### Bertram Hawker Kindergarten Newsletter

**Term 2, week 1, 2015.**

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 April 1st day of term</td>
<td>28 April Staff meeting 4pm</td>
<td>29 April Pilawuk White-aboriginal cultural session</td>
<td>30 April Pilawuk White-aboriginal cultural session</td>
<td>1 May Play group Fridays 9-10.30 am</td>
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<td>4 May Parent Interview Week</td>
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<td>11 May Emergency Drill Governing Council meeting 7.30 pm</td>
<td>12 May Emergency Drill</td>
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<td>18 May Parent Information Evening 7.30pm</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>20 May Shared red and yellow healthy morning snack</td>
<td>21 May Shared red and yellow healthy morning snack</td>
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<td>25 May</td>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>27 May Biggest Morning Tea 10am</td>
<td>28 May Biggest Morning Tea Staff meeting 4pm</td>
<td>29 May Child Youth Health checks</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1 June</td>
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<td>8 June Queen’s birthday public holiday</td>
<td>9 June Pupil free day</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>15 June Governing Council meeting 7.30 pm</td>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>18 June Meeting with school teachers 4pm</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>20-21 June Working Bee, 9-12 SUNDAY</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>22 June Athletics visit Staff meeting 4pm</td>
<td>23 June Athletics visit Shared green and orange healthy morning snack</td>
<td>24 June Athletics visit Shared green and orange healthy morning snack</td>
<td>25 June Shared green and orange healthy morning snack</td>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>27-28 June</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>29 June School children visit kindy</td>
<td>30 June School children visit kindy</td>
<td>1 July</td>
<td>2 July Last day of term 2</td>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>4-5 July</td>
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Welcome to Bertram Hawker Kindergarten

Our values and vision make us who we are:
... a community of children, educators and families ... learning with and from one another... having fun ... connecting with nature, the world and each other... facing challenges with respect and a sense of adventure (from Our Philosophy Statement)

The Kindergarten Staff Team
Director- Margie Colton
Teachers- Nadia Caon, Jennifer Ross, Shiva Pakrou, Jo Fahey
Early Childhood Educators- Lyn Myall, Jan Mills, Julie Mosheev, Uzma Ali Kazmi
Speech Pathologist- Mathew Head
Playgroup Coordinator- Julie Mosheev

Dear families,
Welcome back for term two. Our kindergarten is looking beautiful with autumn leaves and healthy looking vegetables in our gardens. We have plenty of parsley growing in our back garden. Please help yourself. We will be cooking scrambled eggs with parsley at kindergarten with eggs from our chickens.

Shiva is travelling overseas with her family for the next two weeks. While she is away Jo Fahey is replacing her as teacher in the speech and language program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Jo is also teaching on Mondays while Nadia continues her Visual Arts university study.

Our term overview and program for the first four weeks of this term will be emailed with this newsletter.

The children have been particularly interested in learning about how aboriginal people were the first people in Australia and how everyone else arrived after them by ship or plane. We have begun to talk about how some of our kindergarten teachers and families were born in different countries and some were born in Australia. We have also talked about how all of our parents or grandparents or great, great grandparents were born overseas, unless they were aboriginal. We will continue to talk about this with the children and it is a conversation that you can pursue at home. We will send a sheet home asking for information about your family’s cultural background. We will document and display this at kindergarten alongside a world map.

To deepen our understanding of aboriginal culture we have invited an aboriginal woman, Pilawuk, to share her story and culture with us. She will visit on this Wednesday 29th April and Thursday 30th April, 9.30am-10.30am. Parents are welcome to attend.

Walks to Local Parks
This term we will walk with small groups of children to explore local parks. Children will take turns and will walk to a park approximately once a fortnight.

Please send rubber boots and raincoats on wet days so that we can enjoy the outdoors in all weather.

Parent Interview Week
In week 2, from 4th May-7th May you are invited to have a 10-15 minute interview with your child’s focus teacher to share information about your child’s strengths, interests and learning. We highly value this opportunity to meet with you. Teachers will be replaced by relief teachers.
Nadia - Tues morning 5th May and Wed morning 6th May
Jennifer - Tues afternoon 5th May and Wed afternoon 6th May
Margie - Thursday afternoon 7th May

A sheet with spaces for you to write your name is displayed next to the sign in sheet on the front verandah. Please write your name on the sheet with your child’s focus teacher. If these times don’t suit you please talk to your focus teacher to arrange another time.

