It is with much sadness that we will be bidding Annette Fewings a fond farewell on Friday 11 April 2014. Annette has had a most distinguished career spanning 36 years as an Early Childhood Educator.

She has taught in a range of Preschools including Kadina, Campbelltown, Thorndon Park, Glandore and Henley Beach. Annette was also an Education Consultant with the Down Syndrome Society and has been a highly respected and much loved Educator at Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre for the past 8 years.

Together we wish Annette good health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement with her wonderful family and many friends.

Dear Families

It has been a privilege and pleasure to teach your children at Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre. As I reflect on the past eight years I realise although I have taught many children I in turn, have learnt so much from them. We have shared many learning experiences together over this time. We have jumped, climbed, skipped, painted, cooked, built, experimented with mud, clay, goop and playdough, cared for many animals from the Nature Education Centre, played with puppets, read, sung, danced and dressed up. I have told many stories, sung many songs, listened to many conversations and laughed often with your children.

I studied “Early Childhood” because I know young children are so inquisitive, curious and eager to learn. When I began teaching in kindergartens, over 30 years ago, play was recognised as being the best way for young children to learn about their world, to develop relationships, to make believe, to see others points of view, to think laterally, and to problem solve. Play still is the key and I hope this never changes.

I have enjoyed keeping in touch with children once they have begun school. It has been good to greet the school children as they have walked by the Children’s Centre and when we have visited the school library and playground. It has also been a pleasure teaching many younger brothers and sisters during my time at Keithcot Farm.

In my retirement, I am looking forward to spending time with my family and friends, gardening, walking, reading, learning to speak Indonesian and maybe sleeping in some mornings! My wish for your children is that they continue to use their wonderful imaginations to pretend; create and have fun, develop a love of reading for pleasure, explore and follow their own interests, be adventurous, use their initiative, develop emotional resilience and independence, respect others, and enjoy quiet moments alone.

May your children never lose their sense of curiosity and wonderment as they continue their life long learning journey and may they know they are loved wholly and unconditionally all of the time.

With very best wishes

Annette

Kate Hallam has been appointed as Preschool Teacher with Janet Hazel for the remainder of 2014. Laura Francis has been appointed as Community Development Coordinator replacing Kate for the remainder of 2014.

Community Development

Thank you to those who attended the PJ Storytime on the 1st April, we had a great time.

Don’t forget to book in to the school holiday program (There is only a small number of places left for the “Bake off”, so bookings are essential)

1. Creative Kids Bake Off - children will make and decorate their own chefs hat and make and decorate cookies. April 16th 1:pm - 2.30pm @ Greenwith Community Centre
   Open to children aged 3 years - 8 years @ $5 per child

2. Monster Mash - Make monsters using recycled materials such as bags, lids and bottle tops
   April 24th: 11am - 12pm @ Greenwith Community Centre
   Open to children aged 3 years - 8 years @ $5 per child.

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 children from 4 years 3 months to 5 years of age. The assessment includes vision; hearing; height and weight; dental health; general discussions with parents on health issues.

A CYH Nurse will visit KFCC on Thursday 8 May

Consent forms are available from the Office. A parent or caregiver must accompany children.
We have a Governing Council whose membership consists of both staff and parents. Governing Councils 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 our Children’s Centre.

The role of the Governing Council is:
* To support the implementation and management of the integrated Care, Education, Health and Family services with the Centre staff.
* To develop and review policies and directions which will ensure a supportive learning environment for all children and their families.
* To identify strategic objectives annually within a Quality Improvement Plan.
* 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

We are in need of a Secretary for our Governing Council – essentially someone who is prepared to attend most of our meetings and who can take the minutes and distribute them to members. This person may be a parent or retired grandparent. Please give it some serious consideration. The meetings start at 6.45 pm and are usually finished by 8.30pm and are scheduled for the following dates in 2014.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
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<td>16 June</td>
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<td>28 July</td>
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<td>24 November</td>
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Discussion took place at our recent Governing Council meeting regarding the necessity for the centre to raise funds for the purchase of additional educational materials.

We currently only have 3 small Fundraisers each year
- Easter Raffle
- Obstacle-a-thon
- Christmas Raffle

Rather than ask families to find time to assist with fundraising events the GC approved a $15 per term per family fundraising levy for families with children in the Long Day Care programme (this fee has previously been charged to Preschool families only).

This $15 fundraising levy will be charged to your account beginning from Term 2 of this year.

If families have a child in preschool and LDC only one levy will be applied to your account.

Many thanks to families who donated items and who bought/sold Raffle tickets, for our “Easter Raffle”.

Extra Special thank you to Dionne Humphris and her family from Choc-o-nuts @ Golden Grove: 82516644 and Ingle Farm: 82651220 for organising the donations into very attractive Easter baskets!

The money raised will be used to purchase Curriculum resources including books, puzzles and numeracy games.

As you are aware our Preschool now has one student intake per calendar year (in January).

In previous years we have raised invoices for the Term Fees and Fundraising Levy on a term by term basis.

At the Governing Council meeting last month it was decided to give families the opportunity of paying the annual fees at the beginning of the year, or on a term by term basis.

As a result it was resolved by Governing Council that the invoices for Terms 2, 3 and 4 of the 2014 year will be raised in April. The amounts outstanding for each term will be clearly marked as individual line items on this invoice.

This system will mean less work for our Finance and Admin Officer each term, and it also gives our families flexibility with payment.

If you are paying by EFT please clearly state how you would like the payment applied. (ie Term 2 (T2), Lunch Care (LC), etc)

If you wish to discuss the above please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn at the centre on 8251 2700.

There will be no Preschool on Monday 28 April 2014

Several of our Educators will be attending a Professional Development Day with other preschools and schools in our Golden Grove Partnership

Long Day Care will be available on Monday 28 April for children booked into this program.

Friday 11 April: Last Preschool Day for Term 1
Preschool will finish @ 2pm – LDC will finish @ 6pm

Monday 14 April to Thursday 24 April: Long Day Care Program.

Wednesday April 16: Creative Kids Bake Off (School Holiday Program)
Friday 18 April: Public Holiday
Monday 21 April: Public Holiday
Thursday 24 April: Monster Mash (School Holiday Program)
Friday 25 April: Public Holiday
Monday 28 April: No DECD preschool program – normal Long Day Care program.
Tuesday 29 April: DECD preschool program recommences for Term 2.
Thursday 8 May: Child and Youth Health screening
Monday 12 May: Governing Council Meeting @ 6.45pm