

# October 2015 Newsletter

## Baby Boom!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all our families who are keeping the Aussie population growing. Many families currently utilizing the Centre have over the past 12 months added a new addition to their family or are currently going through the pregnancy stages. Hopefully, many of these new little ones will join our child care family in the near future (providing spaces are available). It's a good idea to make sure you have your details down on our waiting list should this be something you are considering down the track.

**HOW EXCITING!** We are also celebrating the fast approaching arrival of a first son or daughter for Catherine (Educator in the Forest room) and Matt, with bubs due around the middle of November. Catherine will be taking leave from the end of the week of 30th October and we wish her all the very best with the expected new addition to her family. A baby box has been placed in the foyer should you wish to give Catherine and her family a small gift as they wait the arrival of the newest member to their family.



**WELCOME** back to Andrea who has been on extended leave following the birth of her second daughter in November 2013. Andrea will be working in the Garden Room [Baby/Toddler room] on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please make yourself known to Andrea over the coming weeks especially if you have a child attending the Garden Room on either of these days.

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## Final Working Bee for 2015

A friendly reminder that our second and final Working Bee for 2015 will be held this Sunday 18th October from 9am to 12 noon. Can you spare a few hours to assist in the general clean-up of your child's play environment at Magill Campus & Community Children's Centre?

If you can't make it to the Working Bee and are available to assist at another time please let the Centre know. Volunteers are always needed for a variety of tasks, we don't have to wait for a working bee to undertake many tidy-up tasks.

## Outdoor Extension—Nature Play Space

Have you seen, in the foyer, the initial draft drawing of the proposed design for the extension to our outdoor play space? Take a look! Please make any comments on the yellow post-it notes for Governing Council to consider. The land grant has come from the University of SA however the Centre will need to cover the remainder of the costs—fencing, a new shed, and building works. We are in the early stages of seeking quotes for shed and fence construction. Any recommendations from reputable trades people would be greatly appreciated. Do you know of anyone? Let Penny know asap. See attached drawing of proposed nature play space.....

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## 2nd WORKING BEE for 2015

Can YOU spare a few hours to assist in a general clean-up of the Child Care Centre?

Our 2nd Working Bee for 2015 has been planned for :

**Sunday 18th October  
between 9am to 12 noon.**

We would certainly appreciate your help with:

- ◇ Wiping skirting boards and walls
- ◇ Cleaning tables & chairs
- ◇ General Outside tidy-up i.e.

- ◇ Window cleaning
- ◇ General garden spruce
- ◇ Raking sandpits
- ◇ Shed tidy-up
- ◇ Gutter clean-out—ground drains and veranda gutters
- ◇ Veranda clean
- ◇ Bathroom, laundry scrub (tiles & floor)
- ◇ Staining wooden cubby house
- ◇ We've ordered a skip for rubbish removal and so much more.....

It's a chance to meet other parents, embrace our community spirit as well as getting your hands dirty!

Why? To help maintain the safety and pleasant appearance of our Centre both inside and out!

Bring along some elbow grease, gloves, a bucket, old newspaper, rake etc.



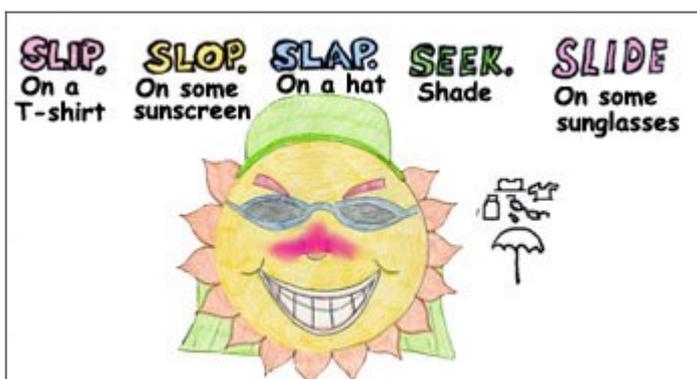
## Sun Safe Policy Reminder

PLEASE apply suncream to your child at home prior to attending the Centre. This will enable the suncream to be most effective upon arrival at child care.

With the warmer weather approaching staff are likely to start the days activities outside prior to it getting too hot for lengthy outdoor learning & play opportunities.

Staff will assist the children throughout the day to re-apply suncream as part of our Sun-Safe Policy procedures.

Check out the daily UV Rating chart prior to entering the front door. If it's 3 or over, sun-cream must be applied throughout the day.



