Dear Families

Welcome to all new families to the centre! We currently have 24 children enrolled in our preschool program, and 29 children accessing occasional care.

We are looking forward to an exciting year at the centre, a focus on our nature play and visiting the elderly residents at the Southern Flinders Health Crystal Brook Campus as part of their diversion therapy program.

Our start back has been a busy one, and we are enjoying getting to know our preschool group. Through play, we have spent time learning about children’s families, pets, holidays and their interests. A questionnaire will be coming home next week for parents and caregivers to complete and return. This information will lead some of the conversations through our parent chats that will be scheduled over the next few weeks.

Excitingly, the centre has a new logo and signage arriving, and a newly developed centre philosophy. These were major achievements from 2015 which took about 6 months of consultation with children, families and staff. The new uniforms look fantastic. Thank you to all involved in this process!

I am looking forward to working with our children, families and wider community in 2016. An exciting and productive year of learning is in store for our preschool and occasional care children, families and staff!

Kind regards,
Karena Wilson

Kindy Pupil Free Day—8th March

Our newly elected Governing Council members have approved a Kindy Pupil Free Day for Tuesday 8th March to allow all staff the opportunity to attend the national nature play conference ‘Create Play Connect’ in Adelaide.

Nature play features strongly on our site’s Quality Improvement Plan in 2016. Through the conference our staff will be inspired and encouraged to help children develop their connections to the natural world. As a staff team, we are looking forward to the opportunity to further develop our knowledge and understanding of nature play, and how we can incorporate this as part of our pedagogical practices that will improve learning opportunities for your children. We cannot wait to share our learning with our community.
Nature Play and Music at Kindy

Simon Hutchinson from Climbing Trees will be running a loose parts session for preschool children and room1 students on Tuesday 15th March at the Kindy. Simon will run a staff / parent session too.

More information about this exciting opportunity soon!

Governing Council 2016

Thank you to all families for attending our Governing Council AGM on 11th February.

The following people accepted nominations for the office bearer positions for 2016

Chairperson: Emma Jeffries
Vice Chairperson: Carol Kirchner
Secretary: Anita Hook
Treasurer: Fleur Greatorex
Committee: Nikki Gale, Tracey Large, Liv Alpe, Rebecca Hombsch, Kylie Page.

Please speak with Karena if you would also like to volunteer to be on the general committee.

Governing Council provides an opportunity to have input into the governance of the centre, contribute to the Quality Improvement Plan and priorities and future direction of the centre. Meetings will be held twice per term. We will explore the option of having one day and one night meeting per term to meet the different commitments of our families. All families are welcome to attend meetings!

Upper Mid North Partnership news

Teachers, SSOs and ECWs from schools and preschools will be attending a Professional Learning Day on Friday 19th February at Crystal Brook Primary School.

Professional Learning Day ‘Developing Growth Mindset Educators’ presented by James Anderson

Developing a growth mindset in children will form part of our core business at Crystal Brook Kindergarten. We will focus on developing children’s learning dispositions. The processes undertaken to achieve a personal goal are a focus, rather than the polished, finished product!
Library Visits to CBPS

Starting next Tuesday (16th February) the kindy children will be walking to CBPS to the library to share some stories and borrow 1-2 books to take home to read. Children will need a library bag (does not need to be fancy, but a labelled bag) that they can transport books to and from kindy in.

Our policy is children can only borrow if they have a library bag, and if they have returned books previously borrowed. Any overdue notes will be sent home to families and we kindly ask books are returned asap. Permission to borrow was sent home with your enrolment pack last year.

We are grateful that CBPS allow the kindy this opportunity. It is a fantastic chance for children to visit the school as part of their transition program, and to share wonderful stories with siblings, parents and care givers at home which sets a strong foundation for their oral language development.

This addition to our preschool program was rated highly last year on the parent opinion survey which shows how much families valued this opportunity.

A big thank you to the Seidel family for taking care of our chooks over the summer holidays. We appreciate the time you gave so willingly.

Fruit / Healthy Snack

Monday—please leave in front pocket of your child's kindy bag (not lunch box)

Tuesday—fruit goes in yellow bowl for shared fruit.

Alternatively, children can bring vegetable sticks, dry biscuits or yoghurt for healthy snack time.

Please no fruit boxes or cordial at the Centre (plain milk is fine). Thank you!

Preschool Attendance

The DECD target for preschools is 93% which we have been achieving in the first two weeks! Attendance for week 1 and 2 was 97.8%.

Regular attendance ensures we can support your child to learn new things, make new friends, develop confidence and follow routines. As we know, we can’t help when our children are not well and the best place for them is at home.

We appreciate we families notify us when children are absent. Please speak with staff if we can help support your family to ensure your child attends preschool regularly.
Our kindy and occasional care photos were fantastic! The children’s smiles and personalities shone through in the photos captured on the swings, climbing frame and tunnel. Photos should be ready next week. Here is a sneak peak at the group photo. Andy from Kidz Pics had the children in stitches of laughter as he juggled and performed magic tricks before he took their photos. This important part of Andy’s work builds a strong rapport immediately!

The First Day
I gave you a little wink and smile
As you entered my room today
For I know how hard it is to leave
And know your child must stay.
You’ve been with him for years now
And have been a loving guide,
But now, alas, the time has come
To leave him at my side.
Just know that as you drive away
And tears down your cheeks may flow
I’ll love him as I would my own
And help him learn and grow.
For as a parent, I too know
How quickly the years do pass
And I remember the day it was my turn
To take my child to class
So please put your mind at ease
And cry those tears no more
For I will love him and take him in
When you leave him at my door.
Author Unknown