

# Connect

## Child Side Update

Issue 4– June 2013

*“We create our world by what we choose to notice.”*

Margaret Wheatley – “A Simpler Way

### What's happening:

**Written reports—** These written individual reports are both a state and federal government requirement and schools have certain sections mandated, in particular achievement levels in separate academic ‘subjects’. The requirements are in a state of ‘flux’ with the changes to the National Curriculum and there may be confusion and discrepancies that arise while the transition phase (many years) occurs. Child Side chooses to be expansive and also describe observations on the learner and their interactions. These written reports are ‘one’ of the ways parents can remain informed and updated on the learning process. Nothing on your child’s report should ever come as a surprise as it is a parent responsibility and privilege to communicate with their child and their educator frequently on all things great and small. Morning work, learning exhibitions (older children and FLA) and LTD (learning team debriefs, Tuesdays for Kindies, Wednesdays for all others) are all designed to enable families to participate in the progressive nature of learning. It takes each educator a great deal of time to prepare each report and it is done with a great deal of consideration for ‘capturing’ each child as an individual within the prescribed areas we have to report on. Educators are allocated ‘token’ time to work on these, so we will be in and out.

**Cows Create Connections (Careers) -** our ‘babies’ are gone but the connections continue. FLA have submitted their components of the project and will gather in Busselton on the 3rd of July with other participating schools to communicate their experiences. They will share some of these at their Exhibition. We hope to have our chooks next term.

**Natter and knead sessions -** our first ever session was a success, judging by the fact we actually had 2 edible products at the end and the process of nattering (not much real kneading is required with corn and soda bread) and creating a simple, delicious hand made bread, measuring, mixing, laughing, talking, worrying, singing, cleaning up... An authentic, active experience for children forming different adult working relationships and experiencing more real life assessment each step of the way...

**Choose respect...** We are aligned with the philosophy behind this initiative and will be encouraging our whole community to continue to engage with the language and dignity behind ‘choices’ and ‘respect’. We will be displaying the Choose Respect logo as a visual prompt and to include the wider community.

**Visit from The Children’s Literature Centre:** Sarah spent the day with us, working intensively in small groups to unpack the process, symbolism and complexity behind picture books. Her feedback regarding the children’s engagement, interaction and level of understanding was enormously positive and is affirming for educators. The younger children explored the book ‘Bear and Chook go to the Sea’ and the older children, ‘The Littlest Refuge’. See Lisa’s handout for more information.

# Care

# Create

# Communicate

### Mulberry patch— LandShare garden

We have a file of ‘dreams and wishes’ for this area in the middle room. Please feel free to add, view, and help us create an inspiring purposeful place (with the added intentional bonus of creating a place for post Child Side families to still be a useful and connected part of our community). **Outstanding Wheelathon money—** please forward to Clair or Karron. **The Journey:** Please check the whiteboard and message boxes next term for a date to unpack ‘The Journey’ as a community. *The Journey* refers to the scope and sequence of learning experiences, opportunities + choices from K-12. Possible pathways for your child.

### Important Dates:

*Please check our website calendar and the whiteboard up on the middle building regularly for any changes.* **This Friday 29th June—Knead and Natter Bread session 1:30 pm with children AND Enterprise afternoon...** produce and products created or grown by families and children for sale. A lovely social afternoon ... Combined with our ‘Op Shop’ with clothes, shoes, socks that have been gathering around the school over time and UNCLAIMED for ages! Thanks to Clair for her energy to collect + wash.

**Thursday 4th July** will be exhibition day for Lisa’s group and tentatively FLA. 9:30 start. Please bring plate of home made food to share and converse over (this ritual encourages children and adults to intellectually engage with a purpose). **Friday 5th July—** end term.