



## NEWSLETTER 6 –August 2020

### CURRICULUM

The children have settled back into the preschool and occasional care routines with all educators supporting every child to complete their morning routines of hanging up bags and finding their hat, they are then assisting them to connect with friends or choose an activity to begin their day. The children have adapted to the routine of bag packing, and dismissal through the front door. This will continue for the next weeks till mid-term and will be reviewed so you will be informed of any changes to these arrangements. **Our Access gate will close from 3.20pm** so parents are asked to pick up their child on time.

Our **Literacy focus** is from our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) **Goal 1: children will choose to engage with a diverse range of text in the learning environment.** The program focus is on 'Stories from our community' which engage children to view themselves as they draw pictures of their favourite holidays experience and the educator scribe their words and they share the story at group time. Educators are using phrases like 'I wonder ...' to encourage children to discuss and encourage children's thought and language about what they have listened to, heard and seen text and pictures in a story. As children are viewing books they are encouraged to identify the front & back cover, the title, the author, print and illustrations. Children have started the book making process where they use these skills to develop a book.

Our **Numeracy focus** is from our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) **Goal 2: children will use standard and non-standard objects and tools to explore, compare and measure in their learning environment.** Children are encouraged to notice and observe the growth of vegetables in our garden and to investigate & explore the question 'I am wondering how we could measure how much our vegetables have grown?' To accomplish this children have access to use informal tools such as pop sticks and formal tools like tape measures to measure growth and to document growth through charts. Children will be supported to notice & recognise number in their environment whether it be counting in the sandpit, writing numbers, and looking for numbers on their letterbox.

Caleb Mason from Musical Muscles has started his program for Terms 3 & 4. Caleb Mason from Musical Muscles will present 3 sessions per group each term incorporating songs using pitch, rhythm and musical instruments.

### Pupil Free Days

The centre is allowed 4 PUPIL Free Days per year by the Department for Education and approved by the Governing Council. These days are for staff to attend staff development. On these days there is NO PRESCHOOL or OCCASIONAL CARE PROGRAMS. **Parents will need to make other arrangements for children on these days as staff may be off site and the centre will be closed**

This year your Governing Council approved the first day being Friday 13 March 2020 (this was a Friday for the Monday/Wednesday group). Educators attended training on Early Years Literacy development for children and were off site.

**Governing Council have approved Thursday 24 September last Thursday of term 3 & Thursday 10 December & Friday 11 December.** These days will focus on children's literacy and Numeracy learning, documenting and assessing children's learning, review of plans, and forward planning.

The aim is to have 2 days allocated for each group and giving families you at least one month's notice as required by the Department.

### Covid 19/ FLU and Colds

Please remember **if your child is unwell they must not attend kindy**, children presenting with coughs, sneezing, runny nose or other symptoms will be sent home. If a staff member contracts a cold they must also stay away from preschool until all symptoms have ceased. Please remember to notify the centre if your child has an illness. For further information use SA Health Web page <http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au>.

**Department for Education Covid -19 updates for the centre have included:** a daily cleaning of high touch surfaces and toilets during the pre-school by Department for Education cleaners and **Practice physical distancing at all times in the workplace.** This is for adults so we are currently review how this works for staff and parents. This is a changing situation so we will keep you posted.

Keep Safe and Well from the staff of Woodend Children's Centre