



October Newsletter



Keithcot Farm

Children's Centre

for Early Childhood Development and Parenting



The staff for Term 4, 2020 include

- **Anne Whittleston** (Director: Education + Care)
- **Jen Reid** (Assistant Director)
- **Nathan McGuinness** (Community Development Coordinator)
- **Tamara Hall** (Speech Pathologist)
- **Sarah Harry** (Occupational Therapist)
- **Janet Hazel** (Educator)
- **Roshni Amroliwala** (Educator)
- **Coby Romano** (Educator)
- **Adrienne Hicks** (Educator)
- **Le-arna Rathjen** (Educator)
- **Magdaline Saredakis** (Educator)
- **Amanda Smith** (Educator)
- **Lisa Chalmers** (Educator)
- **Lisa Mildrum** (Educator)
- **Jodie Murray** (Educator)
- **Andrea Randell** (Educator)
- **Julia Tilley** (Educator)
- **Iona Angely** (Educator)
- **Yogini Patel** (Educator)
- **Jess Maher** (Educator)
- **Hayley Malloy** (Educator)
- **Sam Naheed** (Educator)
- **Rabia Naiq** (Educator)
- **Noella Saad** (Educator)
- **James Gordon** (Educator)
- **Cathy Mazzarolo** (Admin Officer)
- **Jo Oliver** (Cook / Educator)
- **Nobuko Nakajima** (Cook / Educator)
- **Kylie Webster** (Finance Officer)
- **Simon Costello** (Grounds person)

End of Year Planning

We will be providing a **Preschool Information Night** on **Tuesday 27 October @ 6.30pm** for families *new* to Keithcot Farm Children's Centre. Only one person per family is able to attend. This will ensure that we comply with the current COVID 19 physical distancing measures.

Information Packs will be distributed to all families who have enrolled their children for the 2021 Preschool Program after 27 October.

We are currently negotiating with Kings Baptist Grammar School to utilise their Sports Centre for our **Family Christmas Celebration – Thursday 3 December @ 6.30pm**. More details of this event will be sent home as soon as they are confirmed.

Our **Annual General Meeting** is planned for **Monday 7 December @ 6.30pm**. In the past all staff would come to this meeting. However, with the current COVID 19 social distancing measures only Key staff who normally participate in Governing Council meetings will attend along with families who are interested in joining either the Preschool or Long Day Care Councils.

Membership of the Governing Councils consist of parents and community members elected at the Annual General Meeting and the staff leadership team.

Reports will be available outlining accomplishments achieved at the Children's Centre through 2020.

2021 Fees

On 14 September 2020, The Governing Council reviewed and updated the fees we charge for the range of programs we offer.

Fees for 2021 are as follows:

Preschool	\$480/year
Long Day Care Day Rate	\$111/day
Lunch and Afternoon Care <i>(in conjunction with Preschool)</i>	\$60
Before Preschool Care	\$21
After Preschool Care	\$26
Between Session Care <i>(in conjunction with Preschool)</i>	\$20

Role of the Governing Council

- ✦ To support the implementation and management of the integrated Long Day Care; Department for Education Preschool Program; Allied Health and Community Development Programs.
- ✦ To develop and review policies and directions which will ensure a supportive learning environment for all children and their families.
- ✦ To identify strategic directions in the form of a Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) along with the Centre Leadership team.
- ✦ To use human resources flexibly, effectively and efficiently.
- ✦ To raise funds to enable the purchase of resources and the maintenance of facilities
- ✦ To work collaboratively with Community Groups to strengthen community partnerships.

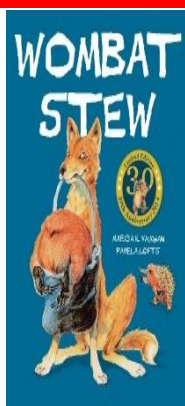
Governing Council meetings are both informal and informative – a great way to get to know other parents, talk to staff in a more “relaxed” atmosphere, and for you to have a positive, productive say in the future directions of your child's Children's Centre.

The Governing Councils meet apx. twice per school term (apx every 6 weeks).

Better start...

Curriculum

We hope you have received and are enjoying reading **Wombat Stew** along with the related resources with your child. If you need assistance with the resources that came home with the book, please ask your child's Primary Educator. Many thanks to Tamara Hall our Speech Pathologist for leading this program and organising the related resources. Thank you to our volunteers Cody, Megan and Teresa for organising the packs to ensure there is one for each child.



Wombat Stew has been a whole of site focus to target the development of a number of language areas including vocabulary, concepts, following instructions, grammar, questioning, recalling, predicting sequencing and cause & effect.

