Dear Families,

It has been a very productive term with many learning opportunities presented to children. We have enjoyed cooking pancakes and raising $51 for UnitingCare, participating in Clean Up Australia Day skirting the yard and perimeter of the kindy collecting rubbish, excursion to local swimming pool and joining in celebrating Harmony Day.

The kindy is looking colourful with our ‘kindy children’s twin’!! We had a lot of fun tracing around ourselves, decorating with our smiling kindy face and favourite top/dress. This activity related to outcome 1—children have a strong sense of identity—(*Children develop knowledgeable and confident self identities*).

Children’s learning portfolios look terrific with many examples of learning shown. We will send these home in week 1 of next term.

**Attendance**

Kindy attendance for term 1 has been excellent! Our goal of 93% was achieved, so well done to ALL families for supporting your child to attend kindy regularly! Our overall attendance at kindy for the term was 93.87%. We had 15 children attend 100% and 5 children attended 94.7%. No doubt we can’t help when our children are sick or have appointments and we thank those families who keep their children home when they are not well. Regular attendance at kindy assists the staff maintain learning programs for children, and helps your child to learn the structures and routines associated with Kindy.

**End of term jobs**

The end of term snuck up on us sooooo quickly!! On Tuesday the children helped staff to have the best shed clean out ever!! It looks fantastic and certainly helps us to locate or know what equipment needs upgrading. We ran out of time to delegate end of term jobs, but if you are around Friday and would like to pick up some toys, or do another job while your children have a play, you are welcome to call in. The yard extension starts next Monday! In the holidays we will have lawns mowed, hedge plants trimmed, weeded, areas blower vacced in the holidays ready for our return. Thanks to families who have offered to do a holiday job already.

**Kindy pupil free day**

Governing Council have approved a pupil free day on Monday 18th May for the Centre. Staff will be involved in increasing knowledge about Work Health Safety and carrying out tasks to ensure our Centre meets compliance levels by June 30th. Staff will also be reviewing our Centre's Quality Improvement Plan progress thus far.
News from the Crystal Brook Kindy

**Library borrowing**
Library borrowing occurs in odd weeks during term 2 (yes, they have changed) and with books being returned to the Library in even weeks. This allows all books to be returned to the library prior to each holiday. This is a great opportunity for children to borrow a selection of different picture books, build on their literacy skills through sharing books at home, and begins the transition process to primary school. Our Governing Council gave a $300 donation to CBPS as a gesture of thanks for allowing this to occur, and so CBPS can add to their selection with increased borrowers from the kindy!

**Mother's Day raffle**
The Fundraising committee is holding a Mother's Day raffle fundraiser over the month of April. Raffle books were put in kindy pockets in week 10, tickets are $1 each and there are 10 in a book. The committee appreciate any tickets sold and understand it can be tricky to sell the whole book. Raffle will be drawn on 11th May. The committee are seeking donations of goods towards filling the gift baskets. If you would like to kindly donate, please feel free but there is no obligation. Thank you for your support, it is much appreciated!

**Music at Kindy**
We are excited that Mrs Margaret Collins, a beautiful local pianist has kindly accepted our invitation to play the piano on Monday afternoons during even weeks at Kindy. Mrs Collins will play a selection of nursery rhymes and sing-a-long songs for all to enjoy. Children will receive a booklet of songs that we will sing and you can practice at home! This will commence in term 2.

**Occasional care and Kindy jumpers**
We will be placing an order for kindy jumpers (zipper and pullover hoodies- navy and hot pink - size from 00, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8) this week. Order forms have been emailed and attached to Facebook group. Orders need to be received by **Friday 10th April at 9am** to ensure they will be ready by the beginning of term 2. Thank you to Lisa McMinn who has been instrumental in sourcing quotes and organising order form.
Occasional care bookings
Staff and families have commented to me on how well our new system is working. Each child has the opportunity to attend one session, and can place their name on the waiting list for an additional spot if a cancellation occurs or not all are spots filled that week. We appreciate that families have been contacting us if their child is suddenly unable to attend, as it means we have been able to re-offer the spot to another child. Thank you to all families for being so cooperative and supportive with this system, which enables lots of young children to access Occasional Care in our community. Olivia, Lisa and I hope you enjoy looking at your child’s learning portfolio with some pictures and comments about their time this term in Occasional Care.

Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training for Volunteers in our School
This is mandated for people, along with the criminal history check, who are working/volunteering within DECD sites. We will be holding a training on Wednesday 6th May, Week 2 Term 2 at 7pm in the Crystal Brook Primary School Library. If you already have a responding to abuse and neglect certificate, please bring a copy into the kindy. This means you will not need to undergo the training. We will be asking for names of people interested early in Term 2. Thank you.

WIFI Printer and Ipads
Recently the kindy purchased a wifi printer and two ipads for Occasional Care and Kindy staff to use to document children's learning! Jaymon has set the printer and ipads up so they can communicate to each other! This is an exciting step for the kindy and will take us to another level of sharing with parents the great learning your child is involved in at the Centre. Thanks Jaymon for your assistance and expertise in this area, much appreciated!

In closing.....

We hope families have a fantastic two weeks, with the cooler mornings and sunny days it is a great time to be outside! Nature SA Play SA have a web site and Facebook site with lots of great nature play ideas for the school/kindy holidays. It is called ‘25 Cool Things To Do In Autumn’.

We are looking forward to having children and families return on Monday 27th April, ready for another great term with lots of learning opportunities for everyone!

Karena Wilson
Yard re-development—stage 2

Stay tuned for the next stage in our yard redevelopment!

We have the boundary fence extended on the first Monday of the holidays. We will be working with the children to re-develop this area, but first we want to “live” in it, so we get a feel for the newly acquired play space.

We’re thinking mud kitchens, old car tyres, poly tubes, metal car rims, dry creek bed, mound with slippery dip, bird aviary, chook house moved to rear of yard?? If you see any amazing play spaces, please send photos to the kindy!

We’re not in a hurry to develop this space as we want to explore lots of different ideas that we think the children will LOVE!

Rubber boots and rain coats are a brilliant addition to a child’s time spent at Kindy. Ask around for some hand me downs, we’d love for your child to come prepared in term 2 for some wintry days.

GOVERNING COUNCIL 2015

Chairperson: Emma Jeffries
Vice Chairperson: Emma Gulin
Secretary: Anita Hook
Treasurer: Fleur Greatorex
Grants: Karena Wilson
Committee:
Beck Nicholson, Carla Hook, Charmaine Richards, Jacinta Huxtable, Kaidi James, Kellie Perry, Kerstin Marshall, Lisa McMinn and Mel Storton (Playgroup).

Thank you to the parents listed above for nominating / accepting the positions on this years Governing Council. 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.

All Kindy and Occasional Care parents/caregivers are welcome to attend the meetings
Harmony Day is a day to recognise Australia’s diversity and show that everyone belongs.

We celebrated Harmony Day on Tuesday 24th March by wearing a piece of orange clothing, making orange handprints and playing with orange play dough. Orange is the colour of harmony!
Harmony Day 2015

It was fun to have our bodies traced around!
This activity related to outcome 1 from Early Years Learning Framework—Children have a strong sense of identity—
*Children develop knowledgeable and confident self identities*