When do children start learning to read? Tash has displayed the Puggles’ and Joeys’ favourite songs in the Under 3s group time area. Each song card has a picture and the name of the song, so even our very young toddlers are able to select the song they want to sing by choosing the matching card. How is this reading? The children are learning that the picture stands for something real (a familiar song). They will also come to recognise signs (“STOP”, “No Smoking”) and logos (Wiggles, ABC, Macdonalds…) and to know what they mean. Later, they will become familiar with letters and words as symbols which mean something real. Recently a preschool child asked which button to click on the computer. I pointed and said, “That one.” She replied, “You mean the one that says ‘OK’?” Literacy learning begins at birth. Feed your child’s immense capacity for learning in the preschool years with generous amounts of talking, reading and singing and by responding to their interest in pictures, signs, symbols, logos, letters and words and what they stand for.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING OUR GOVERNING COUNCIL? We need both preschool and child care representatives to replace outgoing members in 2014! Governing Council meets twice a term (usually at the centre at 6.30pm). Council members discuss and make decisions about all aspects of education and management at JCCC. This might sound a bit daunting, but our council is a friendly, relaxed group. Membership allows you to have your say and is a great way to meet other parents and staff and to learn more about early childhood education and centre management. If you think you might be interested, why not come along to our final meeting for the year on 26th November (next Tuesday) at the Railway Hotel at 6pm. We will have a short meeting and a meal. Please RSVP to Alison by Monday 25th November. At our AGM in February next year we will call for membership on the 2014 council, so this is a great opportunity to see a meeting in action and to chat to current members if you are considering joining.
**SA DENTAL SERVICE**

**Dental care for your children in 2014**

Introducing the new Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule

It is important for children to have strong, healthy teeth and gums.

All children (0–17 years) are welcome to attend the Peterborough School Dental Service and dental treatment is free if:

- ~Family Tax Benefit Part A is paid for your child, or
- ~Your child is covered by a School Card, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The Peterborough School Dental Service will bulk-bill under the new Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule that starts in 2014. Under this scheme, most children aged between 2-17 years will be eligible to claim up to $1,000 of Dental services over 2 years.

If your child already attends an SA Dental Service Clinic, contact us when their next appointment is due. If your child does not already attend one of our clinics, please contact Peterborough School Dental Service on 8651 2736 to make an appointment in 2014.

The Peterborough School Dental Clinic is open on Tuesday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. The clinic attempts to make suitable appointment times but please note Year 12 students will be given preference in relation to before and after school appointments.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FINAL FUNDRAISER FOR 2013!**

This week all families will receive a book of 5 tickets to sell for our Christmas Raffle. Tickets are $1 each and extra books are available if you would like to buy or sell more.

We are asking everyone to donate a (new) gift to be included in our raffle prizes. Gifts suggestions include non-perishable food items, books, toys, homewares and toiletries. Donations for the raffle can be placed in the Christmas box in the foyer.

**DEB’S PUMPKIN SCONES**

A few weeks ago Deb made pumpkin scones with the children and some of you asked for the recipe. Why not try it with your child/ren at home. Cooking with children involves reading, talking, measuring, sequencing, exploring tastes and textures, following safety rules and much more!

1 egg 1 heaped tbsp. butter
½ cup sugar 1 cup mashed pumpkin
3 cups SR flour ½ tsp salt
milk

Preheat the oven to hot. Beat the egg with the butter, pumpkin and sugar. Add the sifted flour and salt. Add enough milk to form a soft dough. Knead and roll out on a floured surface. Cut into rounds and arrange on an oven tray. Cook for 10 minutes.

**CHILD CARE IN 2014**

**ARE YOUR WORK HOURS CHANGING NEXT YEAR? MAYBE YOU ARE GOING BACK TO WORK?**

We recommend that you place your child/ren on the waiting list NOW for particular days and times if you think you may need them in 2014. If a place becomes vacant and is offered to you, you do not have to take it, so there is nothing to lose by being on the list.

If your child is starting kindy next year, you may like to consider a fortnightly booking for the “non-kindy Monday”.

Please talk to Karen, our Assistant Director of Child Care, about child care bookings.

**START WORK EARLY?**

In 2014 we will be offering before school care to JCS and St James’ students from 8am.

**BEACH WEEK WAS AWESOME!**