We have hit the ground running in 2016. It’s hard to believe we are at the end of first term!

With enrolments steadily on the increase across all rooms staff are busy planning and getting their programs and children’s routines embedded to ensure smooth sailing throughout each day.

What are our goals for 2016?

- Working on consistent staffing across all rooms
- Staff Professional Development
- Reviewing our Policies and Procedures
- Central Enrolments for Kindergarten with South Gippsland Shire
- Cluster Management Funding Application

Wil Pruyn, Centre Director

WORKING BEE

We have our first Working Bee for the year scheduled for the 14th of May from 9am 12pm. Jobs to be completed include, general yard tidy up, gutter cleaning, top up of sand and mulch, little maintenance jobs.

If you or your partner are handy on the tools we would love to get a few of our minor handyman jobs ticked off on the day.

FOSTER PARENTS GROUP

The Foster Parent Group are now active and meeting monthly which is great. Meeting times and dates are posted on our Facebook page every month – ALL WELCOME. Meetings will also be posted on the noticeboards out the front of the office.

There are some great fundraising initiatives planned for 2016 to support additional resources across all our rooms, so give them your support when you can!

KEY DATES FOR TERM ONE

25 - 28 March: Centre closed for Easter
1 May 2016: Central Enrolments open for 4 Year Kindergarten in 2017

2-6 May: Pink Week supporting Breast Cancer
14 May: Working Bee at Foster 9-12pm

ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL
THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT

With cooler weather just around the corner, a timely reminder to all families. If your child is UNWELL PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make alternative arrangements for them to rest and recover at home and do not bring them into the Centre.

At all times our staff undertake safe hygiene practices to help prevent and control spread of any illness. HOWEVER, it only takes one sick child interacting with another to spread illness within a room despite the best efforts of educators.

Your Sick Child = Sick/Absent Staff + Other Sick Children

Sick/Absent Staff = Rooms under staffing pressure, significantly impacts on the level of education and care service we strive to provide.

Sick Children = Unhappiness, tiredness, a need to rest and a desire to go home!

Staff are unable to control the spread of illness once it is in the Centre, despite their best efforts to implement hygiene and infection control measures.

PLEASE LEAVE THIS AT HOME !
THANKYOU !
**ROSELLA ROOM**

We have had a very busy term one with everyone getting to know one another. As a group we have enjoyed creating our Summer mural for display at the Foster show, a lot of the children were excited to share with each other what they had seen at the show.

We have enjoyed lots of water play outside, the children found running under the sprinkler was great. Thank you to the families that packed a rashy and board shorts for water play each day.

We have also been attempting some cooking experiences. The children were really enthusiastic about gathering the ripe apples from our apple tree, we made a really yummy apple crumble.

The children have shown a lot of interest in Australian native animals which has coincided well with a visit from the native Australian animal show 'Animals OZ'.

We have also shared with the children lots of the stories from our recent Scholastic Book Fair fundraiser, thank you to parents who purchased a book or two from the fair.

Wishing all of our families a safe and happy Easter, from the staff and children in Rosella room.

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**DOLPHIN ROOM**

It is so great to see so many new faces in the Dolphin Room.

We have been busy with Easter activities and spending as much time outside while the weather is nice and sunny.

We have enjoyed water play and playing with all our toys from the recent fundraising efforts.

The younger children are becoming more mobile and exploring their environment. As a result, they are keeping all staff on our toes. The older children are becoming really verbal so they are communicating meaningfully with staff and the other children.

Sensory Wednesday has been a highlight with goop, cloud dough, colored pasta, blue noodles to explore and play.

It is sometime challenging to know what to pack in lunchboxes, some ideas include: leftover dinner for lunch, wraps, quiches, muffins, zucchini slice, yoghurt, rice cakes, fruit, sultanas.

Remember to pack enough nappies for the day and hats still need required until the April.

We welcome your input into our Program and really value family consultation and feedback.

**Happy Easter from all the Dolphin Room Team.**
KOALA ROOM 3-5 PROGRAM

FRIDAYS with LOUISE and SANDRA

We have all been having a lovely time getting to know each other, we have many children who have come over from the Rosella room, everyone has settled in well.

We have observed friendships developing amongst our group, we have also noticed the children playing in small groups where the children are communicating and negotiating with each other to create role play games.

The children are taking more and more responsibility for themselves by remembering to wash their hands after toileting and before they eat, they are also becoming more responsible for their belongings, by placing their shoes in the shoe box and hats in their hat pocket when they take them off.

There has been lots of art and craft items made and these are placed in the hallway for pick up.

Just a reminder for the cooler months coming, could you please make sure you child has spare clothes, raincoats and even gumboots, as we like to go out in all weather, puddles can be fun for children, if dressed appropriately.

Thank you and please feel free to come and chat to me about your child, if you have any concerns.

In friendship- Louise, Sandra and Jamie.

KOALA ROOM 3-5 PROGRAM

THURSDAYS with KATE, ANJA, DENISE & LINDA

We have had a great start to the year getting to know all the children and their families. The children are settling into our routines and building relationships with their peers.

A few highlights from the term are the Wildlife incursion provided by ... , cooking a delicious apple pie, and our street walk excursion. A big thanks to our parent helpers who came on the street walk and made it such a valuable experience for the children, and helped to make it so enjoyable for all involved.

The children have enjoyed riding the bikes especially the bikes where more than one child can ride at a time, building with lots of different materials, playing cars, painting and trying lots of new and different activities.

We look forward to watching the children grow and develop over the year!

Kate, Denise & Anja
KOALA – 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

Term one is coming to a close and it has been a pleasure getting to know families and the children and to watch their relationships and confidence blossom over the course of the term.

It has been a wonderfully busy term, where we started off learning about the beach and it’s creatures through our art work, books and discussions. We also started the year learning the French language through songs and our morning greetings.

A general focus for the term has been about being healthy and what makes us healthy. We have cooked and reinforced healthy eating choices through ‘nude food’ which is something we hope you will promote at home and which will be ongoing at kinder.

Our regular morning yoga sessions also reinforce a healthy lifestyle and children and parents alike are enjoying these sessions.

Term two also promises to be a very interesting and exciting one. We have our ‘Responsible Pet Day’ and our ‘Teddy Bear Picnic’ to look forward to and with the change of seasons we will be learning about autumn and how the natural environment changes at this time.

The colder weather comes along with change of season and we ask that for term two, you ensure that your children bring a coat and gumboots which can be left in a plastic bag in their lockers to ensure they are suitably dressed. At our kinder there is never inappropriate weather, just inappropriate clothing.

Just a final reminder that a main source of contact ‘KEPTME’ is our way of staying in touch with you about your children, so please be sure you are all up to date with your app and are checking it regularly.

With thanks – Suzanne, Sharon & Bridget

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