Welcome to Kindergarten for 2015. This term we welcome all of our families and children who are starting for the first time. During the past two days the staff have been busy setting up kindy and we look forward to meeting you all next week. Our program for the next two weeks will be focusing on establishing routines, developing new friendships, talking about sun safety, snake safety, bushfire awareness and mandatory safety procedures and starting to discuss our term focus of “Our Identity”.

Angela, Hannah, Cher and I have had conversations about the program and the different learning experiences we will be providing this term. As a result we have some special events planned for this term. To keep up to date about the events please check the Diary Dates on the front page of each newsletter regularly. We will include additional information in the newsletter before the events take place with all the essential details. Please remember parents are most welcome to stay and join in kindergarten activities at any time.

**Family Picnic Tea**

Please join us Monday 9th February at 5.30pm with your family and a BYO Picnic Tea in the kindy grounds. This is a great way to meet the staff team and other families. This will be followed by a short Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm. The kindy needs parent participation in this vital council which works with me helping to manage the centre. No experience necessary just a desire to be involved, learn new skills, make new friends and have fun along the way.

**Term Fees**

Term fees are in your child’s notice pocket located in the locker room. We have created one invoice for the year but you are welcome to pay in 4 termly instalments. The preferred method of payment is through bank transfer with the details being on your invoice. Did you know that the kindy only receives approximately 40 cents per full day while your child is at kindy? This is why the fees are higher than school as we have to pay for the electricity, water, telephone, cleaner and everything else we use. The schools have these costs paid for by the government.

**What to do and remember for the first week of kindy**

All parents /carers are required to sign their child in and out. The sign in sheet is on the CREAM DESK as you walk in the main doors.

- Please help your child remember to bring the following items each time they come to kindy. Hat, children should have covered shoulders, wear sunscreen and bring a drink bottle with water and pieces of fruit for snack morning and afternoon. All items should be NAMED CLEARLY.
- Please put your child’s lunch box on the grey trolley in the locker room. Snack time foods are kept in your child’s bag to encourage independence, please do not put them in your child’s lunch box. Some children like to eat their fruit very early and want more before going home or lunchtime. Please ensure there are plenty of healthy food choices available for your child while they are at kindy. It is not unusual for children to eat more while at kindy.
Please do not send any NUT foods or foods containing nuts to kindy. We have several children who may have severe allergic reactions to these foods requiring emergency first aid. We thank you for your support in keeping all the children safe at kindy.

Please ensure only YOUR child leaves the kindy yard with you.

Have you moved or changed any phone numbers during the break? If so please update your details with Catriona as soon as possible.

If your child is sensitive to sunscreen please supply your own clearly named and give to a teacher.

Session Times
Full days 9.00am to 3.00pm
Morning 9.00 to 12 noon

The Staff Team 2015
Director Catriona Catt Mon—Fri
Teachers Angela Garrett Mon + Tues
Hannah Perry Wed + Thurs
ECW Cher Litchfield Mon—Thurs

Contacting the Staff
Sometimes arranging a chat can be tricky so please feel welcome to email the staff and they will get back to you.
dl.4667.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Reminder Bushfire Procedures 2015
When a Catastrophic Day is forecast we have a sign which will be locked on to the kindy gate. The kindy will be closed as will all other public schools in the hills area. You will receive a SMS message the day before to confirm the kindy is closed on a Catastrophic Day. This will mostly happen after 5pm the day before. Parents are asked to check the CFS web site and listen to ABC Radio 891 for up to date information. The kindy is open on EXTREME and SEVERE fire danger days. Parents are required to monitor local fire conditions on these days and activate their own bushfire survival plans.

Snows Road Traffic
Parking is an issue around kindy so please make sure you observe the yellow line markings on Snows Road and do not park on the foot path. I have been told this area is closely monitored by the Hills council and fines are given out. To ease some of the congestion parents are welcome to drop off a little later or collect their child earlier.

Literacy Kits
Literacy kits are located in the locker room and are available for borrowing on a daily basis. Please fill in your child's details in the Borrowing Book. If you find any pieces missing or damaged in the kits please let Kerry know so they can be fixed or replaced. Please ensure you check the kits for all parts/pieces and that they are clean before returning it. The borrowing time is a maximum of 1 week.

Playgroup is now on Friday 9.00am to 11.00am. All families are welcome and the cost is $5.00 per week. Please bring a piece of fruit for sharing.

Angela and Hannah facilitate the Playgroup.

TERM DATES 2015
27 Jan — 10 Apr
27 Apr — 3 Jul
20 July — 25 Sept
12 Oct — 11 Dec
Family Picnic Night and AGM

This year our Family Picnic Night will be held at kindy on Monday 9th February from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner for themselves and enjoy dining in the kindy grounds with other families and meet the staff team. Please include a picnic rug.

Parents are responsible for all their own children attending.

This will be followed by
A Short
Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm

The 2015 Staff Team

Catriona Catt
I am entering my 28th year at a Preschool Director. My teaching career spans from remote outback communities to mining towns to coastal rural towns to the city and I have been in the hills since 2003. Last year I was appointed to Stirling East Kindergarten for 10 years. Together the staff team worked with the Governing Council and families to make some great changes to the children’s learning environment. We have some great plans for this year so I am looking forward to working with you and your child in 2015. I am married to Paul and we have 4 children Kate 23, Matt 20, Stuart 19 and Nic 16. We live locally and I love the community spirit in the hills. I enjoy renovating, gardening, our 15 week old puppy, walking and pilates.

Angela Garrett
I have been a preschool teacher for many, many years now and have had the special pleasure of teaching at Stirling East Kindergarten for the past 4 years, with 2015 entering into my 5th. My time here has been extremely rewarding and flown by so quickly, with many changes along the way. I look forward to reconnecting with our wonderful returning families as well as getting to know our new families and the families that have attended our much loved playgroup over the past year. I don’t live too far away at Cherry Gardens and enjoy the lovely drive through the hills to work. I am married to Richard who is also a teacher and we have a 10 year old son called Thomas who will be in year 5 this year. I enjoy dabbling in creative art and craft activities and love camping and bushwalking with my family. I look forward to a wonderful year together in 2015.

Hannah Perry
I have been a preschool teacher in Australia and the UK for a number of years and have most recently been Director of a kindergarten for the last three years. After a very busy few years including having a baby of my own I am happy to change back to teaching for a while. My husband Ben and I have recently moved into the Hills and I am excited to be working and living in this community. I love yoga, the beach and playing outside with my now two year old son! I have a passion for nature play and am looking forward to working in the beautiful natural environment at Stirling East Kindergarten. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and your children this year at kindy.

Cher Litchfield
Hello, I am married to Mike and we have three children, Kristie 22, Cate 20 and Nathan 17. We live in Hahndorf and love being part of the hills community. I have worked in Early Childhood for 10 years, in kindergartens in the city and for the last three years in Mt. Barker and Meadows. When I have time I like to keep active with pilates, walk and visiting the many cafes and shops that are unique to the hills. I am very happy to be part of the staff here for Term 1 and look forward to getting to know you and your children.