Kindy Fees
REMINDER!

We have 40% of Term 1 kindy fees outstanding. If you haven’t already paid please do so in the next week.

Fees are important in ensuring that we provide the highest possible early education for children. We use fees to purchase high quality materials and resources for your child.

What’s been happening at kindy?

What’s in a Name project
As part of our work around developing a strong sense of identity, all children have been involved in this project about how they came to be named.

Having a name is one of the rights of a child stated by the United Nations. But what’s in a name? A child’s name identifies who they are for now and possibly for the rest of their life. It gives them a unique place in the world and signifies a ‘belonging’ to a family and often a culture. We can’t know what each child’s future holds, nor who they will become, but each child will carry their special name into those futures.

This project is an opportunity for you to share with your child how you came to decide upon their special name. Children have been busily drawing their self-portrait and writing their name to be included with your story into a book (which should be out on display later this week).

Spanish Language program
The focus this term in our Spanish language program has been colours. Through games such as The Kindy Train and colour bingo and through stories such as Brown Bear and The Green Sheep, children have been learning:

- Red ….. Roja
- Blue ….. Azul
- Yellow ….. Amarillo
- Green ….. Verde
- White ….. Blanco
- Orange ….. Naranjo
- Pink ….. Rosado

My Kitchen Rules
Each Friday kindy turns into a Master-chef kitchen and children have the opportunity to help cook healthy foods and snacks. So far this term we have been using produce from our vegetable garden to make dips and sauces. Cooking at kindy gives children the opportunity to learn about healthy food choices from educators and other children. It is also an opportunity to reinforce the importance of handwashing and develop skills such as using a knife safely. If you would like to come along and get involved in these cooking activities, please let us know—we would love some new recipes and extra hands!!!

Workshops
Each week we offer children the opportunity to sign up for a workshop that focuses on particular skills and knowledge. These workshops are based upon children’s interests and needs, children’s suggestions, or particular events. So far this term we have held a number of workshops for the children including:

- Block building—how to design and build a construction using small and large blocks
- Rhyming—how to recognise words that rhyme and matching rhyming objects
- Painting—the process for undertaking an easel painting
- Mask making—cutting and decorating a mask
- Drawing—how to draw a self-portrait
- Music—making musical instruments

Sun Safety
Staff have been explicitly teaching children how to apply sunscreen before going to play after lunch. This is a life skill that children will need and they have taken it on with great enthusiasm.

For more information about our Skin Protection Policy and other sun-smart practices please check out our website: www.roxbykgn.sa.edu.au

Visit from Macca the Bilby
Macca the Bilby from Arid Recovery is visiting this week to lead the children on an Easter Egg Hunt!
Dispositions for Learning

Dispositions are attitudes for life. They describe how we usually respond to situations—a bit like a ‘default button’. We might be shy or outgoing, enthusiastic or pessimistic, energetic or passive.

At kindergarten we want to build and reinforce positive dispositions that are the foundation for successful learning. Dispositions such as curiosity, co-operation, creativity, persistence, resilience, courage, confidence and enthusiasm for learning. Our aim is for every child to see themselves as not just a learner, but a successful learner.

In the curriculum we are looking for ways to strengthen the dispositions that support learning, and ways to change dispositions that are unhelpful to learning. For example, we have two puppet characters called ‘Persistent Pig’ and ‘Give-up Galah’ and now and then hold a puppet show about being persistent and finishing an activity rather than giving up and walking away.

When we write a learning story we are looking for what learning dispositions your child is displaying, and we include this into the story and into our planning. We also use the language of learning dispositions when we talk to children about their learning. We start to hear children saying things like, “I’m being persistent, I won’t give up”, etc.

Starting School?

Both of the schools in Roxby Downs have a transition program for children moving from kindergarten to school. Transition happens in the term prior to starting school and usually involves short visits to the school to meet their teacher and become familiar with the school routines. It is important that you enrol your child with the school or place your child’s name on their waiting list ... this way they will know how to contact you about the transition program.

