



March Newsletter



HILLBANK COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

March 2017

Wendy's News

Welcome to another newsletter for 2017. We have had a busy start to the year and I have some exciting new improvements to the centre to tell you about.

In the next month or so the centre will be transitioning to a new child care management system. The new system is called "Kids Xap". We will start slowly but eventually all parents and staff will be able to use the system for signing children in, looking at your child care account, update children's enrolments or medical information, it will improve parent and educator communication, it will reduce paper and have everything we do in one

place. Watch out for more information later this month.

Last year at the staff Professional development day we reviewed and updated the Centre Philosophy. Please have a look at it (on the last page), your feedback and suggestions are appreciated.

This month I have been notified that Diabetes SA will be closing down. That means we will no longer have their blue bin for donations. The last collection day is Wednesday 10th of May.

The Centre chickens are happily laying eggs each day now! We would love

for families to take a couple of eggs to make something at home. All we ask is that you then provide us with some photos of you and your children doing the cooking.

Later in March, on the Tuesday the 28th, we will be having a Parent Night. This night will provide you with the opportunity to have a Parent / Teacher interview with your child's primary educator. These interviews will need to be booked in through the office. We will start at 6pm and run until 7.30pm. There will be a information stand regarding the Kids Xap system in the foyer for your convenience on this night also.

Management Committee News

The Management Committee is proud to support our Educators walking off on March 8th. We hope this show of support sends a clear message to government that parents want high quality care provided by qualified and fairly paid Educators. The

committee thanks the Wednesday parents for their support also.

Recently we have said thank you and goodbye to two committee members Michelle Warren and Maria Morales-Martin.

If you have considered joining the committee before but haven't yet taken the plunge please have a chat to Wendy in the office and see what it entails. We would love to have you join us.

Important Dates

- **WEDNESDAY 8TH - BIG STEPS ACTION DAY CENTRE CLOSING AT 3PM FOR STAFF WALK OFF AT 3.20**
- **MONDAY 13TH - PUBLIC HOLIDAY CENTRE CLOSED NORMAL CHARGES APPLY**
- **MONDAY 20TH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**
- **TUESDAY 28TH PARENT NIGHT**
- **EASTER WEEKEND APRIL 14TH TO 17TH**

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Beehive news

A big hello to our Beehive families, we would like to welcome Kayla, Lockie, Levi and Sonny to our Beehive room and extend a warm welcome to their families. We hope you are enjoying your time with us so far and look forward to getting to know you more as your childcare journey begins.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to William and Jordan we hope you both had a great day.

After an unsettled start to the year with new babies and children returning from holidays the room is finally beginning to settle as children feel a sense of belonging to their new childcare environment. Thank you to all the families for their support/kind words and understanding throughout the last couple of months.

We have been very busy in the Beehive

with our Emergent Curriculum this month. Please take the time to have a look at our display above the sign in chart. Family input is always welcome, if children/families have attended something special that you would like to share please do not hesitate to share it with us. This month children have enjoyed a lot of outside play, including water play. We picked and tasted our very first apple from our apple tree we have been watering and watching grow. Throughout the hottest week children also participated in ice play which was a sure way to cool down. Children explored the coldness on their fingers with some children even brave enough to sit down on the ice. We have discovered cause and effect with bubble wrap and the sound it makes when we stamp our feet. Children were also able to feel the texture on their bare feet/knees as they

continuously walked/crawled back and forth over the bubble wrap. Cause and effect was also discovered when we put cars into a cardboard tube and waited for them to come out of the bottom and scoot across the floor. We continued to experience painting activities and even painted some bark as part of our room display.

Please remember if you haven't already done so we would love a family photo of all families to put up on our belonging display. Children love looking and talking about their families with the Educators.

If you have any input or questions/feedback that you want to share with the Beehive staff regarding your child please feel free to come and chat with us. Until next month,

Emma, Bec, Renee, Debbie, San and Amy.

Rabbits News

Hello to our Rabbit's Burrow families, wow this year is flying by already.

We have been busy again in our room enjoying lots of fun activities.

But firstly we would like to say a big Happy 3rd Birthday to Darien. We hope you had a great day.

Connie's program is on display at the moment, please take some time to see what your child will be learning this term if your child is in Connie's group.

Our emergent curriculum has steered us in the direction of learning about animals. The children chose to learn about monkeys, crocodiles, horses and ducks. We have now moved onto learning about different forms of transport.

