Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2015 Kindy year! Our year has started very positively with excellent attendances recorded for the first three weeks each Monday and Tuesdays. Regular attendance at Kindy is really important for your child as it helps them to build relationships with other children and staff, and enables them to participate in our daily learning program. If your child is absent for illness or family reasons, we would appreciate a text message or phone call so we can plan for your child’s absence. In cases of an infectious disease our ‘dealing with infectious disease’ procedure states that we notify the community of a specific outbreak, but do not identify the child involved.

Our staff have enjoyed welcoming all families to our Centre. Many of our children transition to Kindy through the Occasional Care. We do have some families attending the Kindy for the first time, therefore we extend a warm welcome to Alexandrah, Alyssa, Austin, Dan, Delilah, Harmony, Harvey, Isabel, Layla and Spencer and their families to our Centre. Some of these children have older siblings who have attended in previous years so the Kindy is familiar to them already!

I am excited to begin my five year tenure as Director, after being in the role initially for 12 months, before it was extended for another three terms. In April it will be two years since I began working here. This time has certainly gone quick! I am keen to work with our Governing Council and our families, to implement some longer term plans and visions for the Centre. I am very passionate about continuous improvement and this will continue to be my focus.

At the end of last year staff were involved in a self review process of our Centre and practices, and parents (of Kindy and Occasional Care children) provided feedback through our parent opinion survey. This valuable information will be shared and discussed at Governing Council, and will help lead the development of our 2015 Quality Improvement Plan. I will provide a draft copy of our QIP at our Governing Council Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th February and welcome parent feedback on our targets and expectations for 2015.

I would like to formally welcome new staff to the Kindy this year. Anne Jones who is working for terms 1 and 2 while Loretta is on Long Service Leave, and Olivia Pilkington who is working as an Early Childhood Worker in the Occasional Care. Anne and Olivia join Debbie Moore, Ros Wardle, Connie Way, Lisa Steele and Fleur Greatorex who make up our wonderful Kindy staff team.

Communication this term will continue in the form of regular emails, text messages, pockets and posts to our Facebook group. Please notify me if your contact details have changed so that you can be kept up to date with news, events and reminders from the Centre. If you are on Facebook, search Crystal Brook Kindy and request to join our closed group. Only parents of children with an Occasional Care and Preschool enrolment at Crystal Brook Kindy will be approved to join the Facebook group.

Looking forward to a fantastic term at the Centre! Kind regards,

Karena Wilson
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE at CRYSTAL BROOK KINDERGARTEN

The Crystal Brook Kindergarten has a complaints and grievance system in place to confirm to staff members, families and the community that complaints and grievances are taken seriously and investigated promptly and thoroughly.

Part of our procedure is ensuring our community are aware of our system in place, therefore we publish it regularly throughout the year for your information. I will attach it to this newsletter and have uploaded a copy to our closed Facebook group.

I recently saw this quote and would like to share as it highlights the role we all play if you have a grievance or a concern. It can be damaging for the Centre and for those involved, if grievances are aired within the community or at social functions. Please encourage ALL to follow our grievance procedure if you hear something, so that the concern can be addressed immediately. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

"We do not accept poor standards of education in our Education service. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.
If you are a member of staff and have a concern, then act...
If you are a member of the public and have a concern, then tell us...
We are all responsible for improving children's education.
We all have a role to play"

Thank you!

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM

Wednesday 25th February (week 5) at 1.30pm at the Kindy

All positions are declared vacant - Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and committee (including fundraising). Please come along to the meeting even if you don't wish to be an office bearer. We provide the chocolates ;) !

Important tasks to undertake at the AGM are reading the Annual Report, approving the Kindy Budget, reviewing our Quality Improvement Plan, setting kindy fees, confirming a Market Day date and setting the foundation for the year ahead at the Centre (some exciting projects in the pipe line).

All Kindy and Occasional Care parents/caregivers are welcome to join. If you do not have a current DCSI police clearance, there will be an expectation to undertake a DCSI police clearance. Please see me to complete the necessary paperwork.

We've always had a very supportive and active Governing Council body at the Centre and I look forward to working with parents and caregivers in this capacity in 2015.
SAFE SCHOOLS AUDIT

As families are aware we had a Safe Schools Audit last Monday morning. If you do not hold a current DCSI Criminal History Clearance, you cannot be in the kindy grounds or assisting with kindy functions in any voluntary capacity. This includes gardening with children, cutting fruit, cooking with children, assisting on excursions, being on any kindy committee eg. Governing Council, and any sub committees such as fundraising etc.

We were also made aware that all teachers working at a school / kindy in a voluntary capacity also need to have a DCSI voluntary criminal history clearance, their registration alone is no longer accepted.

If you would like to help out in any capacity and do not have a current check, please see myself (Karena Wilson) to obtain the correct forms and we will send them off. Unfortunately, until this clearance come back approved you will be unable to assist in any volunteering capacity.

PARENT CHATS

During weeks 2-4 Anne and I will be having parent chats from 8.30-9.20am (Anne on Monday) and (Karena on Tuesday). We will notify you of your allocated time.

The purpose of the 'parent chat' is an opportunity for parents, teacher and child to get together to talk about your child's interests, what they like doing at home / kindy, their strengths, things they might need help with and to form a learning goal for this term at kindy. This is documented and placed in your child's learning portfolio.

Naturally parents are welcome and encouraged to speak to either Anne or myself at any stage throughout the term if you have any concerns or issues regarding your child's learning.

FAMILY PHOTOS

We would love for all our Kindy and Occasional Care children to send a family photo (in a frame) that we can display at the kindy on the bench near the photocopier. This forms part of your child's identity and their sense of belonging to their family. Children love to share their photo with their friends and the photo can help comfort them if they are feeling unsettled. Thank you!

HOLIDAY PHOTOS

Children are invited to send along some holiday photos on an A4 piece of card of their adventures over summer. We look forward to talking to the children about what things they did over the holidays!
This year I will email the newsletter to all Kindy and Occasional care families. I will also upload a copy to our closed Facebook group and to the Crystal Brook Kindergarten web site.

If you would like to receive a printed (hard copy) of the newsletter, can you please fill out the slip below. This will dramatically reduce printing costs of the newsletter.

It is therefore imperative that families keep the Kindy up to date with your current email address. Thank you.

________________________________________________

I would like to continue to receive a hard copy of the Kindy Newsletter please.

Print name: _________________________________

Please return to the Kindy (place in the money tin) by end of week 5.