



## 27 February Week 5, Term 2, 2017

It has been a busy couple of weeks with the children enjoying the warm weather and lots of water related learning experiences including...



exploring the rock pool; salty seawater, seaweed, sea sponges etc.



investigating, designing, problem solving and working together to construct a water course.



## A LOVE OF BOOKS AND READING

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful love of books that children share with their family at home and the joy shared with lots of children borrowing from the school library each week.



We are very fortunate in Mount Gambier to have a community minded **City Library**. On Monday 20 February, Suzie came to visit to talk to the children about the Library. She read a beach story about 'Grandpa and Thomas' and then the children joined in a fun 'Move and Groove' session.

We wish to thank **The Little Big Book Club** for providing each of the Kindy children with a free book pack. Sharing a story a day promotes positive relationships as you spend quality time together as well as developing children's language and literacy skills.

## Quality Improvement Plan

On our recent Staff Professional Learning Day we reflected on our work and collaborative partnerships with families and community. We mapped out goals and strategies as part of our Quality Improvement Plan for 2017 and future directions as part of a three year plan. Please see attached QIP Brochure

## DIARY

Thursday 2 March 11:15 to 11:45  
Mount Gambier City Library visit at Kindy  
Join us for Storytelling and Move and Groove

Monday 13 March Kindy Closed  
Public Holiday

Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 March  
9am to 9:20am MJ Dance session with Maria

Friday 14 April Good Friday Last Day of Term 1  
Monday 1 May First day of Term 2

Yours in Education and Care,  
The Children's Centre Team

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to Seth who will start Kindy with us this week. We also welcome Alzir Kasole who is studying a Diploma in Early Childhood and Care. Alzir will join us for her student placement on Tuesday 28 February to 31 March. Her rostered days are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday. Alzir's study will focus on children's health and safety. She will also focus on a sustainability project with the children including making compost and caring for the vegetable garden.

## SA DENTAL SERVICE

Keep your kids smiling SA Dental Service.

Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, preschool and most children under 18 years at School Dental Service clinics. Call now for an appointment.

Your clinic is: Mount Gambier Dental Clinic  
Phone: 8721 1633



## HEALTHY EATING

Thank you to families for packing a **nutrient rich lunchbox**. Healthy eating guidelines for preschool children recommend a limit of processed / packaged snacks to **one** a day.



It is great to see the children bringing in lots of calcium rich foods such as cheese and yoghurt. Families are also welcome to bring in plain milk.

Please feel free to place children's lunches in the fridge.

We will also bring in a variety of apples for the children to enjoy as part of healthy eating and make 'apple snakes' with the apple peeler.

Wondering - How long can we make the apple snake?

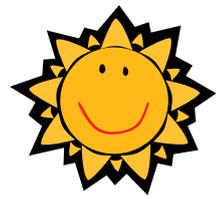


## A HELPING HAND

Soon we will have a fresh load of sand to replenish the sandpits. We need parent volunteers to help us load this into wheelbarrows and deliver it across to the large sandpit. Many hands make light work - Please see staff if you can help.

## Sun Protection and hats

Your child's health and safety is very important to us.



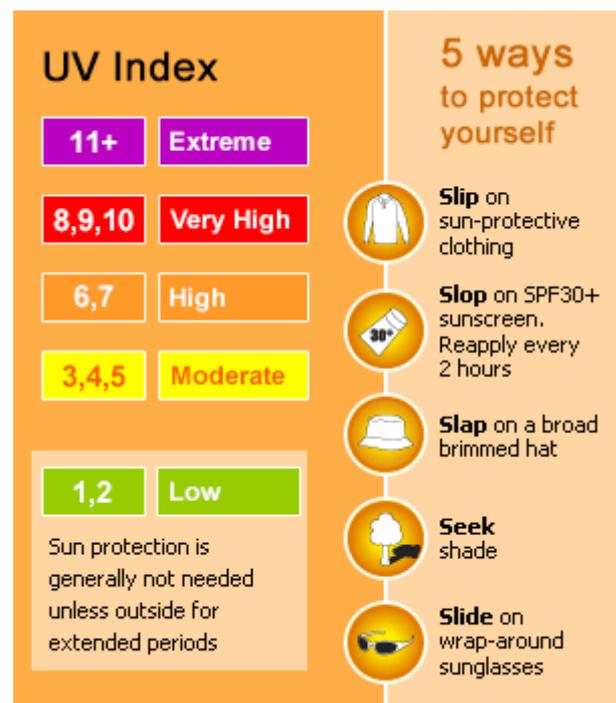
Please remember to pack a hat for your child for outdoor play. Our Skin Protection policy endorses the Cancer Council recommendations:



A broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat provides good protection for the face, nose, neck and ears, which are common sites for skin cancers. Caps and visors do not provide enough protection. Choose a hat made with closely woven fabric – if you can see through it, UV radiation will get through.



In accordance with DECD policy **hats are not to have any cords** as these pose a safety risk due to catching onto playground equipment etc and creating a choking hazard.



We will help the children check the UV Index on the electronic smart board at lunch time. The SunSmart UV Alert is a tool you can use to protect yourself from UV radiation. It tells you the time during the day that you need to be SunSmart.

The Alert is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when the UV index is forecast to reach 3 or above. At that level, it can damage your skin and lead to skin cancer. <http://www.cancer.org.au/>



# Program Guide



**Children have a strong sense of identity** when they feel safe, secure and supported. At Mount Gambier Children's Centre we promote this by acknowledging each child's uniqueness and responding to their feelings, ideas and interests throughout the day. The children are showing a great sense of belonging with good confidence and resourcefulness in following their personal interests as well as working together cooperatively on group projects including making a giant sandcastle together inspired by the story of 'Grandpa and Thomas'. They have enjoyed the new chasey game 'Catch the dragon's tail' on the school oval and setting up a climbing course with the mega foam blocks.



As educators we aim to support **children to be connected with and contribute to their world**. To support this we set up authentic learning experiences to help the children connect with nature and build a respect for living creatures. The children showed great care in looking after 'Chloe' the sand crab from Carpenter's Rocks. They set up her environment with sand from the sandpit and rocks to hide under so that she felt safe. They helped add fresh seawater and fed her fish food each day. The children understood that she needs to live in the ocean to survive longer and so we have released her back into the ocean.



To our surprise we discovered the parts of a little sand crab in the rock pool - the children quickly pieced it together like a puzzle.

The children have enjoyed learning about blue swimmer crabs and have shared their interest through detailed observational drawings.

As part of Fun and Fitness activities we went on a crab walk - walking sideways - this was tricky!

**Children have a strong sense of well being** when they become strong in their social and emotional well being. As educators we support this through the:

## **KEEPING SAFE Child Protection Curriculum**

This has two main themes:

1. We all have the right to be safe
2. We can help ourselves be safe by talking to people we trust.

The topic for Term 1 is *The right to be safe* and we have been talking about feelings and learning about safe and unsafe play behaviours.



**Sensory play** - shaving creme finger paint

**Fine motor skills** - threading, cutting their name into letters and experimenting with writing.

**Gross motor skills** - Climbing / Obstacle courses

Engaging the children as **confident and involved learners** by continuing to extend on their interests and to stretch their intellectual learning though higher order thinking including:

- Wonderings about crabs and the food chain: What do they eat? What eats a crab?
- Do all crabs have a hard exoskeleton? (shell)

Setting up our hermit crab enclosure. How are hermit crabs different to sand crabs?



Children have also shown a keen interest in frogs inspired by the song 'Five little speckled frogs'. Next week we will introduce the Aboriginal Dreaming Story of Tiddalick, about a bullfrog that drank up all the water. Thank you to Mr Hall who will bring in a giant tree frog from Grant High School, Science department.

**Children become effective communicators** as they represent their creative ideas through art. Children are natural artists and express their ideas through 'a hundred languages' including natural materials in the world around them. Recently the children have been drawing designs in the sandpit and to foster their creativity we have set up a tray with fine beach sand for drawing and design.

We will provide lots of natural resources to create 'Beach Art". Beach art promotes an appreciation of the beauty of nature and respect for nature's treasures along with design and patterning, maths skills such as grouping and sorting and descriptive language.

We will invite the children to photograph their work and look forward to sharing these with you.

