Dear preschool families and caregivers,

We are already coming towards the end of our first term of preschool for 2015. Joo Nee Yeap, our ECW who works on Wednesdays and Thursdays has decided to retire after 7 years at Vale Park Preschool. We wish Joo Nee all the best and thank her for being a valuable member of the Vale Park Preschool Team. Thank you Joo Nee.

During the last week of every term we prepare the environment for the next term. Each morning there will be a morning tea for families that help us clean the preschool (see separate note). We would also like to use this opportunity for families to say goodbye to Joo Nee and to wish her all the best for her new chapter of life.

Our 2015 Governing Council met for the second time on the 18th of March. On the night we discussed fundraising options for the year. If anyone has an idea or contacts in a particular area that could benefit the preschool please speak to a Governing Council member (photo’s on the notice board) or a member of staff.

Parent/teacher interviews are currently underway. They provide a valuable opportunity to develop relationships with families as well as sharing information about the children. If you have not booked a time, contact a member of staff as soon as possible.

I will be on leave from Thursday 2nd April until the beginning of next term. Please speak to Danielle, Dani, Christine, Joo Nee or Alisa if you require information, have any concerns or questions.

We have been very lucky to have had many families volunteering their services at preschool. I would like to thank Betty Sun (Yimming) and Vera Matveeva (previous parent and now school parent) who have been busy scanning all our library books and are now scanning our games etc. I would also like to thank Emma (Tom), Sarah (Erik) and Kelly (Oliver) who have been busy preparing resources for collage/panting. Andrew (Isaac) and Luke (Bennett) have collected wood for woodworking. Luke has also donated materials for the outdoor exploration.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning together and appreciate family participation.

Thank you
**We Need Help—End of Term Cleaning**

It’s that time again.
We have sent out a note requesting family support to help with end of term cleaning. This will take place during the last week of the term on Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th of April in the morning.

Morning tea will be provided.
There are a variety of jobs that require about half an hour of your time. A list of these jobs can be found on the whiteboard. Please indicate what job and which day you will be coming in.

Thank You for Support

**Sports Day**

Vale Park Primary School is holding their annual Sport’s Day on Thursday 2nd April at the school.
The children attending preschool on Thursday will participate in the egg and spoon race in the morning.
Parents are welcome to attend. The preschool is seeking family support to supervise and support the children’s participation in this event. If you can help can you please speak to Danielle.
It is important that all permission forms are returned by Wednesday 1st April.

**Visits to Vale Park School Library**

The children have been visiting the school library on a fortnightly basis. We will be continuing this practice during term 2 although the librarian will be on leave.

**Sustainability**

Next term our inquiry question will be ‘How to we care for each other and our world?’
One aspect of this inquiry will focus on reducing the amount of materials that go in to landfill and developing an understanding of the impact of landfill on our environment.
During the last week of this term the children will be involved in an experience where they will record the amount of landfill on one particular day.
We will then compare this data to a collection we will take at the end of term 2.

**Outdoor Environment**

Dani and Danielle have been developing our outdoor environment. On Friday Wee Can donated some very large logs which have been placed near the vegetable garden.
We would like to form an Outdoor Environment Committee of interested parent next term.
Would you like to help develop our outdoor environment?

**Tea Towels for Mother’s Day**

This year we will be selling tea towels for Mother’s Day. These tea towels will have a picture from each child that attends the preschool printed on them. The project involves all the children and produces a great momento for parents, relatives and special friends.
The cost per tea towel is $12 or you can purchase 3 for $30.
There is an example of a tea towel done previously on the notice board. Order forms have been placed in your parent pocket and all orders must be returned and paid for no later than Wednesday the 8th of April.

**QIP Feedback**

The 2015 Quality Improvement Plan has been placed on the parent information board for you to read. We are seeking your input in this plan. Please feel free to make any comments (place in yellow box) or give feedback about this document to Sharron, Dani and Danielle.

**Community News**

**Toolbox Parenting Groups**

**The Early Years (0-5 years)**

**Thursday Mornings 7th May to 11th June**

(6 sessions) 9:30-11:30

Cost $15.00

Facilitator—Emily Lim

Topics:
The Parent Coach
Tools for Co-operation
Knowing your preschooler
Discipline
Creating childhood to remember
Choosing to make a change

Enquiries/Bookings

www.trybooking.com/HHZQ
Ph: 83313111 or email magill@lccare.org.au

**Artist in Residence—Music, Storytelling and art with Allan Sumner**

The Effective Living Centre has a range of holiday activities your children may be interested in during 12-19th April.
Further information is on the noticeboard.
Literacy

Using language to connect with my world

Literacy is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use language in all its forms (EYLF p. 38).

Literacy incorporates a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts, media and drama, as well as talking, listening, viewing, reading and writing (EYLF p. 38).

This term we have been drawing on children's English and home languages as a way to make new connections with their new educators and peers at Preschool. We have been utilising their language as a tool whereby children are able to explain to us who they are as an individual and as a member of their families and communities. The children have been encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas.

Non-verbally, we have been identifying and supporting children's pencil grip, ability to write their name, complexity of drawings and confidence in their abilities.

Children have been involved in the following experiences that draw on their verbal and non-verbal skills:

- Creative making and construction and explaining their work
- Sharing their profiles and group discussions about feelings, safety, emergencies, networks
- Playing a variety of getting to know you games and engaging in collaborative play
- Dramatic play - home corner, hospital, vet, camping, fire-fighters, builders
- Reading and viewing stories
- Making books

How can I help my child at home?

You can support your child's use of language at home in many ways such as:

- Asking your child about their day, who they played with, what game they played etc.
- Next time your child has questions, listen, respond and ask them your own questions in return. This sort of questioning and listening will help with language and listening skills
- Encourage your child to write their own name and help them identify the initial letter and sound in their name
- Read a variety of books/stories/magazines to your child—discuss the story/message
- Encourage drawing, climbing, construction and other experiences that develop upper body, hand and finger strength
- Assist your child to hold a pencil with a three finger pencil grip
- Ask your child for their opinion on a variety of things. E.g. 'What do you think about ...........', 'How do you know?', 'What if....?', 'Tell me more.........'
- Explain new concepts/ideas

Handwriting

Many children come to preschool showing an interest in writing and in particular writing their name. It is important that children are supported to follow their interests and also to form letters in a way that supports later writing experiences.

Holding the pencil, using uppercase and lower case letters and forming letters correctly are important writing skills.

The following link contains charts that explain the way to formulate letters and numerals using the South Australian style of handwriting.


Happy Holidays