Hello everyone and Happy Mother’s Day for Sunday!
Welcome back to Kindergarten for Term 2. We also welcome Sam and his family to Group A. By now you may have seen our newly redeveloped Sandpit/Outdoor area which was completed in the school holidays. The children are enjoying their new Sandpit which provides a higher level of sensory and physical play opportunities with water features/natural rock formations/logs/graduated wooden steps and gravel.
We have a busy term ahead with excursions/Parent Teacher Interviews/Biggest Afternoon Tea/Art Show/CAYHS Preschool Health Checks so please check your Parent Pocket daily for notes/forms etc. Parent Teacher interviews are being conducted by Rosa, Bronwyn and Rhondda so please check that you have made an appointment with your child’s focus teacher.
Besides these events every day is a busy day at Kindy as can be seen on our Program Board and also in the Children’s Learning Folders which are now available for you to read and share with your child (they are located on the main bench inside near the Recyclable construction table). Please find our Term overview attached.

WORKING BEE

Thank you to the following parents/grandparents and also to those who offered assistance - Group A - Bev and Dean (Aria’s grandparents), Mike (Charlie’s Dad) Julie and Michael (Maddi’s parents) and Group B (Lindsay (Lachlan’s grandfather), Evan (Isla’s father) and Kirsty (Tyler’s mother).

SUN SAFE POLICY

A reminder to pack a hat even on cooler days. We check and record the predicted UV rating each day on our chart on the photo board and if it is 3 or higher eg between 10 – 200 children and staff need to wear a hat outside during that time.

LETTER OF THE WEEK/IDENTITY BOX

We have had a wonderful response to our Letter of the Week Program. The main purpose of this program is for children to start identifying objects from home that begin with the week’s letter so it is best that children choose something themselves to give themselves ownership over their learning. When children bring in the object they will write a label for it during the day.
This week we are commencing our Identity Box Program. We ask that your child places three items in the box that are important to them. We request that only one toy is placed inside along with two other objects – perhaps a favourite game/book/something your child has made/a photo/momento etc.

WESTERN ADELAIDE SHORES PARTNERSHIP

West Beach Kindergarten belongs to the Western Adelaide Shores Partnership which consists of the following local sites: Barbara Kiker Memorial Kindergarten, Elizabeth O’Grady Preschool, Henley Community Kindergarten, Fulham Park Preschool Kindergarten, West Lakes Kindergarten, West Lakes Shore Kindergarten West Beach Primary School, Henley Beach Primary School, Kidman Park Primary School, Grange Schools, Hendon Primary School, Fulham North Primary School, Fulham Gardens Primary School, West Lakes Shore Primary School, Henley High School and Seaton High School.
This year our Partnership focus is on children as Powerful and Engaged Learners. There are a range of strategies which will be used by all sites to help us examine how we can better support children to be Powerful and Engaged Learners. These include Parent Surveys – see attached, action research projects on site and Focus groups of Leaders to look at how we can work better with families and communities, staff and children on this important component to your child’s learning and outcomes. Results of Parent Surveys, Action Research Outcomes and other initiatives will be reported on in our newsletter and Annual Report. The following is an excerpt from West Lakes Shore School newsletter …

“One of the most important components of any child becoming a successful learner for life is the mindset they bring to their learning. There has been considerable research in recent years, led by Professor Carol Dweck from Stanford University about the roles of Fixed and Growth Mindsets in learning. Students with a Growth mindset believe that their abilities can be developed and so they are more willing to put effort into learning. They consequently are better prepared to take on challenges, to put effort into learning …This desire to learn leads to a tendency to embrace challenges, persist in the face of setbacks, see effort as the way to achieve mastery and understanding, learn from criticism and find lessons and inspiration in the success of others. As a result they reach even higher levels of achievement and a greater sense of free will. For teachers and parents, developing a growth mindset in children … is critical to making them open to improving their learning.”

**STAFFING UPDATE**

This year we have transferred two of our Staff to permanency at West Beach Kindergarten – congratulations to Amanda and Ines. We also welcome Sue Edgecombe to our team as a Preschool Support Worker for Group A on Monday and Wednesday mornings. This term we have allocated additional funding to employ additional staff to work on the floor so our Teacher can work with small groups of children to help develop skills and understandings in different areas of the program. Each group has been allocated additional staffing for several hours (Monday and Tuesday afternoons) for this purpose. This will support one of our Improvement Foci for our Quality Improvement Plan – 1.2.2 Improvements in children’s outcomes in literacy and numeracy and fine motor and gross motor skills.

We also welcome Sue Edgecombe to our team as a Preschool Support Worker for Group A on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

**DIARY DATES**

**MAY**
- 13/5 Wednesday @730 Governing Council
- 20/5 Wednesday CAYHS Preschool Health Checks Group A
- 26/5 Tuesday Come Out excursion Group B
- 27/5 Wednesday Come Out excursion Group A

**JUNE**
- 8/6 Monday Public Holiday
- 10/6 Wednesday Biggest Afternoon Tea/Art Show Group A
- 11/6 Thursday Biggest Afternoon Tea/Art Show Group B

**JULY**
- 1/7 5 Wednesday @730 Governing Council

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**
- Monday 6 July – Friday 17 July

Regards
Rosa, Bronwyn, Rhondda, Amanda, Ines, Sofie, Sara, Danielle, Sue, Yvonne and Alannah West Beach Kindergarten Staff, Support and Volunteer Team

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**FEES/KINDY PHOTO MONIES**

Term 2 fees are now due and payable by week 5 either online or by placing correct monies in a yellow envelope and placing in the fees box. A reminder that if you have a current health care card we can offer 25% discount. Please see Amanda. Also Kindy photo monies are due by Thursday 7 May.