Dear Families

A warm welcome is extended to all children and their families for our last term of learning this year. How lucky we were to experience glorious weather on the first day. Beginning school for the first time is special and this term we welcome 15 new Reception students along with 10 students in other year levels. Sometimes beginning school or changing schools can be an anxious time for parents as well as children. If you are ever concerned about any aspect of schooling please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or myself. Staff enjoy welcoming new students to our school and we all keep a watchful eye on our ‘newies’.

This is the term when staff work collectively on next year’s classes. The number of classes we have in any one year is entirely dependent upon how many students are actually attending in the new year. This term, we do our best estimated scenario based on what we know eg Year 7s moving on and new receptions starting and any other movement and then we wait to see if our predictions hold true. To help us please let us know if your child will not be attending Trinity Gardens next year. The number of children in any year level determines whether or not the class will be a straight year level or a composite class. There is no deliberate effort for one type of class over another as children learn equally well whether in a composite or a straight class. In any straight class there will be children operating at five different academic levels and this is the same as a composite class.

So you may wonder what really impacts on a child’s success at school? Recent research suggests it is almost equal between the home and parents and the quality of the teacher and the school. It’s no wonder we are always striving for a positive relationship between home and school.

In the class placement process I ask for your trust in our staff who undertake this process in a conscientious manner taking into account a great deal of information about each child. It takes a long time.

This complex process considers the following factors for each child:
- Social and emotional maturity
- Learning needs
- Friendship groups
- Relationships with other children
- Gender, ethnicity, and ability balance within each class
- Previous class placements

As I understand that some parents worry about the next year’s classes you are invited to contribute to the process by writing to me with information about friendship groups and special educational requirements that you would like considered when placing your child in a class. Each teacher also makes recommendations for placing children in classes for next year. The staff will seriously consider the information provided by parents but cannot guarantee that all requests will be met. We aim to place each child with at least one of their friends. Once the classes are set, it is very difficult to make alterations because one change can affect the balance of friendships, ethnicity, gender and learning needs that we try so hard to achieve. Therefore, unfortunately, late letters cannot be accepted. Requests for specific teachers cannot be considered. There will be several new

Term 4 Week 1
13 October 2010

Diary Dates
11-14 October
Science Expo
14 October Thursday
SAPSASA Walla Rugby
20 October Wednesday
Governing Council Meeting 6.30pm
22 October Friday
Whole School Assembly
27 October Wednesday
Steiner Education Workshop, 7.15pm
29 October Friday
Steiner Olympics
30 October Saturday
Family Fun Fair
1–5 November Week 4
Reception to Year 5
Swimming See Inside for Details

WEEK 4
RECEPTION TO YEAR 5
SWIMMING
FEES DUE 27 OCT

Virtues of the Week
Week 1 Kindness
Week 2 Creativity
teachers in 2011 and some will not be known until the start of the new year.

Please address all letters, marked ‘Confidential’, to me personally. Letters need to reach me by **Monday 1 November**. Staff will begin the allocation process on the next day so late letters cannot be accepted. Thank you for your help with the class placement process.

The school fair is nearly here. Have you potted up those plants that needed dividing and cleaned out the spare room? If not, you have just a couple of weeks left to go. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered some time to help out on the day. Please leave your name in the office if you can help but have not yet nominated a time. The success of our fair really does rely on collective collaboration and goodwill.

**VIRTUES OF THE WEEK**

**Week 1 - Kindness**

Kindness is showing you care and doing some good to make life better for others. It is being thoughtful about people’s needs. Kindness is showing love and compassion to someone who is sad or needs your help. It is treating yourself and others gently. Kindness is caring about the earth and all living things.

**Week 2 - Creativity**

Creativity is the power of imagination. It is a way to develop your special talents. Creativity is seeing something in a new way, and finding a different way to solve a problem. It is using your imagination to bring something new into the world. Creativity helps us to be all we can be.

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**WELCOME**

The school community extends a warm welcome to the following students and their families who have joined us this term:


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**Family Fun Fair Book Stall**

It’s time to raid those book cases for unwanted books that are just taking up space and would prefer to be read by someone else!

