Welcome!

To our kindy and the first one year intake; we just know that some wonderful friendships will be formed over the year, not only between the children but also the staff and families 😊

I know you have been given a lot of facts at the information meeting as well as discussions with me and other staff members if you could not make the meeting. We realise it is all rather daunting and a lot to absorb, so please don’t hesitate to contact me or any of the staff if you need any clarification at any time. Remember the only silly question is the one you don’t ask! We will be sending out interim reports in the second term, however if you wish to discuss the progress of your child prior to this with teaching staff, just approach them and make a time convenient for both of you. We love to chat with you and often catch up with all families throughout the term before and after kindy, but high numbers and time is often against us, so please don’t be afraid to approach us….we don’t bite 😊

This year we are centering our curriculum on the United Nations in focus on Crystallography and Family Farming. There is a note coming out explaining in more detail just how we are going to approach these subjects. Our term overview is displayed in many areas of the kindy both indoors and outdoors, so check it out ……..we are very excited it is going to be an amazing term and year. Lots of science and community involvement, there will definitely be challenges but it will be well worth it and so much fun along the way. So don’t forget to keep informed, read all the material we put in the pockets, because we would hate for you to miss out on anything!

The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.

- Richard Bach
Christmas Pageant

Our kindy won the community float in the Kadina Pageant for the second year in a row. This certainly would not have been possible without the support of our families and staff. THANKYOU! 😊

Invoices

Yes they are already in your communication pockets; I knew you would be pleased 😊

I hope this allows you plenty of opportunity to budget for the term and as we have Kindergym coming up in week 5. I mention this because according to our fee policy, those children whose fees have not been paid or there is no installment plan which have been discussed with me will unfortunately have to remain at kindy and forego the trip to Kindergym.

It is unfortunate but our fees are the means of paying our cleaner, excess water rates, council rates, electricity, telephone, council rates and rubbish removal. So as you can see they are spread pretty thin and nonpayment ultimately affects the overall quality of resources we can purchase for the kindy.

Please don’t hesitate to speak to me if you are struggling because I am more than happy to work out an installment plan to assist with your budget and at the same time our much needed funds.

Scholastic

You will have noticed that you have book brochures in your pockets. These are dispersed at regular intervals during the year and are a fantastic way of acquiring good quality books and media at very reasonable and often cheap prices.

For instance this month ‘There was an old lady who swallowed a mozzie’, lots of fun and great rhyming to assist with sound recognition! and ‘Two little Pirates’ a great story of let’s pretend to help those fertile imaginations...hmmm I think that will definitely be on my list ready for International Speak Like a Pirate day in September 😊

We also get free books and some literacy resources for the kindy on percentages of books sold each month...a definite bonus!

So sit down relax with a cuppa as you peruse the catalogues who knew education could be fun and relaxing at the same time!

Emails and details?

I have implemented an email system so that all our notes and newsletters can also be sent by email. This will help ensure that you don’t miss any important information down the back of the car seat, eaten by a curious toddler or dog or coffee stained in just the wrong spot 😊

If you do not want any emails from me, just let me know and I will take you off the list. Alternatively if you would only like to receive the newsletter via email then let me know as well.

Also PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE remember to keep your phone details up to date in our books, this is vital information for the safety of your child!
TIK TOC

Transition, Involvement and Change........
Time, Observation and Commitment

As adults with every New Year, we all wonder what it will bring; the same applies to our children. Some will begin kindy for the first time, others will go to school. Both are massive transitions for young minds to make. How can we help make those transitions smoother?

*Always make sure you have time to listen.* Make a part of the day ‘special’ just for you and them, ensuring no competition from siblings, other members of the family, TV, iPads/iPods or computers. It may only be 10 – 15 minutes, but sometimes it is all that is needed to let them know they are special and you will always be there to listen. Note that I said ‘listen’.

Often we clever adults ‘direct’ the conversation and it ends up with the child just agreeing/disagreeing or shrugging their shoulders. You know them better than anyone else in the world, so try to steer conversations around their interests and positive stories about your time in Early Childhood are always a hit, after all they always love tales from the ‘olden days’ 😊

Chinese New Year begins on the 31st of January so we will begin our year exploring some aspects of Chinese culture surrounding this very interesting time of year.

We will also be encouraging families to share their own cultural beliefs and traditions throughout the year. Please don’t be bashful; it is through these interactions the children gain the most benefit for their learning. Last year we were very fortunate when quite a few families chose to share some of their traditions by coming in and giving informal talks with the children. So be brave we love to hear and see valued cultural traditions and the children are so proud and excited when one of their family members shares something from home!
Beginning of Term reminders

- **Apply SUNSCREEN** before kindy
- Don’t forget a Hat and spare clothes
- Collars and short sleeves are the best protection for shoulders and neck
- Check communication pockets every session!
- Drink bottles — water only (labelled)
- Save sugary snacks and chips for home!
- Check the **washing roster**
- **Volunteer** at the kindy shop
- Re acquaint yourselves with the kindy policies displayed in a book by the green communication board
- **Volunteer** to cut up fruit, go on walks with the kindy, do dishes, assist in cooking or help clean up.
- Remember to **wash out lunchboxes** …strange things grow in there!
- Once our veggie garden is back in full swing parents are invited to share in the excess produce 😊

**KIDS’ TEETH AND SNACKS**

We actively promote and encourage healthy eating and less food wrappers at our Preschool as part of the promotion OPAL incentive of our local Council.

Try to:
- ♦ Limit foods containing lots of sugar, eg, sweet drinks and biscuits to parties and occasional meal times (not at kindy though 😊)
- ♦ Avoid giving children sweet snacks between meals
- ♦ Give children snacks such as bread (all types), savoury spreads, plain cracker biscuits, cheese, vegie sticks, fruit, yoghurt and corn on the cob.
- ♦ And of course water is the best drink for thirsty and active little bodies!

Children who consume good food during the preschool day have a greater ability to concentrate better while at preschool and get the necessary requirements they need for adequate health and development

- Provide a variety of different foods during the week so the child doesn’t get bored with the same foods
- Make sure the lunchbox food looks appealing, such as having a variety of colours and textures
- Ensure to include a drink (water is preferred) in the child’s favourite drink bottle
- Follow the Healthy Eating Guidelines making sure that children get their 2 fruit and 5 vegetables daily
- When it’s hot put an ice block in the lunchbox to help keep things cool

For more healthy food ideas visit [opal.sa.gov.au](http://opal.sa.gov.au)
GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM

Our AGM is on 12th February. Notes will be placed around the Centre and in your communication pockets regarding finer details. We will be campaigning for new members as many of our existing members have moved to the school sector. At this point I would like to once more, sincerely thank our members from 2013 for their amazing energy, thoughts, insight and time they have given to our Centre. Their dedication has helped increase the financial status of this Kindy and assisted in creating a more engaging and friendly environment for children, families and staff. THANKYOU!!!!

I have included a form below if you wish to know more about becoming or would like to be a Governing Council member. Please give this some serious consideration before dismissing it and come and join 

Parents Name........................................................................................................................................

I would love to be a Governing Council member!! ☺

Please tell me more information about what it means to become a Governing Council member and why it is so important to the Preschool?

OR

I can’t come to night time meetings but I would love to be part of the Fundraising or Grounds Committee (circle which one)