HI EVERYONE,

It has been a busy couple of weeks with public holidays making the term fly by.

Last week the children were enthralled by the Trent Hill our Aboriginal story teller. The children sat and listened and were able to retell many aspects of the story and make connections to the mistakes that Gula the koala made. They also enjoyed looking at the artifacts that Trent brought, especially the didgeridoo and kangaroo skin. If you would like to know more about what the children saw and said have a look in the floorbook by the front entrance. Did you know we welcome your feedback in and about these? We would love you to respond to what your child has said or make a comment about their learning. The floorbooks are meant to be interactive between parents, educators and children so please feel free to grab a pen and make a comment.

We have also been talking about the aspects of Stop and Think with the children as part of our exploration of Executive Functions. When children develop the ability to overcome impulsive “quick” thinking they learn to think more slowly which assists them to think deeply about what they are about to do, ponder outcomes and explore possibilities.

We have also been exploring number including counting numeral recognition and estimating. In the coming months the staff team are engaging in a research project into 3 of the learning processes of numeracy: reasoning, generalizing and visualizing. Keep an eye for displays and references to this research in our floorbooks.

Last Friday the teachers, Wendy Helen and Charmain, visited the R-12 Reception classes and were pleased to receive feedback that last year’s group of children showed great numeracy skills as a result of our focus on numeracy through out the year. However, we were disappointed to hear that while many of our children had great knowledge of the names of the letters of the alphabet, they did not have good letter sound relationships, so important for beginning to learn to read. So.... this year we will be making sure that these connections are strongly presented to the children. It would be great if parents and carers can support us and your children in this work. That is, if you are talking to your child about letters refer to them by their (phonetic) sound rather than by their name for example my name becomes h /e/ l /e/ n rather than H(achh) (eee) L (eee) N. It is very difficult for children to unlearn the “names” of the alphabet (for example the way the alphabet song is sung ABCDEFG) but is far more supportive if we teach them the sound the letters make in words. Eg A is referred to as “a” like at the sound at the start of apple rather than its name “A(yy)”. B is referred to as b like the start at the sound of bus, rather than its name , B(ee). C is referred to as “ c” (like at the start of cat) rather than cee. I don’t know if I am able to explain it clearly enough on
paper but I am more than happy to chat and give you a verbal explanation which is probably easier. Alternatively you may be able to google phonemic awareness/ alphabet to find out more...

**TERM 1 Parent survey**

If you haven’t yet completed our survey please make the time to, so that we can have your feedback our our program. If you have misplaced your survey please ask us for another.

Your responses will help us to plan for next term to provide a better environment for your children suited to their learning needs.

This is your opportunity to have your say about your child’s first term. You do not need to add your name but please make your comments.

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**Supporting your child to write: SA Modern Print**

Thank you to the parents who have obviously read and taken note of the item and handwriting information in the last newsletter.

It has been great seeing some children using correct pencil grip and writing their name using a Capital letter at the start and then lower case letters telling us that they have been practicing at home. It is always best to practice in the correct way as bad habits can be hard to break...(just ask my daughter who at 18 has the most uncomfortable pen grip which makes her hand tire quickly and looks really awkward because someone didn’t correct her when I had the chance!)

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**AMANDA RISHWORTH’S KINDY ART SHOW**

You should have received your invitation to the Art Show at Port Noarlunga Arts Centre on Thursday 7 April 4.00-5.30pm. We would love to see you there but if you can’t make it that is ok some of the staff team will be going along and will be able to collect your child’s art work and certificate if you can’t make it.

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**CLEAN UP DAY**

Next Thursday the 14th April is our termly clean up day.

There is a long list of jobs, which we need helpers to complete. Please give an hour of your time to complete or take home a job to do. Some jobs can be done in the days before if you are not available on Thursday.

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**END OF TERM PICNIC and NEIGHBOURHOOD WALK**

Next Friday, 15th April, we will not have a regular kindy session as it will have been tidied and cleaned the previous day ready for the holidays.

As there will be no PLAYGROUP that day for that day only we would like to move Kindy for Group 1 that day only to 9am -12pm.

We are hoping for a fine day as we are planning a Neighbourhood Walk followed by a picnic lunch back at the Preschool:

Parents and siblings welcome to join us at 11:15 for lunch on the lawn (weather permitting) at kindy.

We would also like some parents to come with us on the walk if you would like to volunteer.