FROM THE DIRECTOR...
Once again we welcome several new families to our Kindergarten community this term. Welcome to Jaedyn who has joined us from interstate and to Joel who has returned to us after a term away. Zarlie, Ewan and Miranda have also joined us recently.

The shortest term of the year is also the busiest with a range of events planned. Please ensure that you look at the many ‘Diary Dates’ and put reminder notes on your calendar.

Trudy

THANK YOU

• Huge thanks goes to Cody and his parents (Cameron and Lauren) for their ongoing support to mow our lawns, tidy our yard and help the Kindy children to plant and care for our edible garden.
• Thank you to Mark for digging over our softfall and mud patch with the rotary hoe.
• Thanks to Anastazia and her mum Sally for their weekend visits to weed and sweep our yard.
• Thanks to Nigel and Seth for tackling the weeds that have sprung up in the alley alongside the Kindergarten.
• Thanks to everyone who helped to plan, organise and volunteer at the Kindy Disco. It was great to see so many children having a fun time.
• Thanks to the families who have donated clothing to our ‘spare clothing’ collection. We would appreciate more shorts.
• Thanks to the staff for spending a day in the holidays to tidy and rearrange the shed.
• Thanks to those who regularly take home the kindy washing.

Your involvement and support is highly valued.

DIARY DATES

Friday 24th October – First of 4 fortnightly transition visits for children commencing Kindy in 2015.

Wednesday 29th October – Governing Council meeting at 7pm. All welcome.

Sunday 2nd November – Annual Working Bee at 10.00am. Hope you can come along and help.

Tuesday 11th – Friday 14th November – Waste Free Week (note to be distributed soon)

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th November – Obstacle-a-thon (details to be distributed shortly)

Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November – Kindy photos – round 2.

Tuesday 2nd December – end-of-year family evening celebration (tentative date – to be confirmed)

Thursday 4th December – Excursion to the Marine Discovery Centre for all full time Kindy children.

Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December – graduation celebrations.

Thursday 11th December – last day of Kindy for the year.

2015 ENROLMENTS

Children commencing Kindergarten in 2015 have begun a program of transition visits. If you know anyone who has not yet enrolled their eligible child, please encourage them to see Trudy as soon as possible so they can join the transition program. (Remember that children who turn 4 on or before April 30th are eligible to start in 2015).

BORROWING LIBRARY

Reading with your child is one the most significant ways in which you can support the development of early literacy skills. Please feel free to borrow books from the lending library in the foyer. Just record your child’s name and the book name in the borrowing book and sign off when the book is returned.
GOVERNING COUNCIL UPDATE

• The Kindy Disco was a huge success and the council raised in excess of $1100. Well done to everyone involved!

• During the last holiday period, the soft fall under the climbing equipment was dug out, removed and replaced.

• A working bee has been arranged to top up the sandpit and to do some weeding, general yard tidying and some odd jobs. Please see the note in your pocket for details. If you can’t make it on Sunday, there are some jobs that can be completed at another time. Please place your name on the roster or see Trudy if you can help.

• The next Governing Council meeting will be held at the Kindy on Wednesday 29th October at 7.00pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

HEALTHY EATING GUIDELINES

At our kindergarten we support children to learn about healthy eating and we encourage children to eat according to the ‘Rite Bite’ strategy. We have noticed that many ‘red category’ foods have been making their way into lunch boxes lately. We strongly encourage you to read the attached ‘Rite bite’ information for parents and the Kindy healthy food guidelines note and to make every effort to follow the recommendations when packing your child’s lunch box.

NEW VISION FOR OUR OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We are planning to make improvements to our outdoor learning environment with a focus on developing engaging natural play spaces. We have had an initial concept plan drawn up and we invite your feedback and ideas. A ‘Vision board’ is to be set up in the foyer. This will include a copy of the initial plan plus some photos and ideas from the staff. We will be supporting the children to add to the board by telling us about what they would like to see in their outdoor environment.

