



**Newsletter No.1, Term 3, 2015**

**Dates to remember:**

- Monday 17/8/15:** Governing Council meeting, 7pm.
- Wednesday 19/8/15:** Child and Youth Health Checks by appt.
- Tuesday 1/9/15 and 8/9/15:** Little Athletics visits Purple group.
- Thursday 4/9/15 and 11/9/15:** Little Athletics visits Green group.
- Monday 14/9/15:** Governing Council Meeting 7pm.
- Tuesday 15/9/15:** Purple Group Walkathon.
- Thursday 17/9/15:** Green Group Walkathon.
- Friday 18/9/15:** Kindy Disco, 4-5.30 pm.
- Tuesday 22/9/15:** Last day of term, Purple Group.
- Friday 25/9/15:** Last day of term, Green Group.

**Curriculum news:**

Our focus this term will be learning about our bodies and how it works and how to keep healthy. We will practice our jumping, climbing, catching and throwing skills in preparation for our Walkathon and learn about the different foods we need to keep healthy ... hopefully we will have a bumper vegetable harvest and will be trying out some yummy recipes. We hope to provide regular cooking experiences, which parental assistance is always appreciated with. We will also talk about people in our community who help us to stay healthy and safe ... doctors, nurses, dentists, police officers, paramedics and fire fighters.

We will be hosting a range of visitors including:

- Grow Up Smiling - Dental Outreach
- Child and Youth Health
- Little Athletics

This term we will also be holding our Walkathon - one for each group and we will also be having a Preschool Disco. We will focus on gross motor physical skills in the lead up to our Walkathon, and incorporate more movement and music experiences into our program, and continue with our daily relaxation. Paula is focussing on the book *Inside Your Outside* in her small groups, which explores different parts of the body-digestive system, brain, lungs, blood, muscles, joints, bones, etc., and we will reinforce this learning within the general program with planned activities, experiences and resource selections.

We will also incorporate elements of the Child Protection Curriculum: Keeping Children Safe. This is mandated curriculum in South Australia and all staff have had the appropriate training. We will be looking at the first two areas of the curriculum, which are:

- The right to be safe - Children learn about how they might feel in different situations e.g. happy, sad, scared, excited and are taught warning signs that will help them recognise situations where it might not be safe.

- Relationships - We will talk about the range of relationships that children have and that sometimes relationships can change, and also that everyone has rights and responsibilities when interacting with each other. We will also focus on the different networks children have, including people they can trust, people who are close to them, people that are important to them, people who are not close and people they don't know.

To support children with future transitioning to school, we will continue sharing learning experiences with Reception classes, and plan to visit the Book Nook on a regular basis. We will continue to use the 'You Can do it!' program to support the learning of *Resilience, Confidence, Persistence, Organisation and Getting Along*, both explicitly at group times and incidentally. Many other topics will be explored, as children's individual interests and ideas also direct our curriculum, and spontaneous learning opportunities arise.

Our learning focus this term will support **BELONGING, BEING and BECOMING, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia**, in particular: **Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing-** *Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.*

"Wellbeing incorporates both physical and psychological aspects and is central to *belonging, being* and *becoming*. Without a strong sense of wellbeing it is difficult to have a sense of *belonging*, to trust others and feel confident in *being*, and to optimistically engage in experiences that contribute to *becoming*."



*Our Hahndorf Farm Barn excursions at the end of last term were great fun, and very educational. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who were able to assist us! We have recorded children's views on the excursion, and will place these in their folders soon.*





**GreatStart**

**Website:**

Are you aware of this website for parents, provided by DECDS (Department for Education

and Child Development). The *GreatStart* website ([www.greatstart.sa.edu.au](http://www.greatstart.sa.edu.au)) has been developed as part of the Department's Numeracy and Literacy Strategy to provide ideas and activities for parents to develop their children's early numeracy and literacy skills. Using neuroscience research regarding the importance of children's first years, the website provides parents with possibilities to engage and make a difference in their child's learning and development. *GreatStart* is framed from a family perspective and is centred on everyday events: play, food, out and about, growing, getting ready and celebrations. Information is provided on why each activity matters and what it leads to in terms of numeracy or literacy development, along with examples of the language parents can use when they engage in the activity with their child. Activities are searchable by age, materials and the skills developed.

**Grow Up Smiling- Dental Outreach:** Appointments for individual children for the dental checks will be made in weeks 7 and 8, if you have returned the paperwork provided by this service.

**Little Athletics at Preschool:** We are excited about booking sessions during weeks 7 and 8 for Little Athletics clinics at Preschool! All children will have the opportunity to participate... more details to follow. This will be great preparation for our Walkathons in week 9!



**People's Choice Credit Union Community Lottery:** We still have some books left to distribute, if you are able to assist us with this fantastic fundraiser. We will receive 100% of ticket sales... and funds raised will go towards purchasing educational resources for your children.

**Mawson Lakes Primary School transition visits:** Letters to families have been sent by the Primary School for transition visits in Term 4. If you are planning to send your child to MLPS next year and have not received this letter, please check your details with the school to make sure you have enrolled your child (this is a separate enrolment to Preschool). We ask again for families to confirm with Preschool staff, if you haven't already done so, which school your child will be attending next year, to ensure we send the Statement of Learning to the correct school. Thank you.

**Fundraising:** Thank you to the families who have been able to assist with our **Chocolate Drive**, which is a major fundraiser for the Preschool. There are extra boxes available if you can help sell more! The box contains 25 chocolates which sell for \$1.00 each.

Thank you also to the families who have sold **People's Choice Lottery** tickets for us. Please return your books, sold or partially sold, and money ASAP, and remember to place in a named envelope.

All money raised through fundraising contributes to the purchase of new resources and equipment for all children to use at Preschool, and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers:** If you shop at Woolworths and collect the 'Earn and Learn' stickers, they can be deposited at Preschool, or in our box outside of Woolworths, for us to use to claim new resources. Maybe your extended families can help collect the stickers as well.

**Child and Youth Health Checks:** Child and Youth Health will be at preschool on Wednesday 19/8/15 to conduct checks on children 4.5years and older. If your child has not already had this important free health screening at the doctor's or clinic, please add your name to the appointment sheet on the notice board, on a 'first come, first serve' basis. Staff will give you a form to complete, which will need to be returned to preschool before the health check. Please see Chris or Jo for more information.



**Kindy Logo iron-on transfers:** We now have these available for purchase in black or white print for \$2.50 per transfer, for you to iron onto any T shirt you purchase for your child (e.g. a T shirt you buy at Target). Please see Chris or Jo if you need more details to order.

**Fees reminder:** Thank you to the many families who have paid the term fees, which were due in week 3. If you are having difficulties with paying please see staff. Fees are payable by cash, cheque, or bank transfer. Our details for this are;

BSB: 015-142 Account number: 1076-17107

Please remember to identify your child in any transaction.

**Governing Council gmail account:**

If you wish to contact the Governing Council directly with concerns, queries, or feedback (positive or not so positive)...

[mawsonlakes.PS.GC@gmail.com](mailto:mawsonlakes.PS.GC@gmail.com)

