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# NEWSLETTER

Dear Families

This term we have welcomed many new relief educators - Sam Gray, Cheryl Pullman, Donna Buckley and Renee Mellor. Barbara Cassen-Green will join us next week. Kristy Jacobs has returned as a second year university student and Stacey Martin, who had a child here last year, is working as a volunteer one day per fortnight. What a wealth of experience, ideas and knowledge to build on our team work.

As a Director I have many leadership meetings that are compulsory. On any given day we can usually ensure there are always two familiar educators. We are very lucky to have Catherine here every day for relaxation and lunch care. The children have responded really well to our new educators and delight in sharing their discoveries and knowledge. Continuity of educators is important for children's sense of security and having two regular educators and one relief educator has worked well.

It is with sadness for us but excitement for Jen we have just found out that she has been offered a teaching position and accepted. We have been very lucky to have a teacher working in an ECW role and have appreciated everything that Jen has brought to the kindergarten, particularly her calm nature, which really supported anxious children when they first started.

Jen will be in the teaching position next Tuesday with Renee as relief ECW as I am travelling to Perth for my daughter's baby shower. This will be Jen's last day. I will be back next Wednesday. Donna and Renee will be the ECWs for the last two weeks of term and I will let you know who is appointed as ECW for Term 2 as soon as possible.

Regards  
Cathy



## Governing Council

At the AGM the following members were elected:

Chairperson: Dallis Von Wald (Parent 2018)  
Secretary: Kelli - Ann Maddern (Lucas)  
Treasurer: Stacey Martin (Parent 2018)  
Members: Sabina Schaare (Louie)  
Luke Sutton (Joel)  
Cathy Frost

What a great group but we really need more current parent representation to share the load and to ensure we always have a quorum at meetings. Please let Cathy know if you can join.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm.



## Quality Improvement Plan

Each year public education schools and kindergartens develop an Improvement Plan which outlines how they will ensure the best possible learning environments for students. Kindergartens are assessed every three years to ensure they meet National Quality Standards. In 2017 we received a rating of Exceeding.

We developed our plan on our closure day and I will send it to you electronically for comment. We have 3 major priorities this year:

- Children will become visible learners that use oral language confidently to share their knowledge, thoughts, ideas and understandings.
- Children will develop an awareness of diversity in our community and develop empathy, respect and care for others

- Families will feel supported in their parenting role

Please let us know if you have any ideas for building on the strategies we have defined and if you think there are other areas we need to improve in. The full document which outlines all of our strengths is 21 pages ! - please let me know if you would like me to send it to you for bedtime reading.

### Occasional Care and Playgroup

The Governing Council decided last year that to open up our kindergarten and be more visible in the local community we would introduce Occasional Care and Playgroup in 2019.

Occasional Care will operate for 3 year olds from this week on Tuesdays from 12.30-3.00 pm for \$10.

Playgroup will begin next term from Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9.30-11.30 pm. Parents and children of all ages are welcome. Please let friends in the area know about these new services.

### Donations for old books and resources

We are cleaning out old toy library resources which we do not require and they will be under the verendah to take for a gold coin donation which will go towards new resources.

### Help

We need:

- Icecream containers
- Small cane baskets and wooden boxes if you have any that you no longer use
- Small glass jars with lids and the labels off for a project next term

### Literacy packs

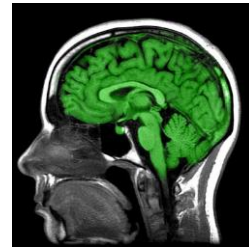
We hope that the children have enjoyed the literacy packs that we sent home in the calico bags. Raising Literacy Australia is seeking feedback about the packs to support their application for funding next year. Could you please let Cathy know via text or email how they have supported children's listening and enjoyment of books.

Please remember you can always read a book to children when you arrive at kindergarten in the morning - you will soon have a crowd gathered.

## Curriculum News - What we are learning

### **Growth mindset**

The children have been introduced to the concept of 'Growth mindset' through a puppet play which shares a message of perseverance, taking on challenges, keep practising and not giving up. You need a 'green brain' to do this and this is a visual clue for the children. It is also important that they understand that it's okay to make mistakes as this leads to learning.



Each day a 'Lead Learner ' is chosen to organise routines e.g. calling out children's names to go and wash their hands, setting up for lunch, making decisions about how the day runs etc. This supports children to have confidence in their abilities, care for others and the environment and learn new skills.

### **Safety**

Each term we practice our invacuation and evacuation procedures. We explain clearly to the children that this is a 'pretend' emergency', the need to respond quickly to the signal and listen to the roll call etc. They did a great job at our first practise.

### **Sustainability**

We have been very impressed with children's limited packaging in their lunch boxes. The soft plastic that is used is being collected for the Redcycle scheme at both Woolworths and Coles. Did you know you can collect all your soft packages - biscuit packets, chip packets, yoghurt pouches (providing they have the lid on) etc and drop them off at these supermarkets in the bins provided. The plastic is used to make furniture, bollards, signs etc. Google [www.redcycle.net.au](http://www.redcycle.net.au) for more information. The only thing we can't recycle is gladwrap so if you can avoid using this it would be great.

We have watched you - tube videos on recycling and the children have a toy garbage truck and bins to sort items into. We recycle all paper here and the

children assist to sort it and transfer it to the large yellow bin.

## Diary Dates

### Recovering our display boards Saturday April 6th

Shaun McBeath ( Lily and Henry's dad) has kindly offered to recover our display boards with new hessian. We also would like to remove the potato vine at the back of the yard as it is toxic. Now that the children have the mud kitchen we like them to be able to use all of the plant life in the garden for this and other projects.

Please let Cathy know if you would be available to help.

### Excursion to Gorge Wildlife Park



Our big day out for Term 1 will be a trip to Gorge Wildlife Park. The children will be able to view a range of animals, both native and exotic, feed the animals and pat a koala and a snake!

We will need three parent helpers, with one to drive their car there as a back up vehicle (22 km). Please let Cathy know via text if you would like to join us. The cost of the excursion will be \$7 entry for children and \$10 for adults.

Kindergarten will pay for the animal food and bus fare. Consent forms will be sent out soon.

### Professional Photos



The Governing Council has decided to contract Bridget Quain who is a local Hills photographer for this years photos. She comes highly recommended from Bridgewater kindergarten. She will photograph over two sessions - Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the package is \$35.

### Bunning Sausage Sizzle Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>



This is our most lucrative fund raiser and it's also lots of fun. Helpers are rostered on for 3 hours and we also ask for donations. Please fill out the roster that will be on the gate or text Cathy your availability 8-11 am, 11 am - 2.00 pm or 2.00 - 5.00 pm. Unfortunately you are unable to bring children for safety reasons. Family members other than parents are welcome to be included, in fact Lily and Henry's grandpa is the first name on the roster!

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It's not only children who grow.  
Parents do too. As much as we  
watch to see what our children  
do with their lives, they are  
watching us to see what we do  
with ours. I can't tell my children  
to reach for the sun. All I can do  
is reach for it, myself.

~Joyce Maynard