Thank you for participating in Crazy Hair Day! We raised $68.70 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

March 27\textsuperscript{th} 2012, Term 1 Week 9

**PRESCHOOL AND CARE PROGRAM**

During Week 8 we talked about landmarks. We looked at pictures of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and Uluru. We also looked at some photos of the Bundaleer Forest (our own Jamestown landmark)! We made forest pictures and painted with forest colours. Then we drew maps showing the landmarks we go past to get from home to kindy. Some children go past a school and a church and others go past the supermarket and the petrol station. Mrs Broad from the Library read us “Sail Away” and “Are We There Yet?”, two books about travelling around Australia.

This week we are talking about eggs in the lead up to Easter. We are learning about the different sorts of animals that lay eggs and reading a book called “Chickens Aren’t The Only Ones”. Next week we are celebrating Easter with lots of bilby / easter egg activities.

The children have been enjoying wearing “mud boots” and hard hats and getting dirty in the “digging patch”. We will shortly sow some wheat, barley and peas in the patch so that we can watch the different crops grow and change.

We welcomed our pre-entry children to preschool last Friday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March. This term we farewell seven children who are starting school, and welcome another eight children to preschool. Thanks are due to both Deb and Tegan who came in on their day off to spend the morning with our new preschool children.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} April:**
- Easter Walk / Bilby visit
- Kindy Graduation

**Thursday 5\textsuperscript{th} April**
- End of Term 1

**Monday 23\textsuperscript{rd} April**
- Term 2 begins

**Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} May**
- Governing Council

**KINDY LUNCH DUTY**

**Week 9**
- Tuesday 27\textsuperscript{th} March: Courtney & Lucy
- Wednesday 28\textsuperscript{th} March: Regan
- Thursday 29\textsuperscript{th} March: Annabel & Maisie

**Week 10**
- Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} April: Maisie & Matilda
- Wednesday 4\textsuperscript{th} April: Kobe
- Thursday 5\textsuperscript{th} April: Cassie & Izak

**KINDY GRADUATION**

Next Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} April, we will have a special Easter celebration, pooled lunch and Kindy Graduation. Events are planned as follows:

11:00am  
Children go for a walk while the Easter Bilby visits. **We will need some parents to help supervise during the walk and to assist the bilby back at the centre.**

12:00pm  
Pooled lunch (please send along or bring in a plate of food to share.)

2:45pm  
Children’s performance and graduation ceremony for our leavers. **All parents are welcome to join us for the performance and graduation. We are performing three short songs.**
PARENT COMPLAINTS

Below is an outline of the procedure for raising concerns or complaints in DECD schools and preschools following the recent release of a new “Parent Concerns and Complaints” policy and the establishment of a Parent Complaint Unit. The procedure for raising a complaint is a 3-tier process:

1. Site Level: Discuss the complaint with the staff member directly involved. If the issue is not resolved within a reasonable time frame, raise the matter with the Director.

2. Regional Level: If you are not satisfied that the complaint has been resolved, contact the Clare Regional Office on 88423206. The Regional Office will endeavour to resolve the matter within 20 working days.

3. State Level: Contact the Parent Complaint Unit on 1800 677 435. Parents may also contact the Parent Complaint Unit at any stage of the process to discuss your complaint and/or to seek advice about the complaints process.

Concerns or complaints may be raised if a parent feels that the preschool has, for example:

- done something wrong
- failed to do something it should have done
- acted unfairly or impolitely.

The concern or complaint may be about:

- the type, level or quality of services
- the behaviour and decisions of staff
- a policy, procedure or practice.

Suggestions and feedback may now be posted confidentially into the mailbox on the parent information table (inside the front entrance).

