Dear Families,

It's show time! As you know the Crystal Brook Show will be this Saturday 8th August, a community event that showcases talents at a local level, and includes displays of livestock, agricultural machinery and lots of stalls. Children in occasional care, kindy and playgroup have been working on art and craft activities to have displayed in the scouts hall. If you get an opportunity to get to the show on Saturday, pop along to the hall as children love to share with you their learning and what they have been made.

**Staffing and parent chats**

We welcome Loretta Carey back to the kindy (0.5 teaching role) after 6 months of Long Service Leave. Loretta spent some time assisting in a Montessori Kindy and is keen to share some ideas with the children. Anne Jones is continuing in her 0.4 teaching role, made possible through her Universal Access funding. Together, we look forward to continuing to provide the best learning opportunities available to your child. We have commenced parent chats and are keen to engage with all of our kindy families to help develop a collaborative learning plan for your child.

**Junior primary visits to the kindy**

I have written a letter to CBPS staff and Governing Council offering for children in rooms 1 and 2 to access our yard on kindy days, during second break (after they have eaten), on a fortnightly roster basis that alternates between room 1 and 2. We believe this is an opportunity for kindy children to interact with junior primary children who will become their peers in 2016. This is part of our site's transition to school plan. This has been warmly received and next week we will welcome room 1 children for a play.

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<th>Week 4, term 3</th>
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**Outdoor learning area upgrade**

I am really excited to have completed the expression of interest to update our outdoor area at the centre. This was sent last Friday with our site's Quality Improvement Plan and progress notes. I'm proud of the application and am grateful for the support we have received from all Preschool Directors, Principals, Early Childhood Leader and Education Director in the Upper Mid North Partnership.

We are also very grateful for the support we’ve received from the CBPS with our expression of interest. The generosity of CBPS to obtain some of the school grounds...
to extend our yard has been one key feature of the application. Ten South Australian preschool sites will be selected. This process is open to all DECD operated metropolitan, country, stand alone and school based preschools. Five sites will be redeveloped during 2016/17 and the remaining five sites during 2017/18.

The application is displayed at the kindy (near Occasional Care entrance) so please have a read. Think mud kitchen, dry creek bed with water pump station, bridge with uneven levels to challenge children, sand pit re-development, digging patch, chook run, natural amphitheatre, logs, stepping stones, fruit trees and native plants.

**Amazing Drumming Monkeys—Monday 17th August**

We are excited to offer this wonderful opportunity for all kindy, occasional care, playgroup and young members of the Crystal Brook community to attend. This has been made possible through a grant and a really positive way to engage young families in our community. There are 80 drums available and we would like parents to return your child's consent form. Consent forms are due back on Monday 10th August. We are grateful that we are able to use the Crystal Brook Primary School's gymnasium.

**Dad’s, Grandparents, Uncles & Special Friend’s lunch**

This special event will be held on **Monday 17th August from 12-2pm**. We would love for our Dad's or Special relative / friend to join us at the Kindy prior to the Amazing Drumming Monkeys for a steak sandwich lunch and to join in with kindy activities. Dads and special relatives are welcome to join their child at the performance.

**Staff Professional Development**

Staff from Crystal Brook, Gladstone, Laura, Booleroo and Port Pirie Kindergartens at a training and development session this afternoon called 'Yakka Tracker' - a way of tracking the proficiency of children's language in the early years. We discussed ways we can enhance the learning environment to promote the use of language.

The session was run by DECD Speech Pathologists who are based in Port Pirie and servicing sites in Pirie, Upper Mid North and Flinders partnerships. Jade Hanna is the speech pathologist for Crystal Brook Kindergarten. Her professionalism, engagement
with families, support provided is exemplary. Jade is visiting Crystal Brook Kindergarten on a Monday fortnight (even weeks) and is actively encouraging any families with children accessing speech support or with concerns about their child’s speech and language to make a time to speak with her. I would sincerely encourage families to take Jade’s offer up as her ability to set up programs, work with children and staff has been brilliant.

This term Olivia is working with children each Monday and Tuesday afternoon with speech programs and I commend Olivia on her work thus far. Children are positively engaged and parents are commenting on the improvements they have noticed with their children’s speech at home too.

**Cubby building at Mercowie Park**

Yesterday we went to Mercowie Park for some cubby building fun. It is always a pleasure seeing children interact and have fun with friends, explore, create, run on the newly formed bike track and climb trees in the great outdoors. Sometimes if our sticks fell over we had to build our cubbies again, this was great for our resilience. Mercowie is a fantastic natural play space providing lots of opportunities for children to play. The best part is, its on our kindy door step!

![Cubby Building at Mercowie Park](image)

**Attendance**

By working together we can support the regular attendance of your child at the Kindy and help set up good learning habits for life. DECD attendance target for preschools is 93%. Thank you to parents who have notified the Kindy when their child is away either for sickness / family. This is much appreciated and sets up good practice for when your child is at school, as CBPS work closely with families with explaining children's absences as they have a goal of nil unexplained absences.

Term 3 attendance
Week 1 83.3%
Week 2 90.7%
Week 3 87.7%

We’ve noticed a rise in sickness this term which cannot be helped. But families are helping us by keeping their child at home when they are not well, so thank you! This attendance data is published each week on the laminated sheet on parent notice board.
**Parent opinion survey**

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, I would like to collect some information regarding term 1 and 2 at kindy and occasional care. Please think back to the first six months at kindy and occasional care when making your judgments and comments.

This survey will be set up using ‘Survey Monkey’ and will take about 5 minutes to complete. It is important data as the information will help guide our practices for term 3 and 4.

I will send the survey out via text message, hyper link on an email and closed Facebook group. The survey is completely anonymous and we value your input immensely.

**Work Health and Safety**

Our site budget has funded Ernie (CBPS Groundsmen) to complete a few tasks for our site. Tasks have included new mounted whiteboards for kindy and occasional care, toddler swing replaced, display boards bolted to the carpet area so they are now secured. We are constantly reviewing and assessing the site for hazards, but if you notice a hazard please report it to Karena.

**Warm toast at kindy**

Sometimes we notice children are hungry prior to our morning fruit at 10am. We have facilities to make toast for children and are happy to fill their tummies with warm toast. On Wednesday this week, children happily toasted their bread, buttered and added a spread. This is building an independent living skill and one that we are happy to support. The opportunity for a staff member to engage in many conversations while supporting children with this task, is building their oral language skills too.

*Karena Wilson*
News from the Crystal Brook Kindy

Contact Details
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Important Dates
12/08
Governing Council 2pm at Kindy
17/08
Dad's / Special Relative lunch
Amazing Drumming Monkeys
25/08
Book Week—come dressed as favourite character. Face painting available.