Don’t forget:

Annual General Meeting
Monday, 29th February
7.00pm - at preschool
Come along and show your support for your child’s preschool.
Join the Governing Council - this is your opportunity to have a say in matters relating to the Preschool!
Also Cristy Hart will talk about,
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S LANGUAGE & EARLY LITERACY SKILLS
The AGM is for adults only
“...I have had the pleasure of being on the Governing Council and have felt very involved”
Parent comment Parent Survey

Please remember to pack only fruit, vegetables, yoghurt or cheese for snack time.

At kindergarten:
We have been talking about insects recently. At small group time we looked at our spiny leaf insects and made some observational drawings. We discovered that insects have 6 legs, 2 antennae and 3 body parts (head, thorax and abdomen). Hopefully we will also shortly have some Monarch Butterfly caterpillars to observe. We have also discussed the bees currently in our Pepper Tree including wearing shoes when not in the sand pit. There have also been mosquitoes around. If your child is sensitive to mosquito bites you might like to use some insect repellent before they come to preschool.
Please see the final page of this newsletter for a summary of our plans for this term.
On the noticeboard in the kangaroo group area we have put up a display about how we plan for and support your child’s learning with some examples from last year. Educators are happy to discuss this with you if you would like more information.

We have been given some buttons and would like to use them in a creative numeracy activity. If anyone else has any buttons please bring them in to preschool.
Fundraising News:
We are raising funds to replace the slide landing pad.

Garden Express Bulbs to plant in your garden in autumn for a beautiful Spring display.
Order forms are included with this newsletter.
Please ask your friends, neighbours etc. They might like some bulbs too.

Community Dollars Program
Drakes Supermarkets of SA are offering community groups a fundraising opportunity through the use of a bar coded key tag. For every $2 spent with your Community Dollars Tag Drakes will donate 1c to the preschool. Every time you make a purchase at any Drakes Supermarket in SA and swipe your Tag the preschool will benefit. Key tags are available at preschool if you are interested in participating.

From 1st April we will have paper tickets for sale for the People’s Choice Community Lottery. Online ticket sales have also now commenced until 31st March. Tickets are $2 and the preschool will receive 100% the proceeds. This lottery has hundreds of great prizes, including cars and is an excellent fundraiser for the preschool. There is also an early bird prize for people buying online - a Hyundai Accent Auto valued at $18,296. To purchase online tickets go to People’s Choice Community Lottery and enter Salisbury Heights Preschool.

Preschool Health Checks:
Child and Family Health services offer free child health checks at key stages between birth and 5 years. This includes during a child’s preschool year. The health check at preschool involves a discussion with Parents about your child’s growth and development, immunization status and will also assess your child’s distance vision, hearing, height and weight and oral health. The appointments are arranged through the preschool and are held in the Out of School Hours Care Room at Salisbury Heights Primary School. There will be a day set aside each term. We will offer appointments to the oldest children first and work through to ensure everyone is included by the end of the year. The first day will be Tuesday, 22nd March and information will be given to the parents of children included in this first round. If your child has already had their check-up please let us know.

Rosie and Morris love to visit for a sleepover or a weekend. If your child would like to take Rosie or Morris home for a visit, please write their name on the list on the grey cupboard in the block area. You might like to mark the date on your calendar at home. This will help your child work out when they are coming to stay, how long they are staying, etc. Tuesday/Thursday children can take Morris this term and Monday/Wednesday children can take Rosie this term. We will swap around for next term. When it is your child’s turn to take Rosie or Morris home, you will need to pack their bag. You can choose the clothes they will need from their drawers. While doing this you could discuss what you will be doing, what clothes they might need, etc. Rosie and Morris also have a diary in their bags. With your child you are welcome to write or draw something about their stay at your house. As well as having fun, these activities will promote language and communication skills, including literacy development.

In situations where Parents are separated we are happy to provide a second newsletter either in the communication pocket or by email. Just let Phil know if you would like to do this.
As part of our Sun Safe Policy children are encouraged to wear appropriate sun protective clothing eg clothes with sleeves, collars, longer style shorts/skirts etc. Children with inappropriate clothing (eg singlet tops or sleeveless dress) will be able to borrow a t-shirt from the preschool or play inside.

