14.10.13

PROSPECT KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,
Welcome back to the last term of kindergarten, a short 9 week term filled with everything and anything!
We have a number of new families and we look to be as busy as usual, lots of events with all things both familiar and extraordinary. We have photos, Museum and Theatre excursion, The Art Exhibition, THE CONCERT and more …. diary dates at the back reveal all!

Art Exhibition and Concert: Thursday 21st November 5-7pm
If you can only attend one event this term, this is it!

THE CONCERT is A-MAZING, you simply cannot miss it!
It is an evening event on the 21st Nov. at Kindergarten. We are all on stage performing our favorite musical pieces to families and community. The Concert will be followed by the equally memorable Art Exhibition presenting a wide range of children’s work from both the everyday to the more focused and polished pieces of work. We are aiming for every child to be exhibiting and urge all families to allow an hour to visit the exhibition.

We are asking a gold coin donation upon entry and there will be a barbeque tea available. Our usual vegan patties and sausages will cost $1. Please note there will be no afternoon session for children on this day, there is quite a mammoth set up required!

Over the year we have focussed on children as musicians and artists.
Our goals for children have been to
- Develop self confidence and a willingness to have a go
- Experiment and gain experience in a wide range of musical and artistic styles
- Use a range of percussion instruments
- Use interesting artistic media including materials quite unfamiliar to many.
- Emphasize the fine and gross motor skills needed for both the detailed fine line artwork and the large trunk and limb control needed for easels and large surfaces.
- Develop an awareness of musical beat and rhythm
- Seek increasingly ‘best efforts’ from individual children
- Give children the opportunity to display and share their efforts with a wider community

It will be an evening full of excitement and entertainment, please mark it in your diaries now!
15 hours of Preschool

Our Universal Access Initiative offers a program of 15 hours of preschool between 8am and 4pm.

**FOR THIS TERM ONLY we are open Tuesday to Thursday.**

**Session times for Term 4**
- 8am to 12 noon
- 12.30pm to 4pm
**Tuesday to Thursday**

**Important:** it is **not** a requirement that children attend at 8am or leave at 4pm. The extended hours may well just provide some additional flexibility to families. Within those hours, parents can also elect one or two full days of kindergarten with the additional lunchcare cost.

Sessions are not able to be swapped this term. As you know we are extremely full and maneuvering is just not possible! Our apologies but session changes will not be possible!

**End of the Day**

Children can be collected from kindergarten at any time prior to 4pm. It is, however, vital that children have been collected by 4pm. Our kindergarten days are now long, children will be tired and staff leaving! Please collect children promptly and we can then avoid chasing you!

**Occasional Care and Playgroup**

Playgroup continues 10-11.30 on a Friday morning, as does our occasional care program. This term we welcome Kerry as our playgroup coordinator and we’d like to welcome our new families. Please spread the word, we are always happy to welcome new families. Kindergarten children are also welcome with parents and grandparents. Cost $2 per family.

The occasional care sessions are close to full for the term but new families are very welcome to make enquiries ready for Term 1 next year.

A reminder- please let us know if your child is unwell as soon as possible. This assists us to rebook the place and avoids a cancellation fee!

We will be open every week except the 15th Nov. and we will then end the term with a

**Party and Father Christmas for playgroup and occasional care families on Friday 3rd of December.**

**CAFS**

We host the Child and Youth Health checks at kindergarten. These appointments are available to children aged about 4½ years and are a general health screening for sight, hearing and general development. Checks are free and parents attend with their child.

Our next CAFS date is **Wednesday 23rd October**. We will organize appointments with these families in the next couple of weeks… please see Liz if you have questions.

**Kindergarten Photographs**

We have a photographer visiting the Kindergarten on Thursday 24th October from **MyBESTOF Photography**. Leonard will take photographs of children, load onto an individual USB or DVD for families to purchase. If wished, families can then print numerous copies of photographs at places such as BigW, Kmart, OfficeWorks etc.

More details will follow…
**Enrolments for Term 1 2014**

The short story… we are full!
Families can however join our waiting list or consider Blair Athol North and Barker Kindergartens.
In 2014 there will be only one single intake for both Preschools and Schools in term 1.
Children can be enrolled at kindergarten for term 1 if they are 4 years or turning 4 years before the 28th of April of that year.
Children turning 5 by the end of April will enter school in term 1 2014.
Questions... see Betty... interesting times!

**Royal Society of the Blind**

We continue to support rsb, Royal Society for the Blind by caring for dogs for (usually) short periods of time. Over the last term we have cared for Doug for nearly 4 months and we have all had a fabulous time! Doug is 5 years old, a trained and working Guide Dog and we have cared for him while his owner has been ill. Sadly, his owner will no longer be able to care for him and now rsb are considering the future of Doug... hoping to know more early in the term.

**Catalogues**

Last orders will be ready for collection at the Kindergarten in weeks 1 and 2 this term.

**Bilingual Staff**

Prospect Kindergarten has large numbers of children from Non English Speaking Backgrounds and we host a number of fabulous multilingual staff.
This term we have:
Kim Chiem: Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese
Vimala Lagisetti: Hindu, Gujarati, Punjabi
Diane DeRuiter: English
Geetha Vadakattu: Tamil
Monorath Gautam: Nepali
Farhana Wahid: Bengali
Mitra Golbaghi: Hazaragi

**Shared Lunch**

*We are having a shared lunch on Thursday 7th Nov* and we’d love to see everyone! Please bring a plate of food to share and join us at 11.30 so that we can share our latest songs with you. All children and families are invited. Parents stay with their children for lunch and both kindergarten sessions run as usual. Lunchcare children are included but their families can still join us!

