Welcome

To Week 3... Thankyou to all who were able to attend our first Community Event and AGM. We now have a new Governing Council who will be your representatives at the Governing Council Meetings. We still have vacancies so if you wish to attend our first meeting on Thursday 10 March @ 730 please do so.

Governing Council Members

Chair: Mike Walkden (Group A)

Members: Lauren Bahr (B), Nicole Barnett (B), Louis Fischer (A), Joe Garreffa (B), Kath Moore (A), Jo Ness (B), Terri Pearce (B), Zhanna Petku (B),

Communication

Thankyou to all the parents who have downloaded and accessed the Skoolbag app on their phone/digital devices. This is our main means of communication with our parent groups. If you are UNABLE to access the App please circle the NO on the Skoolbag note in your pocket and return to our Parent Survey Box (adjacent to the Fees Box) so we can give you a paper copy. A reminder too that all newsletters are also downloaded to our website. Please continue to check your Parent Pockets daily for any notes from staff. Thankyou to those parents who have already returned their 2016 Philosophy Statement survey to the Survey Box. We will continue to collect these over the next two weeks and we will collate the results and let you know our ‘Top 6 Values’ in the next newsletter. Our 2016 Philosophy Statement will be included in our 2016 Quality Improvement Plan.
Absences
A reminder: If your child is going to be absent for the day due to illness/appointment etc please let us know via a quick phone call in the morning. Otherwise for absences in advance please advise via the Skoolbag App or our Parent Communication Book next to the Sign-In Sheet. Due to our child census taking part in week 2 and 3 each term we do ask that you plan any holidays to fall outside of these weeks. Staff funding in Preschools/Kindergartens is based on child attendance and if your child is not attending in these 2 weeks they will not be included in our census and we will not receive funding for them.

Program
Please refer to our Emergent Program Board on the large wall in the main room for weekly updates on our program. Staff meet on alternate Fridays for Programming Meetings and the following fortnight’s program is posted on the wall then. Programming is based on Staff observations of the children in Small and large Group Times and Free play. We incorporate individual children’s observations and also whole group observations into our planning also taking into account our Term Overview. We are programming to support and extend the children in their learning at Kindy. Our curriculum framework is the Early Years Learning Framework.

Free Parenting SA Seminar
Toddlers and touch screens: What should I do? Presented by Dr Justin Coulson

Tuesday 5 April 700 – 900 City Rooms Adelaide Convention Centre North Terrace

- The pros and cons of the digital age for children 0 – 5
- How and when to introduce phones, tablets, apps, e-games
- How to manage electronic media use

Register to attend in person or view the live webcast at http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au

More info about Dr Justin Coulson at www.happyfamilies.com.au

For parenting information www.parenting.sa.gov.au or www.cyh.com

Western Adelaide Shores Partnership Update

West Beach Kindergarten is part of the Western Adelaide Shores Partnership. This Partnership consists of eight local preschool sites, seven local primary schools and two local high schools. Site leaders meet regularly to determine priorities for our Partnership and there is a yearly review by the Department of Education and Child Development. Each newsletter we will provide Partnership updates.
Message from Western Adelaide Shores Local Partnership Parents and Community Portfolio: The Western Adelaide Shores Partnership is conducting a survey across all schools and early years sites in our partnership. The aim is to gather information from as many parents as possible to inform the planning for 2016 Shore Start Community Learning planning. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the survey by the deadline of the 29th February. The survey may be accessed via this link:  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShoreStartParentSurvey2016

Some Housekeeping…

To foster self-help skills and independence please ensure your child is able to open any of the containers independently for snack/lunch at home before you send them to Kindy. Sandals are the preferred shoewear in Summer as they are easier to take on and off than socks and sandshoes for Sandpit play – as well as being cooler to wear. These simple steps will help the children (and also the staff) at the extra busy times such as lining up to go inside – it takes longer when some children need assistance with footwear - and also lunch time when we have one less staff member on the floor.

Vacancies

Our current numbers are Group A 28 and Group B 25 so we still have vacancies in both sessions as our site capacity per session is 36. If you know of any families who are looking for a Preschool please refer them to us.

Regards

West Beach Kindergarten Staff and Volunteer Team

Rosa, Bronwyn, Rhondda, Amanda, Ines, Sofie, Sue, Alena, Sara and Yvonne

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