Important Dates for your diary, calendar, phone, tablet, computer…or even fridge!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome BBQ</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion to Fortuna Court Restaurant</td>
<td>Wednesday 25th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governing Council Meetings</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Cup Day Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 9th Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 6th Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
<td>Wednesday 8th Apr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The true purpose of education is to make minds not careers

_William Deresiewicz_

Welcome

Welcome and welcome back to our kindergarten. A special welcome to Vienna, Anxhela, Edwin, Winston and Cherise who are all joining our community this term. It is great to have all of you at Wattle Park Kindergarten.

Current Staff

This year we welcome Jacqui Knolder as our teacher and Angela Pike who will be acting Director on Tuesdays in Term 1.

Jacqui Knolder – Teacher
Angela Pike – Director (Tuesdays) and relief teacher
Jo Leuders – part time ECW and preschool support worker
Victoria Willcox – Director and Teacher (Monday and Wednesday in Term 1)

In addition, you will meet relief staff throughout the year.

A message from Jacqui

Hello! My name is Jacqueline Knolder and I will be the teacher at Wattle Park Kindergarten this year. I am very excited to be a part of the community this year and thought it would be good to share with you a bit about myself. I hold a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)/Bachelor of Arts degree and am now in my second year of teaching. I have taught in various Kindergartens and Schools across the Southern suburbs- including Hallett Cove, Christies Beach, Aberfoyle Park and Seaford Rise. When I am not at Kindy you will usually find me outdoors enjoying the sunshine and exploring the world around me. I love travelling and have visited many different places- including the Philippines, America, Thailand and more. I also enjoy playing music, going snorkelling, catching fish, taking photos and reading books. I am looking forward to getting to know you all!
A message from Angela

Hello! My name is Angela Pike and I have been given the wonderful opportunity to work at Wattle Park Kindergarten on Tuesdays for the first term. On a personal note, I am a mother of two wonderful teenage children and previous working experience has included working in early childhood settings locally and overseas. I live locally and have been doing some relief work at the kindergarten since 2013. I enjoy bush walks, singing and spending time with family and friends.
I look forward to getting to know the children, parents and the community during my time at Wattle Park Kindergarten.

Who am I? – Belonging
Belonging is a cornerstone of the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia from which we derive our programme for the children at kindergarten. We believe that the children at this kindergarten belong, first to their family, culture, neighbourhood and wider community and that as a kindergarten community we belong somewhere between the neighbourhood and the wider community! Our philosophy states that it takes a community to raise a child and we aim to work in partnership with you to get to know your child and develop a strengths based programme to develop their interests, skills, dispositions and knowledge.

Who am I?
To this end we have given each child and family a “Who am I” letter that asks you to write/draw/photograph a story about your child and family so we can get to know you all better. Don’t forget to include your special pets and extended family members. The children love to look at these during the day and tell their friends all about their family and the things they like.

Welcome Barbecue..... Wed 18th February at 5-30pm
We are lucky to have a group of children this year that many will know from last year. It is also lovely to see these children welcoming the new members of our learning community. Now it is the adults turn to get to know each other too. We have planned a welcome barbecue where all the children and adults can share a meal and have a chat. Bring your own meat, veggie burgers and salad and we will have a few sausages to share. After this we will hold a short AGM to organise a Governing Council for 2015.

Annual General Meeting ..... Wed 18th February from 6-30pm......
Governing Council Members...... WE NEED YOU!
Our kindergarten, like most South Australian kindergartens has a long history of parent and community involvement and the Governing Council is one way that parents can be involved in decision making to help run the centre. Council Meetings are held twice a term (at a time mutually agreed by council members).
A brief Annual Report of 2014 will be presented along with the financial report. If you are interested in joining the Governing Council but not able to be at the AGM please speak to Victoria.

The Kindergarten Philosophy and Values
It is time for our Kindergarten philosophy to be reviewed and renewed. This year we (parents, staff and children) will be undertaking a few activities to help us think about those things that we most value in relation to our child’s education. For
each family it is different so at the Welcome BBQ (or after if you are unable to attend) we will ask you to think about one of your family values that you also think is important at kindergarten. Then write it on a rock and leave it in the wooden tray by the sign-in table as a reminder to everyone of the importance of the values we all hold to guide our life as we live and learn at kindergarten in a diverse and vibrant community.

Our First Excursion
Chinese New Year will be celebrated on Thursday 19th February. We are going into the Year of the Goat. At kindergarten we will be setting up our own Chinese Restaurant for children to play in so we can talk about Chinese New Year. Many local Chinese restaurants have Lion Dances to celebrate around this time and it would be a great opportunity for children to see the celebrations. On Wednesday 25th February we have planned to take the children on an excursion to Fortuna Court Restaurant on Norwood Parade and travel there by bus. Please pick up and fill in the excursion permission form ASAP when you are next at kindergarten. We have limited spaces for a few helpers so let us know if you are able to help.