Ask your parents, uncles, aunties, brothers, neighbours and friends if you can do them a favour and take those books off their hands.

Just put them in a box and deliver them to Gerry McCarthy in Room 21A or ring the school (8431 179) and ask for them to be picked up.

Donations needed now.

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**SWIMMING 2010**

**Reception to Year 5**

**Week 4, 1-5 November**

Letters were sent home on Tuesday 12 October with details about our swimming program for Reception to Year 5 students. My apologies for the incorrect dates - the swimming program is definitely in Week 4 of this term from Monday 1 November to Friday 5 November (inclusive).

The date for return of the swimming fees is Wednesday 27 October (definitely not 27 November as indicated on the letter). Payment prior to this date is always much appreciated as it assists both our office staff and teachers in organisational matters. We require the fees prior to swimming lessons to cover the cost of transport, pool fees and levies. I hope this clarifies everything for parents and please accept my apologies for the mistakes in the dates.

Please ensure your child/children wears a rash vest or T-shirt in the pool as it is a Sun Safe program.

Swimming lessons are an integral part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum and it is expected that all students, unless prevented by illness or injury, will attend.

Please be aware that the pool is open to the public during our lessons so although there are usually not many public swimmers, it is essential that adults enter the change rooms that apply to their gender only. Any voluntary help would be greatly appreciated - please contact your child’s teacher if you are able to assist.

Thankyou.

In the next newsletter, there will be a timetable which indicates times for swimming lessons in case there is an opportunity for you to watch your child/children participate in this exciting learning opportunity.

If you have any questions about this program please see your child’s teacher or Ros.

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**Before School Reminder**

At Trinity Gardens School students are supervised by staff from 8.25 am in the morning. All classrooms and school buildings are not open to students until this time, as staff are busy preparing their room for the day. Any student arriving before this time should attend Before School Care or be supervised by their parent/caregiver until 8.25 am.

**OSHC Carpark**

Please note the signage in the OSHC carpark and do not park in front of the shed. Thank you.

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Kind regards

Vicki Stokes
In Term 3 8W investigated “making things”. We explored various materials and their properties and examined kitchen utensils and tools. We also experimented with different ways to join materials together and worked on set tasks that required problem solving and designing. We wrote descriptions of the constructions we had made and also described a variety of plastic objects, according to their size, colour, shape, texture, material and use.

Our inquiry questions were:

- how do tools help us?
- what tools do we use in the kitchen and at home?
- how can we join materials?
- what kinds of materials are used to make things?
- are some materials better to use than others?

We read “Clancy and Millie and the Very Fine House”, one of this year’s short listed books for the Children’s Book Council Book Week awards and designed our own houses. We used paper, glue, and tape and experimented with tabs and folding techniques to make our houses stand up.

For Grandparents and Special Friends Day we made bridges using pop sticks and plasticine. Our visitors helped us with the task and showed us ways to make our bridges strong so they wouldn’t fall down.

In Science lessons with Fiona, we examined various materials and sorted them into several categories such as wood, plastic, fabric and metal. We read the story of the three little pigs and made our own houses using different materials. We used a fan to see which ones we could blow down.
What is a friend?
What makes a good friend?
Y chart—Looks like… Sounds like… Feels like…
Do we need certain skills to be a good friend?

We thought that friends…
• Share with each other
• Think before they speak and are not hurtful or rude
• Can be trusted with our secrets
• Are helpful and caring
• Are positive and enthusiastic
• Feel comfortable with each other and feel ok to make mistakes
• Listen
• Win and lose well
• Co-operate
• Give and receive compliments

Below are some Activities that we have done as a class to support us to make friends and give us the chance to find out more about the people in our class.

Circle Time
Eg – stand up and change places if you think your friend should always play with you?

