Loxton Preschool Centre

Newsletter 1, Term 1
Thursday January 31st, 2019

Coming Events

February
- Tuesday 19th  CAFHS appointments at CAFHS
- Wednesday 20th  CAFHS appointments at CAFHS
- Thursday 21st  ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7:30pm at the preschool
- Wednesday 27th  Loxton Public Library visiting 9:30am
- Thursday 28th  Loxton Public Library visiting 9:30am

March
- Monday 11th  Public Holiday –Adelaide Cup
- Tuesday 12th  Grandparents/Parents/Special Friends Afternoon  1:30pm-3:00pm
- Wednesday 13th  Loxton Public Library visiting 9:30am
- Wednesday 13th  Grandparents/Parents/Special Friends Afternoon  1:30pm-3:00pm
- Thursday 14th  Loxton Public Library visiting 9:30am

Anzac Crescent
Loxton SA 5333
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Web: www.loxtonpre.sa.edu.au

Excellence ~ Optimism ~ Respect ~ Fun

Government of South Australia
Department for Education
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the Loxton Preschool Centre for 2019. This term we welcome 81 families to our preschool. We are delighted to have you and look forward to getting to know you and working together to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for your children. May you feel a real sense of belonging at the preschool and find it a place where you feel welcome, valued, included and appreciated.

We trust that your time with us will be both happy and rewarding as we work together in this very important stage of your child’s education. We value open communication and encourage you to play an active part in your child’s Early Years education. Please feel free to contact us at any time either by coming in to the Centre, or via phone, fax, email or written note. Strong partnerships and effective communication between the preschool and home ensure that together we provide opportunities for every child to maximise their potential and develop a strong foundation and love for successful life long learning.

Never underestimate your role as parents. You are the most important people in your child’s life and your children’s first and most influential educators. Our role as parents is the most important thing we will ever do.

We would like Loxton Preschool Centre to be a place for parents to meet other parents and to share in your child’s education. We welcome your involvement and participation.

WE VALUE

Our 4 Core Values

1. Excellence
2. Respect
3. Optimism
4. Fun

form the basis of who we are and what we do.

They determine how we treat each other, our environment and our equipment.
TERM 1 STAFF TEAM

Director: Mandy James

Teachers: Glen O Brien (Monday-Friday)
Leanne Brooke (Tues AM, Wed, Thurs)

Early Childhood Workers:
Sharon Wood (Mon, Tues, Friday)
Julie Fielke (Mon, Wed, Th)
Karen Scholz (Tues, Thurs AM)
Sharna Jachmann (Wed)
Nina Swanbury (Mon, Tues, Wed)
Kasey Cass (Thurs)
Chelsea Gutsche (Fri AM)

ECW Support Staff: -involved with Speech and Language, Fine Motor, Bilingual, Indigenous Education, Early Intervention and Preschool Support

Nina Swanbury
Kasey Cass

Book-keeping Assistant: Julia Dansie
Admin Support: Kim Speziali (as required)

SESSION TIMES

Full Days 8:30am-3:00pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Friday Half Day Sessions (alternate weeks) 8:30-12:30pm
(Mon/Wed group children -weeks 1,3,5,7,9,11)
(Tues/Thurs group children -weeks 2,4,6,8,10)

FEES

Preschool fees per year are as follows:

$285 for 30 hours a fortnight (2 full days and an alternate week half day) ($285 for the entire year)

As you can see we have kept the fees to a minimum in order for everyone to be able to participate in the Preschool Programme.

Accounts are issued via your child’s note pocket and may be paid in full or by 3 instalments, ie $95. We ask that payment is made within 14 days of account issue.

Arrangements can also be made to pay amounts each week/fortnight if required.

Payment is accepted in the form of:-

1. cash or cheque made payable to Loxton Preschool Centre placed in the yellow envelope provided and posted in the white money box on the bench in the art preparation area
2. Centrelink payments – please collect a Centrelink Direct Debit form from preschool staff

3. Direct Credit into Loxton Preschool Centre Inc. bank account

BSB: 015-625
Account Number: 397933238
Please put your child’s surname and initials as a description.

You are welcome to pay the entire year’s fees at once if preferred.