Hats and Sunscreen
Our kindergarten’s outside learning environment provides a great deal of shade for the children during the summer months. In addition we ask that you provide a hat (named) for your child each day and apply sunscreen to them prior to coming to kindergarten in support of the Skin Protection Policy.

We also ask that each child is supplied with a named roll-on sunscreen (to be kept in the basket near the front door) as part of our Sun Protection practices. We have some spare hats for children to wear. These are clearly labelled and need to be washed by you at the end of the day and returned to the kindergarten for use by other children.

Skin Protection Policy
The kindergarten has a Skin Protection policy that details parents and staff responsibilities for keeping children safe on days when the UV radiation levels are 3 (moderate) and above. At this level skin damage can occur to unprotected skin so we ask that parents encourage their child to be “SunSmart” by...

1. Ensure their child has a hat (broad-brimmed or legionnaire style) that can be worn outside at kindergarten every day. The hat can be kept in their bag until they require it. Please name each hat your child brings to kindergarten.
2. “Slop” on sun sunscreen to exposed skin before arriving at kindergarten.

In addition staff will...

1. Model SunSmart behaviours.
2. Re-apply Sunscreen to children after lunch if going outside
3. Set up most outside activities in a shady place where possible when the UV rating is high or above.
4. Place a sign by the sign – in sheet to inform you of the predicted UV rating for the day.

Spare Clothes
In addition to providing a hat each day for your child please also give them a change of clothes. They are not always required for toileting accidents. There are times when
children may get very wet when playing with the water in the sandpit, trough or watering the garden. They are always much more comfortable in their own clothes and we have a limited amount of spare clothes at the kindergarten. Donations of spare clothes are always gratefully accepted. We need shorts now!

**Cash’s Name tapes – A helpful (mini) fundraiser!**
We ask that you label all your child’s belongings including shoes and clothes so that if they are lost they can be easily returned! In the locker area is a poster advertising Cash’s nametapes. They provide a large range of named and decorated stickers, bag tags, iron-on and sew-in labels. If you choose to order labels from this company you can enter the Wattle Park Kindergarten Fundraiser code (WPK) when you order online and the kindergarten will get a small commission. They are also great to give for presents! You can find them at: www.nametapes.com.au

**Snack Time**
We encourage all children to have a **nutritious and healthy snack** each morning. Please keep this in their kindy bag and separate from their lunch (to ensure there is food for both times and it is not all eaten at once!)

We ask that the snacks you provide do not include any nuts or nut products as we have children with medical conditions that prevent them from having any exposure to these products. This includes food with traces of nuts or nut products. Please read the labels carefully when selecting snacks. Freedom Foods has a range of children’s snack food that are nut free.

**Snacks that you could choose** would include rice crackers, fruit, cheese, vegetables, savoury biscuits etc

**Lunch time**
On **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**, please provide your child with lunch in a separate named lunch box that can be placed in the Lunch box trolley and remember to collect it at the end of the day from the same place.

**Fees**
By now you will have received an invoice for your fee payment. You can pay your fees via an online transaction, cheque or cash. We are pleased to say there has been no increase to fees this year. Parent contributions are a crucial part of our budget and support us to purchase good quality resources for children to access. We thank you in advance for your support.

**Term 1, 2015 Fee Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sessional Preschool</td>
<td>$130-00/child/term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion Levy</td>
<td>$20-00/child/term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources Contribution</td>
<td>$50-00/family/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasional Care (when offered)</td>
<td>$15-00/session Paid in advance for the following term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Donations for Kindergarten**
As you will be aware, our kindergarten depends a great deal on the generosity of its community and small donations make a great contribution to the children’s learning and our budget!

Here is a list of a few things that we can always make use of at kindergarten. If you have surplus or do not require them anymore we would be pleased to receive them and put them to good use!

- Baskets (big and small)
- Paper
- Envelopes
- Life jackets
- Oars (small)
- Saucepans
- Wooden spoons
- Shells, small pebbles, gumnuts etc
- Corks and bottle tops
- Old phones, remotes etc.
- Cardboard
- Fishing net
- Scraps of soft wood
- Cylinders (large and small)

**Newsletters and Notices**
All newsletter from now on will be provided via email and will be sent to the email addresses provided on the enrolment form. Please let us know urgently if your email details change or you would like it to be sent to an additional email address. As this is the first newsletter of the term it has been provided in both printed and email form. If you do not receive it via email please let me know ASAP so that addresses can be checked etc. If you do not have access to an email account regularly please let Victoria know so that a printed newsletter can be supplied.

**Thanks**
Jacqui, Angela, Jo and Victoria