Newsletter No.3, Term 1, 2014

‘Getting to know each other’... Thank you to all the parents who have already helped their child complete and return the yellow sheet about ‘My family’. We are planning to make a book for each group with these sheets after sharing them at group time; they have provided valuable insights into children’s interests at home with their families, and have supported our term focus of ‘Getting to Know each other’. Please see staff if you have misplaced the sheet and would like another one.

Relief staff: As mentioned in our last newsletter, relief staff are regularly employed at Preschool, to replace staff who may be sick, attending meetings and Professional Development, or accessing their non-contact time. All of our relief staff have the appropriate qualifications required for working in Preschools, and have been highly recommended to us. All Preschool staff have also undertaken the mandatory checking required to work in Early Childhood Education. Please check the notice board next to the double doors for the daily staff. At times we have University students, High school work experience students and volunteers at Preschool, all of whom have also undergone the relevant security checking processes.

GreatStart Website: A new website for parents has been launched by DECD (Department for Education and Child Development). The GreatStart website (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.

Lockers: To help children manage their belongings and keep the area around the lockers tidier, we are going to allocate lockers to each child. We will place a small photo of each child with their first name only in a locker; this will also assist staff in locating children’s bags at times of ‘toileting/wet clothes emergencies’. Please see Sandra if you do not wish your child’s photo and name to be placed in a locker.

Welcome Barbeque...

We hope our children and their families can join the staff and Governing Council at our ‘Welcome BBQ’
Friday 28th March, 5pm to 7pm.
This is a great opportunity to get to know other families and have a look around the Preschool. There is no cost involved. Please return the separate note ASAP to assist us with catering.

People’s Choice Credit Union Community Lottery: We are fortunate to be included in the allocation of ticket books for this great fundraiser: last year we raised approximately $1,800! Look out for your book … coming to your information pocket soon!

Working bee: We are hoping to organise a working bee at preschool to tidy up our outdoor learning environment. This may be on a specific day, or when helpers have spare time! We are hoping to give some trees and shrubs a light prune, weed and tidy the gardens, rake the bark chips, and clean out the water course. Please see staff if you can assist. Thank you.

Election Barbeque: You may have read in our Term Planner that we were hoping to organise the barbeque again at the University for the upcoming State Election, as one of our fundraisers for this year. Due to a miscommunication with the University and Mawson Lakes School, the school is organising the barbeque this year... we will be looking for helpers later in the year, hopefully at a Bunnings Barbeque!

Kindy bags: Please check your child’s bag and pockets for small kindy items... sometimes children get confused about what stays at Preschool and what goes home, which results in some of our games and puzzles missing ‘bits’.

Fees: A big thank you to all of the families who have paid their fees. Our new electronic payment system seems to be working well, and we hope this has made the process easier for you.

Reminders:
Please remember to provide your child with a named cup (not water bottle), to ensure they can independently access our drinking water.

Please remember to sign your child in and out of Preschool each day. It is essential that you notify us if someone else is collecting your child. Also, please let us know if your contact details change so we can update our records.