Dear Families,

Week 6 marks the half way point of the term and our last week where Kindy is just Monday and Tuesday! Over the last three weeks we have enjoyed Dad’s and Special Friend’s lunch, Amazing Drumming Monkeys performance, Book Week, tinkering with the loose parts, construction work on the chook house, to just name a few learning opportunities. Some of these are represented pictorially in the newsletter.

**Increase in preschool hours from next week**

Beginning week 7, Wednesday is introduced in addition to our current two days. This preschool model was adopted by Crystal Brook Kindergarten at the end of last year with the intent that it would assist children in the demands of five days of schooling, by providing three consecutive days of preschool after all children had turned four. Through universal access funding children are entitled to 600 hours of preschool in one year. Currently we have offered 355 hours across 27 weeks, and will now concentrate the remaining 245 hours across 13 weeks.

Our attendance data for term 3 has again been excellent. It is currently sitting at 90% with the DECD preschool attendance target being 93%. We look forward to families continuing to support your child and our centre with regular attendance across the three kindy days. Please talk with Karena if you have any concerns about the increase in preschool hours for your child.

**Kindergarten and Occasional Care surveys**

Thank you to families who have contributed feedback via SurveyMonkeys regarding change in structure of centre days, relationships, communication, preferred methods of communication, strengths and areas to develop. We had 17 individuals respond to the Kindergarten survey and 15 individuals respond to the Occasional Care survey. I have collated this information in booklets and I will put them near the parent noticeboard. Please feel free to read the feedback provided. I will share this at Governing Council and also we have started looking at the data / feedback at staff meetings.

**Logo design and Philosophy surveys**

We had 16 individuals respond to the logo survey providing some great feedback about likes and dislikes of currently proposed design. Through the ongoing development of our service philosophy, some excellent describing statements about our children, childhood, how they learn and develop have been made. Our service philosophy will be a written statement about the values and beliefs that underpin all aspects of our service’s operations. The service philosophy and logo design should fit together, and therefore it would be beneficial to review the logo once the service philosophy has been developed.

Your contributions to the four surveys have been excellent, this feedback is critical in being able to assist staff and leadership to be to make continuous improvements which will have significant impacts on all aspects of services provided. Thank you.

_Karena Wilson_
Book week activities
Yesterday we celebrated Book Week with many occasional care and kindy children dressing up as their favourite character. The kindy booked a face painter who painted some amazing designs on children’s faces to complement their favourite characters. At group time we read ‘Mr Strong’ who Austin was dressed as, and we read ‘Just Josie’, a story book brought in by Delilah who was dressed as the main character! Loretta has added a photo of your child to their learning portfolio from Book Week.

Community support of our kindy
We currently have some wonderful community members volunteering at our Centre and we would like to acknowledge their valued support of children's learning at kindy.

George Spry has been continuing the work on the chook run. Last week George worked with some very keen children to attach the front section of the run. Children were observed using the drill, holding the spirit level, holding the ladder and were fully engaged in the project at hand. George commented on the ‘construction’ language that the children were using! George also fetched some loose parts from local businesses such as Rocky River, Crouch Rural and Duffield's Tyre Service for the children to construct with.

Margaret Collins continues to play beautiful tunes on the piano for us each fortnight. It was lovely to see kindy children recognise and talk to Mrs Collins at the netball courts on Saturday! Margaret is a wonderful help in assisting with our arts program (music and movement).

Glenda Spry has recently begun volunteering at the kindy too. We have purchased a box of wonderful art supplies for Glenda to use in her work with small groups of children. Glenda is a very talented artist and we can't wait to see what our budding kindy artists will produce!

Kathy Millard volunteers her time to assist her husband Danny while he does our yard maintenance throughout the term. Our yard always looks immaculate after they have been. Thank you Kathy for voluntarily helping the kindy in this way. Two weeks ago Kaidi, Kelly, Tahlia and Ivy Millard voluntarily assisted with yard maintenance in preparation for Dad’s and Special Friend’s lunch at kindy.

Jocelyn Venning pops in to assist our children with gardening, including the planting of seeds and harvesting our crops of carrots and radishes! On Jocelyn’s last visit to the kindy garden, carrots and cucumbers were enthusiastically planted.

All our volunteers have a DCSI volunteer clearance. We are extremely grateful for their loyal support, positive interactions with children and staff, and for the time they are taking out of their own lives to support our Centre through volunteering. Thank you!
**Dad’s and Special Friend’s Lunch & Amazing Drumming Monkeys**

Recently we enjoyed our Dad’s, Poppa’s, Mum’s, Nana’s, brothers coming for lunch and a play. We supplied steak sandwiches for our guests and sausages in bread for children. It was lovely to see children interacting with their invited guest(s) and playing in the beautiful sunshine together.

