Dear Preschool Families and Caregivers,

Welcome to term 4. Term 4 is only a nine weeks long and is also a very busy and exciting term. We have an exciting inquiry planned ‘How am I a powerful learner?’ which focuses on the dispositions for learning. Learning dispositions are curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination, problem solving and reflexivity.

I was fortunate to accept an award during the holidays on behalf of our Morialta Partnership ‘SA excellence in public education’ for our work with children in the area of STEM.

Thank you to all the families who have returned their child’s Learning Folder and provided goals and feedback. We appreciate and encourage you to be involved in your child’s learning. We are still waiting for a number of folders to be returned. It would be very helpful if the folders could be returned next week, the educators would like to finalise and implement your child’s goals and continue adding to the folders.

We would like to encourage all families to think about how you may share you skills and knowledge with the children. Your children feel excited and proud when their families are involved in their learning. We are currently seeking support to celebrate Diwali this term. If you would like to help us please speak to Kinnari or an educator.

Just a reminder that hats need to be worn.

**NO HAT NO OUTSIDE PLAY.**

Please ensure that your child has a hat in their bag. Children should wear t-shirts with sleeves to protect them from the sun. Sunscreen should be applied before preschool and educators will support children to re-apply it at lunch time.

If your child is sensitive to sunscreen we advise that you supply your own, we use Cancer Council 50 plus.

Please ensure that a cold pack or freezer block is in your child’s lunch. Children’s lunches are not kept in the fridge.

Please ensure that only healthy fruit and vegetables are packed for snack and that yogurts/cheeses are packed for lunch with a cold pack. The weather is warming up and it is important that the food your child eats is kept at an appropriate temperature for eating.
Thank you for your feedback about the Behaviour Management Policy. The new policy is now in the Family Policy folder if you would like to view it. We are now seeking your feedback on the
- Excursion Policy and Procedure
- Emergency and Evacuation Policy
- Changing Clothes Procedure

A copy of these policies and procedures have been displayed on the Parent Information Board last term and will be removed next week. Please read and make any comments. If you would like a copy, please speak to an educator who will be happy to copy one for you. I have placed a pen on top of the board to make it easier for you to comment.

Emergency and Evacuation Procedures

You may have noticed our written emergency and evacuation procedures that includes instructions for what must be done in the event of an emergency and an emergency evacuation floor plan is displayed on our entry door.

Last term a Emergency Management Plan was also developed and a copy is located in the Family Policy and procedure Folder in the parent area.

Parent Information Board

I have put on the Parent Information Board some new parenting information from different community groups. There are 2 Positive Parenting workshops coming up and information about the services provided by Trinity Gardens Children’s Centre which you may be interested in.

We are currently preparing for our End of Year Celebration which will include an Art Exhibition. This art project takes about 5 weeks to complete. The children
- Draw a picture
- Share their story (educator documents)
- Select a colour to paint the background of the canvas
- Draw on the canvas
- Create a 3D image on their canvas
- Exhibit their canvas at the Vale Park Preschool Art Exhibition
- Take their painting home

This projects learning goals includes learning about
- Artists/Art Exhibition
- Imagination, perseverance, communication
- Fine motor skill development

To complete this project we require the ART CANVAS form to be retuned as soon as possible. If you require another form please speak to Sharron, Dani or Danielle. If you do not want your child to participate please speak with us.

The preschool is in the process of being assessed and rated by the Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia. Our Quality Improvement Plan has been sent during the holidays and an assessor will visit on Thursday 22nd of October for the day. You may see her at preschool taking a lot of notes.

Bunning's BBQ

Can You Help us on the 8th of November?

We are having our Bunning's Sausage Sizzle at the Windsor Gardens Store. Please show your support for the preschool by volunteering your time. We currently require help for the 8.30-10.30, 12:30-2:30 and 2:30-4:30 times. Please see the roster on the parent information board or speak to Sharron. If you can’t help on the day you may like to come along and purchase a sausage for your lunch. Thank you

We appreciate your time and support.
Inquiry Learning

EYLF Link: Outcome 4, Children are confident and involved learners

This term our inquiry topic is ‘How am I a powerful learner?’ Our aim for this inquiry is for all children to continue to develop their dispositions for learning which include curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination, problem solving and reflexivity. We also aim to raise children’s awareness of the importance and value of their learning.
Early Years Learning Framework Link (p.33):
Active involvement in learning builds children’s understandings of concepts and the creative thinking and inquiry processes that are necessary for lifelong learning. They can challenge and extend their own thinking, and that of others, and create new knowledge in collaborative interactions and negotiations. Children’s active involvement changes what they know, can do, value and transforms their learning.

NQS Standard 3.2:
The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play.

Some examples of how children may be involved in this inquiry are...
- Small project work
- Participating with others to solve problems and contribute to group goals
- Science experiments
- Using the creative arts such as drawing, painting, sculpture, drama, dance, movement, music and storytelling to express their ideas and increase their understanding
- Using information and communication technologies (ICT) to investigate and problem solve
- Participating in experiences drawing upon the principles of STEM
  - Science - Further exploring our environment, growing and caring for plants and other living creatures
  - Engineering - LEGO
  - Technology - Using the internet, digital microscope and magnifying lens
  - Mathematics - Mathematical tools, language and concepts covered in previous terms

**Literacy and Numeracy Indicators**
*EYLF Links: Outcome 4, Children are confident and involved learners & Outcome 5, Children are effective communicators*

This inquiry will draw upon and encourage children to use the literacy and numeracy concepts, language and tools previously covered in terms 1, 2 and 3.

**How can families support their child's learning?**
- Investigate questions or interests with your child, rather than give them the answers. The process of investigation increases children’s understanding of an area/topic in which they are interested. Use a variety of sources to find information including books, technology, visiting the local library and asking people in the community or ‘experts’. By investigating with your child, you are showing that learning is lifelong.
- Point out different objects in your local community that you or your child may not have noticed before. Help them to notice and learn about their world
- Encourage your child to ask questions and create solutions
- Make a book at home about an interest of your child’s. This experience can provide opportunities to develop your child’s imagination, thinking, persistence and concepts of print (title, author, story, illustration, direction of print etc.)
- Involve your child in home experiences such as cooking, organising a holiday or outing, sorting socks, going food shopping, gardening etc.
- Visit places in and around Adelaide such as The Adelaide Central Market, The Adelaide Botanical Gardens, Art Gallery, South Australian Museum, Adelaide City Library, local park, beach etc.
Use the language of a ‘Powerful learner’ when providing feedback about their actions. For example:

- You kept trying even though it was not easy or fun
- The more you persist, the better you will get
- I saw you thinking about it
- You decided to try another way when it didn’t work
- Great problem solving
- How did you do that?
- How did you know that would happen?

For more information about how you can support your child to be a Powerful Learner please visit http://www.greatstart.sa.edu.au/