



# September Newsletter

Please note - there will be  
 no Department for Education preschool on  
**Monday 7 September +  
 Friday 25 September**

Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Monday +Friday. Our core Educators from across our site will spend the day building our knowledge of Learning Design and Reflective Practices; monitoring the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and planning for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021.

**Community Development Coordinator**

We are delighted to announce that **Nathan McGuinness** will be joining our staff team as our new Community Development Coordinator on Monday 14 September. More information about Nathan and his role and responsibilities will be made available very soon.

**Covid-19**

While SA continues to manage the Covid-19 pandemic extremely well, there remains a risk which could entail School, Preschool and Children's Centre closures. If a site closure is deemed necessary by the State Government, site leaders will be provided with very clear directions from the Department for Education about the sequence and content of communications. To ensure that we are able to communicate this critically important information to you.

1. **PLEASE let us know if your email address has changed.**
2. **PLEASE check and respond to your emails on a regular basis**

**Collection of Children**

*Please ensure that you collect your child at the time when the program they are enrolled in finishes. Some of our programs overlap and it is important for your child's safety that they are collected on time as our Educators have a range of responsibilities they need to complete at the end of each program.*

*If your child attends Long Day Care can you please try to collect your child no later than 5:45pm so that our Educators can finish the last end of day tasks and prepare for the next day – thank you 😊*

**Children's Centre Professional Photography**

Tania Pile from Photoplay Studios will be visiting  
**Friday 11 September**



And

**Monday 14 September**  
 early in the morning  
**7:30 – 10:30am.**

If you have misplaced your order form please ask for another. Photo packages are to be pre paid by online payments. Tania's website is <https://www.photoplaystudios.com.au/> Please have a look at the website to see the quality and consistency of images you can expect to receive, however Tania is providing 100% money back guarantee if you are dissatisfied. Photos will be available for collection from apx 12 October 2020

**Parent Opinion Survey**

All families recently received a Parent Opinion Survey. This survey is a mandatory reporting requirement for all Department for Education Schools, Preschools and Children's Centres.

Each year the Parent Opinion Survey is given to parents/caregivers to help us gain feedback about the Children's Centre and the range of programs that we provide.

The information you give is collated and then reflected upon during planning processes - the planning of the learning program, the centre priorities, strategic directions and achieving the National Quality Standard (NQS).

The information is also used when completing the Annual General Report.

This is your opportunity to express your views around what you value about the Children's Centre and its programs and to offer constructive and innovative suggestions about how we can continuously improve our service to you.

Please put your name on your survey – this enables us to address your concerns directly with you.

To date we have only received 30 surveys – it would be great if we could receive some more – additional forms are available from Cathy at the front desk if you have mislaid your survey.

**Preschool Health Checks**

As part of a range of services to children and families in SA, the Government provides funding to Child and Youth Health to offer free health assessments for Preschool children. A CYH Nurses will provide health checks on

**Thursday 15 October and Monday 16 November**

If your child is 4 years and 3 months or older and you want your child to participate, please collect a consent form from our front office. **Bookings essential.**

**A parent or caregiver must accompany children to the Health Check.**

**Better start...**

## Curriculum

We have established numeracy and literacy goals as part of our Quality Improvement Plan.

**Our Numeracy Goal is:** *To increase children's accurate use and understanding of mathematical language in everyday / play based environments.*

**Numeracy** is defined as the capacity, confidence and disposition to use mathematics in daily life.

We work with a range of Indicators across our site to support the tracking and monitoring of children's numeracy learning.

One of the Numeracy Indicators' is

### **"I Measure and Compare my World"**

Educators across our site have engaged in a Professional Development Program with The Primary Maths Association. Before children learn about direct measurement with tape measures rulers etc they need to consolidate their understanding of indirect measurement by comparing 2 objects

Attached to this news letter are 2 of their publications  
**Size Noticing Hunt 1+2.**

You might like to play these games with your child – we would be delighted to see the observations you and your child make in response to these games.

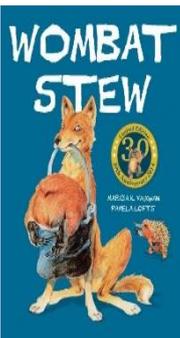
**Our Literacy Goal is:**

*To promote children's Emergent Literacy Skills. (Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Print Awareness)*

We are working with our Speech Pathologist – Tamara on a book based programme focusing on one particular book **"Wombat Stew"** across our Integrated site.

We use books to target the development of a number of language areas including vocabulary, concepts, following instructions, grammar, questioning, recalling, predicting sequencing and cause & effect.

Current research indicates that using a book as a basis to support oral language and early literacy programming over an extended period of time (such as a school term) has many benefits



- ✓ The ability to focus deeply on a story to develop children's knowledge and understanding.
- ✓ Being able to explore a range of topics, themes and concepts.
- ✓ A vehicle for deep learning, particularly related to vocabulary and oral language.
- ✓ Lots of opportunities for scaffolding of language particularly due to the repetition built into the book based program.
- ✓

On 24 August, **Warrawong Sanctuary** visited our Centre with a number of living animals, birds and reptiles.



The Blue Tongue Lizard, Emu and Possum were especially popular as they also feature in the book **"Wombat Stew"**

**We have a very special surprise for all the children as they will soon be given their own "Wombat Stew" book to take home!!** They will then be able to demonstrate to you their emerging literacy skills along with their knowledge of the story and the theme of Australian animals which feature through this delightful story book.

Walks to our local park from Keithcot Farm Drive (opposite Lady Penrhyn) to the bottom of O'Leary Place have been provided for our preschool children.

**Many thanks for the support provided by many parents who have participated in these excursions.**

Research demonstrates that unstructured, outdoor play in nature is fundamental to childhood and that it is as important to children as food and sleep!

Children innately reap great benefits as their brain grows connections and they gain an appreciation of the natural environment.

In the structured, busy and technologically-advanced world we live in, the role of outdoor play that we experienced as children is being forgotten.

Outcomes from nature play include achievement, innovation, creativity, positive relationship development, skill development, self-awareness, organising, decision making, innovation, problem solving, communication and working with others. These outcomes contribute to successful trajectories later in life.



## Dates to Remember

**Monday 31 August:** Letters posted to families who live beyond our catchment area inviting families to enrol their children into the 2021 Preschool Program.  
**We will still have vacancies for 2021 – please spread the word to your family friends.**

**Monday 7 September:** No Preschool Program. Long Day Care only for children with a Monday Booking.

**Friday 11 September:** Professional Photos

**Monday 14 September:** Professional Photos

**Monday 14 September:** Governing Council Meeting @ 7.30pm.

**Thursday 24 September:** Last Preschool Day for Term 3.

**Friday 25 September:** No Preschool Program. Long Day Care only for children with a Friday Booking.

**Monday 5 October:** Public Holiday

**Monday 12 October:** Preschool resumes for Term 4

**Thursday 15 October:** Preschool Health Checks