



NEWSLETTER

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Term 1, week 8, 2014

Diary Dates

February

March

3rd/4th **State Education Leaders Conference**

4th **Fran & Courtney at Gowrie Centre**

20th **Child Health Preschool Health Checks**

26th **Beach Morning at Stansbury**

24th **Governing Council Meeting 7.00pm at kindy**

24th 26th 28th **Parent Chats**

New Governing Council

The Governing Council Annual General Meeting took place on 26th February and elected a new Governing Council for 2014.

The elected Office holders are:

Chairperson:	Paul Johnson
Secretary:	Amanda Murfitt
Treasurer:	Michelle Thompson
Rural Care Rep:	Annette Bellchambers & Courtney Wilson
Playgroup Rep:	Michelle Thompson
Staff Rep:	Fran Robinson
General Committee:	Tapiwa Rusike

We thank these people deeply for commitment to the centre and hope they feel their time with us is worthwhile and productive.

The next GC meeting will be on the 24th March, 7.00pm at the kindy. Everyone is welcome to attend. Items on the agenda are likely to include the budget review for 2014 and a review of the Centre Quality Improvement Plan.

Staffing

Annette is currently on annual leave for the next 4 weeks having a hard earned rest. She returns on 14th April. We welcome Jill Huntley to the centre as her replacement. David will also be on long service leave for the whole of next term. We are not sure who will be his replacement yet.

Learning and Development

We have a broad goal in terms of children's learning and development this term derived from the Early Years Learning Framework: **Learning Outcome 1: children feel safe secure and supported.**

We continue with our work on making children feel secure with a focus on positive interactions and developing close and trusting relationships with each other. We have used the 'Box of Feelings' and our child

protection curriculum to explore feelings, how they look and how they feel. We take the experience of the child as the foundation of our work with children.

We have been using our 'Noticing book' to investigate more closely children's interests and schemas (those patterns of behaviour that show children trying to 'work out' something in the world) and thus to interact or provide environments and activities suited to their individual interests and learning.

In emergent literacy we have been working on rhyming and collective action songs and also sharing stories and exploring how we can predict what is coming next in the story.

In numeracy we have been focusing on sorting and patterning activity (early maths skills and concepts).

Parent Chats

Next week we will be offering times for a chat. Please see attached notice and choose a time slot on the timetable displayed at the rear entrance to the kindy.

Transition Visits

We had 2 great visits to **Ready, Set, Go** earlier this term and we would like to thank the parents who walked with us up to the school and back. It was a great help, as someone once described going out with preschool children as akin to herding cats... not very easy.

We also made a visit to YAS on the 6th march for Rhyme and Bounce. Last week we had the reception class from YAS visited us at the kindy. They had a great time with us and enjoyed singing and doing action songs including 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' in Narungga. The Narungga are the traditional owners of the Yorke peninsula and Narungga is their native language.

Here are some of the words.... ask your child about them

Head:	Gagga
Shoulder:	Wiri
Knee:	Madda
Foot (or toe):	Dhidna

Philosophy

We consider our site Philosophy to be a working document, so it represents our thinking 'at the moment' in relation to children's learning and our practises. **We would like families to review, critique and feedback any comments, questions and suggestions they may have.** So we can make this philosophy a document built by the contributions of the whole preschool and care community.

We will post a copy in each child's pocket later this week with a feedback/comment slip.

Staff Brainstorming Day

On Friday 21st February all preschool and rural care staff spent the day together discussing our site philosophy and to brainstorm our ideas about how children learn. There was a lot of discussion and debate about this subject. Some of the ways we thought children learned were through such things as:...play, experiences, doing, feeling, trying things out, solving problems, mimicking, reading, talking, interacting with others. And also through relationships such as family, friends, peers. through listening, watching, hearing, observing, showing/allowing them to do the next step or to experiment with what could happen.

We also looked at approaches to learning and assessment and we committed to engaging in an inquiry into our methods and theories of teaching and learning. The result of this was a series of 'next actions' which we are trying out at the centre. These include:

- A reflection book for staff to include notes and observations about children's learning and interactions and the learning environment. These notes will be discussed during staff reflection on practice time during staff meetings
- Create a welcome board with photos of children and the adults that bring them to kindy
- Communication books for all children
- Greater emphasis on Nutrition including healthy recipes and snacks in the newsletter and communal meals at the centre
- Name tags for children's bags to remind them about their morning jobs.
- Community days, including grandparents and senior citizen's events at the centre
- Improve the centre furniture and improve the outdoors environment
- Develop a consistent transition program for all children
- Reflect on and critique centre routines and explore a variety of ways of programming and planning with children to improve their learning.
- Explore the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education and care through a vision of the child as powerful and competent.

Annual Report

As part of the DECD Quality Assurance process, we publish an annual report each year. This is a review of the year just ended and takes a look at the progress we have made in a variety of areas. There is a commentary on the events and work that has taken place, our quality improvement plan and the results of our parent opinion survey. We have attached a copy for each family. Please read it and let staff know if you have any comments, questions or feedback for us. Thanks.

Beach Morning

On Wednesday 26th march we will be taking an excursion to the beach at Stansbury. We will leave kindy shortly after 9.00am and will return about 12.00pm. We will be travelling by school bus and parents are welcome to come with us.

Please complete and return the permission form in your child's pocket by the end of this week.

Shared Lunch

In the final week of the term we are hoping to have a shared lunch and we are trying to develop a theme with foods from around the world. All families are invited to join us and bring a plate of traditional food from their own family.

We'll get the children to make some food to share.

Performances in term 2

We will be attending 2 performances in Minlaton in term 2. On the 6th may we will be at Minlaton Early Learning Centre for a Barry Peters performance. Later that term we will be travelling with the YAS reception class to see a performance of Road Safety Rangers at the Minlaton town hall.

The boat and basketball ring

Well, our plan to remove the boat has not happened yet because we don't have anywhere to put the broken pieces. If you have a ute and know somewhere where the pieces can be put of someone who can use them, please let us know.

We have a full size free standing basketball ring we no longer require, to offer for sale, offers please.

Reminder

Modifications to our Nutrition Policy

We now have a **NO NUT** policy at the centre.

This means we would like to ask parents to provide NO NUTS OF ANY SORT, including nut products in children's snacks and lunches, both in Rural Care and in Preschool. Thanks for your assistance.

We would also like to remind parents of our healthy eating guidelines which are attached to the newsletter. Please follow the advice related to drinks which requests **water only** in children's drink bottles. We want to give your children the healthiest possible start to their growth and development and help support health eating and drinking habits in young children.

Other Reminders

Check your child's named pocket at least once a week, it may contain important information about activities, fees, newsletters etc. The pockets are on the wall to the left of the entrance for Preschool children, just above the water bottles, and for Rural Care children to the right of the entrance.

**Playgroup runs every Monday from 10.00 am till 11.30.
Everyone with children under 5 years of age are
welcome to attend.**

Preschool Health checks

Please check your appointment time, if your child is having a preschool health check on Thursday. A list will be displayed at the centre for your reference.

Please pay your kindy fees promptly, it helps.

☺ **Thanks, and**

'bye for now David, Fran, Jill, Courtney, Rose & Jacinta



Amy Honner is a caring, professional and highly experienced Paediatric Speech Pathologist who is passionate about supporting children and the people who help to make up their world.

TUESDAYS Minlaton Community Health Centre
9am - 5pm

WEDNESDAYS Yorketown Hospital & Health Service
9am - 5pm