Sometimes a complaint is about something the preschool has to do because of State or Federal Law. In such cases, the Parent Complaint Unit is able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

More information is available at www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint. You can also email a query to DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au or call the Parent Complaint Unit hotline on 1800 677 435.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Morgan family for donating several trailer-loads of bark chips to the centre. The bark chips have enabled us to create a mound of soft fall which raises the ground level in front of the platform. This will make jumping from the platform to the gym mat significantly safer. I have been advised that we would need to replace the whole structure in order to meet current playground standards. We are not currently in a position to fund such a large project, so it is hoped that the bark-chip mound will enable the children to continue using the platform safely. Staff will continue to monitor the situation.

STAFF NEWS

Last year the centre applied to nominate Angi Fischle to work in Australia under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. We have recently been advised that our application was not successful, as the position classification was not eligible under the scheme. Angi is returning to Germany next week to spend time with her family and to consider her options in Australia. We will need to fill Angi’s position, which is for a Diploma-qualified childcare worker, in her absence. If you know of a Diploma-qualified childcare worker who may be interested in casual work at the centre over the next few weeks, please encourage them to contact us.

BUS CHANGES

Last week a note went home to families of children who travel by school bus alerting them to the following changes to bus times resulting from events taking place at Jamestown Community School:

Thursday 29th March: **Buses depart JCS an hour earlier in the afternoon.**
Wednesday 4th April: **Buses depart JCS an hour earlier in the afternoon.** (This was not included in the previous note.)
Thursday 5th April: **No buses will run.**

Preschool children may use school buses on Wednesday 4th April but will need to leave before the end of the session. Parents will need to meet children an hour earlier at their usual drop-off point. **Please let us know if you DO NOT wish your child to travel home by school bus on this day.**

**After school care children cannot come to care until 3:15pm on Thursday due to site capacity issues, as preschool will still be in session. Please advise the centre of your arrangements for this day.**
Children currently begin preschool the term after they turn four and Reception in the term after they turn five. However, from 2013 preschools enrolments will change in preparation for the “Same First Day” for Reception in 2014. With the introduction of the “Same First Day”, term by term intakes will cease and children will all begin school/preschool together at the beginning of Term 1. In 2013, there will be two intakes for preschools: Term 1 for children who turn four prior to 29th January and Term 2 for children who turn four between 29th January and 30th April. Children who turn four after 30th April 2013 will need to wait until January 2014 before starting preschool. The table below is a useful calculator for families of children turning four in the next few years. Preschool enrolment packs are available from the office for children eligible to start preschool during 2013. If your child is starting preschool during the remainder of 2012 and has not already enrolled, you are encouraged to collect an enrolment pack as soon as possible. It is important for staff to know preschool numbers so that childcare places and preschool groupings can be organised. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask; “Same First Day” is a significant change and may be a little confusing for families whose children turn four in 2013 and beyond.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Birth</th>
<th>Child’s Birthday</th>
<th>Can Start Preschool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Prior to 29th January</td>
<td>Term 1 2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>From 29th January to 30th April</td>
<td>Term 2 2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>From 1st May to 31st December</td>
<td>Term 1 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>From 1st January to 30th April</td>
<td>Term 1 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>From 1st May to 31st December</td>
<td>Term 1 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>From 1st January to 30th April</td>
<td>Term 1 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From 1st May to 31st December</td>
<td>Term 1 2016</td>
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</tbody>
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Supporting our community to eat well and be active

OPAL’s aim is to improve eating and activity patterns of children, through families and communities in OPAL regions, ultimately increasing the proportion of 0 – 18 year olds in the healthy weight range.

OPAL’s key focus in 2012 is to support communities to:
Think Feet First - Step, Cycle or Scoot to School

Why Think Feet First?

- physically active children are healthier, happier and more socially connected
- helps to improves concentration and learning
- creates a healthier and safer environment to live with less traffic and less pollution
- help us to get to know our local neighbourhood

To find out more or be involved, visit [www.opal.sa.gov.au](http://www.opal.sa.gov.au) or give us a call.

Emma Young
OPAL Council Program Manager
Tel: (08) 8666 2014   Mob: 0488 090 303