Welcome
Welcome and welcome back to our kindergarten. A special welcome to Dante, Ezekiel, Angong, Arya, Harry, Hugo, Natalia, Evie, Jace, Elton, Rocco, Rachel, Raahim and Mikey who are all joining our community this term. It is great to have all of you at Wattle Park Kindergarten.

Current Staff
This year we welcome Sally Sullivan as our teacher and Elizabeth Lumley as a preschool support worker.
Sally Sullivan – Teacher
Jo Leuders – part time ECW and preschool support worker
Elizabeth Lumley – preschool support worker
Victoria Willcox – Director and Teacher
In addition, you will meet relief staff throughout the year.

A message from Sally
Hello! My name is Sally Sullivan and I am very excited to be joining the Wattle Park Kindergarten community in 2016. Here’s just a little bit about me - over the past 8 years I have taught at a range of preschools in the Northern and Eastern suburbs and was most recently at Wandana Preschool, Gilles Plains for 2015 and prior to that Director at Hampstead Preschool for 5 years. My family and I are very fortunate to live quite close to Wattle Park Kindergarten and in our free time love exploring all the beautiful parks, walking trails, cafes and wonderful facilities that our local area offers. I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of you over the next few weeks!

Who am I? – Belonging
Belonging is a cornerstone of the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia from which we derive our programme for the children at kindergarten. We believe that the children at this kindergarten belong, first to their family, culture, neighbourhood and wider community and that as a kindergarten community we belong somewhere between the
neighbourhood and the wider community! Our philosophy states that it takes a community to raise a child and we aim to work in partnership with you to get to know your child and develop a strengths-based programme to develop their interests, skills, dispositions and knowledge.

**Who am I?**
To this end, we have given each child and family a “Who am I” letter that asks you to write/draw/photograph a story about your child and family so we can get to know you all better. Don’t forget to include your special pets and extended family members. The children love to look at these during the day and tell their friends all about their family and the things they like.

**Welcome Barbecue….. Wed 24th February at 5-30pm**
It is fabulous to see the children meeting each other, learning names, saying hello and playing together. Now it is the adults turn to get to know each other too. We have planned a welcome barbecue where all the children and adults can share a meal and have a chat. Bring your own meat, veggie burgers and salad and we will have a few sausages to share. After this, we will hold a short AGM to organise a Governing Council for 2015.

**Annual General Meeting ..... Wed 24th February from 6-30 pm……**
**Governing Council Members…… WE NEED YOU!**
Our kindergarten, like most South Australian kindergartens, has a long history of parent and community involvement, and the Governing Council is one way that parents can be involved in decision making to help run the centre. Council Meetings are held twice a term (at a time mutually agreed by council members).

A brief Annual Report of 2015 will be presented along with the financial report. If you are interested in joining the Governing Council but not able to be at the AGM, please speak to Victoria.

**Hats and Sunscreen**

Our kindergarten’s outside learning environment provides a great deal of shade for the children during the summer months. In addition, we ask that you provide a hat (named) for your child each day and apply sunscreen to them prior to coming to kindergarten in support of the Skin Protection Policy.

We also ask that each child is supplied with a named roll-on sunscreen (to be kept in the basket near the front door) as part of our Sun Protection practices. Please let us know if your child is allergic to sunscreen.

We have some spare hats for children to wear. These are clearly labelled and need to be washed by you at the end of the day and returned to the kindergarten for use by other children.

**Skin Protection Policy**
The kindergarten has a Skin Protection policy that details parents and staff responsibilities for keeping children safe on days when the UV radiation levels are 3 (moderate) and above. At this level, skin damage can occur to unprotected skin, so we ask that parents encourage their child to be “SunSmart” by…
1. Ensure their child has a hat (broad-brimmed or legionnaire style) that can be worn outside at kindergarten every day. The hat can be kept in their bag until they require it. Please name each hat your child brings to kindergarten.
2. “Slop” on sun sunscreen to exposed skin before arriving at kindergarten.

In addition staff will...
1. Model SunSmart behaviours.
2. Re-apply Sunscreen to children after lunch if going outside
3. Set up most outside activities in a shady place where possible when the UV rating is high or above.
4. Place a sign by the sign – in sheet to inform you of the predicted UV rating for the day.

Spare Clothes
In addition to providing a hat each day for your child please also give them a change of clothes. They are not always required for toileting accidents. There are times when children may get very wet when playing with the water in the sandpit, trough or watering the garden. They are always much more comfortable in their own clothes and we have a limited amount of spare clothes at the kindergarten. Donations of spare clothes are always gratefully accepted. We need shorts now!

Cash’s Name tapes – A helpful (mini) fundraiser!
We ask that you label all your child’s belongings including shoes and clothes so that if they are lost they can be easily returned! In the locker area is a poster advertising Cash’s nametapes. They provide a large range of named and decorated stickers, bag tags, iron-on and sew-in labels. If you choose to order labels from this company you can enter the Wattle Park Kindergarten Fundraiser code (WPK) when you order online and the kindergarten will get a small commission. They are also great to give for presents! You can find them at: www.nametapes.com.au

Snack Time
We encourage all children to have a nutritious and healthy snack each morning. Please keep this in their kindy bag and separate from their lunch (to ensure there is food for both times and it is not all eaten at once!)

We ask that the snacks you provide do not include any nuts or nut products as we have children with medical conditions that prevent them from having any exposure to these products. This includes food with traces of nuts or nut products. Please read the labels carefully when selecting snacks. Freedom Foods has a range of children’s snack food that are nut free.
Snacks that you could choose would include rice crackers, fruit, cheese, vegetables, savoury biscuits etc

Lunch time
On Tuesday and Wednesday, please provide your child with lunch in a separate named lunch box that can be placed in the Lunch box trolley and remember to collect it at the
end of the day from the same place.

**Fees**
By now you will have received an invoice for your fee payment. You can pay your fees via an online transaction, cheque or cash. We are pleased to say there has been no increase to fees this year. Parent contributions are a crucial part of our budget and support us to purchase good quality resources for children to access. We thank you in advance for your support.

**Term 1, 2016 Fee Schedule**
- Sessional Preschool: $130-00/child/term
- Excursion Levy: $20-00/child/term
- Resources Contribution: $50-00/family/year
- Occasional Care (when offered): $15-00/session  Paid in advance for the following term

**Thanks**
Sally, Elizabeth, Jo and Victoria