



Newsletter

WEEK 2 TERM 1 : 2nd February 2015



Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A big welcome back to everyone it has been a great start to the year with the new longer daily times. All of the children have settled in well with lots of energy for everything. We hope you have had some interesting stories of their learning at kindy thus far, but if not come in when you can and take a look at the new Learning Journal which has just been started. Thankyou to all the families who have sent encouraging emails to the staff about their child's experiences in the first week.

This week has been a getting to know you for the staff team and the children as well as talking a little bit about celebrating Australia Day. We will continue this for the coming week as well as putting the children into small groups so that they can get to know their new friends more quickly. We find that small groups are an easier way to get to know the children's learning style and interests more quickly and it helps them to learn each other's names more quickly. We hope you have all settled in to the new routines and will soon feel that Hawthorndene Kindergarten is like your second home.

It is great to see how many children have their names on their belongings but there are still some personal items which do not, so please could you make sure that all of your child's possessions are clearly labelled. Each year we have a number of items which are left behind and if they are not labelled we give them to a charity shop.

Your child was given a kindy logo hat on their first day of kindy and the staff team have put their name inside at the front so that the children can read it as well, this helps everyone when they get misplaced. Some families have also purchased polo tops for their children and there are a small number left but new ones will be purchased shortly, please speak with the staff team if you are interested.

Hopefully you have met the **staff team** already,

Cynthia Meredith: *Director*, Louise Montesi: *Teacher*,

Tess Gibbs: *Early Childhood Worker*,

Lenka Velisek--- *Lunchcare and support worker*.

Diary Dates

First parent meeting
Gov Council Meeting
Tues Feb 10th 7 for 7:15pm

Chinese New Year
Visiting Night
Thurs Feb 19th
6:30--7:30pm
Everyone welcome

Assembly visit HPS
TBA

Boori / Monty Pryor
Aboriginal Story Teller
Tuesday 17th March 10:00am &
Wednesday 18th March 10:00am

Regular Events

Wednesdays

Morning:
Shared fruit

Thursdays

Morning:
Shared fruit

Fridays

Playgroup
9:30-11:30am

Curriculum Term Overview

The overview is at the front of the Learning Journal. This is the starting point for the term and shows some of the activities which may take place this term but as usual we move with the children's guiding. You will notice there are some cultural events listed and the staff team believe that it is important for the children to continue to broaden their understanding of the many different cultures which make up our diverse nation. In this way we believe that they will develop empathy, tolerance and understanding of different ways of doing things and ideas which will help them as they grow and work with different people. We will be working with the children and their families so that the curriculum will develop with their voice. For the first couple of weeks as mentioned we will be celebrating Australia in a follow on from Australia Day, following this we will look at the Asian cultures as we celebrate Chinese New Year culminating in our first exciting Visiting Night-----**Chinese New Year Night on Feb 19th from 6:30-7:30pm**. All of our families are invited to join us on this night together.

The evening will include opportunities for adults and children to enjoy various Asian activities set up in the main room and outside for 3/4hour, and then we will all join together in the pergola for the children to perform a 'Dragon Dance' with their own band. We hope you can all attend to enjoy the fun and meet the staff team in a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is encouraged to dress in Asian traditional attire, along with the staff team, if you are able, and grandparents and friends are also welcome.

Our first Governing Council Meeting for 2015 Tuesday Feb 10th 7 for 7:15pm

Have you ever been able to contribute your ideas to how your child will be nurtured and supported to develop their early literacy and numeracy skills and learn to socialise and share with new friends? You are your child's first teachers and the staff team are keen to work with you to continuously improve the kindergarten facilities and curriculum program. Come along and share your suggestions, listen to the ideas of the staff team and other parents and get to know the rest of the kindergarten community have a night off from your parenting responsibilities if you are able. If you need help with babysitting please speak with Cynthia.

Sun Sense Policy

In line with kindergarten sun sense policy could you apply sunscreen at the start of the day and the staff team will reapply sunscreen at the commencement of the afternoon session. If your child has allergies and needs to wear their own sunscreen please let the staff team know and send along the appropriate sunscreen clearly labelled, which will be applied at the same time for your child. The children will be required to wear a sun hat while playing in the outdoor environment, they may wear an alternative hat to the one they were given provided it has protection from the sun's rays please remind your child when they arrive at kindergarten.

