossed that we will soon be able to resume our excursions into the local community e.g. Going on local walks, visiting Woodside Primary School and Bush Kindy visits. Hopefully we won’t have to wait too much longer!!

Thank you for all of your support. Take care and stay safe, Jodie, Kathy, Jane and Jo 😊

Occasional Care



Thank you to all Occasional Care parents for their support as we have navigated our way through this first term back with Covid-19 restrictions. We continue to review our practices and discuss what is working and what isn't. Obviously, the most challenging parts of the session are the drop off and pick up, but we feel we are starting to get a handle on these. The good news is, the children are coping amazingly well during the sessions. We have been blown away by their resilience and confidence to tackle new challenges and make the most of their opportunities. All the children engage in a range of activities and are making new friends, developing independence and learning lots about personal hygiene practices and how to keep themselves safe. All these skills will stand them in good stead as they continue to grow and develop. We have noted on the above diagram some of the ways we think Occasional Care is building children's resilience during these unprecedented times. It is interesting to read the full article that is referenced on the diagram.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's time at Occasional Care please have a chat to us. We are trying to make this more possible at pick up time or please just give us a call to have a chat.

Jane Tash Kylie



<https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/healthy-homes/building-resilience>

Governing Council

Governing Council have been challenged by the COVID19 restrictions, as we all have. We did however manage to have our first face to face meeting last week- after lots of number counting to ensure we didn't breach any regulations.

At that meeting Robyn provided an update on our progress towards our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan, financial statements were passed and some discussion around fundraising were had.

Given the challenging start our community had to 2020 we had already discussed the possibility of only having a few smaller fundraising events throughout the year- with perhaps a Preschool Community function later in the year if possible.

We have already held one raffle for a trailer load of fire wood with \$500 donated to Woodside CFS following that raffle. We now have another trailer load of wood to raffle (Thanks to the Beltrame Family). **We will be selling Lucky Squares at pick up and drop off time for \$5 each- there is a 1 in 200 chance of winning for each ticket purchased.** Look for the lucky squares from this week- you can also transfer funds online- numbers will be allocated once funds have been cleared. We will put all information on our Facebook site soon.

Governing Council also approved **Pupil Free Days for June 23rd and September 2nd**- there will be no preschool sessions on those days.

Snippets

Child Youth Health Screenings

As with so many things, Child Youth Health Screenings for 4-year olds will be done a little differently for the rest of this year. There is a Parent Information Sheet available (emailed out with Newsletter). Please see staff for more information or questions.

SA Health Childhood Illnesses poster

SA Health have produced a very clear poster with the most common childhood illness and any exclusion periods that apply for them. This has been emailed to families and is also available at the Centre if you have misplaced yours.

COVID 19

No email would be complete without an update on COVID19.

We would really like to thank everyone for their response to any illness this term. We have greatly appreciated the fact that families are making the wise choice to keep their children home if they show any signs of being unwell, even if it is 'just a cold'. Please keep it up- if we suspect children of being on site unwell, we do need to send them home immediately.

Although regulations are beginning to relax, our procedures will remain in place until we receive any updated information from the Government. Social distancing and the 1 person per 4sq metre rule still applies to all adults on site.

Can you help with our Shed?

We have a partially made garden shed that needs to be completed. If anyone is keen to take on the challenge please let us know.

Once complete we will be looking to sell the shed as it doesn't fit in the place we bought it for- once again, if interested, make us an offer.

Lunch Times

In Term 1 children learnt our lunch care song which is:

'Heads and shoulder, lunches and drinks

Lunches and drinks

Lunches and drinks,

Heads and shoulders, lunches and drinks

We all clap hands together.

Heads and shoulders, lunches and drinks

Lunches and drinks,

Lunches and drinks.

Heads and shoulders, lunches and drinks

We all fold hands together.



This term, now that we have everyone back on board, the children have begun learning the song in Spanish.

They will learn the song part by part over the next few terms.

So far they have learnt the words for heads, which is cabeza, and for shoulders, which is hombros.

Next week the children will learn the words for lunches and drinks

Cabeza, hombros lunches and drinks...

Why not ask your child to sing the lunch care song to you on the weekend before they have lunch?

Denise & Tash

