



## Coromandel Valley Kindergarten

9 Sean Court, Coromandel Valley SA 5051

Ph: 8270 2964 Fax: 8270 6105

Email: [dl.3622.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.3622.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

Website: [www.corovalleykgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.corovalleykgn.sa.edu.au)

Director: Jen Melta

**Newsletter # 3 March 2019**

### Diary Dates

#### Term 1:

- ILP meetings Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- Easter Raffle – see flyer

#### Term 2:

- Family Portrait Fundraiser – Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> – please EFT \$15.00 to Kindy before this date
- Annual General Meeting – Cancer Council Presentation – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 4.30pm to 6.30pm
- Kindy Photos Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the morning
- Excursion Wild Imagination and picnic lunch Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June

### Take Home Curriculum

Unfortunately we have to suspend the Everywhere Bear and Maths Monster take home packs and the literacy packs until they have been thoroughly cleaned. These are celebrated parts of our week with the children. Every child anticipates their turn to take home the Everywhere Bear or the Maths Monster to share with their family. Recently a family opened the Math Monster pack and it contained bread / cake crumbs and pet hairs. Quite a worry for this family who have a child with severe allergies!

When the packs are reintroduced in term 2 we ask that you take great care to make sure the pack comes back clean and free of food scraps and pet hairs.

### Downloads:

There are two downloads attached to the newsletter – one for the Easter raffle fundraiser and one for the Eden Hills Kindergarten garage sale.

## Curriculum News

We have a strong commitment to supporting all children in developing the skills and attitudes to support lifelong learning. In conjunction with the Mitcham Hills Partnerships Kindergartens and Schools we are participating in a **Professional Learning Community (PLC)** working together to develop a better understanding of each other's teaching practices and philosophies. Our focus this year is literacy and we are looking at "mark making" in the early years. Our goal is to provide agreed understanding and continuity of learning across the kindergarten and reception years of teaching. Mark making is a description of children's early attempts at writing, coding and decoding. It may be random alphabet letters and numbers, drawings and squiggles. What seems meaningless to you and I is your child's beginning understanding of reading and writing.

We often notice children have brought back Everywhere Bear and Maths Monster with beautifully written reports, words and pictures by a parent or older sibling. Usually when it comes to sharing this work the child has no idea what it says or is about because it is not their writing, not their thoughts and not their work. Research shows that the **process** of mark making has a profound and deep impact on children's short and long term memory and their understanding of how coding and decoding language works. The **production** of neat, correctly written material and pictures that have not been produced by the child hold little short term memory and no long term memory or understanding of literacy concepts. This concept is commonly described by educators as **product V process** and is generally discussed in terms of a parents desire for neat, correct recognisable work product and a lesser value placed on the scribbles, jottings and less ordered attempts young children's mark making produce. Educators on the other hand place great value in young children's mark making and understand the very limited value of adult produced work in terms of a child developing literacy concepts.

**At the children's sign it table** / we now have different fine motor skill activities for each child to attempt in the morning. The teachers will be working with their focus children to develop phonetic awareness and pencil / writing skills. Our current focus is on letter name and letter sound. These takes time and is very individual for each child – and are usually skills and concepts to be practiced well into reception year.

**Numeracy** is built into much of what we do on a daily basis. We notice patterns in the everyday environment, children look at UV charts and read the level, count how many friends are here today, notice what time of the day it is, make choices about where to stand in a line, measure and estimate, shape and fit objects together on a daily basis. Our focus this term and term 2 is on patterning and learning the rules of patterns and how to describe and record a pattern

**Well Being** is an ongoing part of the curriculum each day. You may have noticed our anti bullying / Harmony Day wall displaying practiced concepts of:

The Way to A, Bullying no way!, Harmony and friendship at Kindy.

We talk about and encourage inclusive behaviours, non-violent problem solving, the difference between tools and weapons, looking after the Kindy environments and cooperation and respect. If your child has not yet completed their **family page** could you please take the time in your busy days to finish this and return it to Kindy as it becomes a big book about everyone belonging.

### **Building Relationships -Individual Learning Plans (ILP)**

Please look out for a note in your family pocket from your child's focus teacher offering you a time to visit and discuss their progress and learning goals at Kindy **(ILP)**. You will have the option of a 10 minute conversation at the Kindy or over the phone. If you need more time to discuss your child, we invite you to make a follow up meeting time with the teacher. The dates are all in early April.

**Playgroup** has begun with five families and 6 children attending. You are welcome to join us on Friday 9am to 11am Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April. Playgroup will then take a break for the school holidays and resume on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July. Please bring \$3.00 and a piece of fruit to share.