Daily Routines

It's great to see everyone familiar with the morning routines, adult carers need to sign in their child but **please support your child to find their name on the name boards and from the name card pockets**. While we understand that sometimes it is quicker to do it yourself,

with practice your child will learn to recognise their name and this is a big step towards their autonomous literacy. At the end of the day we aim to have your child ready for you to collect with all their jobs done but you will still need to sign out.

Wednesdays AM and Thursdays AM: "Shared Fruit"

This year shared fruit will be on two days so that all children are involved in this activity, thank you for your support with this program.

At first some children may be confused by sharing fruit with their peers but the staff team believe that this provides many great opportunities for the children.

1. They see other children enjoying fruit
2. They may try some different fruit with their peers
3. This is another opportunity to put sharing into practice
4. It also promotes different conversations as they compare and match the fruit.

To help us, it would be appreciated if you could please:-

- Be explicit in telling your child "Today is shared fruit day" .
- Perhaps let them make a choice from what you have at home that is suitable: fresh fruit, dried fruit, dry biscuits. Most fruit can be cut up without spoiling and sent in a small container, if this is a problem please send it uncut.
- Get your child to put their "fruit" for sharing on the tray on the kitchen bench as this encourages their self help skills and lets them see what they have brought for snack.

Normal Snack Times:

- We try to suggest that fruit is a good choice for your child's snack, however we understand that is not so for some children. Perhaps some dried fruit, veggie sticks/ cherry tomatoes are more to their liking, rice crackers, pretzels, muffins or even a small sandwich.
- There are lots of suitable options however, it would be appreciated if you would **please not send yoghurt for a morning snack**. Despite its dietary benefits, it is difficult for children to manage on the steps where we eat out fruit, and a spill is not only messy but also dangerous for some children due to allergies.
- Also as we have an increasing number of children with food allergies, it would be appreciated if you could remember our **No Nuts policy**, this includes packaged foods which may have been prepared in factories where nut products were processed. **Please check the labels as these products will not be allowed for the safety of all.**
- Pre Packaged snack /processed foods high sugar and fat, including chips, chocolate and LCM Bars, and sweets will be sent home as an after kindy treat as they are not in line with our **Healthy Eating policy** and indirectly puts pressure on other children and their families. If you would like to give your child treat as a reward for a long day at kindy, perhaps a swing in the park, or walk together is a healthier option.
- We would also appreciate if **only water is sent in children's drink bottles**. As well as not being healthy for teeth, cordials and juice can make a sticky mess when spilled which attracts ants. Your child can always fill their drink bottle from the water container provided, and we can supply a cup if they leave their bottle/cup at home.

Kindy Fees

Kindy invoices have now been emailed to you so if you have not found the invoice in your inbox yet please let Cynthia know so that an invoice can be sent to you. Please could you pay them as soon as

possible so that they can be finalised by the voluntary treasurer. If you are having difficulties with this please speak with Cynthia so that arrangements can be made to support you.

Take Home Box

If your child is looking for a special art work that has not been displayed, check the "Take Home" box. (However, it is cleared at the end of each Friday, if you would like something special kept longer on a Thursday, say, til the next week, let staff know)

Bluey and Star, our Kindy Budgies.....

need a loving family to look after them each weekend, add your name to the list in the budgie book. You don't need special training or licences and all equipment, food etc is provided. See a staff team member today!

Washing Roster

Here is another way you can show your support of the kindergarten program. The staff team really appreciate your efforts. We have smocks and towels which need a wash each weekend, so don't miss your chance to help with this task, apply to a staff member now you don't need any extra training just pop them in with your normal wash.

Visit of Monti Prior—Aboriginal Cultural Entertainer

Tues & Wed March 17th & 18th at 10:00am

Later this term we will have a visit from Monti (Boori) who is a very skilled performer and he relates well to the children. He will be coming on a Tuesday and a Wednesday so that both groups of children will be able to enjoy his talents. This incursion will be at no charge to families and is part of our curriculum program.

Literacy Hint:

Next time you are using a recipe / instruction booklet show your child the words, numbers and steps involved. They may even be able to help you in your task, and make the need for literacy purposeful.

Emailing the newsletter saves paper and time however some parents may wish to have a hard copy to read later please let the staff team know if you would prefer a hard copy and we can print it out for you. There will be some available in the plastic sleeve above the Learning Journal table at the front entrance.

**Our Best Wishes for a great term of learning together in play,
Cynthia Meredith, Louise Montesi and Tess Gibbs.**