West Beach Kindergarten
Annual Report 2010
Belonging, Being & Becoming
Introduction

Hello and welcome to the West Beach Kindergarten 2010 Annual Report.

The Annual Report is designed to inform you of outcomes achieved at the kindergarten in 2010. This includes curriculum highlights, Site Improvement priorities and results from our Parent Opinion Survey.

Connections continue to remain strong with families the broader community particularly West Beach Primary School where 80% of children transition to. There is a high level of social networking and support amongst families with shared child care and transport arrangements. There continues to be approximately 15% of carers/grandparents sharing in the care of the children. We therefore make it a priority to ensure that communication with these families is well supported so that all involved in the care of these children are well informed.

The biggest change to the structure of the centre was moving from a half time centre to a full time centre for the first time in over 10 years. We operated with two 0.5 Directors two 0.5 teachers and one 0.5 ECW. We operated in a 2 group structure - Group A Tuesday/Thursday and Group B Monday/Wednesday which has worked extremely well. The two groups had their own unique focus.

At West Beach Kindergarten in 2010 we experienced a wonderful broadening of cultures at the centre which has enriched and extended our program. These families originate from England, Scotland, Poland, China, Thailand, South Africa and with a cluster of 5 from India. By accessing the DECS Bilingual Support Program we were able to support these children and families and enrich our program.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Western Adelaide Region for their support and all the support agencies that work with us. We would also like to thank our families that volunteer their time whether it is Governing Council, during session and/or on excursions or extra duties at the kindergarten.

Governing Council

2010 saw a major change to the running of West Beach Kindergarten with the introduction of two separate groups of children attending on different days. The Committee's aims were to unite the groups of students and their families. We suggested that there be a community photo board to show children from both groups. The staff implemented this and a lovely photo of each child was displayed with their name.

We also had three social events to bring the two groups together - twilight picnics in Term 1 and 4 and the always popular Rainbow Disco in Term 3. All three events were enjoyed by the families who attended. The Disco was the only fundraiser for the year and raised money through a barbecue, a cake stall and a raffle. The children and adults had fun dancing to DJ Yvonne’s music.

This year staff implemented the new structure for term fees that was approved by the Committee in late 2009. The higher fee included a fund-raising component. The new efficient system for fee notification and collection implemented by our Finance Officer Kerrie Kemp also meant that more time was saved.

With less fundraising to organise the Committee was able to devote more time this year to discussing the curriculum, staffing, projected enrolments, the Respect, Reflect, Relate assessment tool and the new Early Years Learning Framework.

The Committee approved updates to the Context Statement and the hiring of a new gardener. In fourth term we were able to approve funding for the renovations to the kitchen and multi purpose room and were thrilled with the results.

We farewell Assunta Villani who is leaving West Beach Kindergarten after ten years and Mary Tahtsis. We wish them both well.

from Kristin Martin

_____________________________  ___/___/___
Rosa Pryor
Director

_____________________________  ___/___/___
Bronwyn Ruciak
Director

_____________________________  ___/___/___
Kristin Martin
Governing Council Chair
Highlights

West Beach Primary School Orchestra

The visit from West Beach Primary School to Group A helped to maintain and strengthen our ties with our local feeder school. The children were wonderfully engaged in this hands-on experience. The school children performed some popular as well as classical pieces and then allowed the kindy children to practise their skills on the stringed instruments. It was a first time opportunity for most of the kindergarten children to handle these instruments and engage in explicit instruction on how these wonderful instruments perform.

Bollywood visit

A highlight of term 3 for Group B was our Bollywood Dance extravaganza. This involved a visit by an expert Bollywood dancer who performed a dance and then taught us a routine. The teacher was very impressed with the children’s behaviour and attention. We have Indian dress-ups donated by one of our families as well as Bollywood cds so the children continue to experience the diversity of our multi-cultural community.

Rainbow Disco

This was our fundraiser for the year. Some families from West Beach Primary School also took part. It was great to see the community come together as many of our children’s siblings came along with grandparents, friends, aunts and cousins. Approximately 80 children and 90 adults attended with great support from our committee. Learning from the previous year’s experience the committee were able to address and better manage proceedings - a great effort for everyone involved.

Living Eggs

The children were captivated by the incubation, hatching and brooding of the baby chicks at kindy. The children had the opportunity to observe the hatching, transfer the baby chicks to the brooding box, do observational paintings of the chicks, help with the feeding, watering and general care of the chicks and then eventually handle them. We discussed life cycles and patterns in nature that make up these life cycles. To complement the learning we had a subsequent visit from a family pet hen.
Nature Education Centre exhibits and Mini Beasts of the Rainforest

The Kindergarten also played hosts to stick insects and hermit crabs as part of the Nature Education Centre hiring program. We also hired a rainforest kit to enhance our learning around the excursion to the Conservatory at the Botanic Gardens. Both groups thoroughly enjoyed their excursions which included well-supervised hands-on learning about insects. It was also pleasing to hear positive comments from parents about how well-behaved the children were.

Masterchef

Masterchef came to the Kindy in the form of a parent Chef who gave a cooking demonstration and guided the children through cooking their own crepes with hot chocolate sauce and strawberries.

