Welcome to Meningie Kindergarten

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all children and their families to Meningie Kindergarten. We hope that you and your child enjoy their time at Kindy.

My name is Ally Mead and I continue in my role as Director of the Kindergarten. I am very excited to be working back at the Kindy again this year after taking maternity leave in 2012. It is my belief that children learn in a safe, secure and nurturing play based learning environment where they can explore and make sense of their worlds. In conjunction with staff, Governing Council and parents I look forward to working together as part of a team. I look forward to meeting you and your child over the first few weeks. Please make yourself known to me as the communication and relationships we build will assist in positive outcomes for all.

This year we continue with Sheree Biddle our teacher, Angela Mason with her role as Pre-School Support worker and Dana Wilson with her role as kindergarten support worker. We look forward to a full and busy year working together.

At times throughout the year we may not always be available every Kindy day due to training and development, university attendance or illness. At these times we will employ relief staff to cover staff and to ensure a smooth running of the Kindy. Many of you have already met our relief staff. These names include Vicki Smith, Fiona Maddaford or Tiffany Leng.

Fruit Time

This time is scheduled within the Kindy morning. It would be appreciated if you could send in some fruit or vegetables that we can cut up for fruit sharing time. Fruit time is a time where we come together for the sharing of fruits and vegetables in a way where we can experience sharing, turn taking and learning about new foods. Examples may include: apple, banana, pear, orange, grapes, watermelon, rockmelon, strawberries, cucumber, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, snow peas, cheese, hard boiled eggs, cooked pasta etc.

Children are expected to bring their own lunch to Kindy. We encourage healthy eating at Kindy! It would be appreciated if you could send in items such as a sandwich, yoghurt, crackers and cheese, extra fruit, salad etc. We also encourage the drinking of water rather than juices and cordials. Water will be provided for the children at all times. Please leave special treats such as chocolates, lollies, cakes for other times at home. Thanks

Welcome to our New Children & Families

We have four new children beginning Kindy this year. Welcome to Amelia, Eleanor, Lyla and Serenity. We hope that you enjoy your time at Kindy. Welcome also to the parents and caregivers of these children, we look forward to working with you. We are very much looking forward to your children coming to Kindy on Tuesday’s this term. This term we will also welcome some pre-entry children and families earlier than usual. This is due to the ‘Same First Day’ policy that will take effect in Kindergarten’s and Schools over the coming twelve months. The new children will be William, Peter, Ella and Angeline.

Blankets

At relaxation time the children lay down with a pillow and blanket. We have a supply of pillows however you will be required to send in a labelled blanket please. The pillow slip covers are washed and sent home as part of the Kindy washing.

Sun Smart

We encourage Sun Smart behaviour at Kindy. Please remember to send in a labelled hat for your child to use. Sunscreen will be available and applied each time at Kindy. Staff will also role model sun smart practises.

Family Photo & Holidays Photo Please

At the beginning of each Kindy year we like to get to know the children and their families as they grow. We do have some family photo’s from last year which we are happy to keep however, if you would like to update your family photo please send in a new one for our display. If you are a new family to the Kindy please send in a family photo that we can keep for the year. We are also keen to display photo’s of the children from their ‘holidays’. For example a picture of your child at the beach, eating ice-cream, playing with favourite dog/cat/toy or anything else you did in the holidays please. It is a great starting point for our theme on getting to know your child and their identity. We are also asking the children to bring in a labelled item that has their name on it to share from home. This will be used as a starter for ‘sharing times’. It could be a name puzzle, name stickers, name cup/bowl/plate, photo of their name from their bedroom door etc.

Our Kindergarten Values are:

- Respect
- Wellbeing
- Relationships

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Diary Dates

Term 1

Week 1
29 Jan—Kindy Day
31 Jan—Kindy Day
1 Feb—Kindy Day & Family BBQ 5.30 for 6.00pm
Sausage Sizzle, all welcome!

Week 2
5 Feb—Kindy Day
7 Feb—Kindy Day
8 Feb—Admin Day
Governing Council Meeting 9am
Pre-Entry Meeting 10.15-11.15am

Week 3
12 Feb—Kindy Day
14 Feb—Kindy Day
15 Feb—Kindy Day

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Welcome to our New Children & Families

Active Learning

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

29 Edward Street, Meningie SA 5264
PH: 85751290 Fax: 85751735
Email: kindy.director@meningiepre.sa.edu.au

Newsletter No. 1—29th January 2013

I look forward to a full and busy year working together.
Draft Term Planner
You will see we have attached a DRAFT Term Planner for Term 1. This is in draft at this stage, all dates will be confirmed as soon as possible and a new planner re issued at that time. Please note there are already some changes to times from the draft you received at the end of term 4 last year. We have also included the Washing Roster names on the same planner.

Term Fees
Term Fee accounts have also been sent home. Term Fees remain at $60.00 per term. Please ensure you make every effort to pay these by Week 3, 15th of February. If you are unable to pay by this date please come and chat to one of the staff as we will happily negotiate a longer term of payment if required. There are some families with outstanding accounts from 2012. These will also need to be settled as required by DECD.

Drop Off & Pick Up Times
We ask that you abide by our Kindy times as it has an effect on our morning and afternoon preparation times.

The Drop Off time is 8.45am  
The Pick Up time is 3.00pm

Bus children are the only exception as they have no choice but to be dropped at Kindy at 8.35am.

Family BBQ Sausage Sizzle (THIS FRIDAY)
We are keen to get to know everyone and join together as a Kindy community. We would like to invite you and your family to a 'Welcome Family BBQ’. We will provide the sausages, bread and sauce. Please BYO drinks and chairs/picnic rugs. Hopefully it will be a nice night where we can sit and play outside with the kids. Please complete the response form and let us know if you are able to come to ensure we cater appropriately.

Parent Visitor Morning
At Meningie Kindergarten we welcome parents at any time to be a part of our day! So please feel free to stay for as long or as little as you like. We also run a special parent visitor time for mums and/or dads to come in and spend some special one on one time with their child (If a parent isn’t available this is also open to grandparents/family friend). You will be assigned a particular week to come in and complete a little activity with your child and just to enjoy watching them play and grow at Kindy. You can come in on any Kindy day within that week. Your name may be featured on this term planner so just check when you are scheduled to come in. If you are not able to make it in and wish to re-schedule please just let us know and we can accommodate a suitable time.

Please note that not all children will be able to have their ‘Parent Visitor Morning’ this term and that if you do not get the opportunity this term it is most likely that you will be on the term 2 planner.

Governing Council
A reminder that our first Governing Council Meeting for 2013 is on Friday 8th February at 9.00am. I have a Pre-Entry meeting that follows this and will begin at 10.15am.

Washing Roster & Toy Sanitization
This year we are including the names of families on the Washing Roster together on the Term Planner to minimize paper use and to have all of the information in the one place!

The washing roster requires your support in two ways:
- Washing of art smocks, towels, tea towels, pillow slips etc. This can be collected in the afternoon from the Kindy on the last day of Kindy for that week. We can also send the washing bag home with children who catch the bus.

And
- We will also send home 2 bags of toys that will need to be sanitized. To do this please leave the toys in the bag they are sent home in, wash in the laundry sink or bath with a small amount of detergent. Swish in the water and then lay out in the sun to dry on a towel. Please return these with the washed smocks etc.

Please wash the smocks in cold water and do not tumble dry. Please fold the washing and return to Kindy asap.

For Sale
We have a two drawer file cabinet for sale. It is brown in colour and has no keys. Please contact the Kindy if you are interested. Selling for $40.

Thanks Ally, Sheree, Dana & Angela