Currently we are looking at planes but who knows where our imaginations might take us!

We are all enjoying the new wooden climbing equipment that was donated to the Centre. There has been a lot of balancing, climbing, sharing and gross motor skills being practiced.

We have received feedback about our hat storage. We are currently in the process of changing where children's hats will be kept. We will inform parents once this change is finalized.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT SUNSCREEN on your child BEFORE coming to childcare so that their skin is protected before they begin playing outside, thank you. We will reapply during the day.

A BIG thank you to those parents who have gotten on board and helped out by putting your child's comforters in their sleep box, their bottles above the microwave and their home nappies in the blue container. Your extra minutes of assistance has allowed us to spend more quality time with your children throughout the day. We really appreciate it.

Quote for the month :
"Play is the biggest form of research". Albert Einstein

Until next month, keep cool

Jess, Lisa, Connie, Jenn, Betty and Julie.

Lions Den News

Once again it's this time of the month, and we can't believe just how quick the year is going. In the lion's room we have continued to focus on animals through our emergent curriculum. This has been especially supported with the introduction of Abbey the Yabby, who was donated by the Williams family. The children have learnt so much about Yabbies and their lifecycle.

We have also been enjoying lots of water play with the children experiencing a few extremely hot weather days, so it would be greatly appreciated if you could provide a change of clothes in their bags. To make identification easier it would be fantastic if we could have their clothes labelled, as this also makes it less confusing for relief staff.

We also had the excitement of finally completing our children's art gallery, please feel free to take the time to look for your child's self-portraits, there are definitely some artist in the making.

The Jolly Phonic program has had wonderful rebirth and the children have so

far learnt about the letters S, A, T, I, P. The children have been engaging in a range of intentional teaching moments, where they have explored the sounds through songs, writing, physical and sensory experiences and much more.

The chickens are doing an awesome job keeping as well and truly supplied with fresh eggs. These eggs have been used by families around the centre and the children engaging in cooking experiences in the lion's room. So if you would like to give cooking ago with our fresh eggs please feel free to take some.

This term we also tried Show and Tell, this worked really well and gave the children an opportunity to speak in front of their peers. By doing this the children will develop more confidence when speaking to others and this is a valuable skill to have as they move towards their kindy and school journeys. As we have so many children we will be continuing Show and Tell on a term bases where each child will have a turn to bring in a focus

item related to our learning at the time.

We would also like to give out an extra big thank you to Trevor for doing an awesome job around the yard, making sure our chickens are secure and our equipment is safe. The next big thankyou goes to Erik Ritts grandparents; we could not thank you enough for your wonderful donation of equipment. The children are so excited about all of the new items on offer.

As the Lions room begins to access this new equipment (a construction bench in particular) we would like to ask our wonderful families that if you have any old tools, nails or off cuts of wood laying around we would really love some donations so we can set up our very own woodwork station, where the children can explore their imaginations making their own creations.

Once again if you have any feedback or concerns the Lions team are always happy to assist in any way we can.

Kylie, Coral, Marilyn, Sam and Narelle

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE FAST APPROACHING. IF YOU NEED EXTRA CARE DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS PLEASE SEE OFFICE STAFF THIS MONTH AS THERE IS LIMITED AVAILABILTY FOR CASUAL BOOKINGS

THANK YOU TO THE RITT FAMILY AND RICHARD WILSON FOR THE VERY KIND DOANTIONS OF WOODEN CLIMBING EQUIPMENT. THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE NEW CHALLENGES IT BRINGS!

March Newsletter

Staffing News

This month staffing has started to settle. Amy and Tracie are doing a great job in the Kitchen. Jenn and Betty have settled well into the Toddler team.

Jenn



Betty



We have had some new educators start on our relief list. We have had Tia and Pamela do some hours over the past few weeks. You may also see a Rebecca and Codi soon. We will continue to use these educators, as well as our other regular relief educators, as needed when permanent educators are having annual leave or when they are sick. We thank them for their work, it is very much appreciated.

Tia



Big Steps Campaign

*On **Wednesday 8th March** at 3:20pm. The Educators will be walking off the job! We are doing this to raise awareness, particularly with the Government, about our fight for professional wages and recognition for the educational and professional industry that we are in. We have been under valued for too many years and are now making a stand. We would like to be recognized as Early Childhood Educators, not baby sitters. We have been overwhelmed and are very grateful for the support we have received from families about this. We **THANK YOU** all, in particular the Management Committee for allowing us to participate in this employer supported action.*

We ask that all children be picked up no later than 3pm, so that the Educators can walk out at 3:20pm.