Clean up Australia Day and Bokashi recycling

A focus of our learning around being connected with the environment was our Beach Excursion to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day. We incorporated walking to West Beach/ Cleaning up an area of the beach/ Sorting found objects such as shells/ Beach toy play.

This year we implemented a Bokashi recycling program which turns our food scraps into liquid fertiliser and solid compost.

SITE CURRICULUM PRIORITIES

Literacy-Phonological awareness

A site priority for 2010 was the development of children’s oral literacy as well as phonological awareness. Staff members attended Professional Development on an Oral Language Framework which will be introduced by the Kindergarten in 2011 and assesses individual children’s language acquisition.

The children utilised their emerging writing skills by drawing pictures and sending them to their homes in self-addressed envelopes. This was a combined literacy and numeracy experience and prompted further learning around environmental print such as letter boxes.
Through this embedding of literacy in the program we observed the children’s increased use of language, identifying beginning sounds of their names, names of their peers and familiar site words. The children’s extensive use of the word and letter bank produced wonderful writing and number awareness.

Children and families made their own About Me posters which detailed what they could do as a baby and now as a child. These were shared at Group time and then displayed in the centre. The posters stimulated some wonderful language and social interactions as they shared information about themselves and their families.

**Child Protection**

To support our Child Protection priority staff continued to implement the You Can Do It program. This social skills program gave children the language tools and strategies to support them to become confident and involved learners.

![Persistent Pete at play](image)

We have observed children relating to their accomplishments by using the ‘You Can Do It’ language - *I persisted just like Pete, I can swing now and I’m like Connie, I’m confident at swinging.*

In addition we have been practising our 3 big breaths just like Rickie Resilience. A Calm Corner was established in the Reading Room to provide a space for children.

The SAFE and UNSAFE signs are always well utilised and the cards are used to support the children when they need to approach others in an unsafe situation. In addition we utilised a problem-solving table which promoted round table discussion incorporating simple visual cue cards.

**Numeracy**

We set up a numeracy rich environment for the children to have concrete experiences. The children’s exposure to number and measurement extended their interest to a measuring table where children used tape measures to record and match objects in the kindy environment. The children were also introduced to comparative measurement where they used frieze tape to measure their height and compare that to objects in the kindergarten.

Measurement and Time were also incorporated in everyday play as timers, clocks and time tables were used measure turns on the computer/swing and activity where waiting and turn taking was necessary. Using the picture cues supported the use of the kindy time table.

Mapping was a popular learning experience which incorporated street directories/ treasure maps/ and 3D maps of the Kindy using sand/grass and bark chips.

Mathematical properties of 2D and 3D objects were explored as a focus. Model making incorporated copying others models and then designing and making their own. Children were introduced to graphing by graphing favourite activities at Kindergarten, 3D graphing of how many boys/girls and we also incorporated graphing to decide on the name for our new fish – Black Booster.
Improvement Priorities

Early Years Learning Framework

2010 saw the implementation of the national Early Years Learning Framework - Belonging, Being, Becoming as the official curriculum in South Australia. The implementation of the new framework was the key curriculum priority of 2010. West Beach Kindergarten Staff undertook training on the new curriculum and parents were informed by way of information booklets, display boards and information sessions at pre-entry welcome mornings.

Reflect Respect Relate

As part of our Self Review Cycle a site closure day was held to enable staff to undertake professional development on the Reflect Respect Relate observation scales. We decided on an inquiry question to best assess levels of involvement of children at the kindergarten. We observed a cohort of children in their second and fourth terms at small and large group times and then rated those observations using the observation scales.

This action research and collection of data enabled an accurate assessment of levels of involvement of children and led to improvements in practice and alterations to the program routine. As a result we recorded a dramatic increase in the levels of involvement from 3.5 to 4.5 from a possible maximum score of 5.0.

Kitchen and Multi-purpose upgrade

Term 4 saw extensive renovations to our Kitchen and Multi-purpose room. This has improved our site in terms of providing effective work spaces for staff and children.

Enrolment and Attendance

This year saw an increase in numbers. Term 4 had an enrolment of 52 with a predicted enrolment of 52 for Term 1 2011.

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Enrolments

- 2008= BLUE
- 2009=RED
- 2010=CREAM
- 2011=PURPLE (PROJECTED NOS.)

Parent Opinion Survey

Our Parent Opinion Survey was given to each family at the end of their fourth term. Parents were asked to rate the centre on aspects of the program. Overwhelmingly parents were very positive in their assessment of the centre. We rated as high as 90% Strongly Agree in areas such as Welcoming, Staff were approachable and Children’s Wellbeing. Further results are on the following page.

Parent comments

All of the effort that was put into visual displays and visual orientated teaching really helped to make significant

The kindy is very well set up with lots of different activities and resources but at the same time it is not cluttered and over-stimulating. Overall a very positive experience for our whole family.
The auditor’s declaration verified consistent Profit and Loss Statements and recommendations from the previous audit had been addressed. As a result of prudent financial management the centre had sufficient savings to self-fund our extensive renovations. In addition the centre self-funded the employment of a 0.5 ECW. This enabled the centre to maintain a high staff/child ratio and to ensure high learning outcomes for the children.

A detailed Financial Report is available on request.