Dear Parents and care givers

It is hard to believe that we have only 4 weeks left of term. We have enjoyed a very busy term and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our new children and families. Children have brought a wealth of ideas, knowledge, skills and interests for us to learn about and we have loved having families engaged in the centre in a myriad of ways. We would like to thank Leah King for the beautiful rug she has made for us (with help from the children), Tiffany Williams for her gardening with the children (our vegetables are growing with help from all the rain we have had). Than you to Martin Haimes for spreading our woodchip softfall and Lauren Karp for cooking date balls with the children. Thank you to the parents and children who helped to collect 24.5kg of rubbish from the Jetty Beach. This was a great opportunity to learn about the importance of caring for our environment, we got to see some interesting sea creatures as well. Thank you also to the numerous families who have brought along items of interest to share, which has often formed the basis of our play and learning.

This Monday and Tuesday an assessor from the Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia will visit to observe and give our centre a rating. Our centre will receive a rating based on the 7 quality areas.

1. Educational Program and Practice
2. Health and Safety
3. Physical Environment
4. Staffing Arrangements
5. Relationships with Children
6. Collaborative Partnerships with families and communities.
7. Leadership and Service Management.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Easter with your families next weekend.

Wendy
We have been learning about healthy food and drink choices at kindergarten.

Green - healthy food choices such as fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, and high fibre breads and cereal. This should be the majority of the lunch box and can include salads, sandwiches with healthy fillings, wraps, quiche etc. Please only send water to drink. Children can refill their water bottle at the water trough tap or we have fresh water in a cask available if they do not like mains water.

Amber—sometimes food such as snack foods (savoury biscuits, fruit and muesli bars, cakes or muffins) we ask that parents send no more than 2 of these items in lunch boxes and they consider healthy snack choices such as rice crackers, savoury biscuits with cheese, tomato or vegemite, vegetable sticks or home made fruit muffins.

Red– These are unhealthy food choices such as lollies, chips, chocolates and foods that are high in salt, fat or sugar, and have little or no nutritional value. We ask that you do not send these foods to kindergarten.

STUDENT FREE DAY
MONDAY April 4th

There will be no kindergarten on MONDAY APRIL 4th. This is a student free day for staff to attend training and development in Pt Lincoln with Deb Lasscock from Flinders University. Deb will be providing professional learning on Numeracy in the Early years.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause families.

Numeracy is one of the focus areas for our centre this year. We use the Early Years Learning Framework and the numeracy indicators for preschool, to inform our planning and teaching of numeracy within the centre.

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“Play is the answer to how anything new comes about” Jean Piaget
The Streaky Bay Children’s Centre Bookfair is available for families to purchase books, until Wednesday 1st April. Families are welcome to pay by cash or credit card.

**BOOKFAIR**

A fantastic Easter gift idea

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**KINDERGARTEN FEES**

Thankyou to those families who have paid their centre fees.

- Reminder—Fees are due Thursday March 24th.
- Parents are welcome to pay by cash, cheque or direct debit and may pay fees termly or annually.

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**OCCASIONAL CARE BOOKINGS**

Forms have been distributed for occasional care bookings for term 2. Please return your preferences by Wednesday April 6th. Staff will ensure that bookings are made fairly and equitably and families will receive letters outlining the dates of their bookings before the end of term.

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**Volunteer needed**

We are in need of a volunteer to cover, repair and catalogue books. If you are interested in this job please see Wendy.

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**Kindergarten Parent interviews**

Parent interviews will be held on Thursday April 7th 3.30-6.30pm

And Friday April 8th 8am–4pm.

Parent interviews provide a great opportunity to share your child’s interests and successes and to work together with staff to plan for your child’s learning.

Families will be given a form this week to book their preferred meeting time. Interviews will go for approx. 15mins each.

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**Peanut Allergy Alert**

We currently have a child enrolled at the centre who has a SEVERE ALLERGY (is anaphylactic) TO PEANUTS.

As this can be life threatening to the child, if they come in contact with peanuts, we ask that parents refrain from sending peanuts or peanut products such as peanut butter or nut bars in your child’s lunches.

Thankyou for your support in this matter.

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**Philosophy statement**

Thankyou to children and families for their input into our review of the philosophy statement. We aim to ensure that our statement of philosophy reflects are different views, beliefs and values and our practice reflects these beliefs. Please find attached a copy of the reviewed philosophy.
Governing council
Governing Council change of date.
Please note the Governing council meeting will no longer be held on Monday 21st March as this is the date for our assessment. The meeting will now be held on Tuesday March 29th at 7pm.
All Welcome.
Please note Governing council information and previous minutes and reports are located in a folder for families to view in the front foyer.

Streaky Bay Races Fundraiser
On April 2nd we have been asked by the Streaky Bay Race club to sell entrance tickets at the gate for the races and to collect the cans on Sunday morning after the races. This is a great fundraiser for the centre and we ask that all available families help out by working a roster for 1 hour.
THANKYOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Bringing toys to kindergarten
Please do not send toys to kindergarten. We understand that children at times need a comfort toy, but these can be lost or broken or cause social conflict. We love to have items of interest brought into share such as natural items found in the environment or those they wish to share which have significant meaning.
Thankyou for your support.

New resources and improvements at the SBCC
♦ We have a new bridge in the back yard for child to climb and explore.
♦ We have new soft fall and pole padding to ensure a safe environment for the children.
♦ The cubby and boat have had the floor replaced and we have enclosed spaces behind the back shed and tank to prevent children accessing these spaces.
♦ The new quiet box has been very popular for children when they are seeking a quiet space to play in and explore.

Macy, Jordan, and Samson discovered ants eggs. They shared their ideas about where the ants would go and were amazed at the way the ants carried the eggs down the holes and used the same path each time.