Parent evening - Social and Emotional Learning
An evening for parents will be held in week four at 7:30pm on Monday 18th May.

The staff team will share their knowledge and strategies for assisting children and families to build confidence, resilience and healthy relationships.

This event will focus on the use of restorative practice strategies and on the Child Protection curriculum at kindergarten and home. Our Restorative Practices brochure is included in your enrolment package and is an important part of our everyday practice. We find that this approach helps children to work out problems and resolve differences, which are wonderful skills for lifelong learning.

You will also receive a poster soon with RSVP details.

Please remember to respond to the survey that you received recently about our parent information sessions. We really want to know how best to let parents know how we support children’s learning and development at kindergarten and have found that our information sessions are one way to do this. The survey gives the opportunity to see if this year’s families are able to attend our sessions or if there are other ways to provide this information.

Parent library and resources

Our parent library and resources are located on the shelf in the back corner of our kindergarten together with the children’s learning folders.

We have a selection of books, publications and information for you. You are welcome to browse at kindergarten on our couch and to borrow anything of interest. There are some very good Early Childhood Australia Everyday Learning Series booklets, with up-to-date information, e.g. everyday learning about feelings, talking and learning, children’s behaviour and in the kitchen.

Please write your name and date that the books are borrowed and returned.

A Literacy Resource Folder is also located in our parent library. In the folder are articles that may be of interest, for example, foundation skills for early reading and writing. You are welcome to make copies of articles.

We also have multiple copies of Parenting SA leaflets with a wide range of interesting topics. These are available for you to take.

You are also welcome to look at your child’s learning folder at kindergarten any time. We prefer them to stay at kindergarten so that children can look at them and add to them. The folders will come home when your child finishes kindergarten.

The National Quality Framework
The National Quality Framework outlines standards and practices that support and promote children’s learning to ensure that all early childhood services in Australia provide high quality care and education.

The posters displayed on our front verandah noticeboard help explain the National Quality Framework and the seven quality areas.
Our Quality Improvement Plan includes areas of strength and areas for improvement within the seven quality areas. We review, adapt and update our Quality Improvement Plan at staff meetings and Governing Council meetings.

Our Quality Improvement Plan is available for parents to read and is located in a folder in our parent library.

**Home Borrowing for children**
A selection of children’s books and interactive kits on the verandah are available for children and parents to borrow. Please write your name and date that the books are borrowed and returned.

**Governing Council meeting**
Our next Governing Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd May.

All families are welcome to attend Governing Council meetings.

At our next meeting we will ratify our newly updated constitution. The Governing Council has approved several amendments to our constitution.

I will email the amended constitution to all families, which includes the following changes:

- change to the maximum number of Governing Council members to allow 25 members to join the Governing council. The number of councillors has been changed from ‘between 5 and 12’ to ‘between 5 and 25’.
- the introduction of the “Quality Improvement Plan” definition and replacing the term “Site Learning Plan” with “Quality Improvement Plan”.
- aligning the Bertram Hawker Constitution with the 2014 version of the DECD Model Constitution. The main change made here was that an auditor of the Kindergarten’s accounts must be “an auditor that has been approved by the Director of Prudential Management and Internal Audit of the department” (rather than the Governing Council being able to appoint the auditor from a list of approved auditors).

Many thanks Jody Williamson and David Chadwick for reviewing and updating our constitution.

**Food Policy - Nut Awareness**
Please try to avoid packaged snacks. We recommend that children bring fresh fruit or vegetables, savoury biscuits or sandwiches for snack time. To encourage independence we suggest children select their own fruit and have it cut at home if necessary.

As a number of children attending our kindergarten have a nut allergy parents are requested NOT to send food to kindergarten that contains nuts. This includes peanut paste, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts.

Please do not send foods containing nuts to any kindergarten event, including morning teas and shared lunches.

Please place your child’s lunch in the trolley and afternoon snack in the box in the kitchen.

