Newsletter No. 3—26th February 2013

Program
Over the past few weeks children have been sharing information all about themselves. We have been gathering lots of data about ourselves by completing a self profile. This week we will be exploring our height, eye colours and hair colours and having a go at gathering this data and representing it in pictographs. We will be looking for ways in which we can find out who is the tallest child at Kindy and who is the shortest child at Kindy. Another mathematics concept we will be exploring is patterns and making them out of different materials and resources around the Kindy. We wonder if we could find any outdoors in our natural Kindy environment?

Jolly Phonics Letter Program
You may have noticed your child coming home showing you the action for the letter of the week. This year we will be adopting the Jolly Phonics program for our letter and sound program. Jolly phonics is the program the school also uses which is a synthetic phonics program focusing on the main 42 sounds of English not just the alphabet sounds. We have begun our Jolly Phonics program at Kindy for this year. In the past few weeks we have explored: Ss—saying “sssss” like a snake and weaving your hand like a snake in the air, and Aa—saying “a a a a” when moving your hand above your elbow as ants are crawling up your arm. This week we will be exploring how to say “t t t t t t” as we turn our heads from side to side to watch a tennis ball being hit for the letter Tt.

your nose like whiskers for the letter Ii. Please practice these sounds and actions at home with your child.

Harmony Day
We celebrated Harmony Day by accident a month too early!! Oops. It is actually on March 21st but for some reason I was too organised and planned it in the wrong month. Despite this hiccup we had a great day. Many children dressed in Orange which is the recognised Harmony Day colour. We talked to the children about what Harmony Day means. We shared information about harmony and living together in peace. We also talked to them about Australia being a diverse country with a wide range of cultures. We invited one of our Ngarrindjeri elders, Aunty Ellen, Ellen and Whitney into the Kindy to demonstrate and share with us feather flowers and basket or bracelet weaving. The children loved these activities and created some wonderful baskets and flowers using nori feathers. We also invited in some other parents to help us. Robyn, Karen and Mandy joined in for the day and helped the children with beaded friendship bracelets. A BIG thank you to all who were able to help us to make Harmony Day special for our Kindy children.

Photos: Children’s highlights while participating in activities.
Training & Development

Sheree and I attended a conference in Adelaide on Saturday 23rd February. The title of this Early Childhood conference was ‘Children as Researchers: Integrated inquiry approaches to teaching and Learning’. The guest presenter Jo Fahey. We both found the session very inspiring and this has inspired us to plan and implement some of these elements into our program with the children. Last year Sheree worked on ‘wonderings’ with the children. This concept was to help children lead their own learning by wondering about things that personally interest them. You may hear your child talk about ‘wonderings’ at home with you. The role of the educator is to create learning environments where the children can pose their questions or wonderings. Sometimes the educators can direct the enquiry so that it can be interwoven into a child’s own inquiry. Information from our conference that may help you understand where we are heading:

- Inquiry is a philosophical position on what both teachers and children do
- Inquiry to initiated by the child or educator that moves the child from their current understanding to new and deeper understandings
- Inquiry can involve investigation, asking/posing questions, problem solving.

We came away feeling very excited about our learning and look forward to sharing this with your children throughout the year!

Pre-Entry Children

Last week we welcomed Angeline McLaughlin, Peter Burnett and Ella Davy to our Kindy. We hope that these children and their families enjoy being a part of our Kindy community for the remainder of the year. The children will participate in a gradual entry this term ready for full time Kindy in term 2.

Term Fees

Term Fees are now overdue. If you need to negotiate a payment plan 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.

Art Smocks

We have some ‘second hand’ art smocks for sale. If you are interested please place the money in an envelope with your name on the front so that we can receipt the correct person. We have been lucky enough to purchase some nice new ones.

