



From the Management Committee

The committee meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 5.30pm at the centre. There are currently a few vacancies on the committee due to families moving interstate, finishing at the centre or changes in work and family circumstances.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee and/or you would like more information about the role please let Kate or Sophie know.

We are very keen to also add a new member who is able to hold the position of TREASURER on the committee as this position is currently vacant. We can also provide further information about this role if you think you might be able to help us out.

From the Director

It has been lovely to welcome several new families to the centre this term and we are delighted with how supportive the children have been in welcoming and inviting new children to join their play.

Arrival and Departure Times Outdoors

The staff team have been reflecting on the possibilities for play in the outdoor area, particularly at the beginning and end of each day in order to identify ways to better support children as they arrive at the centre and to identify ways to support their play at the end of the day when they are often quite tired. Staff have identified the different spaces in the garden that are available and trying out some of our current and some new resources to support their research.

I would love to hear your feedback on any changes you may have noticed already that have improved your experience at arrival or departure times and any areas of our practice in relation to arrival and departure that can be further improved.

Staffing

Congratulations to Sarah S (Room 34) and Amanda (Rm 34) who are both expecting babies in the New Year. Sarah will welcome her little one in March 2020 and Amanda will welcome her baby in April 2020. The committee and leadership group have commenced discussions to form a staffing strategy to provide continuity and support to all the children while Sarah and Amanda are on parental leave.



It is with sadness that I share with you Charity's resignation. Charity has been successful in gaining a position in a school based ELC and will commence there in January 2020. Charity commenced with us as a graduate in January 2016 and has been very proactive in building her professional knowledge and expertise over the past four years. Charity has used this expertise to provide leadership to the staff team, and in particular, to the teaching team to support them in planning and implementing high quality learning programs. We will miss her thoughtful ways and her organisational skills and wish her much success in her future career.

The Management Committee have approved a rigorous recruitment process which will commence from next week to secure a teacher for Room 2. The selection panel includes a parent member of the committee, a staff member who will be working alongside the new teacher and myself as the Director. We hope to finalise the appointment of the new teacher well before the end of the year and will keep you informed of the process and the appointments as quickly as possible.

The Room 2 Team has welcomed Chloe's contract appointment until the end of January in Room 2. Chloe has quickly become much loved by the Room 2 children and her appointment alongside Abi, Sarah and Jess, provides stability and continuity as we transition to a new teacher.

To support staff wellbeing and reduce stress and to respond to an increase in the number of children staying later in the day we have engaged Conni, one of our experienced and regular casual staff, to work each afternoon until 5.45. This will support us to maintain a calm and unhurried approach to the routines at the end of the day.

We previously shared with you about changes to staff teams in 2020. This included Teren moving to Room 1 and Alma moving to Room 34. To support the children over the summer period and throughout orientation or transitions we have planned for Teren and Alma to make this change mid-term this year. This means that from Week 5 beginning Monday 11th November, Teren will join Charity, Iwona and Sylvie in Room 1 and Alma will join Amanda, Andrea, Sarah and Cathy in Room 34.

[Bookings for 2020](#)



We still have a few vacancies in our 3 and 4 year old groups for 2020. If you have friends who may be looking for education and care programs for their three and four year olds please encourage them to contact us now. They can book a tour time through our website www.halifaxchildren.sa.edu.au

A message from Sophie

- > Centre closure Friday 20 Dec 2019 to Monday 6 January 2020.
- > If you plan to take extra holidays in January please email me.
- > Sign in pins can now be changed. Please see me, or any staff, if you would like to change your pin.

Reminder to Preschool families

If your child is booked into preschool please be aware that if you sign your child in before 8.15am or sign your child out after 3.45pm you will be charged a long day fee. This may mean you need to sign in as you are leaving the centre in the morning and sign out as you are arriving to collect your child.



Room 1

We've had a busy start to the term in Room 1. Welcome to Stephanie, David and Gabriel who have joined us this week. Gabriel has settled in seamlessly.

