Dear Families

We hope families enjoyed an extended four day Easter break and the lovely weather that came with it.

After returning from the Nature Play conference I was flicking through baby albums of mine and Rocket’s looking for photos that captured special memories we shared of being outside during our childhood. Unfortunately some of my best memories weren’t captured on camera. However I found some beauties in Rocket’s album at a place called Macdonalds near Crystal Brook. One photo was of Rocket and his cousins climbing trees. I found this quote on the internet that I thought was so appropriate “Some things never change: Trees are meant to be climbed regardless of which decade children are born in”.

This lead me to encourage families to take photos of their children climbing trees over the Easter weekend, given we knew many families were having time away camping and bush bbqs.

It was terrific to have families share their photos of their children climbing trees which we will use to create an engaging display at kindy. Please keep sending these photos in—children love to share their experiences, their adventures and challenges!

Planning for our term 2 nature play experiences are underway. At our recent Governing Council meeting we spoke about having two visits to Bowman Park and the Crystal Brook Caravan Park next term to continue to connect children with nature. Recently a kindy family walked part of the Heysen Trail at Bowman Park and their children were very inquisitive along the trail, as they took in the signs and wonderings of where it lead to.

Karena Wilson

Happy Easter to our families

Working bee—we’d love your help please!

Sunday 10th April
10-12pm at the kindy

Jobs include painting the two cubbies, shovelling organic soil into 6 garden beds, removing some gate panels, organisation of the shed, raking bark chips in soft fall zones, general yard tidy, including weeds and to rotary hoe area at rear of kindy for fruit tree planting.

We hope to see you there! Thank you
Harmony Day is held nationally on March 21st to celebrate Australia’s diversity. We are going to recognise Harmony Day on Monday 4th April with some activities planned.

**Children are encouraged to wear something orange**

At Crystal Brook Kindergarten we want all children to feel a genuine sense of belonging and respect for diversity. Educators model to children the value of embracing culture and individual beliefs in our everyday practice.

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**Upcoming events at the Kindy**

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**Pancake Day to support UnitingCare—5th April**

*Flipping pancakes for a good cause!*

Please bring a gold coin donation.

Pancake Day is about Community, Learning, Enjoying an activity together and most of all: helping others!

UnitingCare SA provide families with food, shelter, clothing, transport. They also provide support relating to health, education, counselling and financial assistance.

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**Plain, gluten free and healthy pancakes**

Perfect Plain Pancakes
(provided by Right Bite Team, December 2008)

150g self-raising flour
1 tablespoon butter
1 egg
Caster sugar
1 cup (250ml) milk
Lemon

Sift flour into a bowl and make a well in the centre. Break egg into the well and gradually combine with flour. Slowly add half the milk, stirring, until all the flour mixture is incorporated. Beat until bubbles form. Gradually stir in remaining milk. Stand batter for at least 30 minutes (if possible)

Place a little butter in a frying pan and heat over medium heat until melted. Discard melted butter and wipe pan clean with kitchen paper towel. Add another small amount of butter to pan and heat over medium heat until melted. Place a spoonful of batter in pan cook until bubbles appear on surface. Turn pancake with a spatula.

When cooked on both sides, slip pancake onto a piece of paper. Sprinkle with sugar and roll up. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve pancakes hot with lemon juice sprinkled over top.
Please send in your family photo!
Our display is slowly growing and is looking very homely next to our cane lamp.
Children love to share their photo with friends & educators, building their sense of identity and connection to the family.

(KITE) Intergenerational Program

Recently we have had some lovely messages about the KITE program (Kids Interacting with The Elderly) from kindy and occasional care parents.

I love this program! What a way for our children to learn empathy, care, respect and valuing all members of our community. It adds so much to the already amazing learning taking place at kindy"

Another message from an occasional care parent was with the quote from Rita Mae Brown saying "Happiness is pretty simple: someone to love, something to do, something to look forward to"

On our last visit we had a resident who is unable to stand or walk, so children went into her room and sang 'twinkle, twinkle little star' and 'slippery fish' at her bedside. To see the smile on this lady's face and watch her join in with twinkle, twinkle little star was very engaging. She kept saying "this is lovely, this is so lovely". She made connections with the children and who their grandparents and great-grandparents were. She kept asking when could we visit again. There was so much love in her room as we left.

Another one of the elderly residents said to Ros "I just love it, I don't know what it is, but I just love it". The hospital are going to see if they can get permission for this lady to visit the kindy children at kindy one day. Even with her ageing body, she was determined to get down on the floor to do a jigsaw puzzle! She took a lovely hair piece from her hair and wanted Addisyn to wear it, which Addisyn proudly did.

I know that the connections we are making are certainly bringing happiness to the residents. The visits are giving them something to do in their day, and something to look forward to in their week. As parents, you can feel proud that your children are making a difference in our community

Do you (or your friends, family, neighbours) have any unwanted garden pots (terracotta, ceramic, cement, rustic looking etc)? We would love for you to consider donating them to the kindy. We want to create some special areas within our yard. Thanks
This term we have provided experiences for children to connect and actively participate at a local and global community level through participation in Clean Up Australia Day, Harmony Day celebrating Australia’s diversity, Pancake Day to support UnitingCare, having Mrs Collins play the piano each fortnight and visiting residents at the Crystal Brook Hospital through the KITE program.

We have a strong sense of community at Crystal Brook Kindy and it is something we really value and take pride in. By encouraging the children to give or contribute to the community in which they live builds their strong sense of belonging to their environment, and promotes their understanding of roles and responsibilities within the community.

We appreciate the way our local community and families support our centre. Recently we had a dozen milk crates donated for our loose parts play, hot cross bun mixture from Kupsch Bakery and donations from families for ingredients for Pancake Day.

The willingness by our families and extended community to support our kindy enables us to continue to provide rich learning experiences for young children at our centre.