We would also love to hear your thoughts and ideas. We invite all families to add to the vision board. You may like to write your feedback, thoughts and ideas or perhaps add an inspirational photo, picture from a magazine or catalogue or a sketch. At this stage of the process, there are no limits. All ideas are encouraged and valued.

TRIAL PROCESS FOR RECORDING OBSERVATIONS AND PLANNING FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

For the past few weeks, the educators have begun trialing the use of a new app as a tool to support us to capture photographs and observations about children, and in turn, to assist us to assess and plan for children’s emerging needs and interests. The app allows us to produce learning stories which link photographs, observations, analysis of learning and subsequent individual plans for each child. The app also allows us to link children’s learning to the 5 Learning Outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and supports us to assess progress within the outcomes. We will soon be at a point where we will be able to print the stories we have produced so far and add them to your child’s Learning Folder. Please look in your child’s folder over the next few weeks to see your child’s learning stories in the new format. We would appreciate your feedback on this new way of recording and reporting. Please feel free to have a chat with the staff about your thoughts and to ask any questions.

CURRICULUM MATTERS

During the first part of term we will be revising and practicing our emergency evacuation and invacuation procedures with the children. Please ensure that you are familiar with the emergency procedures by reading the evacuation poster (several are located around the centre). You can assist your child to learn the procedures by asking them questions about what we do if there is an emergency at the kindergarten. Does your child know what to do in case of an emergency at your home? This might be a good opportunity to discuss your own emergency procedures. If you happen to be at the Kindergarten during an emergency drill, please ensure that you follow the procedures along with the staff and children.

We have been learning about the local Aboriginal Kaurna culture and language. During our daily morning routine, we now make an acknowledgement of the local Kaurna people as the original custodians and caretakers of the Adelaide area. We have also been learning some counting and simple words in the Kaurna language.

Other areas of focus this term include a literacy emphasis on oral language development and the concept of rhyming and a numeracy focus on problem solving and patterning.

Our Child Protection Curriculum focus for this term is around protective strategies including recognising and reporting abuse and understanding the concept of ‘secrets’.
A whole group problem-solving exercise. “How can we get water from the tap to the garden without using a hose and without walking?” Hayley’s idea was for everyone to stand in a line and to pass the buckets along. Great problem-solving Hayley!

Come and have a look at our edible garden. Currently you will find tomatoes, strawberries, snow peas and capsicum. We are looking forward to some more tasting later in the term. There is always weeding needing to be done in and around the garden beds. We welcome your assistance to keep our garden area weed free.

We are continuing to support children to learn about reducing waste and we have been counting the items of plastic waste collected at each lunch period. This will lead up to a ‘Waste Free Week’ in week 5 where we will be aiming for no plastic waste for a whole week. More information will be provided soon in a separate note.

The children help Sandy to count the number of non-recyclable pieces of plastic wrapping collected at lunch time.

Children continue to enjoy opportunities to learn about and care for a range of creatures as we regularly borrow from the Nature Education Centre. This term we have a focus on creatures that live in water. We expect visits from an axolotl, hermit crabs and yabbies. Thanks once again to Sandy for all of her trips to the Nature Education Centre to collect and return the borrowed creatures.

This term we are also learning about lifecycles. After an unsuccessful attempt to hatch some silk worm eggs from last year, we obtained a couple of silk worms from another Kindy. They have now spun cocoons and we are eagerly awaiting their re-emergence as silk moths. For the second time this year, we can observe the life cycle of chickens as we watch the chicks hatch in the incubator and learn to look after them as they grow.

Hayley, Natas and Geselle express wonder as they observe the tired chick finally release itself from the egg shell.

Please take the time to have a look at our program board (to the left when you enter the main Kindy room from the foyer). Our program is available on display so you can see what we have planned. You will notice a change in the program format and a new colour coded Learning Outcome system (to link with the colour system in the observation app we are now using). You are most welcome to provide your feedback, comments and ideas by writing them alongside the program or having a chat with staff. Your input is welcome and valued.

Karen works with children to read the recipe and to measure the ingredients to make playdough. Nikki, Jordan, Sarah and Emily are taking turns and working together cooperatively to achieve a group goal.