Dear families and friends,

The Term is passing so quickly with Week 4 already coming to an end. We have participated in the External Review, held the Governing Council Annual General Meeting and now head towards preparing reports for the end of the first semester. Many staff have experienced significant illness this term and staff and students have worked to ensure that learning programs have been maintained.

Pitjantjatjara Culture & Language at WGS
This term Aunty Sandy has organised Pitjantjatjara Language and Cultural lessons for our students. Our Language & Cultural Specialist, Debbie Watson shares her expertise with 24 children who have connections with Anangu culture in much the same way Vietnamese is experienced by the Years 6/7 classes.

Staying ahead of the pack!
Next Week, seven staff have been selected to attend the EDUTech Conference in Brisbane. This will enable staff to participate in forums which highlight how technology can be used to enhance student learning. Having access to cutting edge technology e.g. lap-tops and IPADs is only of value if staff know how to use it effectively to create rich learning opportunities.

2016 Governing Council
My thanks to all those parents, friends and staff who attended the 2016 AGM and committed to serving on the 2016 WGS Governing Council. There are some significant issues for Council to address over the forthcoming year including the enrolment planning, expansion of the play area for the Preschool and Childcare Centre and reviewing the drop-off protocols for the car-park located at the back of the Orange and Purple Buildings.

Excursion to the Zoo.
Four Classes of Reception children had the adventure of a lifetime when they spent the day at the Adelaide Zoo last Monday. On return there was a mixture of excitement and weariness after such wonderful day. The teaching staff reflected with pride on the behaviour of all students; other adults acknowledged and congratulated the children on behaving so respectfully. On a personal note my thanks to the staff who did a fantastic job of organizing the day.

Student Free Day
Last Friday nearly 90 staff, Support Staff, teachers and leadership attended Professional Development where we had the honour of listening to Dr. Anthony Muhammed explain the importance of strengthening a strong School Culture in order to embrace the changes that schools engage in, in order to improve.

Kind regards,

Fiona Voigt
Teal Building – Receptions

A focus for this term is learning about living things (including plants, animals and humans) and what they need to stay alive. We spent the day at the Adelaide Zoo observing animals and discussing their habitats. We will also have some living creatures to care for. As part of our learning we are exploring maps, posing questions, researching answers and labelling diagrams.

“I think the giraffe has a long and strong tongue to pull the leaves off the trees”.
“The snake has diamond patterns all over the body”

“This is the best day ever!”
Aboriginal Culture

At preschool we have been learning about Aboriginal culture. Miss Kayleen has been teaching us about Aboriginal people; the first people of Australia. We have learnt about the Kaurna people of the Adelaide area, and simple words from their language such as ‘Nina Marni’ which means ‘hello’ in English and ‘Dakota’ which means ‘goodbye’. We had a great time painting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and learning about the meaning behind the symbols and colours that are used. We are starting to focus on dreamtime stories and enjoyed reading the book; ‘How the Birds Got Their Colours’. Some of the children drew pictures of their favourite parts of the story.