From the Director...

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2015 at Renmark West Preschool! We hope that your child’s transition into preschool is smooth and that they enjoy their time with us. The term will quickly become busy with lots of exciting learning opportunities and experiences for your child.

Towards the end of this newsletter I have included some information for you about how you can help to make the transition to preschool go as smoothly as possible. Please do not hesitate to seek the help of a staff member if your child is finding it difficult in the mornings.

Our 2015 enrolment is 15 children and our staffing is set at myself as Director and Liz Angeletti and Christina Files as our Early Childhood Workers. Both Liz and I will be working Monday to Wednesday. Christina will be working each Tuesday to support students with special needs.

This newsletter contains lots of ‘start of the year’ information. Please read it carefully and see staff if you have any questions. We are more than happy to assist you.

Kind regards,

Katrina Papageorgios
DIRECTOR
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday
17 February at
7.30 p.m.

At this meeting we will review our achievements from 2014 and elect the Governing Council for 2015. I strongly urge you to come along, support the preschool and help us to celebrate our successes. Supper will be provided after the meeting.

I would also encourage you to consider nominating to be a member of the Governing Council for 2015. The Governing Council plays an integral role in the decision making of the preschool and it provides an excellent opportunity for parents to become involved. Meetings are held monthly and usually last for about an hour. I hope to see many of you at the AGM.

For current Governing Council members, just a reminder that there will be a short meeting prior to the AGM at 7 pm on February 17.

Curriculum News

We have a term of exciting learning experiences planned for your children.

In the first two weeks of the term we will be completing children’s assessments in relation to our Competencies Checklist and Language Link Program. Once these screens are completed we will be in touch with you about the results.

This term our learning will centre around the concept of ‘Belonging’. Through this unit we are hoping to instill a sense of true belonging in your children. We will be exploring each child’s identity, family culture, personality and feelings. Look out for our wall display “Meet our new preschoolers”.

Initially we will be looking at kindy rules and why we have them, developing children’s sense of responsibility for the preschool, its resources and routines, and for their own behaviour, as well as learning about the importance of being and having friends.

If you have any questions about the learning program or your child’s development please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Child Profile Folders

This year we will be using ‘Child Profile Folders’. All information about your child’s learning and development will be stored in a folder.

Your child’s folder can be accessed at any time, and in fact we encourage you to look through it regularly. Folders can be found in the coloured stack of trays by the block shelf. From time to time we will ask for your feedback about your child’s learning as part of developing a profile of your child.
Preschool Fees

Term One fee envelopes are included with this newsletter. Fees are $75 per term and are due by Wednesday 18 February. Fees can be paid term by term, in full for the year or in instalments. Information about all options can be found on the envelope. If you are making a direct deposit to our bank please complete the envelope and place it in our mailbox so we have a record of your payment.

Library Visits

We will be visiting the school library every Tuesday. Visits will start in week two. Please send your child’s named library bag along on Tuesday next week.

Tissues

This year we are again asking parents to donate a box of tissues to the preschool. Tissues are an expense at preschool which we believe could be reduced in order to purchase more meaningful materials such as paint, puzzles and games. If you could send along a box of tissues it would be much appreciated.

Fruit Time

Just a friendly reminder that at morning fruit time your child’s food must be either fruit, vegetable or dairy. We discourage biscuits, breads, muesli and fruit bars at this time.

Also, please prepare your child’s fruit snack as they would eat it at home. For example, if at home they eat their apple peeled and cut into pieces please send it to kindy like this, or if they happily munch on it whole then send it along uncut.

We try to encourage and foster independence with your child at every opportunity and meal times are an excellent time to do this.

Hats & Hot Weather

Please ensure that your child brings a hat to preschool everyday. Children are not allowed to play outside without a hat as part of our SunSmart policy.

Please check your child has their hat each morning before coming to preschool, and we ask that you please label it with their name.

The hot weather is upon us and we will have some long, hot days ahead. Please remember the following:

- Send your child to preschool with an adequate amount of water. Small novelty water bottles do not always hold enough water to keep your child hydrated throughout the day. Think about freezing their water overnight to ensure it stays cool.

- All lunch boxes are stored in the fridge and the temperature is closely monitored to ensure the food is stored correctly.

