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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governing Council Meetings</td>
<td>Tuesday 3rd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adelaide Cup Day Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 9th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governing Council Meetings</td>
<td>Tuesday 31st March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Monday Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 6th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
<td>Wednesday 8th April</td>
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<td>Early Dismissal 2-30pm</td>
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Welcome

A special welcome to Bethany and her family, who are joining our community this term. We hope that you will have a happy experience at Wattle Park Kindergarten.

Thankyou

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Welcome BBQ and AGM a few days ago. Those who attended said it was wonderful to meet new parents and see a few photos from last year as we gave a short Annual Report of 2014.

Values Rocks

It was also lovely to have each family record one of their values (that is also important for them at kindergarten). These have now been written onto a rock and can be seen by the sign-in table. Now, each day as we enter the kindergarten we are reminded of the diverse families that make up our kindergarten learning community and reflect on what these values mean to us as teachers, carers and parents.

If your family was unable to attend the BBQ please think about the value you wish to record and next time you come to kindergarten find the ‘rock-writing station’ to record your value and place it in the wooden bowl at the sign in table.

Curriculum News

It has been a very busy start to the year with children getting to know each other and this has been a large focus in the programme. We have been singing songs and playing games with names, talking to the group about our “Who am I?” posters and sharing them with our friends. Our programme is based around the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia with three elements that underpin our teaching, curriculum decision making and interactions with children. They are:

An observant child should be put in the way of things worth observing

Charlotte Mason
These elements are connected by a focus on relationships as it is in and through relationships that children learn. We obviously aim for these relationships to be positive, focussed on learning and fostering kindness among our kindergarten community. To this end we have talked about safety rules and limits (on our excursion and at kindergarten) and we are beginning to talk about recognising feelings of others and ourselves.

Have you seen the caterpillars and butterflies that we have been looking after at kindergarten? Many have started as tiny tiny caterpillars and the children have watched their whole lifecycle. We have seen so many wide-eyed moments as the children see something new for the first time! We have recently had Bullwinkle visiting the kindergarten. Bullwinkle is a sleepy lizard from the Nature Education Centre. For the next two weeks we will have finches visiting as we learn more about the birds in our local environment.

The children had a great excursion to Fortuna Court and have been playing in our Chinese Restaurant at kindergarten. We have been learning how to say Hello in Mandarin and we have even started counting from 1-5 (Angela is the best at this!). Finding out about the ways many people celebrate the Lunar New Year has been a wonderful opportunity for many of our children to learn about the diversity that exists in our community. Did you see us parading up and down the Norwood Parade and Penfold Road with our Lion Mask? Come in and look at the photos (they will be up soon!)

Thanks to all the parent helpers. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Introducing the new Governing Council

Congratulations to the following people who have volunteered to be on our Governing Council for 2015. Thankyou for your willingness to give of some of your time to the kindergarten.

Bronwyn Corbet (Chairperson)
Sophie Wen (Treasurer)
Tenille Douglas (Secretary)

Snack Time and Wiping Out Waste

We encourage all children to have a nutritious and healthy snack each morning.

As recipients of a Wipe Out Waste grant in 2014 we had a focus on bringing ‘nude’ food to kindergarten for snack. This means trying to choose things with minimal or no ‘throw-away’ packaging. They also are generally the most nutritious foods.

The best snacks that you could choose would include fruit, cheese or vegetables.

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.

Thanks

Jacqui, Angela, Jo and Victoria