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TERM 4 2011 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone!

Yes we have to say it – well done to the All Blacks!!! And for those of you who were there for the opening ceremony or walked the fan trail or went to a game or experienced the wonderful victory parade and so on, well what can we say? We have been part of history and what a privilege it has been to witness this. Perhaps one of our Trinity children will remember this amazing event and will be inspired to be an All Black one day! You never know! So we return to Kindy, very happy and very proud of our little country and ready to start another term. Welcome back everyone, to the last term of this year. Can you believe that we will be talking about Christmas and preparing ourselves for the end of another great year at Trinity.

Welcome Engela

At last we can welcome our new head teacher, Engela Nel. She brings to our team great experience with transition to school programmes and curriculum development. She is passionate about teaching and is ready to add her special skills to our team. She is joining us at the busiest time of the year so she will be thrown into all sorts of interesting situations such as arranging help lists, practising the Nativity, Grandparents' Week and so on! We are sure she will have a great time.

Welcome to our new families

Thank you to all our new families for choosing to send your children to our Kindy. We hope that you will have very positive and happy experiences as part of our Trinity family. We look forward to getting to know you and your children. We would like you to know that we have an open door policy. This means you are welcome to chat with us any time. We are happy to chat with you at drop off or pick up times, or we could make a time to see you during one of our non-contact afternoons. Please see Lynette and she will book a time for you. We also welcome emails and phone calls. We are here to work in partnership with you and we want you to know that you are very important to us.

New uniforms

You will notice that we have new shirts as part of our uniform but we won't all be wearing them at the same time. For various reasons we are phasing in the new shirts. It is our intention for all the teachers to have full sets next year and for the old ones to be replaced. For now you will see a combination of the old shirts and the new shirts.

Rising Stars – transition to school programme

Lynette will be starting the Rising Stars programme this term. This time we start with Flight and Technology which means we are focusing on anything mechanical that flies. If you have anything that you would like to contribute to this programme, please let your Rising Star bring it in. Of course, we will be incorporating numeracy and literacy learning as well as discussing the technology behind flying. At least that is the plan. Who knows where the children will lead us? We are aware of a few children who will be very interested in anything to do with flight so we are expecting them to have their own questions to investigate. And of course, we have to start the rehearsals for the Nativity!!! Engela will be assisting Lynette at Rising Stars during the next two weeks.

Enrolment details

Please, please, please let us know if any of your details have changed so that we can update your child's enrolment form. If you have changed your phone number, email address, persons who will be picking your child up from Kindy, home address etc please see Lynette. You can also email the changed details to us. The same applies to any other changes such as asthma and allergies which need to be recorded in the medical documents. This is so important.

Birthdays

Birthdays will be celebrated at Kindy with a play dough cake and a happy birthday song at story times. It's a bit different for those children who are leaving us to go to school. We have the same tradition for their 5th birthdays but these children also have a special goodbye ceremony. There are 9 children leaving us this term. If you have a school leaver, please book the date you would like for your child's leaving ceremony. The first date has already been booked so please see Lynette as soon as possible. A reminder that if your child would like to give individual leaving gifts to the children, please no food including lollies (allergies) and no balloons (choking hazards). If you are unsure of what to do, please ask Lynette or one of the teachers and we can give you suggestions for gift ideas. We would like you to know that this isn't expected but we appreciate anything you would like to give either the children or the Kindy.

Dates to remember

25th October (Tuesday) – term starts

26th October (Wednesday) – Vision and Hearing checks for 4 year olds. See Lynette for a form if your child hasn't been checked. These checks are done on average once a term so don't panic if your child misses this date.

4th November (Friday) – Lynette is away on a course.

10th & 11th November (Thursday and Friday) – Grandparents' Days but if grandparents can't make it on these days or your child doesn't attend the Friday session, grandparents are welcome to come any day from 7th October to 11th November. We promise lots of fun at Kindy that you can't have anywhere else!

14th November to 2nd December – Debbie Marson will be away on practicum at another centre.

9th December (Friday) – The Nativity concert at the Church. This will involve all Monday, Wednesday, Friday children, as well as the Rising Stars who will be acting out the Nativity story. Details will be given closer to the time. The Tuesday and Thursday children are a bit too young to be up in front with 200 people watching so their turn will come round fast enough at the end of next year. We will need LOTS of parent help PLEASE. Help lists will go up soon.

