**Have you heard the phrase lately 21st Century Learning? How is it different to 20th Century Learning?**

Research would suggest it will be very different because the lives our children lead will be very different. An example of this is the prediction that by 2020 (yes that really is only 4 years away) 50% of all jobs will be freelance. A lot of business will be conducted globally, online and through tender processes. The feeling is that people will need to ‘work harder for less’ in the global market.

**Why do I mention this?**

*What will the working world be like by the time your pre-schooler finishes school? What does this change in working environments mean for the education of our children?*

Well it doesn’t mean that school, grades and qualifications are no longer important- but it does mean that now more than ever the ‘dispositions’ children bring to the work environment will be equally important.

Education into the 21st Century will have a greater emphasis on developing problem solving skills, being innovative, showing ‘entrepreneurial skills’ (the ability to sell yourself and your ability) and will require teachers to challenge children more about how they think and learn.

Children will need to be able to manage change and be lifelong learners.

For those of you who have read our *Philosophy in Action Booklet* (this year’s updated version was sent home last week) you will know that we support all of the skills listed above- they are our core business and we are passionate about supporting the development of these learning dispositions in the children. You will know that here at Woodside we are supporters not only of Nature Play but to also support children to take risks in their play and learning. We support children to develop ideas and follow them through (Floor Books, Challenge Wall), to evaluate their play and their learning with their peers and to plan for the development of their play (daily learning meetings, recording plans). We also encourage them to share their learning with you (Discovery Table, Sharing Books)

**So how can you as parents help?**

The biggest gift you can give to your child is to encourage their independence. Even at this young age children are capable of so many wonderful things and as parents, we don’t always notice that they are ready for a new challenge.

- **Coping with change-** Children manage many changes in their preschool lives-from home to care, moving from Occasional care to Kindy & Kindy to school- this is a big change for all of them and they need to be supported by all of the trusted adults around. Most importantly, they need to know that you are confident they can manage the change. *(Don’t let them see your fear!)*

- **Problem Solving Skills-** we’ve mentioned it before - don’t always jump in to rescue your children. There is a wonderful quote- *There are no mistakes, only life lessons!* We really do all learn and develop through making mistakes and by being given the opportunity to work through a problem to reach a solution. *(Sit on your hands, bite your tongue and wait!)*

- **Encourage responsibility-** encourage your child to get dressed independently, feed the cat or pack their own bag. It not only teaches the skill of responsibility it also gives them a sense of independence and achievement. Be mindful that younger children may need ‘support’ with these tasks (a gentle reminder, laying the clothes out or checking the bag) but reminding is not doing! Resist the challenge to take over and do jobs for them. *(Support- rather than do it for them!)* And when they arrive at kindy- show them how much you trust them by letting them unpack their own bags and repack again at the end of the day- get them to check if they have everything they brought or made during the day.

*Sometimes as parents we need permission to let go of the responsibility- is it really our fault if they don’t have their drink bottle or lunch box? If it is our fault surely that is only because we haven’t allowed anyone else to share the job or the responsibility. And aren’t we all busy enough??* Through supporting the development of independence, a sense of responsibility, problem solving skills and confidence to cope with change we will give our children the start they need to succeed in 21st Century learning and education (and life!)

Robyn
Term 3 has been a whirlwind of learning, discovering, exploring and playing. Time flies when you’re having FUN! So much has happened over the past few weeks.... here are some of the highlights:

**Nature Kindy No 3** : We had a fantastic day showing Big Buddies around the bush environment. There was lots of communication, collaboration and information sharing. We noticed changes that have occurred since last visit, and observed how the Winter weather has impacted the environment eg. trees and branches falling down, water levels rising.

**Father’s Night** : Our Dad’s, Uncles, Grandpa’s, special friends, and even a few Mum’s, came along to celebrate Father’s Day. We all had a wonderful time playing together outside and bonding around the campfire.

**Rhonda** : Rhonda the Scarecrow won third prize at the Royal Adelaide Show! It’s amazing what team work and collaboration can achieve. Many children enjoyed visiting Rhonda at the show, and we are now very happy to have her back at Kindy. She’s become a much loved member of the preschool community!

**Developing Powerful Learners** : Our Challenge Wall continues to be an important part of our Preschool programme. We have been developing self-confidence and positive attitudes towards trying new things and risk taking. To further extend this learning, we will be involved in writing “daily plans”. These plans will document what we would like to do and achieve each day at preschool. This will encourage everyone to take control of their own learning through decision making.

