

## KEITHCOT FARM



### May 2017 Newsletter

- **Anne Whittleston** (Director / Educator)
- **Jen Reid** (Assistant Director / Educator)
- **Laura Francis** (Community Development Coordinator)
- **Tamara Hall** (Speech Pathologist)
- **Daniela Barilla** (Occupational Therapist)
- **Kate Hallam** (Educator)
- **Janet Hazel** (Educator)
- **Roshni Amroliwala** (Educator)
- **Bec Walker** (Educator)
- **Carolyn Howson** (Educator)
- **Adrienne Hicks** (Educator)
- **Erin Wilkinson** (Educator)
- **Magdaline Saredakis** (Educator)
- **Coby Romano** (Educator)
- **Lisa Mildrum** (Educator)
- **Jodie Murray** (Educator)
- **Andrea Randell** (Educator)
- **Louise Salmon** (Educator)
- **Julie-Anne Duffy** (Educator)
- **Robbi Meinel** (Educator)
- **Cathy Mazzarolo** (Educator)
- **Sally Phippen** (Cook /Educator)
- **Iona Angely** (Educator)
- **Julia Tilley** (Educator)
- **Carolyn Potter** (Admin Officer)
- **Jo Oliver** (Cook)
- **Nobuko Nakajima** (Cook /Educator)
- **Simon Costello** (Groundsperson)

#### **Building Redevelopment.**

As you can see our building redevelopment is moving at a very pleasing pace and at this stage is on time for the practical completion in July 2017!

Decisions regarding additional services to be offered through our Centre will be made by our local leadership team and key partner agencies. These include government agencies, non government and community-based organisations, parents, community members and staff.

We will keep you informed of the program and time lines for our building redevelopment and the additional services that we will be able to offer our community, in the very near future!

#### **Website**

With the magnificent support of Phoebe from Forbes Children's Centre, we are in the process of updating our Website.

The address is

[www.keithcotfarmcc.sa.edu.au](http://www.keithcotfarmcc.sa.edu.au)

Or you can simply "Google" Keithcot Farm.

A valuable addition to our Website are our "*Policies and Procedures*". If you are not able to access the Website copies of the current Policies and Procedures are available by the Sign In desks.

#### **Curriculum**

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), 'Belonging, Being and Becoming' is Australia's first national curriculum for early childhood environments. EYLF describes the principles, practice and outcomes essential to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school. The Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning - providing the most appropriate stimulus for brain development. The Framework also recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre, each child has a portfolio which is an interactive way to share our understanding of your child's learning and progress. We record Learning Stories, jottings, photos and anecdotes about your child's experiences in our program that we feel capture important moments, interests and achievements.

We would highly value reading some of your stories about your child at home or other contributions such as family photos.

That way we can together create a lasting record of your child's learning at home, in the community and in our program.



Please take the portfolio home to read with your family but ensure it returns so we can add more stories!

#### **National Quality Framework**

We have recently been informed that later this month we will be participating in an Assessment and Rating process against the **National Quality Standard (NQS)**.

The NQS has **7 quality areas:**

##### **1 Educational program and practice**

These programs should be stimulating, engaging and enhance children's learning and development.

##### **2 Children's health and safety**

Every child's health and wellbeing should be safeguarded and promoted.

##### **3 Physical environment.**

This should be safe, suitable and provide a rich and diverse range of experiences which promote children's learning and development.

##### **4 Staffing arrangements**

Staffing arrangements should create a safe and routine environment for children and support warm, respectful relationships.

##### **5 Relationships with children**

These should be responsive, respectful and promote a child's sense of security and belonging so they are confident to explore the environment and engage in learning.

##### **6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**

Good working relationships with families are fundamental to achieving good outcomes for children.

##### **7 Leadership and service management**

Effective leadership and management will sustain positive relationships and environments that aid children's learning and development.

The [National Regulations](#) require services to have a **Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)**. The aim of a QIP is to help providers self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care, based on the 7 Quality Areas and to plan future improvements. Our QIP has a Priority improvement identified in **Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice** *Critical Reflection on children's learning and development, both as individuals and in groups, is regularly used to implement the program.*

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre we ensure that all staff have access to ongoing professional learning opportunities to refine and develop their skills and knowledge to be able to critically reflect on their practice, to ultimately improve learning outcomes for our children and families.



On **Monday May 22**, our core Educators from across our site will spend the day with other Educators across the Golden Way Partnership focussing on Critical Reflections on pedagogy (teaching and learning). This directly relates to our QIP where we can extend our learning with other sites as well as the Learning Improvement Division of DECD. **Please note - there will be no DECD preschool on Monday 22 May** Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Monday.