Does your child require a specific suncream?

If so, please provide a bottle with your child's name clearly marked on the container to enable the staff to protect your child from the harmful rays of the sun. (Staff will apply the Centre's suncream product during September to April each year unless you provide a specific & suitable alternative).

## Family BBQ—End of Year Celebrations

The Governing Council & Staff Team would like to invite all current families to our end of year celebration **BBQ** on **Friday 27th November from 6pm to 8pm.**

Entertainment by the Forest Room children, Father Christmas and a sausage sizzle including drinks and fresh watermelon wedges will be available on the night.

Tickets will be available prior to the event to help with the bbq catering requirements.

A Sausage in Bread	\$1.00 (inc. sauce & onions)	Vegetarian sausage	\$1.00
Can of Soft Drink	\$1.00 each	Watermelon Wedges	free
Fruit Juice—Pop Top	\$1.00 each	Bottle of Water	\$1.00

**KEEP THIS DATE FREE—27/11/15**





# Child Care Professionals Appreciation Day

## It's Child Care Professionals Appreciation Day on Friday 30th October.

One opportunity for families to show their appreciation for the staff here at Magill Campus & Community Children's Centre is by writing your thoughts or comments on an 'apple for the teacher' notice attached to your last newsletter.

Need a new 'apple'? Ask Amelia or Penny at the front desk.

Could you please return your comments written on the apple design by Friday 23rd October as we would like to display your apples on our 'Tree of Appreciation' display to be set up in the foyer over the coming weeks.

Thank you!



A number of staff are reaching specific milestones here at Magill Campus & Community Children's Centre by the end of 2015. We will be acknowledging 5 years of service from Sam along with 10 years of service from Catherine and 20 years of continuous service from Melanie at our End-of-Year BBQ. Congratulations!



## Children's Week—Fri. 23rd Oct. to Sun. 1st Nov. 2015

This year's theme is 'Children's Rights are Human Rights'. It is an historic year, as 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of Australia's entry and ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention ensures the important rights that children have to be **safe**, to be **heard**, to be **healthy**, to be **protected**, to **play**, to **learn**, to **express themselves**, to their **privacy**, **identity** and to **fully enjoy their life and development**. It reminds us of the importance of 'PLAY' in children's lives right from their earliest weeks kicking on a rug, listening to lullabies, shaking a rattle.... We know that children learn through play and continue to do so at every stage of their development into adulthood.

## Children's Enrolments or starting Preschool or School in 2016

All current families have been asked to submit their child care requirements for 2016 in writing.

If you are continuing without any changes you will still need to return the required form.

If you are planning to change your current requirements (increase, decrease attendance, or withdraw) it will be important to submit your required *changes* request promptly.

**Our priority is to offer care to all current families before considering new enrolments.**

If you are a student and unsure of your child care session needs it will still be necessary to submit a likely timetable in order to gain your require placement.

Times can always be altered at the beginning of 2016 prior to the Centre offering any available spaces to new families. It's better to book what you think you will need, then reduce sessions when you find out your timetable, so you don't miss out.

### Same First Day—Preschool & School

In South Australia, it's compulsory for children to be enrolled in primary school by their sixth birthday.

Where a child turns five before May 1st, they will start school on the first day of term one for that year. Therefore they may start school before they have actually turned five. Where a child turns five on or after 1st May they will start school on the first day of term one the following year.

These changes that were introduced in 2014 have affected child care services creating less opportunity for movement from one room to the next. Our Garden Room, Infant/Toddlers room has not been able to move children up into the next section at the beginning of each new school term as we now have little movement during the year and some children remain in care now until they turn 5.8 yrs.

**In 2016 the school year will start on Monday 1st February .**

### An Integrated Approach

Our planning for children is based on providing opportunities for children to extend and build on their learning.

Grouping children in 'family' type environments provides a more natural context in which children can grow and learn through relationships, as well as developing empathy and friendships.

From our observations we have found that older children role model skills, empathy and cooperation for the younger children and younger children are learning from their older peers.

The benefit of an integrated Infant/Toddler program is the development of consistent and longer family, staff, child partnerships, that will in turn, further support individual routines and relationships. This is also relevant in our older group section.

We recognize that children need to feel secure in their environment and to enjoy what they are doing in order to learn through play-based programs. The changes to the one school intake/entry will support our integrated approach to relationship-based programming for your child in a predictable environment.