We would LOVE to have as many families as possible stand with us at the front of the building. I am in the process of organizing some local MP's to join us, as well as the Mayor of Playford. We will be having a cake and a speech after we walk out. There will also be free drinks available, plus bubbles/balloons for the children. There is the possibility of some media presence at the Centre. This is a BIG event that will be happening across the country!

Some of us will then be heading into Adelaide to join the "International Women's Day March". We are meeting in Hindmarsh Square at 5:30pm and walking to Parliament house. It would be fantastic if there are any families that may also be able to join us in this event as well.

Please talk to Bec S, if you have any queries about the Walk off or the march in Adelaide

If you would like more information about the Big Steps Campaign, please visit

www.bigsteps.org.au



Fundraising News

The Fundraising Calendar has been developed for this year, please see below. We will be starting it off with a Recipe book made from families very own recipes and photos. Please look out for more information about this very soon.

March – **Recipe Book**
April – **Easter Raffle**
May/June - **Entertainment Books**
July - **Cadbury Chocolates**
September – **Decorated plates /cups**
December – **Children's Christmas Party & Raffle**

Button Batteries

A messages from KidSafe SA

Serious injury leading to death can occur in less than 2 hours!

In collaboration, Kidsafe SA and SA Health have developed two new safety resources (poster and brochure) to raise awareness of the danger of button batteries. **Two children have died in Australia and 20 children go to hospital every week suspected of swallowing or inserting a button battery.**

If a child is suspected of swallowing or inserting a button battery, parents and carers must **call the Poisons Information Centre immediately on 13 11 26.**

Unfortunately, symptoms can mimic common childhood conditions, with vomiting, drooling and cough, so they must not wait for symptoms to present before calling the Poisons Information Centre.

Copies of the Brochures can be found in the foyer.

SA Dental Service

Keep your kids smiling

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: Elizabeth
GP Plus Dental Clinic

Phone: 7485 4000



Philosophy Statement

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of this land and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Kurna people today.

Vision - At Hillbank Community Children's Centre our priority is the health, safety, education and happiness of all children. We embrace each child's uniqueness and culture and strive to provide an environment that enhances children's lifelong learning.

Children - We believe that the early years of a child's life is when they are most impressionable and their experiences and learning shapes who they will become. We believe all children have the right to be treated equally, respectfully and without discrimination or bias. We will give children the opportunity to express their ideas and feelings without judgement. The centre will endeavour to provide a happy, secure environment where children feel safe both physically and emotionally where their cultural differences will be supported.

Curriculum - We respect each child's individuality and understand that all children have a different learning style. We will create opportunities that foster children's learning, development and wellbeing as outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

Children have a strong sense of identity.

Children are connected with and contribute to their world.

Children are effective communicators.

Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

Children are Confident and Involved Learners

Each child will have individual planning which promotes their strengths, imagination and creativity. Children's interests will be fostered through an emerging curriculum approach. Listening to the children and using their voices will guide the program. Play spaces allow opportunities for nature play which provide an educational environment for sustainable practices.

Cultural Competence - We will endeavour to embrace and support the continual growth and development of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their unique ways of knowing and being. As a centre we acknowledge that Australia is made up of diverse cultures and therefore we strive to build an environment that is inclusive and respectful of all.

Educators - To ensure provision of quality care and education we seek to employ educators who differ in age, culture, gender and life experience, who have a warm and caring disposition. Educators will have a sound knowledge of the emotional and developmental needs of the children. All educators will be suitably qualified and have knowledge of current child development and best practices. Educators are encouraged to critically reflect on their own practice and continue developing their professional knowledge. It is important that Educators feel a sense of belonging within the centre community and enjoy participating in centre events.

Families/Communities - We believe in providing a warm and welcoming environment which is reflective of all cultures, this enables educators to build close relationships with families. We encourage strong communication between educators and families as we value the knowledge families have about their children. We will show respect to families and treat them with the highest level of professionalism. We will keep families informed in regards to their child's progress and daily needs. We encourage families to be involved in the centre environment including the curriculum, parent nights, management committee and special events.

Building the world of tomorrow by investing in the children of today