We have a Pre-service teacher - Caroline completing a university placement on Tuesdays and Fridays for the next 5 weeks before completing a two week block. Please introduce yourselves to Caroline if you see her in our room. This term we will continue our walks to the St Johns Church garden. Along with Room 2 we will be having some regular visits throughout the coming weeks to replant the garden, which we originally planted in Term 1. Over the course of the term we will be preparing the children who will be in Room 2 next year for their transition.





We have already started by removing the lids of the sippy cups and drinking from regular cups like the Room 2 children do. We will also start to spend more time in the big garden so the children can become even more familiar with the space and start to build connections with their new educators. We will continue to work a lot with loose parts and open-ended resources in our room and have already noticed some interest in trajectory play.



We will also be providing more pretend play materials to support the increased sophistication the children have been demonstrating in this area of learning. We are also so excited about Bede's family moving their florist business to Halifax Street and some of the children have already visited, delivering a letter welcoming them to the street.



<<< A very tired Jae and James



Room 2

A busy term to come in Room 2 as we begin new projects and continue to explore and enjoy those started in previous terms. In the next few coming weeks we will be undertaking a replant of our St John's Community Garden. Along with room 1 we will be taking four planned trips to the garden to turn over the soil and plant new seedlings for the children to explore in the

coming months. We would love parent volunteers to help, so please let Jess or one of the Room 2 team know if you are available. Please see the dates in the "Key Dates" section of this newsletter.



Over the course of the next term we will be exploring a project on movement and how our bodies move. Physical movement and gross motor exploration plays a key part in toddler development as they grow and learn the strengths and limits of their bodies. You can see more examples of the learning that this will encourage in our curriculum links attached.





Over the course of the next term we will also be commencing transitioning our older children into Rm 34. We have two transition days planned where the children will have the opportunity to explore and become more familiar with the Rm 34 spaces. The Rm 34 staff are also starting to interact more purposefully with the transitioning children and are beginning to get to know the Rm 2 children better in our shared play spaces.





Room 34

Well here we are... Term 4 already! We cannot believe it, where has the year gone? A big welcome to Akira, Arisha and Juneso - we love having new friends join our Room 34 family.

Term 4 is such a big time for pre-schoolers and a time where we see a lot of personal growth. We will be focusing on individual goals for the children this term, aiding them in developing those key self-help and regulation skills that will enable them to develop their independence. For those children starting school next term this is very important. How you can help your child is by encouraging them to carry their own bag in each day and pack their own belongings at the end of the day. While this may take more time than usual, it is a skill they are expected to have for school.

Over the term break Amanda and Andrea participated in some incredible professional development opportunities. This has heavily influenced the way they are planning and teaching this term. We have a large focus on Numeracy, in particularly recognising that we are all mathematicians that use maths every day to solve problems.

Outdoor yoga - a great way to start our day!



Exploring Literacy and Numeracy through our shop



Our phonics program will continue as we introduce the last remaining sounds of the alphabet. Name recognition and writing continue to be a core focus in our room.

Some projects we will be focusing on this term is the taste curriculum particularly the environment we create for the experience of taste and children's participation in the preparation of food. The garden will also be project focus recreating our garden space into an edible garden with children being able to see the process from seed through to the enjoyment of the food from our garden. Group 3 will be incorporating our French more naturally within our program using the community environment to extend our French vocabulary this term.

Our end of year celebration for Room 34 will be held at Marshmallow Park on Saturday 23rd of November between 10-12pm. We hope you can come and join us in celebration of your child's year at Halifax Street and say goodbye to our friends moving onto school next year.

French at Victoria
Park >>>



<<< Let's turn Amanda into a robot!



Reminders for families

- **A reminder for all families – If you will be arriving to the centre later than 10am please call to advise. This is to ensure your child will be accounted for at lunch time.**
- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before coming to the centre or on arrival each day. We reapply at fruit time and after lunch.
- As the warmer weather is upon us, it is helpful to have a few extra changes of clothes in your child's bag for after water play. Could you also please ensure the changes of clothing are weather appropriate.
- Could all families check their child's drink bottles to ensure they are clearly labelled.