Think, Pair, Share activities
Eg – share what you did on the weekend

Role Playing
Eg – it’s ok to say NO to your friend

Other activities
• Writing postcards to each other
• Paintings of activities we do with our friends
• Shuffle the cards to change seats each week
• Complimenting others
• Reader’s theatre
Learning About Migration in Room 20A

In Term 3 in Room 20A our inquiry unit of learning was about Migration to Australia. As a class we began to talk about migration, to find out what we already knew about migration. We then decided on an inquiry question to form the focus of our research.

Researching our inquiries was interesting because one of our tasks was to interview someone who had migrated to Australia. We heard many amazing stories doing this!

To help us even more with our learning we also visited the Migration Museum, just off North Terrace in Adelaide. It was great to be able to find some of the answers to our questions at the museum.

At the end of the inquiry we shared our learning as a ‘pair-share’ in class.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE INVESTIGATED...

- When did people migrate to Australia?
- How did they get here?
- Why did they decide to come to Australia?

What is Australia’s refugee policy all about?

How did the White Australia Policy affect migration into Australia?

Why did the British Government send children to Australia alone?
The focus of this lesson was to bring to the children’s attention the aspects of the mineral, plant and animal kingdoms that exist in us as human beings.

Animals have senses and specialised limbs and body functions that adapt them to their environment. They can excel in their own environment but are also limited to an extent by their specialisation. For example the giant squid cannot live where the deer does and vice-versa.

We are freer because of our developed intelligence and the fact that our upper limbs are not required for locomotion so we can use them to create, which means we are able to design and build structures that enable us to survive in the oceans and the forests.

The class had interesting discussions over the degree to which animals can think and the degree that humans are driven by instincts. Some thought that mother cats loved their kittens as much as human parents love their children.

Naturally any study like this will move into the area of procreation and we started by realising that all life forms come from a seed, although in the animal world this is referred to as an egg. We also realised that life forms within eggs that are hatched externally in some species and live born from internal eggs in others (like ourselves).

By observing animals we can gain a greater insight into ourselves. We compared the social dog and the independent cat. For example, cats sleep in a relatively alert position and like to be up high, whereas dogs sprawl with extended limbs. A dogs instinct is to gulp its food down and its digestive system is suited to this but the territorial cat is less likely to be disturbed while eating so is a bit more refined.

We used mind maps to prepare our own texts about the animals that were being discussed and the study culminated in highlighting the aspects that make us as humans different from other animals.
OCTOBER VACATION CARE

During Vacation Care, the children & staff enjoyed dress up days around various themes. Our Wizard of Oz, Chinese National, Hollywood & Space days were a lot of fun. The room was decorated the night before so the children arrived to an exciting environment.

During our Wizard of Oz Day the children were greeted with ‘somewhere over the rainbow & Munchkin land’ and then could follow the yellow brick road to Emerald City. There were some amazing costumes with most staff & children dressing up. We all had a lot of fun playing games like Pin the Heart on the Tin Man, Wicked vs Good Witch & answering the OZ Quiz questions.

On our Chinese National Day we decorated the room with red & yellow balloons, symbolising the colours of the Chinese flag. We made lanterns, drew Fireworks patterns & hired a face painter. We enjoyed a banquet lunch of won ton soup, spring rolls, fried rice & fortune cookies. Staff member Emi showed us how to use chopsticks to eat our food.

At our Space Day a giant robot greeted the children. We hired a rocket jumping castle, made moon cakes, had a piñata, a weightlessness race & played musical space statues. The children made a space craft/robot & presented their creation to the group.

The Hollywood Day was definitely the highlight of this Vacation Care program. The room was decorated in stars, gold, silver & black balloons and a giant Hollywood sign. The children arrived to the paparazzi asking them who they were dressed as, before walking the red carpet for a photo. We were joined by many celebrities including; Lady Gaga, Zorro, Guy Sebastian & Hannah Montana. We hired a Star Blitz Photo machine for the children to ‘strike a pose’, then decorate their photo on the screen before printing it out. The finished product was amazing. Many parents couldn’t resist having a photo taken with their child before going home. After our celebrity style afternoon snack, the children voted for various Oscar categories with the winners receiving an Oscar trophy.