Also remember to leave the children’s morning snack packed separately in their bags (except when the temperature is over 35degrees when it is put in a labeled container in the kitchen).

Children can help themselves to cups of filtered water at kindergarten.

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Children can help themselves to cups of filtered water at kindergarten.

**Shared Healthy Morning Snack.**
Every piece of packaging or excess food that we can save from landfill makes a difference.

To promote healthy eating and less rubbish to landfill we are holding two shared healthy food morning snacks for each group this term:

Please send healthy food that is red or yellow to share for morning snack on Wednesday 20th May and Thursday 21st May.

Please send healthy food that is green or orange to share for morning snack on Wednesday 24th June and Thursday 25th June.

Working Bee
There will be a Working Bee at kindergarten on Sunday, 21st June, 9am-12 noon. These are always good fun and a great chance to meet other families. Children are welcome to come along.

A list of jobs will be on display on the front verandah prior to the working bee.

The Biggest Morning Tea
You are invited to Bertram Hawker Kindergarten’s Biggest Morning Tea!

We will be having a Funny Hat Tea Party with the children and families at 10am on Wednesday 27th May and Thursday 28th May to raise funds for the Cancer Council and would love you to join us.

Morning tea will be provided.

Children are asked to bring a funny hat from home (make them if you like) and those parents/carers that can stay are welcome to join in the fun and wear one also!

It should be a fun morning, so come along if you can and raise your cup with us to beat cancer!

Home Borrowing
A selection of books and interactive kits on the verandah are available for children and parents to borrow. Please write your name and date that the books are borrowed and returned.

A Literacy Resource Folder is located on the table on the front verandah. A master copy is for reference and to stay at kindergarten. A second copy is available for home borrowing. You are welcome to make copies of articles of interest.
Checking Pigeon Holes
To keep up-to-date with kindergarten happenings and information, please check your pigeon hole daily. Any injuries or incidents are reported to parents through a notice in your pigeon hole so it is important to check your pigeon hole at the end of the day.

Douglas, Suzie and Dogger Roster
You will receive a roster for borrowing Douglas, Suzie or Dogger. Children are encouraged to write or draw in their book about the experiences they have shared at home with the ‘character’. On their return the children talk about their experiences in small groups. This assists children’s sense of belonging at kindergarten as they share their experiences with other children and educators. When it is your child’s turn to take one of them home, please remind a teacher so that your child does not miss their turn.

Fees
Please pay your term 2 fees as soon as possible. Let me know if you have not received an invoice.

Fees need to be paid via internet banking or cheque:
**Internet banking-**
Ensure that you enter your child’s name when making the payment and keep a record of your payment no. Accounts payable to Bertram Hawker Kindergarten Bank SA
account no: 460145640, BSB no:105-125

**Payment by cheque-**
Enclose cheque and invoice in a named envelope and post into the silver box on the wall near the kitchen.

Reminder to enroll at kindergarten and at school
If you have a sibling who is due to begin kindergarten in 2016 or 2017 please complete a pre-enrolment form as soon as possible.

You also need to make sure that you enroll your child in school for next year as soon as possible. Often transition processes between school and kindergarten begin in the middle of this year.

Recycle Materials wanted
Please remember to bring your recycle materials to kindergarten, such as plastic lids, corks, wool, plastic containers and boxes. The children can make good use of them as they create with wood work and collage.

Child and Youth Health Checks
A Child and Youth Health Services nurse will conduct free health checks at kindergarten for children who are over 4 years 3 months. This term the health checks are on Friday 29th May.

Please arrange an appointment time with Jan or Lyn.

Alternatively health checks can be arranged by calling Child and Family Health Services on 1300733606 to make an appointment at your local Child and Family Health Service.

Parent communication
If you have any concerns at all, no matter how big or small, please feel welcome to talk with a staff member.

If we are unavailable at drop off or pick up times you are welcome to telephone-the best time is 10-11.30am or 2-2.30pm.

Pupil-Free Day
Please note that there is a pupil-free day on Tuesday 9th June-it is the annual professional development day for all kindergartens with Speech and Language programs.

There will be no kindergarten sessions on this day.