



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Rostrevor Kindergarten

Newsletter Term 1 Week 6 February 2020

Diary Dates:

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| 9 th March | Adelaide Cup Public Holiday |
| 17 th March | Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Excursion (Yellow Group) |
| 19 th March | Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Excursion (Blue Group) |
| 1 st of April | Closure day |
| 12 th April | End of term 1 |



Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Excursion **Tuesday the 17th at 2.00 pm and Thursday the 19th of March 2020 at 9.30am**

Rostrevor Kindergarten has organised to collaborate with Magill Kindergarten to participate in **Little Maestros**. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to meet the musicians and get up close to the instruments of the orchestra. The children have already begun learning about the songs and the instruments.

We will take the bus to **Magill Kindergarten** and return after the one hour show. *(The bus has seatbelts to meet Department for Education regulations).*

*(The cost of the excursion is an additional **\$20** (this includes the performance and the bus and this was unfortunately organised after the levy and we didn't want to miss out on this opportunity) We would appreciate if families can please pay for this via bank transfer or cash prior to the excursion day. All children in each group will be participating and Kindergarten staff will be supervising the children during the sessions. **Please ensure if you are in the Thursday group that your child is at Kindergarten by 9am to be on the bus otherwise you will need to meet us there.***

On Tuesday we should be back at Kindergarten by around 3.20, we have made arrangements with Kidzone about the children that are being collected that day.

If parents have a working with children check and would like to come on that day please speak to Tina.

Rachel will have permission slips for families to sign at Kindergarten prior to the excursion.

Curriculum

The last few weeks have been busy with the children cooking pancakes and pumpkin scones using pumpkin from our vegetable garden.



Celebrity Chefs....
 The children are really enjoying the opportunity to do cooking. It involves many skills like measuring, taking turns and developing their fine motor control. If anyone is keen to come and cook with the children we will support you with finding a recipe and providing what you need. Please come and see one of the staff and we can arrange a time to come in.

Numeracy Focus

Over the past four weeks we have planned many experiences to help children gain an understanding of shapes. We have planned shape hunts, musical instruments with shapes, making shape pictures and using natural materials to make shape pictures. We have read shape books and Vicki has also played the shape game at group time. In the yellow group we cut shapes out of vegemite and butter bread which the children spread themselves. (We will do this with the blue group next week). Families could build on this activity at home as spreading the bread also encourages fine motor development and self-help skills. Hopefully you have been hearing some of this mathematical shape language at home.



We are continuing to spend time in the vegetable garden and the carrots and other plants are growing well. Kimmy made two scarecrows with the children, one for each group, and they are now in the garden. Maybe ask your children to update you on the gardens progress when you drop off or pick up from Kindy.

Family Information Sheets

We are still waiting for a few families to return the family information sheets. We find this information very valuable and we use it to help with our future planning

Governing Council:

In week 4 we held the AGM. Thank you to those families that were able to attend.

We nominated our new Governing council members for 2020:

Chairperson: Dave Potter (*Edward's Dad in the yellow group*)

Secretary: Hannah Bartlett (*Charlies's Mum yellow group*)

Governing Council Members: Kirra-lee Russo, Jessica Northcott, Lisa Yelland, Ben Garnaut.

We really need more members so we don't need to delay meetings as there is a minimum amount of 4 members required to go ahead. Governing Council meetings are twice a term and go for approximately an hour. The teachers do a very comprehensive report on what the children have been learning at Kindergarten at each meeting and feedback from members over previous years is that parents find this very useful to build on conversations at home. The next meeting is Tuesday at 6pm 31st of March.

The members of the Governing council volunteered their time to do some work around the Kindergarten garden. Normally we would ask all families but we had a short timeline to get the sand delivered and to ask for help.

We really appreciate what a great job they did of topping up the sandpit, pruning trees and bushes and doing some general repairs.



We also had the tree loppers come last Thursday so you may notice the Olive tree has been removed and many branches they deemed unsafe around the yard have been removed.



Instagram page:

In 2019 I created a "Rostrevor Kindergarten" Instagram page in response to introducing another way of keeping parents informed. Families are welcome to follow the page it will be general information about what is happening at Kindergarten and not about specific children. Please be mindful if you comment on photos as we want to keep it positive for everyone, staff also need to adhere to DECD policies to ensure safety for everyone. If you have any concerns please speak to Tina.

Kindergarten Closure day Wednesday 1st of April

Kindergartens have now been granted an additional 2 pupil free days a year to use to work with other sites in our partnership. This equates to 4 a year. This term we have planned a day to focus on Numeracy as part of the project we are involved in, see below).

Department for Education: Learning Design, Assessment and Reflective practice program

All the Kindergarten educators have been involved in critical reflection on our practice since 2017. In 2020 Rostrevor Kindergarten is part of the Learning Design, Assessment and Reflective practice program. The program goals focus upon strengthening learning design and formative assessment for numeracy and/or literacy learning across the curriculum. The program runs for one year; with face to face days from academic partners during Terms 1 and 2. We are provided with 5 teacher release days to participate in online and site based inquiry. Educators are provided with 3 days of face-to-face professional learning and teleconferences with Associate Professor Alma Fleet and Anthony Semann, we have a workbook to complete, online and site based actions accessed via the 2020 LDAR Moodle, which will support whole site engagement in the program.

We have a numeracy display book which will provide evidence of children's learning in relation to our Numeracy inquiry focussing on: **"I explore and understand my place and space in the world"**. You will also see other documentation in your child's learning folder, in the newsletter and in displays around the Kindergarten.

We appreciate families taking the time to give us feedback on children's learning that you may have noticed at home. (Via email is great as I can add it to our documentation)

Tina, Vicki, Rachel, Angela and Kimmy