The children absolutely loved riding around on their bikes, scooter or roller blades on Wheels day and thoroughly enjoyed using our newly purchased scooter boards. The ‘Name that Fruit/Vegie’ challenge gave the children a chance to show their knowledge of some less common fruit and vegetables.

As expected our excursions to Bowland, Intencity & Plaster Fun House were very popular. The most enjoyable and interactive being ‘Hip Hop Harry & the Who Who’. The children were entertained by a group of young hip hop dancers and thoroughly enjoyed learning how to Pop, Krump, Lock & Switch. We had great fun showing our moves back at OSHC.

After our Bowling excursion the children couldn’t wait to start the Restaurant Challenge. They worked in teams to create a menu, prepared meals using pretend food or created their own from paper. Each group presented this to the judges who were very impressed.

We have received a lot of positive feedback about how fantastic the program was and how great it was to see the staff getting involved by dressing up and really being part of the activities.

Thank you for your feedback and appreciation of the effort the staff put in to ensure we provide a high quality care environment.

Please provide any suggestions for next Vacation Care program to Edwina.
Congratulations to Tushar Muralidharan, a Year 2 student in Kelly's class who has won the State Titles in GKR Karate held at Flinders Park on September 26. Tushar won two gold medals in individual Kata and Sparring. He will be representing South Australia to compete in the National competition to be held in November.

**Cricket**

Cricket for this term will begin this Saturday. Unfortunately there were not enough students to field a Year 6/7 team but we will have Year 4/5 and Year 2/3 students playing cricket in school teams. Information about this will be sent home for students who expressed an interest in playing cricket.

**SAPSASA News**

This week we will compete in the SAPSASA tennis and Walla rugby competitions.

Four students will be playing Ardtornish Primary School in the tennis competition today and tomorrow 33 students will be participating in the Walla rugby competition.

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**STEINER EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

The first light of Advent is the Light of the Stones...

Why and how do we celebrate the Festivals in the Steiner stream and in particular, how can we celebrate the Christmas season as a festival of light, love and hope?

Trinity Gardens Steiner Education Workshop

Wednesday 27 October

7.15pm for a 7.30pm start to 9.30pm

In the Cottage

(By Gold Donation)

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**WHERE’S YOUR HAT?**

Our Sun Smart policy is once again in place. Therefore hat wearing is now a compulsory requirement.

Please remind your children of the **no hat, no outdoor play** policy.

Thank you for your support.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Children’s Day Festival**

Saturday 23 October

Starting at Hindmarsh Sq., along Pultney St., North Tce. and King William St to Adelaide Festival Centre beginning at 10.20am. Concert at 11.30am,

Free

P: 8301 4814

**Mt Barker Waldorf School Spring Fair**

Saturday 23 October

10am–4pm

Pony & camel rides, Animal Nursery, Fauna Rescue, Sack races, tug-o-war, egg & spoon race, puppet shows, great food stalls and coffee.

Hope to see you there.

**MILO in2 CRICKET**

Is a fun introduction to cricket for boys & girls from Rec to Year 2.

Cost of the program is $50 per participant.

Every registered child receives an in2 Cricket pack.

Visit www.in2cricket.com.au to find your nearest location.

**Royal Lifesaving Society SA**

Christmas School Holiday Program

13–17 December 2010

www.royallifesaving.com.au

**Adelaide Eagles Little Athletics**

Ages 3-17yrs

Have fun and learn about athletics.

Season starts Friday 15 October 6pm

Come & try ($3 ins cover)

Cnr South Tce & King William Rd

www.adelaideeagles.org.au

P: 8271 1615

**Talking to Children About Sexuality**

Parents and carers play a vital role in communicating with children about sexuality, however, we know that many parents have doubts about how to talk to their children about sexuality, and what is appropriate for children of different ages. A research project currently underway at the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland and Family Planning Queensland is looking at how parents communicate with their child about sexuality, and what support they would like in teaching their child. We are seeking parents of 3 to 10 year old children to share their thoughts in an online survey, which takes approx 15 mins to complete. Please visit the website to find out more and take part in the survey. For more information about the project email: alina@psy.uq.edu.au