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NEWSLETTER

Dear Families

What an exciting term this will be for the children as they begin their transition to school. No doubt they will share their excitement after visits and will build on the connections they have with the children that are going to their school with them. We have talked to the children about being 'brave' as although this transition is exciting, the change can also cause anxiety.

You will see some new faces from Tuesday November 6th when the 2019 children transition to kindergarten. Our children will be their leaders and mentors. They are always so welcoming when any new children visit our site, we know that they will be great role models.

It is great to have Catherine Martin as a team member. You won't see her often as she is only here during the middle of the day but we can assure you that the children have responded warmly to her and she has a wealth of knowledge and ideas.

We look forward to working with you and the children for their final term of kindergarten.

Regards

Cathy, Julie and Catherine



Important Diary Dates

Wednesday 31st of October
Governing Council Meeting

6.30 pm
All welcome

Wednesday 31st October
Planting with Adelaide Hills Council

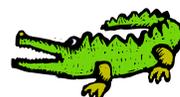
To ensure that the children can make full use of our beautiful garden - to explore, touch, smell and use plants for the mud kitchen, the Governing Council voted to remove all of the toxic plants. A replanting project will take place with Tonia from the Adelaide Hills Council and we would love parents to join us at 10.30 am. Fifty plants is a lot of work and the children thrive on working alongside adults. The Courier will be visiting that morning to prepare an article on our community involvement this year.



Saturday 3rd of November 3.00 pm
80th Birthday Celebration Oakbank Area School

Oakbank Area School will be celebrating their 80th anniversary. The school started in our beautiful building 160 years ago and we will have a display to commemorate the school's beginning at our site. We would love some old items to highlight the display - Cathy has a washboard, bean cutter and meat mincer. Does anyone have anything that they could loan to us? It would be in the library at school for a week. We hope that you will visit the school for the celebration - we will be selling our plant raffle tickets and promoting the kindergarten.

Wednesday 21st of November
Excursion to Gorge Wildlife Park



Our big day out for Term 4 will be a trip to Gorge Wildlife Park. The children will be able to view a

range of animals, both native and exotic. The children will be able to 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 \$10. Consent forms will be sent out soon.

Performance at Kindergarten

As an end of year treat we will be having a performance at kindergarten - either a puppet show or science show. The cost will be no more than \$10 - the Kindergarten will once again subsidise the booking fee. The Reception class from Oakbank Area School will join us. We will let you know when arrangements have been finalised. Probable dates are Tuesday 27th or Thursday 29th of November.

Wednesday December 5th 6.30 pm End of Year family celebration

This is always a fun and relaxing event when all of our families come together to celebrate their child's year at kindergarten. We ask that everyone bring a plate of savoury and dessert to share. Entertainment will be provided by our amazing children who will share some of their favourite songs.

Thankyou to:

- Stacey Martin for researching the history of the school at our site and providing resources for the display
- Peter Mockli and Stacey Martin for assembling our new TV cabinet - great problem solving skills
- The Millington family for once again frog-sitting Bernard in the holidays
- Stacey Martin for preparing our vegetable patches

Fees

Just a reminder that fees are due by this Wednesday November 7th. If your fees are in arrears please see Cathy about payment arrangements. We need to finalise all fee payments by the end of term.

Fundraising

Pictureproducts

If you placed a Pictureproduct order please place the money in a named envelope with the correct amount of

money and place it in the fees box. The order should arrive early December.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Bunnings has offered us the opportunity to provide another Sausage Sizzle on Friday November 30th. Unfortunately children are not allowed in the barbecue area but please consider volunteering for a three hour shift if you are able to have your children cared for. We will also ask for donations of soft drinks.



Gardening Raffle

Tickets for our Gardening Hamper raffle will be on sale at Oakbank Area School next weekend and we will continue to sell them until the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle and draw it on that day. Please let Cathy know if you can take a book of tickets to sell to family and friends.



We appreciate the support we have had for fundraisers this year and we have bought many new resources in anticipation of us raising the \$3,000 we budgeted for - only \$600 to go.

Curriculum News

Resources moved to create new learning play spaces

It has been interesting to note that these simple changes have led to enriched play exploration by the children with resources previously having limited use. The natural adjunct area inside and blocks positioned outside under the verandah have now seen many of the children engaged in either independent or socially shared deep problem-solving and imaginative constructions. Numeracy skills are being developed in spatial planning, weight transference / balance, while Literacy skills are too through the shared communication in decision making and building together to create a successful outcome. They have all learnt to put up a 'STOP' sign next to their design, to keep it for further additions or alterations later on, which all the other children do respect. Well done!

New Routines

These have been deliberately implemented to further develop the children's independence skills and confidence in preparation for transitioning to school next year.

- **Sign-in sheet:** Need to recognize their name amongst all the children's listed, find which day or column to write in and record their name in a smaller defined area.
- **Fruit & lunchbox:** Independently collect and then select their fruit, placing their lunchbox into a crate ready for lunchtime. Make a decision whether to keep a snack available for the afternoon.

They have certainly amazed us at the quick time it has taken for them to learn this without much support at all. And there you were parents mostly all having to do it for them previously into the baskets set out in the morning! They are indeed competent and capable children. What growth!

Music and Culture:

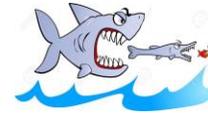
Cathy has introduced two new songs /games connected to Africa after the children's enjoyment of 'Handa's Surprise'. One is a dance called 'Che Che Kule' and the other a rhythmic drumming 'hide and seek' game. So much fun and future musicians and drummers in the making.



Ocean Life:

Last term the children were asked what they would like to learn about in Term 4 and several mentioned a sea creature. A variety of open-ended experiences have been set up and through the song "A sailor went to sea" we ascertained their prior knowledge of things that they knew lived in the ocean. Please check out the Big Book of Learning as you will be amazed at the breadth of sea animals they already know, wow! We will further this learning through video clips of real life sea animals and research any questions together with them as they come up. Books such as 'The Rainbow Fish', "Commotion in the Ocean", 'Shark in the Park' and 'A shell for the Hermit Crab' plus interactive songs like 'Slippery fish', A sailor went to

sea', 'Baby Shark' and '3 jelly fish' will support learning about ocean life.



Science Experiments:

Keep a watch out for these over the next few weeks. Currently there are 2 jars being carefully observed - one with plastic and the other with food scraps to investigate whether plastic breaks down. The children are now recycling clean, soft plastic at kindergarten for the Redcycle scheme at both Woolworths and Coles. Did you know you can collect all your soft package, biscuit packets, chip packets etc and drop them off here at these supermarkets. The plastic is used to make furniture, bollards, signs etc. Google www.redcycle.net.au for more information.

There will also be a colour run experiment soon where the children are asked to make a prediction (primary colours mixing to form new secondary colours) and then a lolly 'skittles' experiment in milk with a careful observational record of results being drawn by the children.

Gardening:

The children have planted the sunflowers that they propagated last term and eagerly await their growth. We have been decorating wreaths under the verandah with flowers from the garden and we would love them to bring in some from home.

HELP Is there anyone who could program our sprinkler system?

Parent Resources

If you would like to find some ideas for enjoying literacy/numeracy experiences at home particularly in the long holiday break before school starts got to: www.education.sa.gov.au - Parenting and Child-Care - Greatstart - Everyday learning for literacy/numeracy