Greetings families

It has been very pleasing to see everyone settle into the new term, can you believe we are into week 5 and Easter is just around the corner. While implementing the Early Years Learning Framework ‘Belonging Being and Becoming’, it is important to note that all our new children now belong to the Waikerie Children’s Centre. Everything that they do whilst at our centre and the friendships formed during their time here, will continue to influence who they become in future years. Please remember to talk to your children about where they belong. For example talk with them about their identity, family, community, or country. Understanding where they belong in the world is very important in building your child’s identity.

Governing Council News– our Annual General meeting will be held on Monday 7th April 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.

 Helpers needed– to shovel in some more sand for our sandpit and bark chips. Please let Christina know if you can help. We will order it in shortly.
 Platform area– is anyone able to help us level out an area for some new platforms that we are looking at purchasing—please see Kym, Gilda or Christina if you can help out.

Staffing– we welcome Bethany Smith to our team as our Tradeskills Apprentice. Bethany is currently in year 11 at Waikerie High School and will be working with us one day a week as part of her apprenticeship.

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

WHAT’S IN A NUMBER??— have you thought about the amount of natural and synthetic additives that are in certain foods and what all the numbers on the food labels mean? Did you know they can cause learning difficulties, behaviour issues, intolerances. Our parent library features the book FED Up by Sue Dengate that explores how food can affect your child and what you can do about it. The chart below is a great guide to have.

Kindy fruit times– children require fruit snacks for morning & afternoon sessions. Food that is separated into 2 containers is easier for children to remember. Cold items only can be put in the kindy fridge (no lunchboxes please). Please check that items contain NO TRACES of nuts. Unsuitable food will be sent home.

Ideas for fruit time:
Fruit & Vege’s Cheese sticks Yoghurt Salad
Staff Cultural training— one of our Quality Improvement goals is to delve further into cultural awareness. At our recent staff meeting staff explored their own cultures and have put these on a photo display in each room. Please feel free to have a look. We are really excited about exploring your culture and welcome your ideas, resources and knowledge.

Earn and Learn toys— we have been excited to receive our Earn and Learn Toys and the big insects have certainly been the talking point in the front reception area. Other toys that we received were: dinosaur skeletons, crocodile ride on, saw, whittling peelers, tea set, soft dolls, water cylinders, number line and some science equipment. We thank everyone again for helping us obtain these new toys.

Accounts— A big thankyou to all families who have settled their accounts quickly on receiving their bills.

Emergency Centre closure information
The only time that the centre would close in an emergency would be if we lost power or water for an extended period of time. (no lights, no meals, no toilets, no phones) Staff would contact you where possible to come and pick up your child or inform you that the site is not open. Unfortunately these would only be in extreme circumstances that are beyond our control.
At these times it is important that we have your up to date phone contacts. If mobile or phone towers are not working, please come to the centre to collect your child as we may not be able to reach you.

CARPARK SAFETY
All children in our centre have the right to be safe and we ask that you demonstrate this by walking children and prams on the footpath—not in the middle of the carpark! As adults we must set a good example and avoid the near misses that are often witnessed. Thankyou.

Opening Hours Survey— due back on 7th March. Please return if you wish to have your say. Thanks.

Mobile Phones— we would appreciate if phones could be placed on silent when families are joining us for kindy group times, as this is a time that children are reflecting on the microphone and they are a distraction to the group. Thankyou for respecting the children’s right to learn and be heard.

Please read the room reflections to see what is happening in the babies room, the over 2’s and in the kindy room.

Have you ever thought about how many skills your child is learning when they are playing in the sandpit? Are they just playing or can you expand on their learning by talking to them about what they are doing? This is what we as educators do.

- Core strength: lifting, carrying, emptying, moving weight
- Predictability: hypothesising
- Determination & resilience
- Science: Dry sand vs wet sand
- Maths skills: weight, full, empty, counting, heavy, light, more, less
- Actions vs Consequences
- Social play skills: sharing, teamwork, negotiation, success, helping, caring
- Maths skills: weight, full, empty, measuring
- Eye hand co-ordination: pinching sand, pre-writing skill, drawing, etc

Come and join in the fun at the Waikerie Playgroup,
10am-12pm every Friday during school term at the Waikerie Children’s Centre. Bring along a piece of fruit. A great way to use all our resources and help your child transition into the centre whilst in your company.
For further enquiries please contact the centre on 8541 2692.