- Apply sunscreen before preschool. On hot days we only play outside in the morning, if at all, and this will ensure your child is protected. If you forget to do this in the morning the preschool has a supply of sunscreen near the parent sign in sheet. Please help yourself and apply some to your child.
Birthdays
Due to our healthy eating policy we ask that you do not send in cakes or treats for your child’s birthday. The staff will provide activities to help your child celebrate his/her special day.

Laundry Roster

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Washing can be collected from the kindy at the end of the session on Wednesday and returned on the following Monday. Thanks for your help!

Reducing Paper
This year I am really keen to reduce the amount of paper we use at the preschool, particularly on parent notes and information. If you would be happy to have correspondence sent to you via email please complete the attached return slip. If you would prefer paper copies then please complete the form and return it indicating your choice.

Not everything can be sent via email, but where we can we will try to reduce the paper trail. We are happy to send information to more than one email address per family (eg. Mum and Dad’s email) but please ensure that the email address you provide us with is one that you check each day.

Child & Youth Health Checks
Throughout the year we arrange visits by the health nurse to conduct children’s four year old health checks. This check can be completed by the local GP or by a visit to the health nurse outside of preschool hours.

Please let staff know if your child has already had their four year old check. For those children who have not had their check at this stage, information about an up-coming visit will be sent home when a day and time has been confirmed.

Facebook
If you are on Facebook don’t forget to search for us ‘Renmark West Preschool’. This is a great way to stay in touch with things that are happening at the preschool.

End of the Day
Just a reminder that the preschool sessions end at 3:00pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, and at 11:15am on Wednesdays. Please ensure you are at the preschool at least 5 minutes prior to the dismissal time. We understand the car park is busy so it is worth leaving yourself a few extra minutes to find a park and get into the kindy. Your child will appreciate knowing you are here when the goodbye song is sung.

You are welcome to come inside the preschool at the end of the day and observe our group time. If you so do so, please come in quietly and respect the learning that is still taking place. If you would like to chat to other parents please do this out on the verandah to minimise distractions for your child. Thank you!
Never hesitate to ask!

If you have a question about your child and their development, progress or learning, or are unsure about a routine or process, please ask a staff member. We are more than happy to help you with any question you may have, and if we can’t answer it for you then and there we will always endeavour to find out the answer for you!

Staff are available in the mornings and afternoons, or you can contact us by phone or email at anytime. Email is an excellent way to communicate with us as I am regularly checking my email, even on my non-working days. My email address is: katrina.papageorgios39@schools.sa.edu.au

If you would like to talk to staff in more detail or in private please do not hesitate to make an appointment with us. We are here to help in any way we can!

Sorry....

...for the information overload! We appreciate the time spent reading through this important information 😊

Separation Anxiety

What you can do to help your child if they are finding it hard to settle in the mornings.

😊 Trust your child’s teacher. If you don’t trust your child’s teacher then your child won’t trust them either!

😊 Talk to your teacher. Your child’s preschool teacher is well prepared to deal with separation anxiety and probably has a lot to offer in terms of dealing with your child specifically.

😊 Confront the problem head-on. Try not to bribe your child and don’t sneak out. The best way to cope with separation anxiety is to just deal with it.

😊 Never let them see you’re upset. Don’t let your child see that their separation anxiety is getting to you.

😊 Try a change. If your child suffers separation anxiety when Mum drops off, try getting Dad to give it a go and see what results from that.

😊 Say goodbye. The simplest of the steps, it’s often the hardest to do. Come up with something that you do each time you say goodbye, make sure you do it every single time, then tell your child you love them, you’ll be back soon, and walk out the door.

😊 Don’t delay, don’t give them “one more minute,” or “just one more hug”. By leaving without delay you’re sending them the message that you trust the people you are leaving them with and that it is a safe and fun place to be.

😊 Don’t be late for pick up. No matter who is picking your child up, make sure you are there on time! If you are late, it can cause your child even more anxiety and make dropping them off the next time that much harder.

The thing about surviving separation anxiety is... We can’t tell you how long it’s going to take to get over – it’s just going to take as long as it takes, but it will improve, and we will help your child and you every step of the way!