Centre Update from Catriona

Welcome to Kindergarten for 2016. This term we welcome all of our families and children who are starting for the first time. During the past two days the staff have been busy setting up kindy and we look forward to meeting you all next week. Our program for the next two weeks will be focusing on establishing routines, developing new friendships, talking about sun safety, snake safety, bushfire awareness and mandatory safety procedures and starting to discuss our term focus of “Our Identity”.

Angela, Susan, Vonny and I have had conversations about the program and the different learning experiences we will be providing this term. As a result we have some special events planned for this term. To keep up to date about the events please check the Diary Dates on the front page of each newsletter regularly. We will include additional information in the newsletter before the events take place with all the essential details. Please remember parents are most welcome to stay and join in kindergarten activities at any time.

Family Picnic Tea
Please join us Monday 15th February at 5.30pm with your family and a BYO Picnic Tea in the kindy grounds. This is a great way to meet the staff team and other families. This will be followed by a short Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm. The kindy needs parent participation in this vital council which works with me helping to manage the centre. No experience necessary just a desire to be involved, learn new skills, make new friends and have fun along the way.

Term Fees
Term fees are in your child’s notice pocket located in the locker room. We have created one invoice for the year but you are welcome to pay in 4 termly instalments. The preferred method of payment is through bank transfer with the details being on your invoice. Did you know that the kindy only receives approximately 40 cents per full day while your child is at kindy? This is why the fees are higher than school as we have to pay for the electricity, water, telephone, cleaner and everything else we use. The schools have these costs paid for by the government.

What to do and remember for the first week of kindy
All parents/carers are required to sign their child in and out. The sign in sheet is on the CREAM DESK as you walk in the main doors.

- Please help your child remember to bring the following items each time they come to kindy. Hat, children should wear T-shirts that cover their shoulders, wear sunscreen and bring a drink bottle with water and pieces of fruit for snack morning and afternoon. All items should be NAMED CLEARLY.

- Please put your child’s lunch box on the grey trolley in the locker room. Snack time foods are kept in your child’s bag to encourage independence, please do not put them in your child’s lunch box. Some children like to eat their fruit very early and want more before going home or lunchtime. Please ensure there are plenty of healthy food choices available for your child while they are at kindy. Please do not send packaged junk foods or high sugar content foods.
Please do not send any NUT foods or foods containing nuts to kindy. From time to time we have children who may have severe allergic reactions to these foods requiring emergency first aid. We thank you for your support in keeping all the children safe at kindy.

Please ensure only YOUR child leaves the kindy yard with you.

Have you moved or changed any phone numbers during the break? If so please update your details with Catriona as soon as possible.

If your child is sensitive to sunscreen please supply your own clearly named and give to a teacher.

**Session Times**

- Full days 9.00am to 3.00pm
- Morning 9.00 to 12 noon

**The Staff Team 2016**

- Director: Catriona Catt  Mon — Fri
- Teachers: Angela Garrett  Mon + Tues
- Susan Jenner  Wed + Thurs
- ECW: Vonny Malburg  Mon — Fri

**Contacting the Staff**

Sometimes arranging a chat can be tricky so please feel welcome to email the staff and they will get back to you.

dl.4667.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

**Reminder Bushfire Procedures 2016**

When a Catastrophic Day is forecast we have a sign which will be locked on to the kindy gate. The kindy will be closed as will all other public schools in the hills area. You will receive a SMS message the day before to confirm the kindy is closed on a Catastrophic Day. This will mostly happen after 5pm the day before. Parents are asked to check the CFS web site and listen to ABC Radio 891 for up to date information. The kindy is open on EXTREME and SEVERE fire danger days. Parents are required to monitor local fire conditions on these days and activate their own bushfire survival plans.

**Snows Road Traffic**

Parking is an issue around kindy so please make sure you observe the yellow line markings on Snows Road and do not park on the foot path. I have been told this area is closely monitored by the Hills council and fines are given out. To ease some of the congestion parents are welcome to drop off a little later or collect their child earlier.

**Literacy Kits**

Literacy kits are located in the locker room and are available for borrowing on a daily basis. Please fill in your child’s details in the Borrowing Book. If you find any pieces missing or damaged in the kits please let Vonny know so they can be fixed or replaced. Please ensure you check the kits for all parts/pieces and that they are clean before returning it. The borrowing time is a maximum of 1 week.

**Playgroup**

Playgroup is now on Friday 9.00am to 11.00am. All families are welcome and the cost is $5.00 per week. Please bring a piece of fruit for sharing. Vonny is facilitating the Playgroup this year.