After our special lunch and play the Kindy, Occasional Care, Playgroup and young children in our community were treated to the Amazing Drumming Monkeys! We were very happy to offer tickets to room 1 and 2 classes this morning which they gladly accepted! It was a fun, lively and entertaining show! Thank you to families for supporting it. Both events were provided to children and families through a grant, which we thank Jess Crawford for successfully applying for at the end of last year.

Anne has made picture collages of both events for children’s portfolios. Please enjoy this snapshot of your child’s involvement in these events.

**Moon’s A Balloon performance**

On September 15th we are travelling by bus to Port Pirie to the Keith Michell Theatre to view this performance. Please return $4 to cover the subsidised cost of the performance by Kindy and bus travel. Money needs to be placed in the yellow envelope provided to you and returned to the money box on the wall. Please give your completed consent form to staff.

**Nature Play SA—see Anne’s newsletter insert**

Thought for the day....

“A Wifi-enabled tablet and Facebook account has greater risk to a child’s wellbeing than climbing a tree or carrying a stick“ -


Please enjoy Anne’s newsletter insert on page 5 about the Risks / Benefits after her recent attendance at a Nature Play SA workshop. Anne has a series of newsletter articles that she has written, and these will be shared throughout term 3 and 4.

**Speech Pathologist visits to Kindy**

Jade Hanna, DECD Speech Pathologist will be at kindy on Monday 7th September from 9-3pm. Jade is keen to talk with parents of current Kindy children AND Occasional Care children who will be starting kindy in 2016, if you have concerns about your child’s speech and language development. Research shows that early intervention is the key to building on children’s success in early education. We want to start the process of having preliminary discussions with Jade now if you have concerns. Please talk with Karena to book a time to meet with Jade to discuss your concerns about your child’s speech and understanding of language concepts etc.

**Contact Details**

CB Kindergarten & Occasional Care

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**Important Dates**

- 31/08—4 year old health checks—all information has been given out to families involved
- 02/09—Wednesdays at Kindy begin
- 07/09—Jade Hanna at Kindy
- 09/09—CBPS Sports Day
- 15/09—Moon’s A Balloon performance and Port Pirie library visit
- 16/09—Governing Council meeting 7pm at Railway Hotel
- 25/09—Kindy / Occ Care and JP students disco
Tiles and old plates wanted!
Do any families have any old brightly coloured ceramic tiles or plates (not boxes off!)
We are looking for one or two samples of tile/plate etc for children to use to make
mosaics with Glenda. We will break them up to use in the most creative of ways!
Please ask around, check your sheds etc as donations will be gratefully accepted.
Thank you!

Visit to Police station
On Monday morning we walked to the local Police Station to see the cells and radar
gun. This activity was child initiated after a group of children made radar guns from
mobilo and were pretending to measure the speed of bikes at kindy!
Huge thanks to Steve and Scott for being so accommodating, we had a great time
seeing the radar gun operate. We even measured how fast some children could run....
Riley ran at 15 km per hour!

Book Week—Books Light Up Our World

One of the learning workshops offered to children this week was making
circuits using wires, batteries and globes! Posing questions like I wonder? or
What would happen if? stretched their thinking and problem solving skills

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Natural Play Spaces
Risk v Benefits Part 1

On Thursday August 13th I attended Nature Play SA workshop about Natural Play Spaces the risks verses the benefits.

The objective of the workshop was to provide us with an understanding of the importance of risk taking for children's play and to empower participants to strike the right balance between managing risks and allowing children to reap the benefits risky play provides in natural play spaces.

The day was amazing and extremely though provoking! I was able to chat with many educators about what their centres are doing and bounce ideas I have off them. I am not going to include all detail in this newsletter, but over the next few I will provide a snapshot about what risk are and how they can enhance the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of your children. One of the real light bulb moments for me was taking risks in play, not just in learning, is now supported by DECD!

Types of Risks
1) Exploring heights - climbing a tree, a climbing wall, swinging high
2) Experience high speed - running, swinging, cycling
3) Being near dangerous elements - fire, water
4) Rough and tumble play - wrestling (this is okay at home but at this stage is not supported by centres)
5) Wandering alone from an adult (even in the backyard)
6) Handling dangerous tools - real knives, drills, saws

And fitting with discussions at the moment in our centre and with Governing Council (and on our survey monkey) was about centre philosophies. We talked about how the philosophies of Centres should include exploring, taking risks and challenging students.

Anne Jones
News from the Crystal Brook Kindy

Face painting is always a popular Book Week activity!

The children gave high fives to Steve!

Tye and Mrs Jones practising name writing! Great letter recognition Tye.

Harvey holding the spirit level for George—great team work!

Jack, Lilly, Libby enjoyed our local excursion to see the radar gun.

26th August 2015

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