



Clarence Park
Community Kindergarten

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Hope that this communication finds you all well and keeping warm. Gosh it's been cold. Still it to be expected. There is something nice about feeling the cold on your cheeks.

It certainly has been a very strange year: Trying out new forms of communication to connect with our families as we have less face to face opportunities to communicate about your children's learning has been a challenge and we thank all the parents who responded to our parent feedback.

As a result of the feedback;

- Thank you for loving the Seesaw app. We have had great feedback on it.
- A separate post has been put up on Seesaw about Funny Hat sit on the Mat group times. Perhaps you can ask your children which group they were in and what the activity was? Remember for your own reference to look at the displayed program so that you have some knowledge of what the group times may have been about. Children do have a short memory span and a lot happens in the course of their day at play. So they will need some prompting. Below are the hats that the teachers wear to indicate which specific group children will be in each morning.



- A separate post has also been put up on Seesaw in regards to setting up your app to get a notification each time something goes up for you to view.
- As you can imagine doing separate posts for each child is very time consuming. This is why we currently post more general activities that the children are involved in which still indicate what we are learning at kindergarten. (We are still learning how to use the app efficiently.) Our focus is to be with the children, to engage with their play and then to document a deeper learning story which we call 'In the Moments.' It seems that everyone really enjoys reading these as we received very positive feedback about them. The 'learning extension' for each child is transferred into our program on a fortnightly basis to ensure that the program is child centred and needs/interests are met.
- In your Seesaw journals you will have received a photo of each of your children holding up their picture of the brain with a sentence scribed with a response to the question "What do you know about your brain?" (Hopefully you can appreciate that this ended up being half a day's work and most of it done out of work hours)(Thanks Pam☺)

Hopefully you all enjoyed reading your child's response and viewing their picture. It will be interesting to see what their responses will be at the end of the term as we continue to learn about the functions of the brain ☺

- Our Floor book will be out on a table under the program display in the front garden for you to view again. (Weather permitting) this will be a good indication of what the children have been involved in along with their reflections.
- You will soon receive an invitation to visit the kindergarten with your child between 8.30 – 9am or 3 – 3.30pm. Your child will take you on a 'Walk and Talk' learning adventure. They will show you their learning journal, their favourite places to play and there will be an opportunity to talk to one of the Educators. A booking sheet will be out soon. Due to restrictions we will only be able to have 6/8 people in at a time so we will implement this activity over a two - three week period. Watch this space. Perhaps you might also like to bring in a plant to plant in one of our garden beds. This is a program we have been running for a number of years now. We will send out a list of plants for you to consider with the invitation. Watch this space.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

The children have been very engaged in the program this term:

- Continuing to learn about emotional wellbeing. 'Our Colour Monster' table of emotions is still frequently visited as children check in on how they are feeling throughout the day. We have added the feeling of love and a feelings wheel which names different emotions. We have started to introduce these emotions through songs like ; "If you're happy and you know it"
- We have started reading the children a book about the brain called; "Your fantastic elastic brain". We will reference this book through the rest of the year. The children will tell us what they know about their brains – can they draw their brain, what does it do? As their understanding grows so will their ability to recognize and regulate their emotions.
- The 5 senses will play a large part of our relaxation sessions as we begin to explore sight, taste, touch and sound, using mindfulness and nature to calm down.
- Gardening – We are keeping a record of the growth of our veggie patch. This is bringing in the concepts of measurement, data collection and interpretation, graphing, counting, recognising number whilst using the standard number system.
- The chickens are now laying eggs. Our GREEN TEAM children collect the eggs each day and document how many are collected. At the end of the week we add up the total amount of eggs that have been collected. The GREEN TEAM are also responsible for counting and recording how much landfill there is in our lunch bucket. Our goal is to reduce the amount of landfill that we use.
- The visit from Ali (Wipe out Waste) in the first week of term to do an audit of our landfill was very successful. She was very impressed in the way the bins are used and how much knowledge the children have about recycling. However her analysis shows that we are still collecting way too much landfill. The audit is displayed in the veranda area next to the fortnightly program. Although all the children seem to be bringing in lots of nude food already: that is food that already comes in its natural packaging, we request that you review what you pack to minimise packaging. Particularly yoghurt squeezie's and soft plastics such as glad wrap. As we all know this kind of plastic takes a very long time to break down and can get into water ways. We will also do out bit throughout the day to minimise the landfill footprint.
- Children's Voice ideas which have been observed and documented by the educators have been planes and flight, music and dramatisations, using the microphone, board and card games, painting experiences-still life, counting, number recognition, space, the post office, writing letters, climbing and construction using screw drivers. We have developed these ideas in the play program and also in our Funny Hat sit on the Mat group times. By using the children's ideas and interests provides increased engagement in the program.

ROUTINES

As we have seen, the impact of the pandemic is unpredictable, so we all need to be alert and prepared. We will continue to be led by advice from our expert health practitioners with regards to protective measures.

The drop off and collection is working well this term. The drop off at the start of session still needs to be prompt especially when many of you come at the same time. The children have certainly accepted the new routines, gaining lots of independence skills and responsibility for their own belongings.

SEESAW and COMMUNICATION

Great to see everyone using Seesaw more. It will continue to be our main form of communication between home and kindy (along with our displays on the plastic screen of the front veranda). Hopefully you are all enjoying seeing the posts.

There have now been many communications via the inbox for private chats which is great for quick communications.

Please remember to check our program which has now migrated from the fence to the front veranda. This will keep you in touch with what we are teaching and what the children are learning. Our Funny Hat sit on the Mat group times are displayed there for all to see.

PUPIL FREE DAY

Please note that there will be a **Pupil Free day** on **Thursday 17th September** this term. This means that there will be no kindy sessions that day. The Educators will be attending a workshop led by Alma Fleet, Associate Professor Macquarie University. The focus for the day will be pedagogical documentation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It has been a tricky year and on behalf of the staff team I would like to thank you for your cooperation with keeping children at home if they are unwell.

We will continue to send children home if we believe that they are unwell particularly now that Adelaide has recorded some new cases.

BIKE - ATHON

At the Governing Council meeting on Wednesday, it was decided to hold a bike - athon at the end of this term. This will bring our community together and also fundraise for the kindy. We will ask the children what they would like to purchase for the kindy from the funds raised.

More information on this will be sent out when a date is set.

The Governing council have approved a major renovation to our sandpit which will start soon we hope. When finished it will have more of a natural feel, with a water course and a pump so that the children need to work for water. It will enhance our back yard area immensely. A company called 'Climbing Tree' are doing the installation. This is the same company who developed the Morialta nature playground. They have done lots of work in other schools and kindergartens and come highly recommended. We will have some very excited children at kindy when it comes underway.

PHOTOS

Photo day is Wednesday 12th August.

Simon will be here all day to photograph children.

Orders must be in by Tuesday at the latest.



**There are weekly updates on our face book page.
Another great way to keep in touch with what's happening at kindly.**