Dear Families,
Welcome to Oakbank Kindergarten 2017 starting on Tuesday 31st of January.

I would also like to welcome Julie Schultz as our teacher. Please make yourself known to her. We are looking forward to partnering together in your child’s learning journey.

The children starting kindergarten this year include:-
Brodie, Ella, Harry, Jasmin, Josiah, Kaylee, Lexi, Lilly, Louis, Marquis, Olive, Oliver, Rachel, Sadie, Thomas, and Zeva.

What a lovely size group to work with though we do offer more vacancies if you know of anyone else considering Oakbank as their child’s kindergarten.

As you may remember we are a 2 staff site and we will need your support across the year. Help can be given in a number of ways such as:-
✓ helping out during sessions (a list has been created to give ideas of how you can help placed on the parent help board in the Activity Room/ middle room)
✓ You may wish to cook, play an instrument or share a hobby or talent. (Let staff know)
✓ At the end of each day cleaning and preparations of learning resources
✓ Being a member of Governing Council
✓ Being on time for kindergarten both for arrivals and departures.
✓ Collecting and sending in boxes, plastic lids and other clean recycled items that can be used in the collage (pasting) area.
✓ Attend working bees
✓ Support fundraising events such as Bunnings Barbecue, obstacle course and any others.

✓ Bring in emptied garbage bins on Tuesdays.
✓ Reading the newsletters or other communication form the kindergarten to be informed around current and calendar planned events.

Parent volunteers do not need a Relevant History screening however, parents on Governing Council do need to attend a 2 hour Respond to Abuse and Neglect (RAN) course which I can arrange and it’s FREE.

Philosophy
Each year we refresh the kindergarten’s philosophy statement to reflect a new cohort of children and families. Included with this newsletter will be a letter of explanation and a leaf for you to write down one value. Please return the leaf with your value written on it. Please participate so your most important VALUE can be added to the 2017 Philosophy Tree.

Arrivals and Departures
Current session times are from 9-3 Tuesday and Wednesday and 9-12 on Thursday. If you need to bring your child in early, or will be late to pick up, please let staff know.

Before and after kindergarten sessions are valuable and are utilized by staff to:-
  o prepare for the day,
  o program plan,
  o Discuss observations and plan appropriately for individuals and groups.
  o Returning children to Goodstart Early Learning at the end of each day.

Your understanding and support around arrival and departure times will help us enormously and we thank you in anticipation.
Please remember to sign your child in and out of sessions and let staff know if someone else is bringing or collecting your child. There will be a sign in sheet for children to sign to support them with recognising and writing their name. We keep these as a record of their progress across the year. We understand that not all children can write their name yet however, any attempt is acceptable and encouraged. You will be amazed how much it develops across the year.

**Catastrophic Fire Days**
The Centre does not automatically close when days are deemed catastrophic in the Mount Lofty district. The policy is different for Goodstart Early Learning centre as it will be closed on catastrophic days.

**Governing Council Meeting**
The first meeting for 2017 will be held in week 3. Parents interested to join the committee need to speak to Sharon as soon as possible so we can find a mutually agreed upon time and day to attend.

Business to be discussed at that meeting include:-
- Bunnings Barbeque fundraiser
- To hold a family event to welcome everyone to kindergarten.
- To hold a Pupil Fee Day

**Program Ideas**
Our main focus for this term will be centred on Outcome Area 1 from the Early Years Learning framework curriculum document

**Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity**
- children feel safe, secure and supported
- children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
- children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities
- children learn to interact in relation to other with care, empathy and respect

Curriculum ideas for this term will include health and hygiene, being sun smart, road safety, good nutrition, recycling, understanding and recognising their own and others feelings.

Other ideas will be generated by the children with staff implementing activities to support the children’s interest and knowledge.

**Reminders**
We remind all families of our healthy food and nutrition policy and seek your support in sending prepared fresh fruit and vegetables (i.e. cut and peeled if required) or crackers and cheese etc. Be aware that package products generally have high amount of sugar content and do not sustain your child’s learning plus add rubbish to the environment.

Please remember we are a **Nut Free Centre**.

We remind all families of our sun smart policy whereby children have sunscreen applied prior to kindergarten, wear a broad brimmed hat when outside, wear appropriate footwear (no crocs or thongs) and have their shoulders covered.

We alert families to send their child in clothes that may get paint stained, muddy or wet because Kindy is MESSY!! Please send spare clothes just in case.

Oakbank Kindergarten polo shirts are available for purchase there are a variety of colours approximately $23 each. A new order is expected this week.

Please send your child’s food in 2 separate containers i.e. morning tea and lunch. We recommend lunch is sent in an insulated bag with an icepack due to limited fridge space. The lunch is then stored in the storeroom as it’s the coldest room in the building with its thick walls and slate floor.

**Special thanks**
We sincerely thank the Macey family for caring for our frog across the long break.

*Although there is more to tell you this newsletter is long enough.*

Kind regards Sharon