***"Providing exemplary early childhood education is an ongoing process; even the most experienced and outstanding educators never reach a state of professional perfection ... a commitment to reflection and opportunities for continual professional development serve as ways to ensure that educators are working towards new depths of understanding in their own practice"***  
(Goldstein, 1997)

Another Priority Improvement Area for our QIP is:

### **Quality Area 3: Physical Environment**

*The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future.*

Our aim is to embed sustainable practices in our curriculum and to foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment. We will support children to be environmentally responsible and encourage them to participate in a variety of planned experiences that engage them in appropriate sustainable practices. This will include recycling at the Centre and at home - using the recycling and general waste bins which are distributed through our Centre. We will encourage children to learn how to become more energy efficient and to foster their capacity to understand and respect the natural environment.

Thank you to one of our parents Gavin Warwick, a **worm farm** has been set up allowing children to see the benefits of waste reduction, turning organic waste into nutrient fertilizer for our plants in the garden.



We are caring for the vegetables and herbs in our edible garden and the flowers and fruit tree in our new pots beside the sandpit. Literacy and



numeracy experiences relating to this have seen children writing the names of the seedlings and discussing the different parts of the plants (stem, roots and leaves) Children of all ages have enthusiastically been watering the seedlings.

*If you are in the process of organising your vegetable garden at home and have a few seedlings left over or would just like to help us with this process, we would*

*very much welcome your involvement 😊.*

As our building progresses our Governing Council in collaboration with the builders and architects are investigating installing Solar Panels as well as water saving taps and energy efficient lights.

Families may be interested in the website '[amysenergysave.com.au](http://amysenergysave.com.au)' which is an Australian interactive site explaining the benefits of saving water and electricity to preschool children.

***By embedding sustainable practices across our Curriculum we are not only reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill which in turn produces methane and carbon dioxide but we are also helping to reduce contamination and greenhouse gases!***

***These greenhouse gases contribute to worldwide climate change. Scientists predict that climate change will impact on all our lives, especially on our health.***

***Keithcot Farm Children's Centre is endeavouring to reduce our carbon footprint. 😊***

### **Safety Inspections**

Safety of children and families, staff and visitors is a particularly high priority at Keithcot Farm Children's Centre. Every morning the sandpits are raked to ensure that there are no foreign objects which could be hazardous to children, and the rubber soft-fall and paved areas are blower vacuumed by staff. The floors are swept at the end of each session and after meals and every evening our cleaners Kathy, Deding and Paul spend a considerable amount of time cleaning the Centre in readiness for the next day. Jodie – our Workplace Health and Safety Rep as well as Simon (Groundsperson) inspect the playground equipment on a regular basis and through our Spotless Facility Manager we have a range of technicians who regularly visit to check electrical equipment, air conditioners, heaters, fire extinguishers etc.

## Car Park

The Children's Centre Car Park is available for families to access **before 8.15 am** and **after 3.30pm**. Please do not park in between these hours in the Children's Centre or school carpark as they are for the Children's Centre staff. Please obey the signs, and do not leave your car unattended in the "Kiss and Drop Zones" during school drop off and pick up times.

**Please do not park your car in the school drive way adjacent to the Northern Entrance as this practice blocks the boom gate and compromises access to the school carpark.**

We have been informed by the South Australian Police Department (SAPOL) that at the beginning of each school term all available police patrols will be dispatched to all schools, preschools and Children's Centres with the focus on the enforcement of speed limits, parking infringements and dangerous driving. The Tea Tree Gully Council will also be actively reinforcing this initiative with parking inspectors supporting the SAPOL initiative. If you witness a driver breaking the road rules around our Children's Centre, SAPOL are encouraging families and staff to record the vehicle registration number and report it to **131444**. The Police will talk to and possibly fine these irresponsible people.

## Health

If your child is showing signs of being unwell before coming to the Children's Centre, it is important to keep him/her home for the day, and ring the Centre to inform of your child's absence.

**Children who have diarrhoea or are vomiting must be kept home for 24 hours after the last episode.**

Please notify staff immediately should your child contact an infectious disease.

Should any child become unwell at the Children's Centre, parents or contacts nominated by parents will be contacted and requested that they be collected as soon as possible – or within one hour - to reduce the possibility of the illness spreading to other children.

**Please ensure that while your child is at the Children's Centre that you are contactable via your phone.**

**Please make every effort to respond to messages left on your phone.**

## Hand Washing : 10 + 10 = Less Colds

Common cold viruses can get on our hands when we touch infected hands, surfaces and objects. When we put our unwashed hands in our mouth or rub our eyes and nose with them we can infect our selves with a cold virus.

**Correct hand washing is one of the most effective ways to help prevent the spread of colds.**

Wash hands thoroughly, especially **before eating** food and **after blowing** the nose, coughing or sneezing.

1. **Lather** with liquid soap for **10 seconds**.
2. **Rinse** with running water for **10 seconds**.
3. **Dry** hands.



**Antibiotics don't work on viruses** so they won't stop a cold from spreading.

For more information go to [www.nps.org.au/commoncolds](http://www.nps.org.au/commoncolds)

## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre we are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for staff, children, families, volunteers and visitors. This is achieved through an effective approach to the management of Workplace Health and Safety which includes the administration of medication to children.