You will be issued with a receipt via your child’s name pocket.

Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.

Our preschool fees are compulsory.

If you have difficulty with payment please can you discuss it with me or our book keeping assistant, Julia Dansie.

Children with health conditions, eg asthma, require an up to date Health Care Plan. Ask a staff member for the necessary forms if you require them.

If your child requires medication when at preschool (eg antibiotics) please ask the prescribing doctor to complete an authority form for us prior to bringing the medication to preschool. **We prefer parents to administer all medication if at all possible.**

RECYCLING, RE-USING AND REDUCING WASTE

At preschool we are conscious to recycle and re-use what we can and reduce the waste we generate. We encourage all families to help support our sustainable practices by limiting the packaging you send in your child’s lunch box please. We will continue to sort our waste in order to minimize the amount we send to landfill.

We make good use of a wide variety of recycled materials in our preschool programme. If you are able to source, collect and save suitable materials for us we will be very grateful. Some people have access to waste materials from their workplaces, eg cardboard.
and paper off cuts, lids, etc which we love to turn into something useful!

**MATERIALS YOU CAN COLLECT FOR OUR PROGRAMME:**

We make great use of many recycled items in our making box. If you have any of the following materials that you no longer need we would love to have them.

**RECYCLED MATERIALS:**

- cardboard boxes
- cardboard sheets
- cotton reels
- wool scraps
- buttons
- natural materials
- stamps
- computer paper
- ribbon scraps
- lids
- paper off cuts
- ice cream containers
- bottle tops
- magazines
- corks
- cards
- foam and foil trays
- newspaper
- cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls)
- margarine and cream containers with lids
- icecream buckets, yoghurt and meals on wheels type containers

**MATERIALS FOR NATURE STUDY**

- shells
- gumnuts
- wood biscuits
- bird nests, feathers

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**COMING TO THE CENTRE**

Each day your child will need to bring:

- A piece of fruit or vegetable for them to eat at fruit time (2 items for full-days and 1 for the Friday half day session)
- Lunch on each day, including Fri
- A named water bottle filled with water only
- A kindy bag
- A named wide brim hat. (Some people like to have 2 hats in their bag so they always have a spare if they happen to leave one home.)

**WHAT TO WEAR**

**Clothing:**

Children should wear easy to manage comfortable, sun safe clothes. Shoe string strap, singlet and backless tops/dresses are not permitted due to our Skin Protection Policy. It is advisable that items of clothing are named to avoid being lost. Smocks are used at preschool but some paint and glue does get on children’s clothing, so please do not dress children in their best clothes!
Footwear:
Closed in footwear or sandals are recommended, especially when the children are involved in climbing activities. Thongs and rubber boots should not be worn.

For safety reasons please could you come in to the preschool with your child and greet a staff member. That way we know your child has arrived and we can care for them accordingly.

Please note the starting and finishing times of the sessions and try to be punctual to avoid stressful situations for your child. Please do not arrive before 8:30am as staff are busy preparing for the day.

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child please could you let us know and write the details in the Collection of Children Book on the bench by the fee box. People other than parents whose details are on their child’s enrolment form, will be required to sign the daily attendance record sheet when they collect your children. We thank you for your co-operation.

Regular attendance is encouraged at preschool in order for children to participate fully and gain maximum benefit.

Attendance data will be collected during weeks 2 & 3 this term. This information forms the basis of our Centre’s funding so it is very important that your child attends. Wherever possible please notify the preschool if your child will be away.

When you arrive please help your child find and post their name card envelope in the red letterbox. You will find this located by the main front door.

This is an exciting social time for the children. We encourage them to eat fresh unprocessed fruit and vegetables at Fruit Time. At Lunch Time we also promote a healthy diet. Lots of ideas are provided in our Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy. We ask that no nuts or popcorn are sent along due to a possible severe allergic reaction.
by some children and increased risk of choking. *(eg peanut paste, nutella, muesli bars, popcorn, etc.)*

**Our Centre has a Nut Free Policy.**

**GROUP/MAT TIME**

Near the end of each session we hold Group Time. The children sit on the carpet and we play games, sing songs, etc.

