Dear Families,

Term 4 is well and truly underway. Sometimes I have to take a double glance when writing the date, November has certainly rolled around quickly! Our community is abuzz with harvest in progress. Although I am certain the heavy rains forecast for the next few days would have been far more welcomed in September! Hoping things dry out quickly and harvest can resume with gusto.

So much has been happening in and around our kindy over the past three weeks. We had our first ever Mud Day at the kindy, held our major fundraiser for the centre ‘Crystal Brook Family Market’, information sharing meetings for kindy and school starters in 2016, drafting of our philosophy statement, designing of our new kindy logo and review processes being organised. Importantly some wonderful learning opportunities for children focussing on literacy and numeracy indicators, growth mindsets and what this means for children’s learning. A highlight for the children has certainly been making mosaics and two billy carts! This was reflected in comments made by the children when I asked them ‘What they value about our kindy?’ or the question ‘What is special about our kindy?’ Children’ responses are on display at the kindy.

School / Kindy transition visits

This week our kindy group will have a visit from CBPS teaching staff who will be working in their classroom next year. Staff will be visiting on Wednesday from 9.10-10.50am for a ‘Walk and Play’ to meet our school starters and to talk with them informally through their play. This is an organised visit as part of your child’s transition to school. During weeks 5,6 and 7 our school starters group will have formal visits to CBPS on Wednesdays from 9-12pm, and on Friday week 8 they will be involved in a whole day visit. We look forward to welcoming the children who will be commencing kindy in 2016 during weeks 5,6 and 7 with visits to the kindy. Please talk with myself, or the school if you have any concerns about your child commencing school or their upcoming visits.

Philosophy—the next step

Please bring in your small piece of nature (stick, leaf, bark, pine cone, feather, bone, rock etc) and ONE value word that describes what you value about the Crystal Brook Kindergarten. The word that your family chooses may be what you feel is unique about our site, or an important value in shaping how your child learns and develops.

We are making a display in the kindy – this display links to our philosophy which we will be finalising the draft for in the next few weeks. Please put your token piece of nature on top of the white cupboard and we will write/attach your ‘value word’ on a laminated leaf to your item. We would love for all kindy, occasional care and playgroup families to be involved in creating our display.

Reminder to families that Monday 9th November is a pupil free day.

CBPS are having a pupil free day on this day also.

Have a great week.

Karena Wilson
Outdoor Learning Area Upgrade

During week two of term 4, DECD made a media announcement in regards to the ten preschools that will receive an outdoor learning area upgrade in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Unfortunately Crystal Brook Kindergarten was not selected. We have since been told that Crystal Brook Kindergarten ranked 11th with two other sites. We were one of the final 3 sites to be selected. There was over 45 expression of interests submitted and the task in front of the panel was huge.

The panel acknowledged the work that we are doing at the kindy and the high level of commitment that our site has in highlighting the principles and benefits of nature based play spaces. Feedback as to why we weren't selected was because our site does not have a higher level of vulnerable and disadvantaged children compared to some sites that also expressed an interest. Also the condition of the yards of some sites selected is very poor and in need of great repair. This was some of their criteria to make their decision.

As a consolation, the panel is funding Crystal Brook Kindergarten a wonderful opportunity to engage Simon Hutchinson (climbingtree.com.au) for a day to assist with our vision and planning around our outdoor learning area. Anne and I met Simon at a Nature Play SA workshop earlier this year, he is an absolute gem, one of those people you want to bottle their enthusiasm, passion, drive and energy! We will discuss this further at Governing Council and look to engage Simon early next year. This is a very motivating gesture for our kindy community and I thank the panel who was selecting the ten sites for considering Crystal Brook Kindergarten to be worthy of this opportunity.

Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!

We certainly had some crazy fun during week one at our first ever kindy Mud Day! Every kindy child joined in and got dirty! We loved hearing comments about how much fun everyone was having. We had a mud 'n' slide, slippery dip into a muddy puddle, big muddy baths in tractor tyres, puddles of water that were warm from the afternoon sun! It was fantastic to have lots of Occasional Care and Playgroup families join us too! We love having new little faces join us. Great to see kids being kids, getting in touch with nature and having a wow of a time!
Crystal Brook Family Market Day

Congratulations to a very hard working group of parents and kindy staff who managed the organisation and running of the Crystal Brook Family Market on Sunday October 18th. Thank you to everyone who contributed in a variety of ways, in the lead up to the market and on the day.