It is also important to make sure that your child’s immunisations are up-to-date. From next term we will be helping to organise children’s preschool health checks. These health checks include children’s vision and hearing and are very important in making sure any health issues are picked up early before commencing school. These checks take place when children are at least 4 and a half years old.
At the recent Annual General Meeting a new Governing Council was elected. Although small at this stage, our first meeting was full of wonderful ideas and suggestions for improving our kindergarten and getting information to you about what happens here everyday! This year some of our priorities are: upgrading the kitchen area; developing a ‘mining area’ in the garden; holding another Wine & Cheese fundraising event; and meeting the National Quality Standard. We will be setting up an information board to keep you up-to-date with what's happening on the Governing Council.

Our Governing Council is:
- Chairperson: Nicole Montgomerie
- Vice Chairperson: Beth Elliott
- Secretary: Bec Eli
- Treasurer: Sharon Fielder
- Other members: Juanita Jensen, Samantha Platten, Terri Grantham, Renee Johnson, Christine Doran, Adam Christie, Daina Mignon and Kerryn Jones.

If you would like to become a member or have ideas or just want to ‘help out’ come along and join in. We meet twice per term! Our next meeting is on Wednesday April 3rd at 6.30pm here at the kindergarten.

All kindergartens and child care centres in Australia have a National Quality Standard to work towards. The standard of quality is assessed by an independent assessor from the Registration and Standards Board of SA. Roxby Downs Kindergarten has been asked to submit our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) in mid-April and we will most likely be assessed mid next term. Currently we are updating our QIP based on input from families and staff. You can check out our current QIP on our website: www.roxbykgn.sa.edu.au

A copy of our new draft QIP will be out soon and we’d love your thoughts and input.

For carers of children Birth-18 years
Do you have concerns about your child’s:
- Talking
- Feeding
- Movement
- Interactions with other children
- Handwriting?

Drop in for a chat with Brianna (Speech pathologist), Claire (Physiotherapist) and Ruth (Occupational Therapist)

Friday 5th April (2-3pm)
Roxby Downs Health Services Seminar Room
Kindergarten DVD a hit!

On Friday 15th March the Brighter Futures consultation was held in Roxby Downs where children, families, local and regional staff from education, health, and community services came together to discuss new ways of working together that will provide better services for children and their families in Roxby Downs.

Here at Roxby Downs Kindergarten I asked some children what they think ‘the future’ is, what makes them happy, and what they think they might do and be when they’re bigger. Some of the responses were compiled (with the help of Travis Hague) into a short DVD which was shown at the Brighter Futures event so as to include 4 year old perspectives.

The Chief Executive of Education and Child Development, Keith Bartley, thought the DVD was a highlight of the day and commented on the importance of listening to young children’s voices and ideas. He later came to visit our kindergarten and meet staff members and was impressed by the quality of the service.

A follow-up event in Adelaide on Monday April 8th will focus on how to put the ideas collected from around the state into action. We’ll keep you posted on what it means for families in Roxby Downs.

Closure Day
The kindergarten will be closed on Thursday April 11th.
The reason for the closure is all staff will be attending training and development in Port Augusta. Over the past 12 months, we have been attending training with Wendy Lee from New Zealand on writing Learning Stories (see right) and learning dispositions.

What does learning look like at kindy?
At the heart of teaching and learning at Roxby Downs Kindergarten are Learning Stories. So what are learning stories and how do we use them? Educators use iPads to collect photos and information about the learning happening here at kindy on a daily basis. Each week educators compile this information into stories about individual children’s learning and progress. These stories simply retell what your child was involved in and what they may have said and done. The stories are then analysed to work out what learning dispositions (see over) we are seeing children develop and which of the learning outcomes each child is demonstrating.

From this information Adam, Kerryn and Daina plan the curriculum for the upcoming week. The curriculum includes what workshops will be happening, what experiences children can choose (inside the kindergarten, El Estudio and out in the garden), and what will happen in the meeting times during the day. In this way our curriculum responds to the questions, interests, wonderings, skills and knowledge of the children. We do not plan the curriculum for months ahead as this would mean that what is happening at kindergarten would have very little relevance to the children themselves.

Each child at kindergarten has a learning folder which is used to collect stories about children’s learning. When a new story is placed in your child’s folder, we place a learning alert in your note pocket. When you find a learning alert, please take some time to read through it with your child. You can find the folders near the sign in area (between the computers and lounge area). These folders will also include statements of learning that give an overview of your child’s progress throughout the year. At the end of your child’s time at kindergarten you will be given the folder to keep and to show your child’s reception teacher.