When you come in to collect your child at the end of each session we would very much appreciate it if you could respect the learning that is happening by SILENTLY watching. Extra noise and activity is very distracting for both students and teachers! If you do need to speak to another parent about something, you are very welcome to stand just outside the door under the verandah. If you would like to speak to one of the staff members we are always willing to speak to you at the end of every session. Please arrange a suitable time with us.

**COMMUNICATION**

We believe effective communication between the home and preschool is vital for the best education of your child. We will endeavour to keep you informed of Centre events and the progress of your child. We keep a portfolio of samples of your child’s work throughout their time at preschool. This gives you a snapshot view and is a great keepsake. These folders are located on the shelves adjacent to the kitchen in the Parent Information Corner. Please feel free to look at your child’s at any time. Parent Teacher Interviews for all children will be held later this Term with an optional interview in Term 3. We are very happy to discuss any concerns or questions you have about your child at any time. We would prefer you made an appointment so that we can give you our undivided attention as during a session time we are very occupied with the children.

You will receive regular newsletters in your child’s communication pocket which is situated above the lockers. Please can you check these pockets each day you come to keep abreast with what is happening. Please inform us about anything we need to know also.
Enclosed with this newsletter are copies of our Photography and Emergency Management and Evacuation Policies. We ask that you familiarize yourselves with their content and adhere to requirements please.

For parents new to the preschool here is some background information about our weekly programme that we offer.

Each week we have a focus letter, colour and Numeracy Indicator. You will find details of these on the Term Planner that you received earlier in the week.

This term our programme each week will be based around a text or topic.

Next week we will look at the book “A Simply Spectacular Hat” as we learnt how to be safe in the sun.

Weeks 3 & 4 will focus around the concept of Bucket Filling with the book “Have You Filled A Bucket Today?”

The sound for week 2 is “Ss”, week 3 is “Aa”, week 4 is “Tt” and week 5 is “Ii”.

Our colour for week 2 is yellow, for week 3 is blue, for week 4 is red and for week 5 is orange.

We will focus on Quantifying during weeks 3 and 4 and then move onto Measuring and Comparing in Numeracy.

You will find more details of the programme pinned up just inside the back door. Help yourself to a copy. Have a look too at the display that tells you about the Early Years Framework –our curriculum.

Initial sounds are an important concept to grasp as a pre–reading skill.

The letter of the week is included on the Term Planner under the theme.
We encourage your child to bring something along once a week that starts with the letter of the week for Show and Tell.

Next week, if your child would like to, we ask that they bring something along that starts with the letter ‘s’ and the following week something that starts with the letter ‘a’.

It will be a great opportunity for you to discuss what letter things start with, with your children. Your child might like to bring a picture of something rather than the real thing if the letter is a bit tricky. We ask that they only bring something to show once per week so that everyone can have a turn. Please name the item they bring and don’t send something ‘precious’ along!

Triangular pencils are great to use while learning.

I sent home a copy of the correct way to form letters earlier in the week for your interest. Please take special note of where the letter begins and which direction you go in.

If you are helping your child to learn to write their name please teach them the first letter as a capital and the rest in lower case, ie Andrew. Don’t mix capitals in the middle of words.

This will make the transition to school much easier for everyone!!!

Please could you name items of clothing that your child is likely to take off, ie hats, jumpers, etc as we often have trouble returning them to their rightful owners. It is also important to name items that your child brings for the Letter Table as sometimes more than one

During their time at preschool many children begin experimenting with pre-writing and writing skills. They learn to write their name and practise letters. It is very important that good habits are developed at a young age. Bad habits are difficult to unlearn.

Please can you help your child by showing them and reminding them the correct way to hold a pencil (see diagram).
child thinks the object is theirs.
Thankyou!

LOXTON PUBLIC LIBRARY VISIT

As part of our literacy programme the Loxton Public Library librarian visits us three times each term (usually weeks 3,5 & 7 or weeks 5,7 & 9).

Our FIRST visit from the library will be in Week 5 on Wednesday Feb 27th and Thursday February 28th.

The children will be given the opportunity to borrow a book to take home. If your child is currently not a member of the Public Library you would have received a membership card for you to complete and return to the preschool. Children are not required to bring along their normal library card for our preschool visits as the library keeps a special school borrowers card for them at the library.