Volunteers

There is now a new system in place to obtain your clearance to volunteer with children in educational settings, which is FREE of charge. For more information please speak with Kate.





Sustainability

After some recent feedback from parents and staff, we have been reflecting on our practices as a centre regarding sustainability. We are currently performing an audit of our policies and procedures in this regard. Following this, in the new year we will be sharing our findings with families and seeking feedback from parents in developing a centre plan for improving sustainable practice.

One area that has been brought to our attention is our use of plastic bags. Currently we use these bags to send home soiled or wet clothing items. These are single use plastic bags which are not great for our environment.

Moving forward we are inviting parents to provide a 'wet bag' that are reusable, waterproof material bags. Should you wish to assist us in minimising our use of single use plastic bags, below are a number of links where you can purchase a reusable, waterproof bag for your child's items. These bags will need to be kept in your child's childcare bags and brought with them to the centre each day. Please inform your room teacher if this is something you will be adopting so staff are aware.

<https://www.seedlingbaby.com.au/products/beach-bag/>

<https://www.kmart.com.au/product/swimwear-large-wet-bag/2408862>

<https://www.econaps.com.au/collections/wet-bags>

<https://www.bambooty.com.au/accessories/bambooty-wet-bags>

Room 34 are also making an effort to hang wet items to dry from play on our peg rack. While we will make every effort to have these placed back into bags at the end of the day, please help us by checking the drying rack for your child's item's when you collect them.



Diary Dates

Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	Room 1 and 2: Replant Visit to St John's Community Garden 9:30am Tuesday 29 th and Thursday 31 st of October
Week 4	Room 1 and 2: Replant Visit to St John's Community Garden 9:30am Wednesday 6 th and Friday 8 th of November
Week 5	
Week 6	Room 34: End of Year Family Event 10am Saturday November 23 rd
Week 7	Room 1 and Room 2: End of Year Family Event 10am Saturday November 30 th
Week 8	
Week 9	
Week 10	Centre closure 6pm Friday December 20 th – Opening Monday 6 th January at 7:45am

Contact Details

Kate Ryan - Director

kate.ryan986@schools.sa.edu.au

Sophie Scipioni - Administration

sophie.scipioni319@schools.sa.edu.au

Amanda Lee - Assistant Director / Room 34 Teacher

amanda.hickey318@schools.sa.edu.au

Andrea Gore - Room 34 Teacher

andrea.gore25@schools.sa.edu.au

Jess Stauss - Room 2 Teacher

jess.stauss87@schools.sa.edu.au

Charity Makris - Room 1 Teacher

charity.makris62@schools.sa.edu.au



Cooking with Julie and Indira

Each newsletter we will be bringing you a recipe from our amazing kitchen. This recipe has come highly requested as a favourite meals!

Chicken Biryani

Ingredients:

500g Basmati Rice

500g Chicken Mince

1 large Onion, finely chopped

1 Tomato, chopped

4 cloves of Garlic

1 pinch of Cumin Seeds

1 tsp Ginger paste

½ tsp Turmeric Powder

1 tsp Cumin Powder

1 large Potato, chopped into cubes

1 Carrot, chopped into cubes

½ tsp Salt

½ cup frozen Peas

½ cup frozen corn

2 tsp Oil



Optional Additions:

Fried onion

Coriander

Green Chilli

Method

1. Cook rice in rice cooker
2. Heat oil in a big saucepan. Add oil and cumin seeds. When it starts popping add garlic and onion. Cook until soft.
3. Add chicken, ginger paste and all spices. Add tomatoes and salt – cook until chicken's colour changes.
4. Add potato and carrot, cook until its soft.
5. Add rice, frozen peas and frozen corn. Mix well. Cover the pot leave heat on low for 10 mins.
6. You can add fried onion, coriander and green chilli's if you want.