Dear Families,

We are now heading into week 5 of our 11 week term. This week we will be sharing our emergency procedure with the children. This procedure has a number of different aspects, depending on where a 'threat' exists. This week our focus will be on an 'internal' threat, where we need children to evacuate the building and assemble in front of the outside double gates. The children will be notified of the need to evacuate via a whistle blow. Our procedure requires children to immediately stop what they are doing, and walk quickly to the assembly area. Once evacuated, staff would ensure all children are present & notify emergency services. Staff will be talking about the need to know what to do in case of emergency and how to stay safe. Later in the term we will practice our 'off site' evacuation, where we assemble at the double gates & walk into the SPPS school grounds. This may be a good time to establish or review your home emergency procedure with children. Do they know what to do and where to go in case of an emergency?

Next week, we will host 'Living Eggs', for a 2 week period. Children will have the opportunity to observe chickens hatching from eggs, handle and care for them. This has proved to be a very positive learning experience, with children given a 'hands on' opportunity to engage with the baby chicks, encouraging new vocabulary, concepts and understandings.

This Friday 4th March, we are hosting a 'Reporting Abuse & Neglect' (RAN) training from 12.30—2.30. Anyone who is planning to volunteer their time at kindy will need to participate in this session, so please add your name to the list. Julie will also provide a 'volunteer induction' after the training. The 'RAN' Training lasts for 3 yrs, so will cover parents who wish to volunteer at schools.

Kindergarten Annual General Meeting
A BIG thank you to the parents who attended our AGM, which was held last Thursday night. At the meeting, Julie presented the 2015 Annual Report. (Copies are available on the entrance table and soon via our website) We successfully elected a new Governing Council to represent you as parents in 2016. Once again we are in the fortunate situation of having all 12 positioned filled, with 3 members continuing from 2015 and another 2 members continuing after holding positions over the past few years. Another 5 members were elected for their first time. Thank you
**Assessment & Reporting at Kindy**

In 2016 we are initiating improvements to our assessment & reporting process. Our aim is for families to have greater input into their child’s learning program. Most families have completed the first phase, by providing feedback on your child’s needs & interests. Staff use this information to develop Individual Learning Plans (ILP) for all children. Later this term we will schedule time for all families to meet with their child’s group teacher to discuss their ‘ILPs’. Ongoing learning experiences are recorded by staff, with documentation provided in children’s learning folders. Families will be encouraged to take the folder’s home at the end of each term, to share the contents with children & other family members. Staff will provide written ‘Learning Statements’ in term 2 & 4. In 2016, staff will be highlighting children’s learning against the DECD ‘Preschool Literacy & Numeracy Indicators’. A copy of these 'Indicators' is attached to this newsletter. These aim to provide families with a clearer understanding of what literacy & numeracy learning looks like in the early years of education. They also provide educators with a basis to track & monitor children’s learning, identify any children who my be ‘at risk’ in their learning and provide a basis to plan and extend understandings promoting new learning. Please take the time to have a look through this information and see Peta or Julie if you have any further questions.

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**EASTER RAFFLE**

This term we are seeking your support with our 1st fundraising event for 2016. Families are asked to provide a donation that will be made into raffle prizes. This could be craft materials, toiletries, toys, non-perishable food, etc. Donations due by 18/3. Families will be asked to sell 10 raffle tickets @ $1 each. Raffle drawn Wed. 23rd March.

Thank you & Good Luck!

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**Site Facility Upgrades 2016**

We have been notified of a number of facility upgrades that are due for completion this year. DECD will fund these projects, to ensure our site is meeting National Quality Standards in education. Projects include:

- Moving the community notice board to provide safety ‘line of sight’ to children’s bathroom area.
- Swap position of children’s toilets with sinks to ensure privacy for children using toilets.
- Remove wall to 3rd children’s toilet.
- Add nappy change facility to bathroom area.
- Provide access toilet in adult bathroom area, with shower & space for 2nd change table.
- Remove locked chemical cupboard & provide sink area for paint cleaning.
- Provide locked chemical storage system in current cleaners cupboard.
- Provide ‘finger jam’ protection jabs to all doors.
- Improve window operation.
- Reduce gaps under external fence & replace gate hinges.
- Increase size of internal area by adding new enclosed verandah with blinds.

These projects will be scheduled for completion during school holiday periods. We aim to reduce any inconvenience to children, families & staff where possible, however we appreciate your understanding that unexpected situations sometimes arise and may impact on the work schedules. We will keep you informed, as we receive further details. We will keep the outcome of significantly improved facilities ‘fresh in our minds’ as we progress through the construction phase!

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Thank you to the families who have paid their term 1 fees in full.

**KINDY FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE**

Please make payment this week if you haven’t already done so.

Please speak to Julie if you are experiencing difficulty paying fees.

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Thank you for reading the newsletter...