



Phone 8388 4141
 Mobile 0419 506 872
 Email
 dl.4645.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families

What a great start to the year! The children have come with varied experiences of being in group settings, and are all managing the routines exceptionally well. There have been many special connection moments enjoyed already together. We look forward to sharing with you their rapid growth, development and joy of exploration at our beautiful site this year.

Julie is excited to back at this truly wonderful learning environment and is relishing the opportunity to take on the leadership role as Director. Thank you for the warm welcome as it has been lovely meeting many of you as you have dropped in over the last two weeks with your child. Three families Julie already knows from her teaching time here in 2018 of siblings to Alexander, Aria and Kirra. She's back! 😊

It is great to have Donna Buckley and Catherine Martin back this year as Early Childhood Workers. They bring a continuity for the children in already building lovely relationships with each of them from last year's transition visits. Donna will be supporting Julie with the day to day educational operations while Catherine is here each day for lunch care, speech support work and to lead the Relaxation program. Catherine also works as Assistant Director at Littlehampton Out of School Hours Care.

This is a wonderful community to work within and we all look forward to an amazing year.

Please see Julie if you have any questions and if you ever need a lengthy chat she is always available to find a convenient time.

Regards
 Julie, Donna and Catherine

Governing Council meeting

The Annual General meeting will be on Wednesday February 19th, 7pm at kindergarten followed by a short general meeting with the newly elected Governing council for 2020. You received a letter last week explaining this in further detail. Have your say and be a part of the kindergarten governance, so please continue to bring in those response forms. Thank you to the parents who have already responded, we look forward to working with you this year in managing and improving the learning outcomes for all our children.



Communication

We will often share information with you about the curriculum (all the experiences that support your child as a learner) and your individual child's development, verbally and in their Learning Journals. Please check emails, texts, gate notes and your pocket every day for general information. Child-care children will have notes placed in their bags each day.

Sometimes community organisations ask us to place leaflets in your pockets and we love to support our local community. We also have a Community folder about local services and events for children under the bench of the parent sign in sheet.

Toys

We ask that children do not bring their own toys e.g. matchbox cars, dolls etc to kindergarten. They can be lost or broken and sometimes cause conflict. We have fantastic resources here so please explain to your children that they are best left at home.

Children who have difficulty separating from their families often need a familiar comforter and it is fine if they need to pack one.

Birthday celebrations

Birthdays are very exciting occasions when you turn four and five. If the children would like to celebrate here with their friend's we would love them to bring in something healthy to share, rather than a cake, to be in line with our Nutrition Policy. Examples of what you could provide include home-made fruit muffins, fresh juice iceblocks, a cheese platter or fruit kebabs.



Parent help

We often have small maintenance jobs that need attending to. If anyone is available to do this on a regular basis please let us know.

On Thursday (Odd weeks) and Wednesday (Even weeks) it takes considerable time to pack away and prepare for the following week. We would love a parent to come in and assist - sweep the verendah, clean paint and glue brushes, wash dishes etc. Please let Julie or Donna know if you can help on a regular basis. A huge thank you to Travis (Huey's dad) for moving our heavy climbing A-frames and in measuring the outdoor area needing more bark chips. Also thank you to Kylie (Kirra's mum) for recycling our food scraps to their chooks and to Sam (Ebony's mum) for offering to help on Thursday afternoons!

We will sometimes have a washing bag near the parent sign in sheet - so if you see it and are able to take it home to wash and return the following week with the clean items, we would appreciate it. Thank you!

Immunisation and Birth certificates

We are still waiting some birth certificates for children's files. It is now a requirement that the immunisation record is a copy downloaded from myGov website. This is required by the Department for Education. If you bring in the originals we will photocopy them for our records. Donna will be chasing this up with you over the next couple of weeks. There are a few children who still require their four year old immunisations/ checks. You can book into the Mt. Barker clinic of Child and Family Health: **1300 733 606** for Pre-school checks. If there are any concerns longer consults are available.

Curriculum News - What we are learning

Educators plan a fortnightly program but it is a living and fluid program that is led by the emergent ideas of the children. So it is continually being added to and adapted each day. We strongly believe in the child's voice formulating our focus for learning.

We will be recording the children's learning through photo's / children's drawings or words each fortnight in the 'Big Book of Learning'. This is found on the entry table. We encourage you to share their joyful discoveries with them. We welcome any parent input on ideas or involvement to further enrich our program.

In our first week of kindergarten it was wonderful to see the children engage in a range of experiences independently. Eg Making interesting recipes at our mud kitchen area/ mud coffee lattes for the staff?! We have some amazing puzzle / construction problem solvers and budding artists - evident in our sunflower still life painting experience.

The children have managed relaxation time well - straight after lunch they lay or sit and we encourage them to calm and still their bodies as they listen to quiet music and/ or stories. Sensory additions, like candles and soft squishy objects, to hold help the children to focus.

After this we have implemented a whole group craft time together where we focus on fine motor strengthening activities, listening to instructions, learning how to paste / cut etc and providing the time and place to be creative using a variety of materials.

We are now going to begin our family tree display. We ask children to bring in a family photo which they will talk about at 'Sharing Time'. We will laminate it and keep it on this tree display board all year. It is a great discussion point and children can also take the photo down when they are sad and missing their family and hold on to it until they are ready to play. So please send one along or email one and we will print it off here.

For mathematics/numeracy we have been talking about sequencing with the days / months/ seasons / weather on our cloth chart each morning and also will use a calendar to mark off the day.

The children will record their Birthday on this calendar. We thought it would be meaningful for them each to do this. We will help them write their name. We will also do a map that indicates where every child lives.

For homework they will need to find out the month they were born and in which town they live.



Fees

Fees are being sent out today, they are due by Thursday March 12th. If you pay on line please key in your invoice number and your child's name as the reference. Payment envelopes are on the bench if you are paying by cash. Please place them in the fees box on the staff office door. Receipts are only issued for cash payments.

Please remember:

- Arrive at 9.00 am and pickup at 3.00 pm. Staff need time in the morning to set up the days experiences and discuss issues that may be confidential
- Sign in and out each day
- Apply sunscreen to your child before arrival - if you forget please use ours
- Provide a bottle of water each day
- Ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat.
- Pack an ice brick in your child's lunch box

Diary Dates

- **Wed Feb 19th 7pm** AGM
- **Thurs Feb 13th 9:30am.** Fortnightly Music education sessions with Kirrale Baldock (Dept of Ed music field officer)
- **Wed March 25th** Musica Viva performance at Oakbank Area School. Further details coming.

Reminders:

- Family Photo
- Child knows their Birthday month / Town they live