I felt very proud of our dedicated parents and staff, who banded together to pull off another great market! Although overall attendance numbers were down, the feedback from stall holders and visitors has been very positive. Special mention to Kaidi James who did a wonderful job as Market Coordinator but who also had a great group of helpers to support and help get the job done. It was fantastic to see children enjoying the bouncy castle, face painting, SRC arts and crafts, and the local groups providing food and drinks, from hot dogs, BBQ, baked potatoes, pretzels, ice creams, donuts and fairy floss!

We have tallied our takings and once we take out the expenditure for the day, we will be able to give families an amount raised. Thank you again for your efforts, the children at Crystal Brook Kindy are very lucky to have you supporting their centre!

Important Dates

- 4th November: Visit from CBPS staff - Foundation and Student Support teacher
- 9th November: Kindy Pupil Free Day
- 11th November: School and Kindy transition visits - 1st
- 18th November: School and Kindy transition visits - 2nd
- 25th November: School and Kindy transition visits - 3rd

News from the Crystal Brook Kindy
Sponsors of the Crystal Brook Family Market

A huge thank you to the following businesses who have sponsored the Crystal Brook Family Market in 2015. Often in small communities businesses get many requests to provide sponsorship in different forms to community / sporting / charity groups regularly.

The best way we can show our appreciation to them is by shopping locally and if you get a chance, please say thank you to them on our behalf. We really appreciate the support of our sponsors in helping to run our Market and draw visitors to our beautiful town.

Also a special mention to Crystal Brook Primary School for their support, and for allowing us to use the school grounds and facilities for the fourth year running. Without CBPS we wouldn't have such a wonderful venue to host the Market.

2015 Market Sponsors

Brook Meat Store
Crystal Brook Crash & Auto
Crystal Brook Newsagency
Crystal Brook Pharmacy
Emma Gulin
Foodland
Gummy's Coolroom Hire
Kerin Agencies
LH Perry & Sons
Mitronics
O’Dea Solar & Electrical
Pringle’s Ag & Crouch Rural
Royal Hotel
Wardle Co Real Estate

2nd November 2015

Contact Details
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Crystal Brook SA 5523
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Mosaic for our outdoor environment

Glenda has started working with small groups of children to make mosaics for our outdoor environment. This week children started making some animals to attach to rocks along our water way. Watching the children observe Glenda, follow instructions and learn by having a go themselves at breaking small pieces of china ware and plates, before attaching to the board with glue was fantastic. The children were so proud of their efforts and can't wait for their project to come together.

Glenda is also going to work with children to make a mosaic for our vegetable garden area. We are after a groovy name for the garden. Please let us know if you come up with some great ideas.

Billy Carts—

George has been working with small groups of children on a roster to construct two billy carts. This has been an exciting project for the children as they have learnt much about the design process, including having wheels and axles to turn the steering. Key learning dispositions that this project has promoted is the ability to work together in teams to construct the cart. Children have been taking turns to use the drill, taking risks to have a go at drilling in screws, communicating what they need to do next in the design process, follow instructions, evaluate how they are going..... it has shown fantastic learning for children in a real life context. Children have had opportunities to develop their literacy and numeracy through this hands on experience too.

The children are eagerly awaiting to paint the two billy carts and to give them their ‘test run’. Not surprisingly, when I surveyed the children this week about what they value about coming to kindy, working with George featured amongst an array of responses.

Please remember to return......

- Your child’s school enrolment form to CBPS by this week.
- Your preference form for the Kindy Graduation and Christmas Party proposal. Please write your name on your form as we would like all families to provide feedback if possible.
- Premier’s Be Active Challenge forms. Please return these once you have completed the four weeks of physical activity, for five days a week, 60 minutes a day.
- Token piece of nature and value word for the table display

Thank you!
Billy cart in progress.....

Feeling accomplished as the wheels were fitted to the axle.

Exposure to lots of different language as children used the tech drill

Using the power drill more confidently, taking safe risks when building.

The team work is evident, as children are taking turns to use the drill in small groups.

Measuring the length of the timber used in the frame of the billy cart.

Children are reading the list to check when it is their turn to build.

They loved watching each group work on the billy cart with George.

Waiting at the gate as the children see George’s little ute arrive!

2nd November 2015

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