Welcome to Kindergarten 😊 This overview provides information about the teaching and learning programs for this term. Newsletter items and the school website will provide additional information about classroom and whole school experiences.

This year we welcome Sharron Wynn to Kindergarten. Sharron will work with the children on Thursdays in the areas of science and technology. I look forward to meeting with you during our ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews.

**-Kindergarten routines-**

**Fruit** - is shared by the children every morning. A basket is set up out the front of the classroom for fruit to be collected. A sign up page is available on the Kindergarten noticeboard where you can volunteer to cut the children’s fruit. Your help is greatly appreciated 😊

**Late arrivals** – Please sign your child in at the front office if they arrive at school after 9.00am.

**Library** - Kindergarten children will visit the Co-op school library weekly (Friday) to select, borrow and return books. Children can borrow up to four books at a time. Books need to travel to and from home in a library bag.

**Home reading** – All children will receive a Co-op School Reading Log. These will be collected on Fridays.

**Parent helpers** – All volunteers are required to sign in on the Kindergarten Volunteers book. Regular parent volunteers need to be registered for a Working with Vulnerable People card. The school can provide the relevant forms for you to complete and take to an ACT shopfront.

**-Investigations-**

Investigations run as a core part of the Kindergarten program where children engage in open ended play experiences that support the development of social, emotional, fine motor, creative and cognitive skills. The children’s interests in areas such as science, history and the arts are used to guide the experiences offered. English and mathematics skills are also drawn upon during this time. We aim to focus on social skills, problem solving, creative thinking, negotiation, accountability and self-regulation. Over the course of the term each child will have several opportunities to take on the role of reporter and focus child.

**-English-**

**Reading** - A weekly focus text is selected for shared viewing and reading. The text is used to explicitly teach print, grammar and reading concepts, as well as provide a meaningful a context for writing. High frequency words and letter sounds are introduced through the use of the focus text and used during reading and writing sessions.

Small group reading will take place on a daily basis. During this time the teacher works to target the specific needs of each child. At this early stage, areas of focus include; letter and sound knowledge, high frequency word recognition, reading the pictures and maintaining one to one correspondence between words printed on the page and spoken word.

**Writing** - Children are provided opportunities to write for a range of purposes across the curriculum. The children’s writing will be related to their own experiences and interests. Writing will be integrated with the teaching of science, history and geography. Handwriting skills will be taught explicitly on a weekly basis. During this time we will focus on letters explored in weekly focus texts and work to achieve accurate formation.

**Oral language** - is a focus throughout the Kindergarten program. Children are supported to share ideas during classroom discussions, reflections of learning and within cooperative learning groups. Focus skills include turn taking, using active listening behaviours and speaking clearly.

**-Humanities and Social Sciences-**

This term Kindergarten will investigate their personal and family histories. The children will begin by thinking about themselves and what makes them unique. They will find out about the people in their families and how they are related. This unit of work will be integrated throughout the Kindergarten program.
Mathematics sessions are structured to incorporate explicit teaching and give opportunities to implement new learning. During lessons, the children work independently as well as in small groups, using a range of different materials in order to build an understanding of a range of concepts. Children will be encouraged to make connections through their learning and reflect on their work. This term we will focus on the following:

**Number and Algebra**
- Recognising, naming and modeling numbers 0-10
- Counting forwards and backwards
- Subitising small collections of objects
- Sorting and classifying familiar objects
- Copying, continuing and creating patterns

**Measurement and Geometry**
- Naming and ordering days of the week
- Connecting the days of the week to familiar events and actions
- Sorting and describing familiar 2D and 3D shapes

**Statistics and Probability**
- Asking and responding to yes/no questions
- Collecting and representing data using simple displays

Science:
This term Kindergarten will investigate what they think they know about living things and their basic needs such as food and water. Through hands on, shared experiences children will discover what plants need to survive by investigating the growth of plants under different conditions. They will take a close look at the parts of a plant and discover how plants use water. The children will become frequent users of terms such as predict, observe and investigate when reporting back to their peers.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT):
Children engage in learning through the use of iPads to find out, record and present findings. Open ended applications such as PicCollage, Book Creator and iMovie provide tools for leaning across all curriculum areas. Children will use the interactive plasma to engage with online learning experiences.

Health and Physical Education:
P.E Sessions - Development of fundamental movement skills is achieved through whole class and small group games and activities. Children will be encouraged to play fairly, accept game consequences, cooperate and persist with challenging experiences. This term we will focus on activities to support development of running.

Bluearth - Ross Dennis will join us weekly. During this time we will work on different forms of movement with a focus on mindfulness. Movement and mindfulness will be fostered to develop a sense of self, build confidence and improve resilience and cognitive abilities.

Social and Emotional Learning – Five key areas will be covered in the Kindergarten program: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and social decision making. These are promoted through role-play, circle time, literature and explicit teaching.

The Arts:
Visual Arts - Children will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with a variety of art techniques using various materials, technologies and processes. This will include using paint, charcoal, ink, wool, various paper materials and natural materials. After each session the students will be encouraged to reflect on their ‘masterpieces’ both in a sharing circle and in their own personal reflection journal using De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats as a guide. Through visual arts students will engage in a journey of discovery, experimentation and problem solving.

Singing - Music Engagement Program - Community and in class singing.

Reading at home:
I encourage the children read daily at home. Reading with someone, reading to someone and being read to are important to children’s reading development. It is beneficial for children to talk about what they read, ask questions, clarify meaning and make links to other texts and experiences.