Hi Everyone, Do you know what happens at Kindy? Do you want to have a say in matters that involve your child’s learning? Do you want to know how the kindy is run?

Next Wednesday 9th March is our Preschool’s Annual General Meeting, gathering at 6:45pm for 7pm start. Come along enjoy some light refreshments, meet some other parents and hear our Guest speaker Erin from the Gowrie Centre for children share with us about supporting children’s learning at Preschool.

The second part of our meeting involves hearing about the achievements of the last 12 months and planning for the coming 12 months at Preschool.

Finally we farewell the outgoing Governing Council and take nominations for the new Governing Council (GC).

The GC meets twice a term for a maximum of 2 hours. We need to elect people to the following roles:

**Chairperson**: They chair meetings and keeps us on our agenda, maintains contact with Director over any issues that might arise between meetings. At the end of the Year the chairperson writes a short report about the achievements of the GC for the Annual Report.

**Secretary**: Takes minutes of the meetings and ensures all members have copies of minutes prior to the next meeting.

**Treasurer**: Counts, balances, receipts and banks all money that comes into the centre once a week

**Fundraising Sub-committee**: 2-3 people Organize fundraising activities and celebration

**Environmental Rep.**: Liaises with the staff team and Sophie our NRM rep to promote and develop sustainability initiatives in the preschool

**General Council Members (about 6-10 people)** Contribute to discussion and support the council where needed.

It is the role of the GC to make sure the Preschool is being run appropriately and efficiently, that educational goals of the Education Department are being met and the voice of the parent community is heard. The Director presents educational and financial reports at each meeting and consults GC on a range of issues to do with children’s safety, maintenance and priorities for learning. Meetings are usually held of an evening but each council determines that by what suits its members. Because decisions often involve the safety of children all GC members are required to have Relevant History screening checks and Responding to Abuse and Neglect training and these are organized by the Preschool.

Becoming a GC member is a great way of having an active role in your child’s kindergarten and a way of getting to know other parents and staff. No experience is necessary and your comments, suggestions, concerns and ideas are always welcome.

It is your opportunity to be involved
It is your opportunity to know what is going on
It is your opportunity to have a voice

Please come to our AGM. Please consider taking on a role in the GOVERNING Council 😊

Thank you for a great start to the 2016 kindy year!
Our Draft 2016 Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) is on display for your comments and feedback. Do you have a suggestion or comment, let us know?

In our QIP you will notice words like Resilience, Growth Mindset and intellectual stretch. These are words you will also see at our local schools too and are part of what is called Executive Function. This is because the latest research in children’s learning shows it is important to:

- Develop children’s persistence to keep trying when the learning gets tough,
- For children to believe in themselves as learners and
- To be creative thinkers, to explore ideas and to use their existing knowledge to problem solve.

At kindergarten we are supporting children to have a go to do things for themselves, to understand that there are things they can’t do yet but if they keep practicing they will get there, and to stop and think to problem solve and overcome their impulsive actions. Also to think about thinking and to think again if something doesn’t work the first time.

There will be more of this throughout the year so keep an eye out and help us support these skills in your children.

Want to know how your child is settling into kindergarten? Make a time to talk to their teacher. We would love to talk with you but pick up and drop off times are our busiest times of the day at kindergarten and one time we must focus on children’s safety and whereabouts. Our distraction to chat can mean other children are not being adequately supervised, some are still learning where they should be at certain times. Please help us keep all children safe.

FAMILY PAGES: As part of our focus on Children’s Identity your child should have received their FAMILY PAGE by now (a blank A3 page divided into sections). It is basically a page just for your child to share with us about them and your family. Please make their name clearly visible and as the page will be folded, please keep photos and other things off the centre line so it can eventually go into your child’s folder. There is no urgency to get these done it is a way of sharing, getting to know children and helping them to feel their sense of being (who they are), belonging (to a family group and a kindergarten group) and becoming (who they are growing into) at kindergarten.

DONATIONS: Thank you to all the kind families who have donated tissues and paper towel. We are still in need of toilet paper, so if you have been meaning to donate but haven’t quite done it yet some loo rolls would be good, please!

Don’t forget! CAYHS 4 YEAR OLD HEALTH CHECKS Tuesday 22nd March, at the kindergarten. If your child has not yet had their 4 year old check and you would like them to, we can highly recommend making an appointment to check hearing, vision and discuss any concerns.

KINDY ROSTERS:
- Weekly Washing
- Cooking with the children. We desperately need some parents to volunteer for the cooking roster. It’s just cooking with the children, something simple like muffins, little pizzas or fruit salad. Perhaps something cultural like pakoras, sushi or spanakopita, your child will enjoy you being involved, the other children get to share in a new experience and the staff team will help you with things you need.

SPARE CLOTHES: Also please send 1-2 spare sets of clothes as we will be getting wet and muddy in the sandpit and watering our vegetable garden! Please, we currently need spare boys and girls shorts or skirts sizes 4+ if you are having a clean out.

Thank you for a great start to the 2016 kindergarten year!