16th December (Friday) – Christmas party for all the children and last day of term. Lots of help needed for this day too. This list will be up soon.

31st January (Tuesday) – Term 1 and a new year begins!

The Nativity and Christmas party

As mentioned, we will be needing lots of helpers for this including setting out food for the shared meal, setting up the Nativity scene, shopping for presents for Santa to give the children, wrapping the presents and much, much more. We rely on parent help to make both the Nativity and the party successful. We can't express enough how much we appreciate your support. We will be putting out lists very soon so that you can add your names if you are able to help. Once again, we really, really appreciate anything that you can do and we thank you in advance.

Parent help

We will be including requests for "regular" parent help via emails. This is the best way to do ask for help because there will be enough lists up at the Kindy for the Nativity and the party. To kick start email requests, here is the list of what we would like help with for now:

- Who would like to be our weekly play dough maker? One of our mums volunteered to make play dough at home every week but she has left because her child has gone to school. So we are looking for someone who would like to take over this very important job which can be done either at home or Kindy – ingredients and recipe supplied.
- Who would like to help preserve our mural? We have had recent issues with intruders into the Kindy. We would like to clean and graffiti guard the beautiful mural that we love so much, just in case the intruders decide to damage it. Can you help? Jacq will be leading this team.
- Who would like to paint the outside fence? You may have noticed that we have repaired the fence and because of the two different coloured woods, we think it would look better if it were painted.
- From time to time we need our shelves dusted, pencils sorted and sharpened, and tables/chairs/benches cleaned. Let us know if this is your thing!

It is always useful to know if you have any hidden talents that we could use so if you think of a skill that may help us out, please let us know. Please email us if you are able to help with any of the above or you would like to help with something in particular. Thank you.

Things to remember

A few reminders:

- Please check that your child has at least one full set of clothes to change into. Water play will be happening this term as soon as the weather is hot enough. That often means the need to change out of wet or muddy clothes. If your child is a huge water/mud fan, please put in more than one set of clothes. Thank you!
- Summer is here (maybe not quite but almost!) so please put sunscreen on your child before Kindy. If you forget, there will be sunscreen available in the bathroom.
- Let's get into the routine of wearing hats. Please ensure that your child either wears a hat to Kindy (that is preferable) or has one in the Kindy bag.
- Please supply healthy teas for your child with two or three choices. Please no lollies, yoghurts, fizzy drinks etc. Also please don't use cling wrap as this is a choking hazard.
- Please "test" that your child's lunch box and water bottle is easy for your child to use. This will help develop self-help skills and independence.
- If your child is leaving for school this term or early next term, as mentioned before please speak to Lynette about arranging the dates for the "good-bye ceremony" and your child's last day at Kindy. Also remember to ask for a tax receipt before your child leaves.
- Our usual hygiene precautions will remain to help keep germs from spreading. We ask that you keep your children at home if there any signs of high temperatures, "green" noses, vomiting,

diarrhoea etc. Please remember your child can only return 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

- A reminder that it is important you pick up your children on time as we are licensed to have children at specified times. This is particularly important on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as we have a very short one hour to tidy up, prepare for the afternoon session for the Rising Stars, as well as eat our lunch.

Fee reminders

Here are the usual reminders:

- Fee envelopes are in your child's pocket in the morning tearoom. **Always return** your envelopes with payment details every time, indicating which method of payment is being used, i.e. cash, cheque, internet banking. The envelopes are the Kindy's hard copy records and are very important. There were several payments made without envelopes last term and that means Jacq had to recalculate some of the fees. Please help us with this so we don't have to redo calculations. This is a very short term of 8 weeks with so much to do so we would appreciate all envelopes being returned. Thank you.
- Please use internet banking for lump sum payments only. Please include your child's name as the reference when making the payment. This makes it so much easier to reconcile the deposits made.
- Please keep up to date with regular payments. If fees are more than two weeks behind, reminders will be sent out. This ensures that the cash flow is sufficient to run the Kindy.
- Please put fee envelopes in the black box behind the blue couch in the teaching room.
- If you would like to query or talk about your fees, please see Lynette.

So here we go. The last term of the year and already jam packed with lots of events and exciting things happening. Eight weeks will go past very quickly and before you know it, we will be celebrating Christmas and enjoying the long summer break. We look forward to sharing this term with you all!

From

Lynette, Engela, Tania, Deb, Yolanda and Debbie

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