Dear Families

Our diary for term 1 is filling with some wonderful learning opportunities for the children to engage in, both at a site and community level. Photo collages of these activities will appear in an A3 display folder, and learning stories in individual children’s portfolios as the term progresses.

Thank you to families who have completed the family questionnaire. This information helps us to get to know your child, and will lead part of our conversations at the parent chats which we will hold over the coming weeks. When signing your child's attendance in at kindy, please make a time on the sheet next to the roll.

Holiday photo collages are looking great and have been a conversation starting point for children to talk about the different activities they did during the break.

Welcome to Rebecca Overstreet who has been undertaking TRT work at the Kindy while Loretta is on leave. Rebecca currently teaches at Solomontown Kindergarten and has brought with her many experiences in supporting children and their learning. We have appreciated Rebecca’s calm and consistent approach, and look forward to Rebecca supporting our staff with understanding and using the Numeracy and Literacy indicators through her experiences.

All preschool and occasional care staff are excited about heading to the National Nature Play Conference, held in Adelaide on March 8th. The Centre will be closed on this day so please make alternative care arrangements for your child. We will return brimming with ideas, new knowledge and understandings that we will share with our community.

Kind regards,
Karena Wilson

Welcome to all our families

Occasional Care at Crystal Brook

We currently have 31 children accessing occasional care at our centre. We are really pleased that we are able to offer this service to so many families in our community, and really appreciate the support we are receiving to ensure children with a priority of access can receive a spot first, and families are still accessing a spot most weeks (and some on a fortnightly basis).

We will notify families on a Wednesday if your child has a spot for the following week. Families are excellent at notifying us of a cancellation which ensures the cancelled spot can be re-offered to a child on the waiting list.

Please speak with Karena or Olivia if you have any questions or concerns about the running of the occasional care.
Communication Book and Family photos

Starting next week all kindy children will be given a communication book. Parents are encouraged to write notes in for staff, and staff can communicate any notes / reminders, anecdotal comments or a photo about your child’s day. There won’t always be a note from the kindy, however please get into the routine of checking your child’s diary after each kindy session, and keep it in their kindy bag. We will encourage children to put their communication book in the basket on the bench next to the fridge.

We like to set up a display of family photos at the Centre. Children love looking at their photos and sharing them with their friends. It also gives a ‘homely’ feel to the Kindy. The photos help children to build their sense of identity and belonging to their family unit. Please send a photo (already in a frame if possible) for our display.

Thank you

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 and Kim Zohs.

Clean Up Australia Day is on Sunday 6th March. We will use this opportunity to engage children about their connectedness to the world and operate as global citizens in caring for the environment.

On Monday March 7th children will be involved in collecting litter from the perimeter of the yard, both inside and along school boundary fence. We will supply plastic gloves and high-vis vests for the children to wear.

Recently, children were involved in recycling bottles and cans at the kindy, and have begun tending to the garden beds to renew our seasonal produce. Our chooks continue to love our food scraps and this year will make their first appearance at the Crystal Brook Show!
**Term 1, Week 4**

**Preschool Attendance**

Average attendance for weeks 1-4 is 94%

- Week 1: 97.8%
- Week 2: 97.8%
- Week 3: 95.7%
- Week 4: 84.8%

Thank you to families for contacting the Centre when your child is absent. This communication is much appreciated and assists staff to know if your child is absent for sickness or other reasons.

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**KITE Intergenerational Program**

On Monday 29th February we will have our first visit to the Southern Flinders Health Campus, Crystal Brook campus that involves both preschool and occasional care children. We have visited the hospital in the past but only with preschool children. This integrated approach allows all children (0-4 years) the opportunity to have a local excursion to visit the elderly residents at the hospital.

We will be referring to this program as KITE (Kids Interacting with The Elderly). Through running an Intergenerational Program we aim to ‘enhance the happiness, humanity and respect for the minds and hearts of young and old through an intergenerational partnership’ (Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Submission).

We will take some resources, such as games, puzzles, books, construction equipment from the kindy to use with the residents. Our next visit is planned for Monday 21st March. Each visit the kitchen staff are preparing watermelon for the children to enjoy at morning tea.

The preschool children will visit Willochra Nursing Home on March 29th, and residents from Willochra will return to kindy to join in with one of our music sessions with Mrs Collins.

Don’t forget to indicate whether your child has sunscreen applied when you sign in each morning. Staff will assist children to apply sunscreen if needed, and all children will have it re-applied after lunch. All children have a navy legionnaire hat to wear for all outside activities.

We're super excited to say we have a surprise for our kindy and occasional care children to wear when they are out and about in the community on local walks! You wont miss them in their high-vis vests with new kindy logo on the back!
Recently Karena travelled one of our bus runs to see where our Kindy children are picked up and dropped off each time. The camaraderie between the school students and kindy children is very positive. The kindy children are developing skills in organisation as they packed their bag that afternoon ensuring they had all their belongings, and were confident to travel independently.

Karena’s conversation with one of our little bus travelers’ this week...

.... “And then the bus come and picked me up. Then I went to Crystal Brook Kindy. I sat next to my bag”.

How did you feel?

“Good!”

Why did you feel good?

“Because I had a nice ride. If you go on the bus it makes you nice and happy”.

Is there anything else you want to tell me about your bus ride?

“I had fun. A big school girl put my bag on my seat, and it was right next to me”.

Over the past fortnight the cubbies at kindy have had a new lease of life! Thanks to Simon Harley who supports our site with maintenance requests and to the contractors from Barry Ramsay Constructions who did a fantastic job relining the cubbies, adding edging to corners, new fascia, a fence to the rear cubby and mesh over the window. A few modifications to the chook house were made too!

We’re left to give them a neat paint job to finish the project off! The cubbies are a much safer environment now with old rotted timbers, cracked edging and exposed hazards gone.

All in a day’s travel to kindy.....

Our little chefs enjoyed helping Ros cook pizza scrolls on Tuesday afternoon.