Dear Families

I enjoy writing each fortnight’s newsletter as I find it a time to reflect on activities, events, conversations and learning that is packed into the time between each newsletter. I certainly notice an increase in tempo at this time of year—trying to fit things into the term calendar can be a challenge as there seems to be an influx of events and activities to squeeze things around.

By now, families should have all received an invitation to our Playgroup, Occasional Care and Kindy Christmas party on Monday December 2nd, the children are busily preparing songs for their concert so we hope you can make it. Please RSVP by Thursday 28th November so we can organise bbq meat.

This fortnight we have welcomed many new faces to the Kindy as children begin their transition to the Kindy group, Mrs Zwar and Mrs Gambling visited the Kindy to spend time with the school starters and then this group of children visited CBPS the following week.

I am including a copy of the Crystal Brook Kindergarten’s Grievance Procedure for your information. Disharmony can grow if grievances are aired outside in the community which can also be damaging to individuals and the Centre. If you have an issue with something that you hear or see at the Kindy, please talk with a staff member with whom you have a grievance with, or make an appointment to talk to myself (Director).

I appreciate and value feedback on the services provided, as this helps our staff to be focussed and committed to doing our best. I will be formulating a parent opinion survey which will give families an opportunity to rate and comment on the Centre, and help to drive our continuous improvement planning cycle.

Karena Wilson
Our excursion to Port Pirie

On Monday 18th November Jodie and Karena took thirteen enthusiastic school starters on an excursion to the Road Safety Centre in Port Pirie. Part of the adventure is the bus ride to Port Pirie with lots of chatter amongst their friends. Conrad was a little nervous about the ride in the bus, but by the time we had driven down Mais Terrace, his nerves had settled and Conrad started telling us he was looking forward to being a school starter as he will see his brother Darcy at school. Thumbs up Conrad for feeling brave!

We were greeted at the Road Safety Centre by four lovely retired gentlemen who volunteer their time to assist children with learning about road safety. They had organised the bikes and turned the traffic lights, train crossing and pedestrian crossing lights on for us. Matt Styles, our local police officer, talked to our group about the importance of wearing helmets, obeying road rules and maintaining your bike so it is safe and roadworthy. We followed Matt around the course of the track on our bikes, and everyone was listening and following the Policeman’s instructions. Our group of bike riders were able to tell Matt that red means stop, yellow slow down and green go!

After we left the Road Safety Centre we travelled to the miniature trains for three rides around the track. Again the volunteers at the train were very kind and helpful to our group. Hilary’s mum (Sally) and sister Harriet met us at the trains so they could watch us. It was lots of fun clickety clacking along the train tracks with our friends. Each child was allowed to sit in the Captain’s seat and push the horn on the train.

Riding home in the bus was a little quieter than our ride to Port Pirie with some weary little school starters nearly nodding off! Macen’s mum met us back at Kindy with kool pops which was very kind of her, and refreshing for all of us. Thanks Jo.

Karena took photos and videos and we watched it at Kindy on Tuesday morning. Thank you to the following parents—Julie, Fleur and Lisa for assisting with the group. It was a privilege to take this group of children on their excursion, each child was attentive, responsible, engaged and had lots of fun. I hope they have enjoyed sharing their learning of road safety with their families this week too!
School uniforms for 2014 school starters

A uniform day will be held on Tuesday 26th Nov at 8:30am onwards in the school gym. Please feel free to come over and try uniforms on your children if you are unsure of sizes. All orders can be placed at the school office along with payment on or before this day.

Orders will be filled on the day and delivered to the Kindy for your child to take home. You will be notified if stock is not available. The dresses and skorts are not on the uniform order form as they are new to stock. If you wish to order these please write the style and size on the bottom of the order form. Skorts and dresses are $15 each (cheaper than Target!!).

Please feel free to contact Kathryn Hansen if you have any queries or concerns regarding school uniforms. Karena has order forms if you require one, they are also available from the school office. Thank you.

Police Clearances

I am currently working on the CBK Budget for 2014 and am keen to gauge which individuals in 2014 would like to volunteer at the Kindy in some capacity so I can consider this for budget planning. Please provide the Kindy with a copy of your current Criminal Screening or talk with Karena if you wish to apply in 2014.

“Protecting the safety of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility that cannot be compromised by other considerations” (Child Protection in Schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services, DECD 2011). It is mandated that prescribed volunteers who assist with activities, work with children, attend excursions are cleared to do so.

“All DECD employees, contractors, volunteers and specific groups of students e.g tertiary, some work experience and some adult re-entry students MUST have a CURRENT APPROVED CRIMINAL SCREENING at all times throughout their employment or prescribed in a DECD site”. DECD website

Contact details at the Centre

Crystal Brook Kindergarten, Occasional Care and Playgroup
CBKindy.Info837@schools.sa.edu.au
Phone 86362411

Kindy operates every second Monday (even weeks), Tuesday and Thursday
Occasional Care on Tuesday and Thursday from 8.45-11.45am
Playgroup runs Friday mornings from 9.30am—11.30am