It is hard to believe we are more than half way through the year and this week we will send home an update to your child’s Individual Learning Plan (Summative Statement).

As part of the process of preparing these statements we interviewed the children about their learning to date this year. We received some interesting and insightful reflections and I have summarised a sample for you. (A summary of each child’s responses is in their Sharing Book and has been used to support their Summative Statement)

There were no prompts or choices for any of the questions and they are a great reflection on our focus of developing Powerful Learners. We have loved hearing what the children already know about learning and their enthusiasm for trying hard and learning new things. They have demonstrated an understanding that learning can occur everywhere and can be tricky and fun.

**Why do you come to Kindy?** 16 children said it was to learn. The next most popular answer was 8 who thought it was because they have to!

**How do you learn?** 6 children said it was by trying hard, 4 said through playing, 4 thought by listening and 2 said thinking. Other responses included- ‘ideas from my brain’, ‘just do it’, ‘get help if you can’t do it’, ‘be strong’, ‘do stuff that you haven’t done before’ and ‘it’s pretty hard to learn new stuff!’

**Where do you learn?** Children were aware that they not only learn at Kindy and school but also at farms, beaches, shops, outside, Nature Kindy and at home (which was the most popular response).

**Reflections on learning.** Our last question asked children to tell us what they knew about their learning.

- I can write my name
- I can listen
- I’m smart
- It’s fun
- It’s helping me
- It’s doing stuff we don’t know
- Building and making things
- I learn every day
- My learning is really fun
- I learn about plants and beaches
- I’m good at learning
- I can write already
- I do stuff
- I like kindy and learning stuff.

Once again we encourage families to be part of this reporting process by either by returning the feedback sheet you receive with the Summative Statement or by making a time for a shared conversation with staff. These will be held on Thursday September 1 across the day. A timetable will be available for you to fill in next to the sign in sheet. If you are unable to find a time that suits on that day please see a staff member and we will try to arrange another time.
Programme News

From little things, big things grow!

We are currently very busy exploring growth. Growth and change happens all around us at Kindy and no more is evident than in ourselves. Learning and growing is what we are all about.

In particular the children have been using their noticing skills to explore seeds, vegetables, plants and trees.

Discussions on bulbs, root vegetables and fruit trees have seen us wanting to know more and experimenting with seeds and gardening projects.

Jane is super excited to have begun leading us with our annual Scarecrow project for the Royal Adelaide Show. While doing so, the children have opportunities to solve problems, explore spatial concepts, make patterns and designs, enjoy sensory play and communicate their understandings and wonderings. We look forward to the finished masterpiece that we can then use for our kindy vegetable patch.

Our understanding of children being ‘competent and capable’ learners has prompted us to develop our ‘Challenge Wall’. Throughout our preschool day we wonder, explore and test our ideas. To be a powerful learner we then need to take this learning one step further. When something challenges us we can see this as an impossible task or we can take this challenge on to encourage us to grow and become more resilient.

For us as educators, this means we have to use questions that provoke and encourage children to engage a little deeper into their play. We have been recording our challenges and placing them on our Challenge wall so that we can revisit them and share them with others.

As the term progresses we look forward to more big buddy interactions, nature kindy number three and our famous Father’s night.

Please see our challenge wall, discovery table (on the veranda) Floor book and the updated Sharing Books for more evidence of our wonderful learning and growth!

Sayonara

Kathy, Jane, Jodie & Jo. 😊
We have started Term 3 with our usual enthusiasm in Occasional Care. We have quite a large group of children who are approaching their Kindergarten year next year and therefore will be receiving pre-entry sessions next term, making this their last term of Occasional Care. These children are demonstrating their growing independence and their familiarity with the centre and our routines such as fruit time, packing up times. This will stand them in good stead as they approach Kindy and they are acting as excellent role models and helpers for the younger children. It has also been fantastic to see some budding friendships forming between children who will be attending Kindy together.

Interests we have noticed so far this term have included colours, counting and fish. We have read the book Hooray for Fish by Lucy Collins and created some lovely fish for our display board. We will be exploring colour over the next few weeks too, using paints, play dough and collage.

Children that attend on Thursday afternoons of the odd weeks have had the opportunity to mix with our Year 4/5 buddies from the school. This has been a great opportunity for these children and they have enjoyed the input of these older students.

We have our next Governing Council Meeting next Tuesday at 7.30pm. All welcome to attend.

Thank you for your support of our Community Choice Raffle-100% of funds raised come directly back to our centre and will this year be going towards purchasing a class set of small backpacks (for walking adventures) and a class set of raincoats so that we always have wet weather gear available. We are also purchasing a ‘staff set’ of warm, waterproof coats that will be available for any staff (including relievers) to access when working outside.

Thanks must go to the Rotary Club who have generously donated $1500 towards these purchases and the Lions Club who have donated $500 as well.

We love having children’s input into our planning for learning!
Keep your kids smiling

At the School Dental Service, dental care is FREE for all babies, children not yet at school and most children to age 17.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Call us now for an appointment!
Your local clinic is: Mt Barker School Dental Clinic
Phone: 8391 0858

Parent Library- Jane has been busy purchasing some new titles for our Parent Library so look out for them over the next few weeks.
If there are any titles that you would like to see in the library please let us know and we will try and get them.

Children’s Bookweek- it is Children’s Bookweek next week and we have a small selection of books available for families to purchase. They will be on display all week and will cost $10 per book. We have also purchased the Nominated Books for Early Years for the Kindy and will be reading these across the week to the children. There will be a reading corner set up in the ‘quiet room’ and we would encourage you to make some time during the week to come in and read a story to your child (and probably many others at the same time!)

Fruit Time- please remember that we have an independent fruit time during both our morning and afternoon session where children can access the fruit that is in their bags when their bodies tell them they are hungry. We encourage the independence of this time as a great way for children to make decisions and make healthy choices. By not having everyone come together at the same time for fruit we are not interrupting the important learning that is occurring. Some children will only have one piece of fruit over the day if they are busy but we would ask that you please ensure that 2 pieces of fruit are provided each day ( one of these could be a box of sultanas/dry fruit that just stays in the bag until needed if your child doesn’t consistently eat 2 pieces). Please also make sure that this fruit is kept in the bag as it can be quite tricky for the children to work through 35-40 lunchboxes to find their fruit.

Kindy to School: Information Session and Tours There is a note in your Communication Pockets about the Woodside Primary School Information Night on Thursday August 25th. This is primarily for families who have a child commencing at Woodside in 2017 but if you are not yet sure where your child will be going to school, or if you have a child commencing in 2018 you are also welcome to attend. Please remember to reply to the school by August 19th. There is also a school tour on Tuesday August 30th for interested parents.

Nature Kindy Day- our last Nature Kindy Day for this year is on Thursday August 25th and this time we are taking our Big Buddies! Don’t forget to return payment and consent for by Tuesday Aug 23rd.
August

23rd- Governing Council- 7.30pm at Kindy
22nd-26th Children’s Bookweek. Come in and share a book in our Book Corner
25th- Nature Kindy Day with Big Buddies.
25th- Woodside Primary School Information Night

September

1st Sharing Meetings
6th- Father’s Night 6-7pm
13th- Governing Council 7.30pm
21st- Open Night at Kindy for new families
22nd- Dentist visit-am
28th- Mini Olympics! – More information to come.
28th- Last day of term

October

18th- first day of term four.
NB this will be a 2 day week.

Advanced warning- our graduation night for this year will be on Tuesday December the 13th and the last day of term will be Wednesday Dec 14th.