**Kindergarten Fees**

Kindergarten fees  $80 per term
Early Entry fees $40 per term.
Lunchcare fees  $230 for two days per week

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Lunchcare bookings need to be confirmed with full payment in week 1 and kindergarten fees by week 3. Please let me know if this causes difficulties.
**Fees** can be paid in cash (correct money only please, unless you wish to make a donation!) or cheque… in payment envelopes to staff, or by direct bank payment.

*Please ensure you have written your child’s name on the payment envelope!*

**Importantly:** When bank payments are made, please note date and reference numbers on invoice and return to staff for our payment records.

*All fees need to be finalized by Thursday 31st October please.*

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**Welcome to the Prospect Kindergarten Facebook page!**

We’d like to invite families to check out our events and information. And you could “Like Us” and post a comment! We are endeavoring to keep you up to date both on-line and paper information, as well as provide a highly credible forum of interactive communication!

As you can imagine, DECD has strict criteria around which we can operate a Facebook site and believe me it’s not easy! However we think you’re worth it!

Attached to the newsletter is the Social Media and Cyber Safety Policy draft for the Prospect Facebook Site, it is a requirement that we have a site policy which operates within the multitude of DECD and Public Service Policies. Please read and give us some feedback; this will be reviewed this term and following your feedback, be submitted to DECD at the end of term 4. There is also an extensive range of Department policies available online: [www.decd.sa.gov.au/policy/pages/OSPP/policy_index](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/policy/pages/OSPP/policy_index)

There are a number of Facebook features many of us use regularly which however, are not conversant with the regulations and safety guidelines within DECD Social Media Policies.

- Sadly we cannot befriend parents or children (please don’t take it personally!) and parents and children cannot befriend staff. Whether we agree or not… it’s against DECD Guidelines.
- Our page is also limited in its potential to be as creative and expressive as you know we are! There are a number of security precautions upon which DECD insist and once such are applied there is no option to “write on the wall”, for example.

As frustrating as this all is, as the Site leader, I do believe child safety and professional conduct must be our highest expectation… so in this instance we’ll do as we’re told!

AND, we will still have our very own Facebook!!

**Reminder…. There is no parking in front of the kindergarten between 7am and 9am and 4 to 6pm (even on Concert night!)**

The bike lane is a clearway between those times, even in the 15 minute park.

Prospect Council is frequently issuing fines in excess of $200.

Please don’t get caught.

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**Excursion to the Museum**

Shortly we are going to the Museum, our first of our two excursions this term!

We are going in the afternoon of

**Tuesday 29th October**

to participate in the

*Tell Me a Story Program* about Mammals.

Cost is $10
Excursion information: All full time kindergarten age children are invited (early entry children are asked to wait until full time kindergarten) and again children are invited regardless of the day or regular sessions attended. It is an afternoon excursion and children not usually attending on a Tuesday are welcome to attend for the excursion by joining us at Kindergarten at 12.30 on that day.

**Excursion at the end of the term...**

We are also going to the Space Theatre at the Festival Centre on Tuesday 3rd Dec. to see **GRUG** by Patch Theatre.

All full time kindergarten age children are invited and again children are invited regardless of the day or regular sessions attended. It is an afternoon excursion and children not usually attending on a Tuesday are welcome to attend for the excursion by joining us at Kindergarten at 12.30 on that day. **However, you will need to book quickly we have very limited tickets for this performance.**

Combined Theatre and hired bus services usually cost $20 per child but the kindergarten will subsidize the cost and the cost to parents will be $15. We send lots of notes home with reply slips - please return promptly.

**Questions**

Thank-you to those parents who made appointments to meet with teachers last term. We believe we learn as much from you as you do from us! Parents are always welcome to make a time to talk about their child’s progress or discuss any difficulties. We are often busy with children at the beginning and end of sessions but your questions are important. Please ask and we’ll make a time to meet with you.

**Term 4 reminders**

* All children and adults need a hat for outside play
* When using the kindergarten gates, allow only your child through and
  * Close the gate behind you until it latches
* Please sign your child in for each Kindergarten session
* Please check lost property in the red box by the gate often
* Children will get dirty and rather likely wet…old clothes please!
* Mail pockets need to be checked daily or you might just miss something…
  * All children need a bottle of water for drinking

Yours faithfully,
Betty, Unjay, Liz, Diane, Heather and George

**Changes to Contact Information**

Child’s name:
________________________________________

Adult name/ phone number/address:
________________________________________
Diary Dates

Week 1  Thurs. 17th Oct. “Digging Day”

Week 2  Monday 21st Oct. Governing Council 7-9 pm
        Tues. 22nd Oct. Barbecue in the Park for Children’s Week 11.30am
        Wed. 23rd Oct. CAFS Clinic 9am -noon

Week 3  Tues. 29th Oct. Excursion to The Museum

Week 4  Thursday 7th Nov. Shared Lunch 11.30-12.30

Week 5  Teaching Staff away on a conference Wednesday and Thursday
        No Occasional Care or Playgroup sessions this week

Week 6  Thursday 21st Nov. Concert and Art Exhibition 5pm to 7pm
        All Kindergarten are performing on stage...
        All Families and friends required in the audience!
        Please note there is no afternoon kindergarten on this day.

Week 7  Schoolies’ Farewell 11.30am and 3pm,
        Tues. Wed and Thurs, 26th, 27th, 28th Nov.

Week 8  Tues. 3rd Dec. Excursion to GRUG at The Festival Theatre
        Fri. 6th Nov, Playgroup and Occasional Care Christmas party

Week 9  Wednesday 11th Dec. Last Kindergarten Day for Term 4