Staff at the centre will assist with children's medication if:

- The parent has completed and signed the sites 'Request to Administer Medication' paperwork;
- The child's medical practitioner has completed the necessary sections in the sites 'Request to Administer Medication' paperwork;
- The medication is prescribed by a doctor and has the original label detailing the child's name, required dosage and storage requirements.
- Medication should not be left in a child's bag. It should be given directly to the staff member and stored in the first aid cabinet.
- Non prescription medication eg Paracetamol, Demazin etc. will not be administered by staff, unless supported by a written medication plan authorised by a Doctor and written on their surgery letterhead.



## Dental Health

The School Dental Service is the major provider of dental services for babies, children and young people under 18 years in South Australia.

Around 130,000 children attend every year.

Dental care is FREE for most school children and ALL preschool children at the School Dental Service.

All children aged 0-17 are welcome



School Dental Clinics are located across Adelaide.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic visit [www.sadental.sa.gov.au](http://www.sadental.sa.gov.au) or call 8222 8222.

## Clothing Policy

Clothing and dressing play important roles in children's learning and development. The clothing children and babies wear, can have a direct impact on the quality of their experiences as clothes can affect their health, safety, comfort, play and learning.

Children are required to bring a **named hat** which is either a Legionnaire or wide brimmed style that protects their face neck and ears, **everyday of the year**, from the harmful effects of the sun (Hats with a front peak only "Baseball caps" or "Beanies" are not an acceptable means of sun protection). **Hats must not have a cord or toggle as these are seen as a choking hazard.**



**Legionnaire Hats are available for purchase @ \$4.00 each.**

**Footwear:** safe, comfortable shoes/ sandals which provide support and protection for feet are recommended, however thongs and high heels are discouraged as they are not safe for climbing and active play.

**Clothing accessories:** dress up capes, scarves, necklaces can present strangulation or tripping hazards and are not permitted.

**Cultural diversity:** staff will be sensitive to and support individual families clothing and accessory preferences for their children based on their cultural and or religious beliefs.

## Children's Personal Belongings



Please write your child's name on the inside of their shoes /sandals.

This will make matching the right feet to the right shoes much easier!

**Please clearly write names on all belongings.**



Please check the **Lost Property Box** for any items which may belong to your child. All remaining items will be donated to charity at the end of each term.

## Community Development - Laura

Hi everyone,  
We had a great Term 1 which included a range of options for parents to attend and learn from specialists in child development and family wellbeing fields. Joy Anasta was a popular evening as we learnt **"Why parents matter more today than ever"**.

We are also delighted to announce that Mark Le Messurier will be returning in Term 2 to share his expertise in better understanding the behaviours and needs of our smallest family members.

**Save the Date: Mark Le Messurier, Golden Grove High School 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm**

## Term 2 evening options:

**FUN WITH FOOD:** aimed at parents of 2- 5 year olds who find it 'tricky' to learn about new foods, maybe 'picky' or 'fussy' eaters or may find mealtimes a challenging experience. Facilitated by Daniela, DECD Occupational Therapist and Tamara, DECD Speech Pathologist.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 6:00pm**

## BALANCING ME TIME WITH WE TIME:

(with Jenny and Vivienne from Leap SA)

For anyone who is interested in learning about finding more balance in life and how these strategies can benefit the whole family.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm**

## FIRST AID FOR PARENTS & CARERS

(provided by St John Ambulance)

A 2 hour course covering the basics of first aid.

Will cover topics including CPR, burns and scalds, choking, bleeding and breaks. Suitable for anyone responsible for the care of babies and young children.

Cost: \$10/ person or \$15/ couple

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm**

## PJ STORY TIME

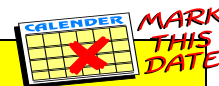
All Keithcot Farm Children's Centre families are invited to join Laura and Tamara for a fun night of stories, including this years 'National Simultaneous Storytime' chosen book The Cow Tripped Over the Moon.

Children are welcome to come dressed in their PJ's.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

If at any stage you are looking for extra information about child development related topics or parenting please touch base. We have a range of brochures and resources within our parent library that you are welcome to borrow at any time.

## Dates to Remember



**Monday 8 May @ 6.45pm**

Governing Council Meeting – all welcome.

**Wednesday 10 May @ 6.00pm**

Fun with Food.

**Wednesday 17 May @ 6.30pm**

Balancing Me time with We time.

**Monday 22 May**

No Preschool – Long Day care as usual.

**Wednesday 24 May @ 6.30pm**

PJ story time

**Tuesday 30 May @ 6.30pm**

First Aid for Parents and Carers.

**Wednesday 7 June**

**Golden Grove High School @ 7pm**

Mark LeMessurier – Better understanding the behaviours and needs of young children.

**Monday 12 June**

Public Holiday