Greetings families
This term is swiftly moving along and we are so pleased to see our new children are settling in so well and becoming familiar with staff, each other and the routine. Sometimes its matter of perseverance and time for children to adjust and become familiar with a new setting. Our staff team are very skilled at making your child feel like they belong and we try a variety of strategies. We welcome your feedback on your successes.

Feedback is always welcome and we have set up a feedback box in the front foyer with a generic feedback slip. Please share your thoughts to help us reflect on our practice or the strategies we use. This is one way that you can have a say in our centre.

Feedback is currently being sought on:
Philosophy Review
Currently located on stand in the foyer, due date 26th Feb.

Philosophy—our staff team have reviewed our centre philosophy and we welcome your comments. Our philosophy highlights our beliefs and our common practice.

Other new practices this year ….
⇒ **Grouptimes together**—this year we have introduced a special grouptime at 8.55 every morning that has all children across the centre come into the kindy room for morning greetings using Auslan sign language, a song or experiment and a quick physical exercise session. It has worked really well so far with staff monitoring some children who are not comfortable in the big group. This time is then followed up by fruit time for childcare children and kindy children move into critical thinking groups. This structure has worked well for children and staff to engage in longer periods of uninterrupted play that is valuable for learning.

⇒ **Working together:** Staff from babies, over 2’s and kindy meet every Friday to plan activities and events for the whole centre. Discussions also include children on the observation cycle, health and safety, family input, community liaisons, cultural and environmental aspects.

⇒ **Parent programming input sheet**—a new information sheet has been created to gather your thoughts when we observe and focus on your child in the programming cycle. Currently kindy and babies families have the new format. Over 2’s will receive the new format in term 2. We thank those families that have returned their forms, the information that you have given us guides us to know your child better and how we work with you in a partnership.

⇒ **Childcare grouptimes**—will take place in the morning sleep room while the room is vacant.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK
Have you check out our parent book display stand. The next few weeks will focus on behaviour strategies for all age groups. We are sure there will be something of interest there for you.

KIDS MATTER INNATIVE
This Wednesday 25th Feb our Kidsmatter Action Team will commence their first training session. Our team consist of Kindy reps: Corrin Bald, Gilda Carter.
Childcare reps: Kylie Magain, Amanda Tregenza
Director: Christina Ziegler
Governing Council/Parent Rep: Sarah Kuchel

We will give you some feedback following our training session and let you know the direction we will be taking. What is Kids Matter….

**KidsMatter Early Childhood** is a national mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative specifically developed for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services.

It has been developed through collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, BeyondBlue, the Australian Psychological Society and Early Childhood Australia.

It involves the people who have significant influence in making a positive difference for young children’s mental health during this important developmental period—parents, carers, families and early childhood professionals—along with a range of community and health professionals.

Don’t forget to come!
Governing Council News—our Annual General meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March 2015
and we would love to see some new faces join our committee. It’s a great opportunity for you to become involved in your child’s education and have a deeper understanding of how our centre operates. There are a number of committees that you may be able to help with—grounds, fundraising, policy and finance. Please return the nomination sheet at the end of the newsletter if you would like to join us.

Garden designers and ground helpers needed—would you like to help us design our grounds. We would like to put in irrigation and create some garden beds. Please let Christina know if you can help. We will also be looking for plant donations suitable for our yard.
Every child at our centre requires their own hat and water bottle every day. We understand that sometimes these are accidentally forgotten but we only have a small spare set and we will need to ring parents to bring them in for us. Thankyou

Help your child become independent to look after themselves?
The following scenarios are the many conversations and actions that our educators have with your children every day. Many children know these skills (or we think they do), but can they do it in another setting and be completely independent of you. Please spend some time with your children to see how independent they are and if they understand the self help process? Ask them “What’s next?” – Obviously this is age dependant but they can always listen to your voice as you talk through the steps.

Does your child know how to properly blow their nose? Have you talked them through the process of holding the tissue correctly, blowing through their nostrils, wiping and then putting the dirty tissue in the bin?

Does your child know how to properly wash their hands? Have you talked them through the process of using the right amount of soap, how to turn on a tap by themselves, how to rub their hands, turning off a tap and then how to dry it? Do they know what to do when they can’t turn off the tap?

Does your child know how to put their shoes and socks on? Have you talked them through the process of finding the hole in their sock, pulling the sock up and putting their foot in shoe and then strapping or tying up the shoe?.

Does your child know how to put their own clothes on? Do they know how to undo a buckle, belt or button?

What’s happening…..
Thursday 26th Feb– Clean up Australia. All children in the centre will walk outside the fence line to help pick up rubbish. We will then do a rubbish pickup inside the yard. This is one of the ways we help to look after our environment.

Fish tank in foyer– we will be transferring our fish in the childcare room to the foyer this week. We will be doing a variety of fishy activities throughout the centre as well and this ties in nicely with the over 2’s book of the week “Fabulous Fishes”.

Parent skill sheet distributed: With this newsletter we have attached a skill sheet. There are many ways that you can be part of our centre and we welcome any input from you. We would appreciate it if you could return the sheet to the reception area asap. Thanks so much.

WANTED
- We have a blow out. Would anyone have a wheel from a Little Tikes coupe like this that we could have?
- Sheer or light curtains
- Big pillows or cushions
- Pillow cases

Hepatitis A alert and Contaminated Berries- last week the centre notified families through the front gate sign that we have NOT used any of these berries in our baking. A copy of the SA Health alert has been printed off for all families on our front reception desk or you can access this via the following link:
Then go to Protecting Public Health—alert—recent alert.
If you have been in contact with these berries please let us know as the infectious period is before the symptoms show. Hepatitis A is a reportable health condition. Please see your doctor for further information.

Volunteering – do you have any spare time that you would like to volunteer in the centre. It can be a very rewarding experience for the volunteer, the children and the staff. If you are interested a formal police clearance screening must be passed first and this can take several months. Please see Christina if you are interested.

CHANGES TO DETAILS – if any phone contacts have changed for your family please let us know asap. We will need correct phone numbers if we need to contact you or your emergency pickup people in a hurry.