Don’t forget to notify us of any changes to your contact details – phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, relevant health information. Please note that we are unable to administer non-prescription medication. Please do not leave younger children in your car while dropping off preschool children. This is very dangerous. A passerby reported that a child was left unattended in a car out the front of preschool this week.
At kindergarten - Term 1

Playing and Learning to Socialize Program (PALS): This is our special social skills program. PALS links with and enhances our everyday self and social development learning area. PALS “is designed to help young children develop a range of social behaviours that will help them develop friendships and get along with others.” Through the use of storytelling, songs, games, role play, video stories and activities the children will be able to further develop their skills in these important areas. The program consists of 10 small group sessions, each focusing on a particular skill. One skill will build on another so that the program gradually progresses to the more complex skills required for competent social interaction. This term the sessions are:

- Greeting others
- Taking turns: talking and listening
- Taking turns at play
- Sharing

Information will be sent home as we explore each of these skills with the children. The information sheets will also contain suggestions for how you can help your child develop each skill at home. Like learning to walk and talk, learning social skills takes time and practice. Your support and encouragement will help your child learn more.

Keeping Safe - Child Protection Curriculum

The child protection curriculum is predicated on two main themes which are presented through topics and activities appropriate to the age of the children.

Theme 1: We all have the right to be safe

Theme 2: We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust

This program also links with our general curriculum and with the PALS Program.

This term we will look at the focus area of relationships. This will include spending some time talking about, reading stories and participating in activities related to:

- Identity (who am I) and Relationships (my family, my friends, people who help us)
- Fair and unfair (playing together, sharing, taking turns, dealing with issues appropriately eg 'using our words', asking for help).

Numeracy is about: Mathematical skills, knowledge and language
- Applying this knowledge - making connections between this information and real life situations
- Having a positive attitude and confidence in your ability to use this information

There are 3 curriculum areas of mathematical skills, knowledge and language - number & algebra, statistics & probability and measurement and geometry.

This term our focus will algebra, in particular pattern - sorting and classifying familiar objects, explaining reasons for these classifications and copy, continue and create patterns.

Literacy including oral language: The children participate in 2 daily small group literacy experiences (story group times). These group times are planned around a book with opportunities for the children to listen to and enjoy the story, as well as participate in follow-up discussions and activities. Our literacy bench by the kitchen and book areas provide further opportunities for the children to participate in a range of book based learning activities.

This term our shared literacy experience will be the ME Basket. Each child will have a turn to take a ME basket home to gather some special items to bring back to preschool to talk about and show in their small group. This oral language experience will also link with the Keeping Safe areas of identity and relationships. More details will be available shortly.

The visit by Sue Harris Puppets later in the term will also provide further opportunities to develop oral language skills. In the next few weeks we will discuss with the children which puppet show they would like to see - Dinosaur discovery, Up the creek, Aussie adventures or Body parts.

Creative/imaginative table: After lunch we set up an area with a range of open-ended materials around a theme on the blue tables (eg this fortnight we have dinosaurs, logs, pebbles, bushes, grass, pieces of material). The children are able to engage in imaginative play either individually or with friends. Using imagination/creativity in play uses the same area of the brain as reading as you are using symbols to represent things.

Don’t forget to check the Program noticeboard for fortnightly information about these and other learning experiences planned for the children.

All early childhood services are expected to meet National Quality Standards under 7 areas – Educational program and practice, Children’s health and safety, Physical environment, Staffing arrangements, Relationships with children, Partnerships with families and communities and Leadership and service management. Gradually since 2011 early childhood services have been assessed and rated against these standards. We have received notification that we will have a visit from an assessor in the next few weeks. As yet we have not been advised of the date.

The updated copy of our Quality Improvement Plan is on our website. There are also copies in our Policy Folders in the Parent Library. For more information about the Standards, there are some posters on the wall on the verandah.