Greetings families
It has been a very busy term in the centre with kindy children going on a two week holiday break at the end of this week. Term 2 will commence on Monday 28th April. The centre will still be operating its Childcare service during the holidays except for the public holidays. Please book with Kym for your needs. During the Easter period we wish your family a relaxing and safe break.

Governing Council News—our Annual General meeting will be tonight on Monday 7th April and we would love to see some new faces join our committee. If you missed it and would still like to be involved it’s NOT to late—please see Christina. 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.

Quality Improvement Plan—our reflection on the 2013 Quality Improvement Plan and goals for 2014 forms a major part of the centre’s Annual Report. A summary sheet has been included for all parents and is attached to this newsletter. A full Annual Report is available if you like.

Staffing—we sadly farewell Shayne Stevens who has been part of our kindy staff team on Wednesday’s for a term contract. Shayne will continue teaching at Morgan & Waikerie Primary schools. We will be welcoming Karen Charles to our kindy team on a Wednesday next term. Karen lives with her family in Kingston on Murray. We also welcome students on KMC and TAFE placements on a variety of days.

Sharing and caring is important to us.
Letting us know about events that are happening in your life helps us to understand how your child is coping emotionally and we can provide them with extra support for things they may not understand completely. It helps us to know at the start of their session and understand the reason for their behaviour, rather than when we talk to you at the end of the session on why they didn’t seem themselves. You are welcome to ring anytime to check how they are going if we haven't had the chance to contact you.

PERFORMANCE
We are delighted to host performer Barry Peters on Monday afternoon -28th April (first day of term 2) for a sing-a-long show that focuses on the environment. There is a small charge of $5.00 per child which includes a CD of Barry’s songs. The fundraising committee will subsidise the remaining costs. Barry will also come back later in the year on another day so that more children can see his show. This term only Monday afternoon children in childcare and kindy will be receive a performance slip due to the room capacity. If you receive one, please return it asap.

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

SUSTAINABILITY with Kindy fruit times and Waste reduction Challenge
Please consider ways that you can reduce the waste from wrappers and packaging when supplying children’s snacks. Try a NUDE day and supply children with fruit & vege’s only. Yoghurts etc can be put into small plastic containers from a larger tub and be washed when you are home. Next term we will be focussing on ways to reduce the amount of landfill rubbish that we are disposing each day from the centre. This will ultimately reduce our costs in waste management.

Log maker—we will also be working out how to use our new log maker so that we can make paper logs for wood fires using all of our recyclable and burnable rubbish. These logs will be made by children and sold to families for fire-starters. If you would like to help us get started, please let staff know.
Staff Environment and Cultural training— at our last meeting staff we looked at activities we do with natural objects and we created our own craft book. We also began an exploration into our own knowledge of Aboriginal history and awareness and will continue this journey at our next meeting. Have you had a look at our photo display frames in the rooms to see our heritage. We often see children looking at these making connections with belonging to our group at WCC.

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

Opening Hours Survey— Thankyou to all families for your feedback. Our new Governing Council will look at these shortly when they have their first meeting.

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.

ILLNESS— we appreciate when families notify us of any illnesses. This allows us to inform other families of what to be aware of. Sick children should stay at home to prevent sharing germs and for infection control.

Contact details: did you move house or get a new phone number?
If so, please come and let us know so that we are able to contact you in any emergency or situation that requires your attention. Also let us know if the details for any of your collection pickup contacts change as well. Children will NOT be allowed to go home with people not on the collection authority list. It is up to you to keep us informed.

Come and join in the fun at the Waikerie Playgroup— starting again here in term 2.
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.

Do you have concerns for your child development?
If you have any concerns about your child’s development please come and speak to our staff. We are in a position to seek further help from Riverland Community Health Services and Department of Education & Child Development to help support your child. Usually we would ask for a referral for a professional to come along to the centre or your home such as a speech therapist, or occupational therapist and they will assess your child and provide us with a program that we can use in the centre to support your child. Sometimes they might be able to provide the centre with additional staffing that is able to work with your child or within a group. This type of early intervention approach often allows the child to work with familiar staff in our setting before they reach school.
Below is listed some phone numbers of avenues of support that you can ring yourself or come and speak to us for guidance:

Child Youth Health  1300 733 606
- speech & language - general check-up
- hearing and sight checks - feeding
- general development - fine & gross motor

Riverland Community Health Services  1800 332 858 or 8580 2500
- speech therapist - Occupational therapist
- Physio therapist - Dietician
-Paediatric Continence Nurse (toileting concerns)
- Kids Team– for multiple concerns

CAMHS— Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
(Behaviour concerns, General Wellbeing, Emotional issues and trauma) Ph 8582 4290

Support groups for children in kindy…
Once children reach kindy they might become involved in some of the small groups that we run. These groups involve staff working with a small group of children on specific strategies or areas of need for 10-15mins at a time. Groups can focus on listening skills, following through instruction, fine motor control, gross motor development, broaden language skills, speech programs, emotional wellbeing and support.
Some of the programs are made with support of the professionals listed above and highlight the need for early intervention. Children love being in these groups and often role models are included as well. Being provided with an intensive session whilst at kindy for short stints of time has seen some remarkable progress for children that are included. For further information about these groups please speak to Kay or Wendy.

CAN YOU HELP US BY Resource collecting… One of the most precious items that we seem to use lots of are natural elements that surround us and we would like you to look in your own backyard.
WE need: bark for painting, seed pods, gum nuts, hard leaves, pine cones, flowers, feathers, smooth rocks, plants, shells.
We are also needing old keys and locks, hand tools, nuts and bolts and wood for hammering.