2015 was full of experiences, excursions and exciting plans! There were visits to Kuitpo Forest, the Very Hungry Caterpillar show and mud pits. We got lots of feedback from families and children about our plans for our new outdoor spaces and made our own mud kitchen. We said goodbye to Preschool children, some who started here as babies, and started transitions through the Centre as the next stage of babies’ and toddlers’ learning journey. Thank-you to everyone who visited the Centre, gave feedback, attended a group, greeted us in the morning and asked questions – we had a wonderful year and we hope you did too!

Coming up in Term 1…
There are a lot of events coming up in Term 1, with many public holidays and celebrations happening in the state. With 11 weeks to enjoy, there is plenty of time to help new faces settle in and find new things to explore with all children and families. Read on to find out what’s in store for the coming term!

Important Dates
Governing Council: Wednesday 10th February, 6:30pm
Adelaide Cup: Monday 14th March
Harmony Day: Monday 21st March
Good Friday: Friday 25th March
Easter Monday: Monday 28th March
Governing Council: Wednesday 13th April, 6:30pm
End of Term: Friday 15th April

QIP Updates
Our whole site planning day was held on Friday 8th January. This day gave staff the chance to reflect on their achievements for 2015 and plan their goals for the upcoming year. Part of the day was dedicated to discussing equity and how our subconscious biases can affect our relationships with families. Continuing to work on cultural competence, and recognising all aspects of families’ culture, is one of our ongoing goals as a site. In 2016, we will also focus on incorporating literacy and numeracy concepts into the planned curriculum and finding aspects of literacy and numeracy in child-led experiences. Our Quality Improvement Plan for 2016 will be completed soon and will soon be up on our website. We can’t wait to share our plans with you!

Booking Extra Sessions
During 2016 the Centre will be running at capacity. This will affect your ability to change your permanent bookings and also to book extra one off sessions. While we will always work towards being able to accommodate booking changes to the high volume of bookings for 2016 means it will not always be possible for the site to offer changes and extra one off bookings. This includes swapping sessions. We will continue to operate an internal waiting list for families who are looking to make long term changes to their permanent bookings. Please see Nat for more information.

Reminders
With lots of new families starting and lots of old families returning, we wanted to remind everyone that the parking spaces along the front of the Centre and School are ‘Kiss and Drop’ spaces. To avoid traffic jams, this spaces are to be used by parents who are staying in the car while their children walk into school. Parents who have longer drop-off routines can park on the opposite side of the road or on nearby side streets. This will help make dropping off children safer and faster for all families.

2016 Staffing
After a big round of interviews at the end of last year, we have finalised the team for each room for 2016. Much thanks goes to Tim Almond and Tamika Sultani for volunteering as parent representatives on our panels.

Nest: Linda, Mara, Erina, Lizzy, Madi, Lianne.
Reeds: Megan, Pamoada, Sayeda, Jess, Steff, Julie M., Shari, Brittney, Sarah F.
River: Carly, Julie H., Sophia. Cynthia, Nicky and Imane.
Preschool: Cathy, Chloe and Elise.
Regular Relief: Brooke and Georgia.

Although there will be some changes throughout the year, the above will be our core teams and staff members for the year. We are getting ready to say farewell to two people before term starts. Jay is now on maternity leave and will be until the end of the year. We can’t wait to meet her baby and wish her the best of luck!
Charity, who has been a regular reliever for the past year, has won a position at Halifax Street Children’s Centre as a team leader in the 2-3 years room. Congratulations, Charity! We will miss you lots!

We would like to welcome back Ros from maternity leave. Ros will be on-site every day except Tuesday job sharing with Kim in the position of Director. She’s had a year to think up some new plans and projects and we can’t wait to see what she has in store for the site.

**News from the Governing Council**

There were several changes to the Governing Council in 2015. We began the year with 11 members and ended 2015 with thirteen members after two more parents expressed interest in joining. Meetings were changed from Tuesday nights, which clashed with the Primary School’s Governing Council, to Wednesdays. This will allow people who are members of both councils to attend both meetings to foster information sharing across the shared sites.

Major projects discussed included deciding on a contractor for redesigning the Centre’s outdoor play spaces and finalising plans for a new office space. The Council also discussed ideas such as organising a rebate for preschool fees and instating a ‘Social Justice’ budget to make services offered at the site more accessible for all families.

Regular duties of the Council that continued from 2015 included approving new policies drafted by the site’s policy committee (including policies around Sustainability and Breastfeeding) and leading discussions about the annual increase in childcare fees.

We are more than grateful to the parents who regularly give their time to be part of the Council. Any parents who are interested in joining, please come and speak to the Leadership staff or watch this space for regular updates!

**What’s Happening**

Here are some fun things to do in Adelaide during Term 1:


**Harmony Day in the City**, 20th March, 2:00pm-4:30pm, Adelaide Migration Museum, 82 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, [migration.history.sa.gov.au](http://migration.history.sa.gov.au)

We wish you all the very best during the new term!

Kind regards

Ros, Kim, Nat and Cathy

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Last year, we shared the results of the 2015 parent opinion survey. Each room is following up on individual results and communicating with parents. Regarding administration and whole site leadership, the survey indicated that parents felt comfortable in approaching both Leadership and administrative staff and that administrative processes were effective. Parents also strongly felt that Centre policies support children’s wellbeing, education and safety. However while parents felt that the Centre was generally committed to improvement, they did not feel they were familiar with specific improvement priorities.

While parents believed the website was well maintained, feedback indicated that the Facebook page needed more regular updates. We have shifted the responsibility of updating the page to the same staff member that maintains the website. We shall also give online updates regarding whole site priorities to help parents feel more confident in understanding what we do and what our goals are as a site.
### Community Development

- **Monday:**
  - Early Childhood Planning & Parenting Group (9-10am)
  - Early Years Group (10:30am-12:30pm)
  - Multicultural Women's Group (1pm-2:30pm)
- **Tuesday:**
  - Parenting Group (2pm-3pm)
  - Early Childhood Planning & Parenting Group (9:30am-10:30am)
  - Cultural Diversity Warm Up (10:30am-11am)
  - Multicultural Women's Group (12pm-1:30pm)
- **Wednesday:**
  - Developmental Supports (10am-12:30pm)
  - Parenting Group (9-10am)
  - Early Childhood Planning & Parenting Group (10:30am-12:30pm)
- **Thursday:**
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