**Playgroup starts Friday 12th February.**

**TERM DATES 2016**

- 1 Feb — 15 Apr
- 2 May — 8 Jul
- 25 July — 30 Sept
- 17 Oct — 16 Dec
**Mulberry Tree**

The Mulberry tree is full of fruit at the moment and this is a tree children are allowed to climb in at kindy. One of the greatest joys of childhood is climbing trees and eating fresh fruit you can pick yourself. With this in mind mulberries do stain a deep red colour so please send your child in clothing that doesn’t matter if it becomes stained or darker coloured clothing may be a good option.

**BUZZ LIST**

In the locker room is a BUZZ LIST. The purpose of this is to put your child’s name, your name and a contact number if you wish to organise play dates for your child with other parents. This list is only to be used for this purpose and not to solicit goods or services.

**What to expect on your first day.**

On days when the UV Index will be higher than 3 help your child put on sunscreen prior to leaving home.  
Please bring your child into the kindy building and help them choose a locker to store their bag in.  
Your child’s snack and drink bottle stays in their bag so they can access it when hungry and thirsty.  
Help your child put their NAMED lunch box on the grey trolley which will be taken to the kitchen during the morning.  
Sign your child in on the SIGN IN SHEET located on the cream desk.  
Your child can then chose to play inside or outside (with a hat on).  
Group time will be at 9.30am when we all come to the mat inside.  
After group time children can resume learning inside or outside.  
There is a snack table set up under the pergola where children can sit to eat their snack when they are hungry. They will be reminded to do this during the morning.  
We have another group time before the end of the morning at 11.40am and then children who stay just for the morning leave at 12 noon.  
Then children are helped to put on sunscreen before having lunch.  
Lunch  
Relaxation time — approximately 10 minutes.  
Resume indoor and outdoor learning.  
2.20pm pack up time  
2.40 pm Group time  
3.00pm Home time  
Please collect your child on time so they don’t become distressed.  
If your child is not coping we will call you or if you are concerned about your child please call us 8339 3181.
Family Picnic Night and AGM

This year our Family Picnic Night will be held at kindy on Monday 15th February from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner for themselves and enjoy dining in the kindy grounds with other families and meet the staff team. Please include a picnic rug.

Parents are responsible for all their own children attending.

This will be followed by
A Short
Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm

Catriona Catt
I am entering my 29th year as a Preschool Director. My teaching career spans from remote outback communities to mining towns to coastal rural towns to the city and I have been in the hills since 2003. In 2014 I was appointed to Stirling East Kindergarten for 10 years. Together the staff team worked with the Governing Council and families to make some great changes to the children’s learning environment. We have some great plans for this year so I am looking forward to working with you and your child in 2016. I am married to Paul and we have 4 children Kate 24, Matt 21, Stuart 20 and Nic 17. We welcomed our first grandchild in December so now I am a Nanna as well! We live locally and I love the community spirit in the hills.

Angelita Garrett
I have been a preschool teacher for many, many years now and have had the special pleasure of teaching at Stirling East Kindergarten for the past 5 years, with 2016 entering into my 6th. My time here has been extremely rewarding and flown by so quickly, with many changes along the way. I look forward to reconnecting with our wonderful returning families as well as getting to know our new families and the families that have attended our much loved playgroup over the past year. I don’t live too far away at Cherry Gardens and enjoy the lovely drive through the hills to work. I am married to Richard who is also a teacher and we have an 11 year old son called Thomas who will be in year 6 this year. I enjoy dabbling in creative art and craft activities and love camping and bushwalking with my family. I look forward to a wonderful year together in 2016.

Susan Jenner
I completed a postgraduate teaching qualification in 2010 and since then have taught in a variety of preschools, kindy’s and primary schools. I moved to Balhannah in 2014, after 3 years living and teaching in the mid-North of South Australia. Having worked at Stirling East Kindy in a regular relief capacity in 2015, I am really excited to once again be a part of this enthusiastic and dedicated team of educators in 2016. I have a (nearly) 9 year-old son, Orlando, who will be in Year 4 this year. We enjoy bike riding, reading and playing ‘Monopoly Deal’ together as well as spending time with family and friends. I enjoy gardening, especially growing things to eat, and enjoy pursuing creative projects such as mosaics and lead lighting. I feel privileged to be working with your children during their very special kindergarten year. I look forward to sharing their journey of growth and development and having lots of fun!

Angela Garrett
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Vonny Mahlborg
I have worked in kindergartens for the past 15 years in numerous roles over many sites. I have supported children with severe and multiple disabilities, supported children with speech & language delays. I became involved with Kindy’s through being on Governing Council where my children went.

I have lived in Charleston for the past 28 years, my husband is Peter and he works up at Roxby Downs. We have 2 children, Jed 21 years of age and Paige who is nearly 20. Looking forward to a great 2016 with all of your children.