Learning counting & numbers at any age!!!
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Learning to count in everyday activities:

😊When you dress your baby, count one arm/leg, two arms/legs as you put on their clothes.
😊As you clean your toddler’s hands at the end of a meal, count each finger.
😊When your child is helping put the groceries away, ask them how many carrots you bought, how many boxes there are, how many apples. ..
😊At tidy up time, ask your child to pick up 3 toys and put them where they belong.
😊When rinsing the shampoo out of your child’s hair ask them how many cups of water it takes to do the job.
😊Count steps as you go up and down, or to walk along the path, or to the car etc.
😊Point to the numerals you see on signs
Rainbow Room

A big welcome to the babies and families in the Rainbow room, please take the time and look at our wonderful new decorations. We are looking forward to work with parents and families for a fantastic term.
The babies are enjoying lots of sensory play; incorporating sand, mud, water, play dough and also shaving cream. The babies get very excited and enjoy all the different textures going through their fingers. This is also fantastic for fine motor and co-ordination skills.
Books, books, books!!!! All educators spend quality time reading to your babies as well letting them feel, turn pages and pointing to things they know on each page. This is a great literacy experience and also introduces numeracy with all the numbers book we have for them to read.
The babies also go to the enchanted forest room for dance, group and also spend time interacting at snack time. This is preparing for some of the babies who will transition into The Enchanted forest room.

From Joan and Amanda

Enchanted Forest

What a great start to the New Year, we welcome all the families and the Enchanted Forest team is looking forward to work together with families and building connections from home to care.
Every week we have a ‘book of the week’, all staff are involved in the programming process which brings a variety of different ideas forward for activities and individual development for each child. Michelle introduced Pamela the cow with ‘Too many Pears’ :- a great story for numeracy and literacy. Carole read ‘The Magic Hat’ and the children made wizard and princess hats as well as wands, Carole also incorporated dance with the props the children made.
Special events in which we celebrated so far: Rie organized activities for Chinese New year, the Year of the Horse. Hayley programmed for Valentine’s Day and sent cards home to parents. This week Rachael is promoting red balloon day for Friday the 28th as a thank you to all our firefighters for the fantastic job they do, Geraldine is saying thank you in the office holding the red balloons and wearing Rachael’s firefighting uniform.
Please ask to look at your child portfolio at anytime.

From Gilda and The Enchanted Forest team

KINDY SUNSHINE ROOM NEWS:
We have had a wonderful start to the year! The children are learning our routines and responding well. Everyone is settling in in their own way and we appreciate the time parents are putting in to do activities with their child to ease that transition on arrival. It really sets them up for a happy day! We have had Mr Cox visit and read us some books and we have had a ‘book of the week’ focus, where by the end of the week the children know these books quite well. We have some hungry children at Kindy!! and we are finding that some children are eating all their fruit in the mornings. If possible could parents please talk to their children about leaving some fruit for the afternoon, or pack some extra for their hungry appetites. Please also remember to only pack fruit/vegetables, cheese and yoghurt. With the warmer weather we are noticing the amount of lunch boxes in the fridge. We are having trouble fitting everything in, so we would appreciate it if you could just put your individual snacks (cheese, yoghurt and sliced fruit) in each of our morning and afternoon fruit boxes labelled. We will keep a texta and sandwich bags on top of the fridge if you forget to label them. This way we can keep everyone’s food cold without cluttering the fridge with lots of lunchboxes. Thank you for your cooperation. The children are loving Show and Tell and it is great to see their confidence blooming each fortnight. If your child has something to share we would like it if you could please ask your child to place their item in the show and tell box and their name on either the morning or afternoon chart, if their name isn't on the chart we may not know your child has something to share and we don't want them missing out!! We are really enjoying getting to know your gorgeous children and we’re ready for a fun-filled second half of the term! How time flies when you’re having fun!!!