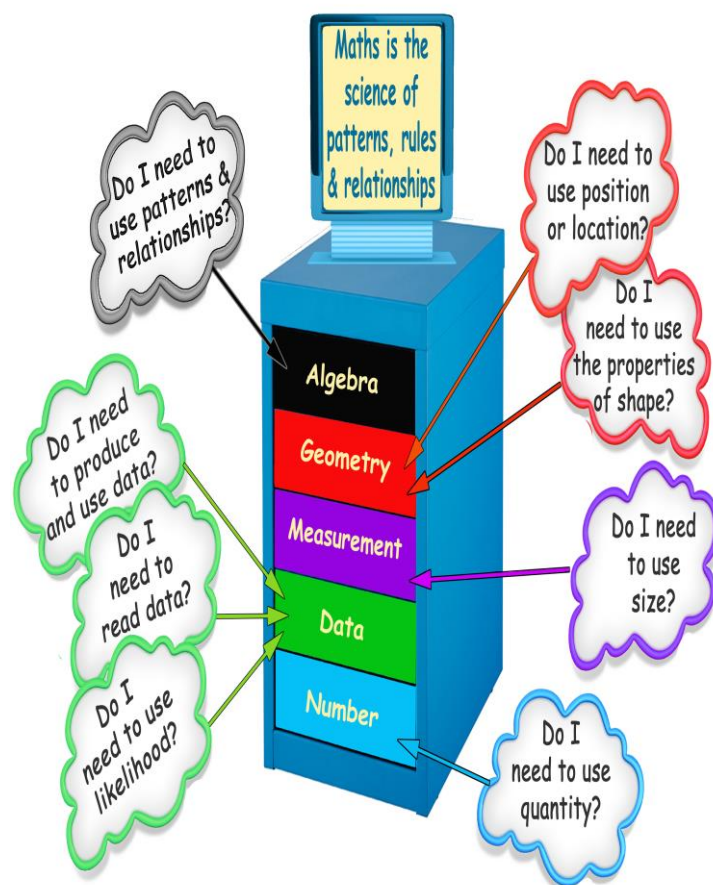
Have you had the chance to take home one of our **Literacy/ Numeracy Packs**? They are available for all children and families to borrow on a daily basis. They are a great opportunity for children to make further links between home and the centre. The packs are available in the foyer by the main entrance. If you have not borrowed a literacy/ numeracy pack or not sure where they are located, please ask Cathy at the front desk or an Educator.



During this term children across the Centre will plant, water, watch and learn how to look after our edible gardens and then eventually harvest the plants to either use at lunch or on their platter for morning and afternoon snacks.



Children will have the opportunity to participate in various cooking experiences, with the edible plants from our garden. They will utilise mathematical concepts when they weigh and measure ingredients.



In our play based program our Educators support children to name their mathematical thinking by modelling mathematical language with children. This enables each child to begin to recognize when they think and act as mathematicians.

A Fire Engine will be visiting our Centre this term. This visit supports our **Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum** as we discuss concepts of safe and unsafe.



All Preschool children regularly visit Keithcot Farm Primary School. They access the resource centre, playground and oval.



Children who will transition to Keithcot Farm Primary School for next year will have additional visits to classrooms this term. The school will provide more information very soon. Those children who will transition to other local schools in 2021, will be contacted by their schools with regard to the transitions visits to these schools.

Child & Family Health Checks.



Child and Family Health checks are a valuable opportunity for parents/carers to discuss any concerns they may have with a health professional, in a familiar setting, and also to be linked to other health professionals and services for further follow up.

Children must be a minimum age of 4:3years

Upcoming dates:

Thursday 15 October + Monday 16 November

Dental Health



Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, preschool and most children under 18 years at School Dental Service clinics. SA Dental Service have specially trained staff to provide comprehensive dental care to help prevent pain and tooth decay. They will talk to parents / carers about what the child needs before providing any treatment.

SA Dental Service have been a trusted government dental service for children since 1969 and bulk bill under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Our local clinic is: Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic
Phone: 7425 8700 or use the link on their website to ask them to contact you.

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment

Children's Belongings

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre we are very well resourced with age appropriate books, puzzles, construction, soft toys etc.

We strongly discourage children bringing their own toys from home as they can get lost or find their way into other children's bags which can be very distressing your child.

Please check your child's bag on departure to ensure that it does not contain equipment/ toys that might belong to someone else or the Centre.

Sun Safety

Sunscreen must be applied by parents/ caregivers to all exposed skin **before** arrival at the Centre. Our Educators will reapply sunscreen through the day in line with the current Cancer Council recommendations when the UV Rating is **3** or above.

