Dear Families,

I hope all families enjoyed a break with their children, although being very chilly I hope you found many activities to do while keeping warm! Before I begin communicating our thoughts and ideas for term 3, I would like to begin by wrapping up term 2.

We received a letter early term 1, dated 24th February notifying our Centre of the commencement of our assessment and rating cycle, and request for our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). After receiving this letter and finalising our QIP it has been all systems go reflecting on our practices and ways we can continually improve what we do, to ensure your child receives the best possible learning experiences during their early childhood education at Crystal Brook Kindergarten.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful contributions that families made to the Centre during term 2 in a voluntary capacity, either at working bees, gardening, creating spaces in the outdoor play environment, reorganising the store room and cupboards, laminating resources, ensuring children and staff photos were up to date, making the awesome posters for the wall, and little odd jobs here and there. I really felt that parents were right behind the Centre and staff, assisting in many ways. It was lovely to receive many positive messages and best wishes from families in the lead up and after the assessment. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our fantastic staff at the Centre and Regional Office for the huge amount of work, commitment and dedication over the past 6 months ensuring that each standard in the Quality Learning Areas were being met.

We had community members assisting us too in our preparation, and I would like to personally thank Cathy and Danny Millard and Homer Combe who gave the yard a final tidy up before our assessment and donated all of their time, therefore we wont be receiving an invoice. Thankyou to Cathy, Danny, Homer and Ned’s Mowing (Robyn and Ned Kelly) for this very kind and unexpected gesture!

We are certainly are looking forward to building on the terrific work and foundations in place over the last 6 months, but are pleased to say that all major renovation work in the outdoor yard has been completed. Unfortunately we have been unsuccessful with 3 grant applications last term. We will continue to apply for grants to hopefully gain some financial support to continue to build on the outdoor learning environment.

Parent chats will continue in weeks 2 and 3, so please make a 10 minute time slot with Karena/Loretta to discuss your child, their needs, interests and learning goal for term 3. Naturally, you can talk with staff at any time if you have concerns or a need arises.

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. Looking forward to another action packed term at the Centre!

Kind regards, Karena Wilson
We have a really exciting term of activities planned. We want to continue to incorporate children’s interests in our learning program. Towards the end of last term there was imaginative play around shops, so we have set up a shop at Kindy. If you have an old cash register, or know where we could borrow one from, we would like to complement children’s play with one. Please send any unwanted boxes from home (cereal, snacks) etc for the children to “sell” in their shop.

Another exciting element of our term is learning where all our kindy children live in the township of Crystal Brook and neighbouring districts. We would like plan walks throughout the term taking in the different streets. We will do planning with the children, using paper maps, interactive whiteboard to look at google maps, natural and man-made features of Crystal Brook. We are in the process of acquiring pedometers so that we can measure how many steps it takes us to walk and we will tally these steps upon our return. We are considering a visit to the skate board / bbq lunch at the playground to celebrate the end of term. There will be permission slips going home Thursday for this. We plan to visit farming properties in Narridy in week 4 and Merriton/Redhill in week 8. During week 6 we have an excursion to Port Pirie to see the Cranky Bear at the Keith Michell Theatre. Stay tuned for more info!

We have some changes to staffing at the Centre. Jodie Baker is taking leave for this term and Fleur Greatorex will continue in an administration role, and not with the Occasional Care group. Lisa Steele will work in Occasional Care and Ros Wardle will relieve with the Kindy group, until the process for this position has been finalised.

This will maintain the best continuity for the children and Centre, and I know families and staff will support Lisa and Ros in these new roles.

We have Lucy Hooper with us for the first three weeks on placement as she nears completion of her Certificate III in Children’s Services. Welcome Lucy!
We have some new children who joined our Kindy group at the end of last term, and some new enrolments beginning term 3. We extend a warm welcome to Jasmine, Shaye, Tye and Christopher and their families and hope their experiences at the Centre are positive and rewarding!

Please enjoy the photo collage of our Pyjama Day, week 9, term 2, 2014 made by Mrs Carey.

Children and staff wore their pyjamas to Kindy, read stories by torchlight and ate toast prepared in the Starlight Café.

Activities throughout the day related to Early Years Learning Framework Outcome 3, Children Have a Strong Sense of Wellbeing, promoting children to become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.