Please can you send along a library bag for your child to put the book that they borrow in to. The calico Loxton Preschool Centre bag that you will receive in Week 3 would make a perfect library bag.

Reading is such great fun to do together.

Take time to look at the book your child brings home. When your child has finished with the book please return it to the library. You then might even like to borrow another one. Our town library is a fantastic resource that is freely available for all of us to enjoy. Make good use of it!!

Remember the more books you read to your children the easier it will be for them to learn to read themselves.

HEALTH CARE PLANS AND MEDICATIONS

A Health Care Plan is required for all children who have any health issues or require medications. This includes asthma, any toilet training continence issues and allergies.

Please make sure you have a current Health Care Plan in place at the preschool. The appropriate form needs to be completed by a doctor or continence nurse and returned to the preschool. Please see a staff member if you require one. All student medication needs to be handed to a staff member and not left in your child’s bag for obvious safety reasons. This includes all asthma spacers and puffers.
We celebrate the children’s birthdays at preschool in line with the Healthy Eating Guidelines. We have a special chair for the birthday child to sit on during Group Time and will present them with a card and playdough cake. We ask that parents don’t send cake or lollies along. We will endeavour to make the birthday child feel special without the use of food.

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You are encouraged to regularly visit our Parent Corner by the kitchen and make use of the resources we have for you.

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You will find information about our local primary schools.

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The selection of books that are for sale periodically from visiting book sellers are also displayed in this area for you to order. You are welcome to help yourself to tea and coffee from the kitchen and stay a while as you read!

Also in the Parent Corner you will find a stand of Literacy and Science Kits for children to borrow.

The kits are designed for parents/carers to use together with your child. They are a way you can be actively involved with your child’s literacy development and help to foster a love of literature.

Each kit contains a book, activity card and materials to extend and enhance the story. The activity card has ideas of questions that you can ask your child as you look at and read the story together. The questions are at different levels to cater for various stages of development.

Kits may be borrowed for a maximum of 2 weeks. Only 1 kit may be borrowed per person at a time so that other families have access to them too. You will find the borrowing procedure outlined on a card near the kits. We encourage you to make good use of the kits and just ask you to make sure all the components are clean and in the bag when you return them.

Have lots of fun together!
Student uniforms that are for sale are located by the Access Toilet.

**WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK**

On top of the puzzle shelf adjacent to the posting names board by the front door you will find our “What We Have Been Learning This Week” book. Have a look at it each week to see an account of some of our week’s learning. It contains our programme, work samples and photographic evidence. A copy of the summary page will be emailed to you each week in the future for your information.

**KIDS MATTER**

Loxton Preschool Centre is a KidsMatter Early Childhood site. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing initiative for children using a promotion, prevention and early intervention framework.

Experiences in the early years affect long-term mental health, relationships and learning. Good mental health is vital for learning and life. Mental health, like physical health, is something we all have and is something that changes over time in different contexts.

The framework is divided into four components:

1. Creating a sense of community
2. Developing children’s social and emotional skills
3. Working with parents and carers
4. Helping children who are experiencing mental health difficulties

KidsMatter involves all members of our preschool community including children, educators, families and external community services.

Children can be taught how to cope with their emotions, to ‘bounce back’ from problems and to develop positive relationships – this is called ‘social and emotional learning’.

A child’s family is the first and biggest influence on their mental health. Families can teach children these skills as early as possible in life—even when they are babies.

Lots of practical tips and information for families can be found on the KidsMatter website - www.kidsmatter.edu.au
We love parent help. The more the better!

1. ODD JOBS

We always have lots of jobs that need doing like covering books, cutting out things, making resources, etc. These could be completed in your own home or at the preschool.

From time to time we have handyman jobs and a yearly working bee.

If you are available to help please could you let us know. We will be very grateful!!

2. COOKING WITH THE CHILDREN

We would love some parents to come in and cook with small groups of children. You can use our excellent kitchen facilities!