**Thinking Like Mathematicians** : We have been developing many mathematical understandings through our play. Over the past few weeks we have learnt about symmetry and shape. We have used mirrors to create symmetrical drawings of our faces, and folded paintings in half to create symmetrical artworks. We have used our rock collection to explore the concepts of patterning, measurement, size, shape and weight. We have also been exploring the concept of time through the use of calendars, and by ordering and sequencing the days of the week.

**Imaginative Play** : Our Quiet Room has been converted into an airport! We worked together to plan and set up an airport, and worked cooperatively to construct a giant aeroplane. This has led to lots of socio-dramatic play and acting out different roles associated with airports eg. pilot, passengers, flight attendants, travel agents.

Don’t forget to come and cheer us on at our “Mini-Olympics” on the last day of Term. It’s going to be fun filled morning of action and exercise!

Jodie, Kathy, Jane and Jo
In Occasional Care we have been busy challenging ourselves to complete lots of gross motor tasks. We have been climbing, balancing, spinning, running and jumping. It has been wonderful to see the developing confidence of all children in this area. We have also been learning some new songs, some of our favourites being Slippery Fish and Mr Clickety Cane.

With those children who are moving on to Pre Entry next term, I have begun talking about what it’s like to go to big Kindy and what they can expect when they come. Luckily for those children coming to Woodside Kindy, big Kindy is not that different to Occasional Care, so we find the transition usually goes very smoothly. The children have been preparing some transition pictures with information about what they like to do at Kindy to share with their Kindy teachers.

We have had the continual problem of children not having hats at Occasional Care or not having rain coats on rainy days. Children need hats all year round at Woodside Kindy, in Terms 2 and 3 these can be beanies or warm hats. Please make sure your child always has a hat in their bag. We also like to go out and play in all weather, please refer to our Outdoor Learning Policy on our website. So if it is raining, children NEED to have a raincoat and gumboots to wear outside. It is very helpful if these can be provided in a plastic bag so that when we take them off, we can pop them straight in to the plastic bag for taking home. Thank you for your support with this. I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holidays with your children and I look forward to seeing everyone next term.

Cheers, Jane

GOVERNING COUNCIL

- Approving our Healthy Eating Policy,

- Organising Kindy Photos for next term (more info next term!)

-Fundraising ideas- The Picture Products fundraiser is now closed- thanks for those who have supported it.

- The Bedwarmers should be here this week

- Toy Catalogues are due back by the end of this term (or order online)

-Term 4 Fundraising- we will be having an end of year raffle- If you have a local business or other contacts and have anything you can donate to an end of year raffle please contact staff or any of the Governing Council Members ( they have a red dot on their notice pocket). We are looking for prizes of all shapes and sizes!

-We are also having a Bird in Hand wine drive-there will be great prices on Bird in Hand wines in time for Christmas. Order forms will be available next term.
Philosophy Statement Survey - last week you will have received a copy of our Philosophy in Action Booklet and the accompanying survey. We would really appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey to let us know how we are going this year. Surveys can be returned in the Fees Box before the end of Term. Many Thanks

Kindy Showcase This week we are welcoming a number of our new Pre Entry families to kindy with a showcase displaying some of the amazing learning we have experienced this year. These displays are dotted around the kindy and we would encourage our current kindy families to come in and have a look at our displays of Nature Kindy, Philosophy in Action & Diverse Learning Opportunities.

Mini- Olympics - Next Wednesday, to celebrate the end of term, we are holding a Mini Olympics at Woodside Primary School. Parents are invited to come along and cheer the children on from 10.00-12.30.

Sponsorship forms have been put in pockets this week. Along with an order form for the Sausage Sizzle. Sausages are provided free for our Olympic Athletes but extra families members are welcome to stay and share lunch with us at a cost of $2 for a sausage in bread.

Our Big Buddies will be helping organise and run the events for us but we will be looking for a few parents to help cook the BBQ lunch and organise the serving of food ( and the packing away of activities.) If you can help please let us know.

September

21st - Open Night at Kindy for new families (7.00-8.30)

22nd - Dentist visit-am, Library Visit pm

28th - Mini Olympics! – 10.00-12.30 at Woodside Primary School

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.