Family Food & Fun Fair

This event will be held in the Lion’s Park on Friday April 5th. Kindy and Playgroup are working together on a fundraising stall. Governing Council have decided to do ‘Plaster Fun House’ again due to it’s success at the Pageant last year as well as a ‘Coin Toss’ game. The idea of the coin toss is that participants can toss a coin from a designated area onto a chocolate. If the coin lands on the chocolate the person wins! We are asking families to donate a chocolate for this event. It needs to be a flat type of chocolate please. These can be sent in anytime now—so look out for one on sale!!

Easter Fun Packs

We have sourced some ‘Easter Fun Packs’ as a little fundraiser for the Kindy. They would be perfect for an Easter Holiday activity with the children. We are selling them for $5.00... They are available at Kindy now on the Kitchen bench in a basket for you to look through. Please complete the details on the envelope so that you can be receipted as required by DECD. It will only bring in a little bit of money for the Kindy but every little bit counts! I have also put a tear of slip at the end of this newsletter to reserve yours if you are unable to get in.

Playgroup Info/Update

Playgroup have been working on a brochure to promote and advertise our wonderful playgroup program. These brochure will be made available soon!

If you know of anyone interested in Playgroup invite them to come along between 10am and 12 noon on Monday’s.

Playgroup members wish to advise all of their families that they plan on participating in the Family Food & Fun Fair which is due to be held on Friday April 5th at the Lion’s Park. Playgroup are going to be joining the Kindy to help fundraise. Playgroup are running the Lucky Dips and a Baking table. Playgroup are asking families to supply either cakes, biscuits or slices for this table. Please get in touch with playgroup to nominate the ways in which you plan to help please.

Playgroup SA are having a ‘Day at the Zoo’ on Wednesday 20th March from 10am-2pm. All Playgroup members are welcome to attend.

YOU NAME IT—LABELS

Meningie Kindy is having an on-going fundraiser with ‘You name it—Labels’. This is a company that offers vinyl and fabric labels that are dishwasher and microwave safe. You can personalise you labels to suit your needs.

Just log on to:

www.younamelitlabels.com

And place you order, quoting our unique code mksa0213 (all small letters, no spaces). When you order online you will received a 5% discount off normal prices. The Meningie Kindy receives a generous rebate for each order so please feel free to share the code with neighbours and friends.
South Australian Association of Parents Club (SAASPC)
A parent forum is available details below:
What: Students with disabilities and learning difficulties
When: Wednesday 20th March 2013
Time: 9.30-3.00pm
Where: Australian Education Union Building
163a Greenhill Rd, Parkside
The forum is no charge and lunch will be provided. If you are interested please register your name with me and I can enrol for you. Registrations must be in by March 15th.

Policies & Procedures
We are currently in the process of updating our Policies and Procedures. Sheree and I have been working on the development of the new policies. These will go through staff, to Governing Council for recommendations and approval throughout the year.

GOOD NEWS
We have just received some great news from DECD in relation to a Building Maintenance Funding Scheme. Each site has been allocated a favourable amount of money designated for site upgrades etc. Last year our Governing Council were fundraising for the upgrade of new floor coverings and blinds. It appears we may be able to carry out this project which we are very excited about. We are in the process of gaining a couple of other quote to ensure we are getting the best deal for our dollars. Once the quotes come in a final decision can be made. As a side note to this we have had a few people interested in our plans for the ‘old blinds’ which by the way have been in the centre for 30 plus years. We have discussed selling them ‘as is’ or framing pieces of the blinds for sale, please let us know if you would be interested in either of these options?

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US WITH THE Washing Roster & Toy Sanitization
We would like to thank the families who have been helping us out so far with the washing and toy sanitization roster it seems to be working really well. We appreciate your support towards the Kindy and maintaining the resources. If you have not yet been rostered on we have provided the following information as a reminder for when it is your turn!

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

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

Name: ___________________________
BLINDS
☐ Yes I am interested in the ‘old blinds’
☐ Yes I am interested in framed pieces in the blinds

Name: ___________________________
EASTER PACKS
Yes I am interested in the Easter Packs at $5.00 each
Please hold me ____ Packs