Our special art focus is well under way. Following our excursion to the Art Gallery, the children have enthusiastically begun the first stage of creating their own masterpieces on canvas. As you will see in our curriculum snapshot, a broad range of activities has been planned to extend the children’s thinking, drawing out their creative ideas and expressive communication.

Staff Professional Development
Our staff team have been involved in a range of professional development opportunities this fortnight. These included: a numeracy workshop that explored practical ways to implement the Preschool Numeracy and Literacy Indicators; and two Reggio Emilia conferences which focused on implementing the curriculum through a values lens, and methods for effectively observing and documenting children’s learning. A Reggio approach which reminds us of the many ways children observe, learn and express themselves is so relevant to our special art focus - this is reflected in the 100 Languages poem below.

![The 100 Languages poem]

**Stirling East Kindergarten**
9 Snows Road, Stirling 5152
Phone: 8339 3181 Fax: 8370 1057
Email: dl.4667.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.

When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking.

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: Practice (DEEWR, 2009, P.15).

Curriculum Update

The children and educators have been excited about our art focus this term and the gearing up for our special excursion to the Art Gallery. We counted down the sleeps to go and discussed what would happen and what we might see at the Art Gallery. The children set up a beautiful Thinking Tree with their brainstorming ideas and we will develop this process as we continue our learning. Our program features four art categories: Landscapes; Portraits; Abstract; and Still Life. The children will be provided many opportunities to explore and experiment with different types of art using creative resources and techniques in the lead up to our Kindergarten Art Show. Introducing the notion that we are all artists, the children's interests in art and what they like to paint will be developed as a springboard to creating their own special piece of work for the art show. We are exploring art language such as: artist; easel; canvas; palette; Mahl stick; picture frame; and portrait/landscape orientation.

The children are being encouraging to bring in examples of art and if there are any artists or creative members in your family we would love to hear from you.

As part of our art focus transient art spaces will be available which encourage the children to connect with and embrace the natural environment. We are planning to develop natural resources that reflect the real world. Natural resources that provide opportunities to explore the elements of art: line; colour; form; pattern; and texture. Children will have the chance to investigate a multitude of choices and the creative play possibilities are infinite!

If you would like to help the kindergarten develop these resources, items we are looking at collecting include: sticks; leaves; old picture frames; ceramic tiles; wool; mosaics; seed pods; old wooden draws; shells; and dried flowers. You may have some great ideas as well. Any donations will be greatly appreciated and will surely enrich our learning environment.
Art Gallery Excursion

We enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Art Gallery of South Australia on Thursday of week 2. The bus picked us up from kindergarten and we travelled together to the gallery. The bus ride was a favourite part of the excursion for many of the children! We talked on the way about what we might see and where we were going. At the gallery we were met by our guides and taken on a short tour during which we saw a range of art works. Portraits, landscapes, still life paintings, abstract and modern art, sculptures and Indigenous art were among the artworks on display. The children were able to ask questions and share their knowledge and ideas during the tour. The children had learned about some of the styles of artwork we saw at the gallery prior to the excursion and it was wonderful to see them proudly sharing their understandings.

Thank you to the parents who offered their support and those who came along to help out.

We are looking forward to continuing our learning about art through the rest of the term. We will be learning about styles of art, some famous artists and exploring different techniques as we prepare for our Art Show!

On the way home we stopped at the 'Helicopter Playground' in North Adelaide for a picnic lunch and play. The children enjoyed playing together in a different environment. It was a wonderful day.
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