

LE FEVRE KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2017 TERM 1

Le Fevre Kindergarten
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Term Dates for 2017

Term 1 30 January - 13 April

Term 2 1 May - 7 July

Term 3 24 July - 29 September

Term 4 16 October - 15 December

Session Times for 2017

AM Session.

Monday - Thursday

8.45am - 11.45 am

PM Session.

Monday - Thursday

12.15 pm - 3.15pm

Fridays

8.45am - 11.45am

Playgroup

Fridays 1.00pm - 2.45pm

We are often asked why we do have closure days or pupil free days. They give all staff the opportunity to attend professional training and development often provided by well renowned, internationally acknowledged speakers who provide stimulating, innovative presentations. They enable us to reflect on our practice and how we can improve to continue to provide quality education for the children and young people in our care. Lee Watanabe Crockett provided this for us at the recent Partnership conference as he focused on "Future Focused Learning". He posed many questions relating to our children's future – What is the future? What are we going to leave? What do you believe are the most urgent problems in the world that need solving? How can we best ensure our children have the capacity to cope with and to solve their most urgent concerns? What are the critical skills students need to be successful in life beyond school? How can we ensure the curriculum has relevance to the learners in our care?

He spoke about creativity, dispositions, capabilities, interests, inquiry and how to generate connections.

As you can see there was a lot to reflect upon and will provoke further discussion at our site.

Starting Kindergarten Letters.

Please return you child's starting kindergarten letter if you haven't already done so. We will be arranging to

hold parent/teacher interviews at the end of the term.

Curious Literacy Learning Research Project.

We have been given the opportunity to participate in the Curious Literacy Learning Research Project **running** through the Early Years Learners Directorate, Learning Improvement Division of the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD). The project will offer children a tablet device which will provide them with apps specifically developed to improve reading skills in children aged 3-5. A letter relating to the project will be given to all families and an information session will be run by the project team.

Diary Dates

Monday, March 13

- Public Holiday

Tuesday, March 14

- Governing Council meeting

Monday, March 20

- CAYHs checks (parents of eligible children have been notified)

Monday March 27

- *Living Eggs (chicken hatching program)*

Thursday April 13

- *End of term 1*

Kindergarten Fees.

Thank you to those who have promptly paid their kindergarten fees. There is still a large sum of outstanding fees, so please pay as soon as possible or see Di to make alternative arrangements.

Governing Council.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 28. Members of the previous Council attended along with new parents who indicated they would be interested in joining the Council. The kindergarten annual report for 2016 was presented at the meeting. Copies are available for those interested. The annual report will be on our website. Although the attendance numbers were low, we were able to elect a Governing Council for 2017. Congratulations to our new members: Chairperson - Sarah Gentlicore and fundraising coordinator – Sarah Huesler. Other members are Natasha Hansen, Claire Boland, Darren Flower, Carly Clough, Gaby Hummel, Vanessa Blute and Amanda Scheggetman. From these other members a treasurer and secretary need to be elected. If anyone is interested in joining the Governing Council, please see Di as late volunteers will be accepted onto the Council. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14 at 6.30 to establish roles and set the agenda for the year.

Volunteer information.

All parents who volunteer on a regular basis as well as Governing Council members are required to complete the Reporting Abuse and Neglect training that is available. The local school will be having sessions early in term 1 for those who wish to undertake volunteering. The session times are Wednesday 8th March - (Week 6) 9 - 11am and Monday 20th March - (Week 8) 6 - 8pm. Please see Di if you would like to attend a session which will be held at Le Fevre Primary School.

Kindergarten T-shirts.

Kindergarten T-shirts have been ordered. We will let you know when they arrive.

Playgroup

Playgroup is held each Friday except for the last Friday of term. It is a parent run playgroup and goes from 1pm to 2.45pm. Parents/carers stay with the children and bring a piece of fruit which is shared. Cost is \$2.00 per family.

My Skoolbag

If you haven't already let Di know if you have "My Skoolbag" downloaded, please do so as we need to know how many families are using it.

Curriculum Focus.

This year our program has focused on some popular stories, including "Wombat Stew" and the "Hungry Caterpillar". We will be looking closely at "Who sank the boat", following an interest in floating and sinking and will be conducting some experiments around this interest. We have also been talking to children about their own "space" and have introduced the "Bubble" song which reinforces personal space, feeling safe and comfortable. We have been listening to the "Stop! I don't like it" song". This helps children to use their voice to say stop or no when needed. Many children have been sharing their pets, bringing photos or the real thing.

“Nude Food”

We have been talking to children, particularly those who stay for lunch, about “nude food”. Nude food is food without excess packaging. This reduces the amount of “stuff” that needs to go in bins to be sent to landfill. We have a bin for children to place soft plastics in and we then take it to Coles or Woolworths supermarkets to go in their separate soft plastic recycling container. However, we would like to reduce the amount of soft plastics coming in and using durable, reusable containers is a good way to bring food. We have already seen an increase of “nude food” in lunch boxes. It would be good if we can reduce the amount of soft plastic that goes in our bin so we are encouraging families to send “nude food” where possible. For further information about “nude food” go to <http://www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food.html>

Healthy Eating.

Following the interest/debate that has arisen in the media relating to healthy eating in schools and kindergarten’s information has been provided that seeks to clarify questions relating to this issue. “The consumption of nutritious food and beverages, together with exercise, is encouraged in preschools given the importance for children’s healthy growth, physical development and learning. Under the National Law preschools are required to have a healthy eating/nutrition policy that describes how staff meet Element 2.1.1., “*Healthy eating is promoted and food and drinks provided by the service are nutritious and appropriate for each child*”.

An important process within preschools policies is to engage families in understanding the importance of providing nutritious food and beverages for their children’s wellbeing. With this in mind our current policy will be brought to the new governing council for review and possible redevelopment about the ways we promote and encourage families to provide nutritious foods for their child.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an important way of raising additional funds for the kindergarten to help us provide quality materials and resources for the children. We have been fortunate to be given two dates to hold a sausage sizzle at the Woodville Bunnings Store on Tuesday, May 23 and Friday, June 23. This is a great fundraising opportunity and although the dates are a long way off, we are looking for expressions of interest for people to help on these days. If you are able to help, please return the included note so we can plan ahead.

Further Parent Information

A new suite of videos that provide parents and carers with tips and strategies around sleep for children and teenagers have been released by Parenting SA. These are available on the Parenting SA website or the DECD YouTube Channel.

Also a reminder from SA Dental Service. – Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider. Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, preschool and most children under 18 years at School Dental Service clinics. Call now for an appointment. Your clinic is – Le Fevre School Dental Clinic ph 84493364

Thank you

A big thank you to those who have responded to our request list. We have had some books contacted, a juggler engaged, lots of offers of large boxes, 4 egg beaters and we have some snake contacts. *If you don’t ask, you don’t know!*

Thank you – *Di, Sally, Sabine, Ingrid, Sharon, Leonie & Michelle*

“Free, unstructured play time gives kids a chance to discover their interests and tap into their creativity”.- Kenneth Ginsburg.