3. FUNDRAISING HELPERS

We require people who are willing to organise, co-ordinate or help with specific fundraising events for our centre. We budget to raise $5000 each year. We have one major fundraising event each term which is pre-decided, eg Term 1 Hot Cross Buns, Term 2 Mother’s Day Raffle, etc, so the task is not too huge. We do not have a committee but instead have a co-ordinator for each event who co-ops help from others for that specific event. This way you are not involved with every fundraising venture. (unless of course if you would like to be!!!!)

5. GOVERNING COUNCIL

Governing Council members for 2019 will be elected at our AGM on Thursday February 21st.

Please consider whether you would like to be involved with the governance of the preschool and serve on this very important committee. Terms of office are for 1 year. It is not a huge task. We hold meetings once a month. (approx 2 per term)

The committee is made up of a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and general committee members.

Four wonderful parents have offered their services so far! Special thanks to them. Please have a think about it. We need at least 8.

If you are interested in any of the positions please can you complete the response sheet at the end of this newsletter and return it to the preschool. Thank you!

Regular parent helpers are required to have an appropriate DCSI Criminal History check and complete the Volunteer Training.
All parents are invited to the **LOXTON PRESCHOOL CENTRE GOVERNING COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held on **Thursday February 21st, 7:30pm at the preschool.**

Come along and hear points of interest about the preschool and highlights of the year. Enjoy supper and getting to know staff and parents.

Your attendance will be greatly appreciated and valued.

(You will not be asked to go on this year’s committee unless you so desire. Relax! You are quite safe!!)

Please be continually vigilant to regularly check your child’s hair for head lice. These pesky things are very contagious and difficult to control and eliminate. In the event of finding some please do not send your child to preschool until they have been treated with the appropriate medication in order to prevent them spreading to someone else. Treatment needs to be followed up regularly to completely eradicate them.

Thankyou to all families who have returned the Parent Questionnaire regarding your child’s interests, strengths and abilities that you would have received earlier in the week. If you have not returned your child’s as yet please could you do so by the end of next week. The information you provide us will ensure that we are better able to achieve the best outcomes for you and your family. Thankyou very much!

A reminder that parents are asked not to park by the rear of the St John’s Ambulance building due to it restricting the movement of the ambulances. Please park on the other side of the CWA building when bringing and collecting your children and use the walking track in front of the car parking area for safety.
**CHILD ILLNESS**

Please refer to pages 28-32 of our Parent Handbook for the recommended exclusion periods from preschool for various illnesses. Two common examples are:-

1. Diarrhoea—exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours

2. Gastroenteritis (vomiting) - exclude until no vomiting for 24 hours

Following these guidelines is important to reduce the risk of the spread of the diseases and to protect each other.

We ask you also to notify the preschool if your child has an infectious disease so we can anonymously notify others.

**GRANDPARENTS/PARENTS/ SPECIAL FRIENDS AFTERNOON**

On Tuesday March 12th and Wednesday March 13th, depending on which day your child attends preschool, we will be holding Grandparents, Parents, Special Friends Day at preschool between 1:30pm and 3:00pm. Afternoon tea will be available. Guests will be able to join in with the children’s activities and have great 3-4 year old fun!!!

Please invite your families along to share this time with your children.

We look forward to having you visit!

We will require some parent help on the day so if you are available please let me know! Many thanks!

I apologise for the length of this newsletter and would like to reassure you that they are not usually this long! I just seemed to have a great deal of information to share with you. I hope you have managed to endure it to the end.

Thankyou for the privilege of being able to be involved in the education of your child. I look forward to working together with you. I also look forward to your company at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday February 21st.

All the best,

Mandy James
Director
Please complete and return to the preschool

NAME ____________________________________________________

GOVERNING COUNCIL

I am interested in nominating to go on Governing Council for 2019.   Y/N

FUND RAISING

I am interested in helping with Fund Raising this year.   Y/N

HELP!!

I would like to be involved with helping out during session time/s.   Y/N

Time available___________________

I am willing to complete handyman jobs at the Centre.      Y/N

I am willing to complete jobs at home, eg cutting out, book covering   Y/N

I am willing to use the kitchen facilities to enable small groups of children to cook. Y/N

Comments

Eg times that suit, frequency, etc

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________