Dear Families

I have been advised in writing by the Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia (Regulatory Authority) that the process for assessing and rating Crystal Brook Kindergarten under the National Quality Standards has commenced. We need to provide the Regulatory Authority with our Quality Improvement Plan by April. Presently, staff are working on this and this will be on the agenda for our next Governing Council meeting. This is going to be a huge focus for Staff and our Kindy community in 2014.

I was in Adelaide on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th at a Collective Action Conference with nearly 1000 other DECD Leaders. We heard from a number of inspiration guest speakers promote teachers, leaders and systems working collaboratively in Partnerships with the ultimate goal to improve learning outcomes and wellbeing for students. One of my favourite speakers was Guy Claxton of whom I have used some of strategies before in the classroom to build learning power amongst children. We use some of these strategies to build the capacity of children to be inquisitive, imaginative and independent at Kindy.

I recently received an email from Human Resources that we have been funded a 0.5 Early Childhood Wroker (18.75 hours per week) from DECD. We can attribute this to the commitment families made to our attendance during the data reference periods, support from our Education Director Terry Sizer, Early Childhood Leader Jess Arbon and staff here at the Kindy. Thankyou to everyone who helped secure our DECD funded ECW hours for this term. A great result for our Centre.

Don't forget to return your Child's Detail form (sent home in yellow envelope with term 1 fees invoice). Please check over all details and record any changes that need to be made, specifically around the Permissions section. The letter explains what each Permission entails. Even if no changes are to be made, we still need your Child Details form returned to the Centre. This includes all Kindy and Occasional Care families with an active enrolment.

Please return your child's learning goal for term 1. Remember the SMART acronym when setting a goal for your child. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time Based. Remember this learning goal is for term 1 only. Some of the goals received are very broad and a year long focus. We look forward to working with your child on achieving their specified learning goal.

Please enjoy our newsletter filled with lots of information and wonderful learning opportunities that children have been engaging in!

Karena Wilson
**Governing Council - Wednesday 26th March**

Our next Governing Council meeting will be held on Wednesday March 26th at the Kindy (time will be confirmed - either 1.30 or 2pm). Terry Sizer our Education Director has requested to come along to talk with our Governing Council for the last 20 minutes of the meeting from 3-3.20pm (this was the only time Terry could schedule in her diary). Please organise for your school children to walk through to the Kindy. All welcome to attend.

**Kindy Uniform**

We are still waiting delivery of our jumpers ordered. I am expecting them to be another 1-2 weeks. We will notify families who ordered them as soon as they are ready.

**Media Wall at Kindy**

We are starting a media wall at Kindy! Any positive news stories about the Crystal Brook Kindergarten, children and families in the local media will be showcased! Our first article displayed was our 2014 Australia Day award - Event of the Year (Crystal Brook Family Market). Stayed tuned for the March Chronicle!

**Library bags**

Starting week 8, we would like the boys to bring their library bags on Tuesday and the girls on a Thursday. This way it will be easier for Jodie and Lisa to assist with the borrowing. Children can borrow at any time, providing parents complete the library books card in their library pocket. Our new library bags have arrived and will be distributed to those children who do not have one.

**Show and Tell**

If your child brings home a decorated cardboard box (about A4 in size), it is the show and tell box and there is a note stuck to the inside lid outlining the purpose of it. Please return the box on the next Kindy day with a maximum of 3 items, maybe a toy, photograph or something from nature. Your child will share this with either the Seahorse, Starfish or Dolphin group. This is a great way to promote oral language skills.
Swimming pool afternoon

We had a wonderful hour at the Crystal Brook Swimming Pool splashing and spending time with friends and family at the pool. Most children with a family member and some siblings present. The bus ride there and back is always a highlight!

Blob Painting

Lovely and bright 'blob painting' with Mrs Carey yesterday! Bella, Brian, Connie, Farley, Kurt and Lily (couple with no names) have their creative talents on show in our new frames from IKEA!

Clean Up Australia Day

On Monday 3rd March we will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day (held nationally on Sunday 2nd March) by doing a walk around the Kindy looking for papers and along the fence line between CBPS and Kindy. We will also talk about hazard / dangerous rubbish, if you could send old tongs and some gloves it would be much appreciated. We will have zooper doopers at the end of our clean up. Thank you.

Pancake Day

Thanks for your excellent support of our Uniting Care Pancake Day. Together we raised $54 to assist Eleonora Lodge which provides Emergency accommodation to those in need. The children listened on speaker phone as I spoke to Andy Morrison Director of Eleonora who thanked the children for their efforts and said they would be buying new hens with the money raised. Also a huge thank you to Vanessa and Catherine for cooking the pancakes superbly and Dan for his welcome assistance with setting up and serving.

New apps for Kindy Ipads

We are looking to add some new apps for our two Kindy iPads. So please let us know what your best apps are that promote children's learning! Can be free or purchased ones. Text Karena a screen shot of a picture of the app so we are sure to get the right one! Thank you.

Learning about Shapes

The Kindy children really enjoyed looking at the shape photos their parents e-mailed or texted to Karena. Please keep sending them in so we can look at them on the whiteboard on Thursday. Ruby did a great job of telling us where the photos were taken. It would be a lovely idea to make a book about the various shapes the children found in their environment! Also we have already received a bag of shapes from Kaden, so please send your bag with 3 shapes inside by next Tuesday at the latest. We will get the children to talk about the shapes before putting them up on the display board. I wonder if anyone has a pentagon, diamond or hexagon shaped object at home? Cheers Loretta.
Shapes continued...

During our learning about shapes we would appreciate it if parents could take a photograph and text it to 0417088641 or email Karena.Wilson68@schools.sa.edu.au as we will make a display of shapes in our environment. There is sure to be lots of conversations about the different shapes the children see while they are out and about. I wonder how many we can record?

Outdoor Learning Environment

Please take the time to look at the photos collated of Outdoor Learning environments at different Kindergarten and Child Care Centres in our area (photos displayed on bench near Kitchen). Please add any ideas that you would like to see incorporated into the planning of our outdoor environment.

Karena is attending a meeting at Laura Preschool on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm to hear Wendy Fox speak about creating natural play environments that meet National Quality Standards.

If you (or know of a Community member) who has an interest or passion for gardening, landscaping and creating awesome areas for children, please come and talk to Karena. The pirate ship was removed on Wednesday as it was decomposing and not meeting National Quality Standards.

We really need parent support to drive this Outdoor Learning committee!
Easter raffle & trading table

Easter trading table Tuesday 1st April 9.30 to 11.30am. Could all Kindy, Occasional Care and Playgroup parents please donate an Easter egg for our raffle, these can be placed in plastic container on bench. If you are able to do a half hour shift on the day please let me know. Baking eg cakes, slices, biscuits etc will be sought to sell on the day, please see Karena for an ingredients label. Any questions please feel free to contact Rachael Kirchner.

Because we are asking families to donate an Easter egg, families will not be asked to sell raffle tickets (unless you would like a book of 10, please ask). Tickets will be sold down the street at the trading table. Funds raised will purchase cooking utensils and equipment for Kindy kitchen. Staff have talked about having a 'My Kitchen Rules' as a small focus group so new equipment would be wonderful for the children to use. Thanks for your support!