Welcome to all our families, a new year with everyone starting together…
We hope you’ve had brilliant holidays, lots of ‘sleep-ins’ and time to do good things.
Now it’s back to lunchboxes, clocks and bedtimes, for us all!
We are extremely lucky to have three new teachers in our staff team this year, a big welcome to Julia, Liz and Michelle… and Betty, Diane and George are back!

Our Universal Access Initiative offers a program of 15 hours of Preschool.

Session times for 2015:
8am to 12 noon and 12.30 to 4pm
Monday to Thursday
Some full days are also available

End of Day
Children can be collected from kindergarten at any time prior to 4pm. It is vital that children have been collected by 4pm. Our kindergarten days are now long, children will be tired and staff need to leave for meetings. Please collect children promptly and we will be very happy!
Shared Lunch

We are having our **Shared Lunch on Wednesday 18th February** to welcome all families. All families are invited to join us between 11.30am and 12.30 pm. Please bring a plate of food to share and join us at 11.30 so that we can share our latest songs with you.

Worth noting... many of our families are vegetarian!
And no nuts or eggs due to allergies please.

All morning and afternoon children and families are invited. Parents stay with their children for lunch and both kindergarten sessions run as usual. Lunchcare children attend as usual but their families could still join us!

Kindergarten Fees

Kindergarten fees $70 per term
Lunchcare fees **$150 for one full day and two half days, per term.**
  **$230 for two full days, per term.**

Lunchcare bookings need to be confirmed with full payments by the end of the first week of term please 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, or by direct deposit into the Kindergarten account.

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

All payment are made in envelopes to Diane or Betty,
*with child’s name clearly written on the front and back!*
No blank envelopes please!

_All fees need to be finalised by 13th February._

Occasional Care

Occasional Care resumed on Friday 6th Feb. and our sessions will continue on Friday mornings as they did last year. If you find difficulties accessing a session, please let Betty or Diane know. Also, it is important to phone us with cancellations before 8.30am. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message; we will then consider ourselves notified (there is no need to keep phoning!). Your prompt cancellation allows us to offer the place to another family and avoids you being charged!

Playgroup

Kerry continues as our playgroup coordinator and we’d like to welcome our new families. Playgroup is held on Fridays, 10 to 11.30, cost $2 per family. Please spread the word, we are always happy to welcome new families.

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 18th March**. A note has already gone home to some families and we will organise appointments with these families in the next couple of weeks... please see Betty if you have questions or urgent appointment requests.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will follow the kindergarten shared lunch on **Wednesday 18th Feb. at 12.30 pm.** Kindergarten children (and siblings) will continue in the afternoon program with staff. We hope many families will be able to join us. Our thanks to all those families who have already volunteered for Governing Council, we’re very pleased to have you!

The first Governing Council meeting will be **Monday 16th March, 7 to 9pm.** Dinner will be at Café Cenna on Prospect Rd at 5.30pm, for those happy to join us!
Prospect Fair
As always, we will be at the fair on Saturday 21st March, details closer to the time!

Policies
DECD requires that we have a number of Policies around child, parent and staff welfare and these are included in the kindergarten handbook. During the year we will continue the review process for these and ask for your feedback. Further policies will be sent home over the year and full copies of our own site specific policies can be found in our parent library. There is also an extensive range of Department policies available online: www.decd.sa.gov.au/policy/pages/OSPP/policy_index
Please take the time to read and give us feedback or ask questions...

Our Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy is one we will be working on with children this term. We are seeking parent support for children to have healthy, raw and unpackaged food in lunchboxes and containers that children can open independently!
As a community we value healthy eating and sustainable environments and are seeking minimally processed foods, in reusable plastic containers from home. We aim to support children’s high nutrition and energy needs and collect zero rubbish. Food scraps are collected for the Kindergarten and Council compost.

And remember; we are always a ‘No Nut’ Kindergarten, we do have highly allergic children attending.

Birthdays
Also in line with our Healthy Eating Policy we ask that families do not bring food, treats or gifts for children at kindergarten. We will celebrate birthdays with a card and songs at kindergarten, so please let us know as birthdays are coming up!

Our lunchcare program also sits within our healthy eating guidelines and we urge all families to give this consideration. Our suggested lunches include a savoury sandwich or wrap, rice or noodles, a piece of fruit, cheese, yogurt and water to drink. We request water only and we will supply this. Children all need a frozen ‘block’ in their lunchboxes to keep food cool; even a couple of hours in warm weather compromises food safety. Again, we are seeking to establish strong healthy eating patterns with natural foods. We are avoiding muesli bars, sweet biscuits, buns, chips, chocolate etc as well as pre-packaged yogurts and juices. All are high in sugar, salt and additives as well as having extensive plastic packaging. Many such foods are also manufactured alongside nuts during processing.

We thank you for your support and are happy to answer questions and offer lunchbox suggestions!

The Sun Safe Policy requires us all to wear hats every day in terms one and four.
So it’s hats, hats and hats... wide brim or Legionnaires (no caps) and worn every day, thank you!

Hats ‘n’ stuff
- Kindergarten children all need a hat for outside play, a bottle of water and a snack for morning or afternoon tea (2 snacks if at kindy all day)
- Please label everything: even shoes...it can mean two of the same size come home!
- Name tags on bags also helps match children and bags in a sea of Dora and Batman backpacks!
- Please hold your child’s hand outside kindergarten gates and don’t allow any other child out the gate with you. We all need to be vigilant to keep children safe.
- Please check mail pockets everyday or you just might miss something that you wished you hadn’t!

Reminder... There is no parking in front of the kindergarten between 7am and 9am and 4 to 6pm.
The bike lane is a clearway between those times.
Prospect Council is frequently issuing fines of $200.
Please don’t get caught.
Parent Information forms
These were posted to you or given out at the meeting… due back this week please.
This is important information, we collect your thoughts and incorporate them into our individual planning for your child. Reminders will go home this week!

Welcome to the Prospect Kindergarten Facebook page
We’d like to invite families to check out our events and information, to ‘like us’ and post a comment! We will endeavour to keep you up to date with paper notices, on-line information and our interactive facebook.
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 later this year. There is also an extensive range of Department IT policies available online: 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 required to be somewhat expressively limited due to the multitude DECD security precautions, for example … there is no option to “write on the wall”.

As frustrating as this all is, as the Site leader, child safety and professional conduct must be our highest expectation… so in this instance we’ll do as we’re told!
AND, at the end of the day… we will still have our very own Facebook!!

Questions
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. You can also email us at prospect.kgn952@schools.sa.edu.au

Yours faithfully,
Betty, Julia, Liz, Michelle, Diane, George and Kerry
# Diary Dates  Term 1  2015

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<td>Pancake Day – Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<td>Chinese New Year</td>
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<td>Shared Lunch 11.30am – 12.30pm</td>
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<td>AGM 12.30 – 1.15pm</td>
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<td>No Occasional Care of Playgroup Session</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Governing Council Meeting 7 – 9 pm</td>
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<td>Prospect Fair</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Ticklish Allsorts Concert morning session</td>
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<td>Good Friday – Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Easter Monday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Wed 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Apr</td>
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<td>Last day of Kindergarten sessions</td>
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<td>Thus 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Apr</td>
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<td>Kindergarten closed.</td>
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