



Minlaton District Early Learning Centre Newsletter

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March 4th Week 10 Term 1 2016



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

DIARY DATES:

Thursday 7th April

Port Vincent Beach Excursion

Friday 15th April

Last day of term

Sunday 17th April

Clare Crew – Free Community Talk 7.00-8.30pm

Wednesday 11th May

Kindy Mural workshop 7.00-7.30pm – All welcome

Governing Council 7.30pm – All welcome

Thank You

To the parents who have helped out around the centre so far this term. We are very grateful for this assistance in maintaining the Centre. If you are unable to make your rostered date you are more than welcome to swap or come in at a time that best suits you.

Bark and sand top up

Thank you to Sarah H, Sarah M, Jesse, Megan, Abigail and Jess who helped to spread out the bark and sand on Wednesday 9th March. Many hands made light work and the job was completed quite quickly. The children have been enjoying the fresh sand in the sand pit and the bark chips now meet the minimum height markers on the climbing fort.

Parent teacher meeting

Many families took up the opportunity to meet for a parent teacher meeting in week 7. Please note that you are more than welcome to email or book a time to speak to one of us if the need arises at any time throughout the term.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone who made donations of any kind and to everyone who purchased tickets in the raffle. Fundraising efforts this year will go towards an updated storage system for the centre, excursions, CD player/ipod dock and an update of resources including top up of existing sets and a range of other new resources.

Centre Mural

As 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the site, the Governing Council plan to commission an artist to update the mural on the outside of the building to recognise the significance of this date. A public workshop before the next Governing Council meeting will be held to allow parents from the centre and members from the wider community to give input and make suggestions on the mural. This will be

held Week 2, Term 2 Wednesday 11th May 7.00-7.30pm

Curriculum

Throughout the term we have been programming for planned experiences and recording the spontaneous activities from the children. We are using the ideas from the children to assist with the planned experiences for the following fortnight. As you may have noticed we are programming fortnightly with the activities out for this time. This is so the children have the opportunity to observe, explore and extend the activity. Eg painting – observing to see what other children are doing if not sure of the activity, having a go at the activity, exploring different ways of using the paint and brushes, extending it to colour



mixing or something else.

Planned activities have included: squash painting; splatter painting; puppets; dolls and clothes washing; hand prints; playdough; play foam; geo boards; tap tap; trainset; blocks; listening post; investigation – frog fan; pulling apart equipment with tools; blocks; collage table; drawing/writing table; bubble blowing; sandpit; hammering with wood.

Spontaneous activities have included: snail hunts and homes; fishing rods; animals in the sandpit; waterslides down the slippery dip; mud kitchen cooking; cricket; splatter painting; bugs; basketball; fairyland garden.





Small Group Activities – We have cooked banana and sultana muffins, threaded fruit kebabs and blended fruit smoothies. We have learnt how to hold scissors correctly and cut lines and made paper caterpillars. We decorated Easter baskets and Easter Bunny visited us. We also experimented with floating and sinking. Gabby Get Along and Oscar Organisation have continued to teach us how to share, take turns, play with others, follow rules, plan what we are doing and pack up our things.

Out and About – we walked to the oval and played with balls; walked to the Minlaton Bakery to learn how to make hot cross buns. We are going to Port Vincent for our beach excursion, visiting Melaleuca and Southpark.

Profile Books

Your child's Profile book will be sent home at the end of the term for your child to share their experiences with family members. This book includes samples of your child's work, learning stories of your child's development, participation and photos.

You are invited to add comments and feedback wherever you would like. For example: "You looked like you had lots of fun doing this activity Sebastian. I know you love playing outside and you are getting very good at building towers" or "I noticed that... I think that... I am pleased that..."

This is also a great keepsake for the future. Please make sure you take care with your child's book and its contents and return it to the Kindy in week 1 next term for us to continue to add work and stories.

Visits to the Aged Care homes

On the last 2 weeks of each term the children visit South Park Hostel and Melaleuca Nursing

Home. During these visits the children will sing some songs, enjoy a story and then take part in a matching game with the residents. This game promotes interaction between children and the adults. These visits encourage children to learn about similarities and differences between people and explore places in their community. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to be involved.

Loose Parts

Now that the Kindy children have settled in we would really love to incorporate more loose parts play.

What are loose parts?

In a preschool, loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials. Loose parts can be natural or synthetic.

We are in search of a wide range of materials if you have anything lying around or are able to collect for us. Items include, but are not limited to ...

- Stumps
- Branches
- Wood
- Buckets
- Fabric
- Tarps
- Crates
- Cupboard doors
- Boxes – large and small
- Ropes
- Chains
- Pipes
- Small tyres, bike tyres
- Seedpods
- Pinecones
- Old lounge cushions
- Pavers
- Bunting





Why loose parts?

There are many reasons why play spaces should include a multitude of loose parts, including:

- Loose parts can be used in anyway children choose
- Loose parts can be adapted and manipulated in many ways
- Loose parts encourage creativity and imagination
- Loose parts develop more skill and competence than most modern plastic toys
- Loose parts can be used in many different ways
- Loose parts can be used in combination with other materials to support imagination
- Loose parts encouraged open ended learning
- Children choose loose parts over fancy toys

Entering and exiting

Have you noticed the sign by the gate: 'Stop, Please Let Only Your Child Out Of The Gate'? This continues to be an issue and is very serious for some children's safety. Please don't presume another child's parent is also leaving at the same time and do not let other children out of the gate. Please respect



the need for this and make sure you share this information with anyone who is dropping off or picking up your child.

Free Agapanthus

Agapanthus are identified as a toxic plant. As a result we are giving away the few we have here on site. We ask that you come to remove them. Please let us know if you are interested ASAP.

Parent Helpers and Volunteers

If you are on site volunteering for any length of time we ask that you please sign in the Visitors Log. This is used for evacuation purposes and is a record to demonstrate family involvement within the centre.

Clare Crew – Free Community Talk

Clare will be presenting her popular talk, 9 Ingredients for a Successful Start to School, at Minlaton District School.

This presentation shares valuable information for parents of babies, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children; those who are progressing well in their development and those who are not. This is a free event, open to all members of the local community.

When: Sunday 17th April

Time: 7pm-8:30pm

Where: Minlaton District School

Electrical Items

We would love donations of electrical items that are no longer needed or work. Items include things such as clock radios, printers, computers, hairdryers, cooking appliances etc. We have been taking them apart with screw drivers and investigating their components.

Reminders-

- Children are on the go continually at the centre, running, jumping, climbing and manoeuvring around objects. Please send your child/ren in footwear that is suitable for this. Although thongs and crocs are easy for the child to take off and put on they sometimes are difficult to run and climb in.
- Please apply sunscreen before arrival. It will then be reapplied at lunch time. Sunscreen is available for you to use at the Centre if needed.
- The Centre is a **water only** site. Please do not send cordial, juice etc.
- Please make sure your child's belongings are named especially bags, hats, removable clothing, lunchboxes and lids. Permanent markers are available at the Centre to mark belongings. If you get a chance, please have a look through the Lost Property box on top of the lockers to see if your child has any misplaced items
- Kindy sessions begin from 8:45am. Prior to this time educators are busy setting up and organising for the day and as a result are unable to supervise children. Please ensure your child is not dropped off before 8:45am.

Trace, Louise, Tracey, Janette, Megan and Zoe.