If you do not want your child to receive sunscreen- please put your request in writing and it will be filed with your child's confidential documentation.

Please do not send children with exposed shoulders/ backs. These children will be asked to put on a t-shirt or will be required to spend all day inside as sunscreen alone is not an acceptable means of protection for these body parts during the hot summer months.

Please ensure your child has a **named broad brimmed hat** with no drawstring or toggles.

Please provide a named cup in your child's bag. Our Educators ensure that all children have a drink of water with fruit in the morning and in the afternoon as well as a drink of milk at lunch time. We ensure that fresh water is easily accessible for children to independently access using their own cups. We discourage the use of drink bottles in case they accidentally contain drinks other than water which could be harmful for many children.

Community Development



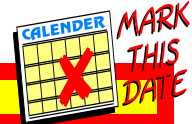
I just wanted to introduce myself, my name is **Nathan McGuinness** and I will be working in the children's centre as your **Community Development Coordinator**. I will be working from the centre 5 days a week, and I am really looking forward to the opportunity of getting to know your family.

Previously, I was employed by the Dept for Child Protection, where I had worked for the last 13 years. My role was working with children under the Guardianship of the Minister, and this provided me with the opportunity to advocate for children and young people who are unable to do so for themselves. I have lived in the community for the past 25 years, I have witnessed many changes to the local area over this time. I attended the local High School at Golden Grove and I have had a strong affiliation with the local sporting clubs being both Tea Tree Gully Cricket Club and TTG Golf Club.

As this year is fast coming to an end and with the trying situations that 2020 has had for us all, my focus between now and the end of the year is to be able to get to know how I can be of service to you and your family. For those of you who might not be aware of what my role will be, essentially I am here to work for you. I will work with community based organisations and other agencies to develop effective partnerships that can be used within the centre. With a focus on family support and wellbeing for parents / caregivers and families.

I will create a survey in the coming weeks to try and get a better understanding of your needs and how I can best help facilitate this.

Please feel free to contact me at any point in time, my email is nathan.mcguinness3@sa.gov.au and my door is always open for a chat.



Christmas Raffle

Dates to Remember

The Governing Council have organised a Christmas Raffle-donations of non-perishable foods; new toys; books; gift vouchers; baskets etc are needed.

Books of 10 raffle tickets @ 50 cents will be given to all families and staff – additional books are available on request.



Parent Complaint Policy

We all expect quality and expert care and teaching for children in order that they achieve their potential. We also recognise that at times things may go wrong. If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know. It's important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your child's experience and learning, and also improve processes where possible.

A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the Children's Centre has, for example:

- ✚ done something wrong
- ✚ failed to do something it should have done
- ✚ acted unfairly or impolitely.

Your concern or complaint may be about:

- ✚ the type, level or quality of services
- ✚ the behaviour and decisions of staff
- ✚ a policy, procedure or practice.

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of State or Federal law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to your child's Primary Educator. (If you do not know who this is – please ask Anne or Jen or give us a call on 82512700). If you still are not satisfied then please refer the concern to the **Director – Education and Care : Anne Whittleston.**

Ask at the front office for a copy of the **Parent Complaint Policy - Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint.** Steps guiding how complaints should be made are explained in the Policy. Use this guide to help you think through what you are concerned about and how to resolve the matter respectfully and effectively.

Vacancies



We have vacancies in our Preschool Program for next year. Please encourage family and friends to enrol their child if they are eligible for Preschool in 2021.

A number of vacancies will arise in our Long Day Care program at the end of the year as a result of families no longer needing this program as their child is accessing Preschool or have transitioned to School.

Please encourage friends and families to give us a call so we can organise a visit to our Centre and consider a Program to meet the needs of their child.

Mon 12 October: Preschool program recommences.

Thursday 15 October: CAFHS Preschool Health checks.

Bookings Essential.

Tuesday 27 October @ 6.30pm:

2021 Preschool Information Night for Families who are new to Keithcot Farm Children's Centre.

Monday 16 November: CAFHS Preschool Health checks.

Bookings Essential.

Thursday 3 December: Family Christmas Celebration @

6.30pm at Kings Baptist Sports Centre

Monday 7 December: Drawing of the Christmas Raffle.

Monday 7 December: Annual General Meeting @ 6.30pm

Friday 11 December: Centre closes @ 12:30pm.



Monday 4 January 2021 Centre reopens for LDC.

Tuesday 26 January Australia Day – Public Holiday.

Wednesday 27 January Preschool commences for 2021.