Centre Update from Catriona

Governing Council 2015.
After a wonderful Family Picnic Tea our AGM was well attended and our new Governing Council for 2015 was elected.
Chairperson — Tori Page      Vice Chairperson — Patrick Bolte
Secretary — Candice Hancock    Treasurer — Andrea Fillmore
Governing Council Members
Candice Kerwin, Nikki Harder, Amy Graham, Georgia Richmond, Eliza Kennedy and Sam Bettany. Staff representatives are Angela Garrett Hannah Perry and Catriona Catt—Director.
We still have two vacancies as general members so if you were unable to attend the AGM and would still like to be involved please come Monday night 23rd February to our first meeting at 7.30am at the kindy.

Buzz List
In the locker room there is a BUZZ LIST on the Parent notice board. Parents voluntarily put their child’s name, their own name and a contact number on the list so other families can contact them to arrange play dates. This information is only to be used for the play date purpose and not for soliciting goods and services.

Soft Wood
Does anyone have soft pine at home or maybe you live near a building site and could collect some for the children to use at the wood work table? The children love hammering and we need soft pine (not perma pine) for this activity.

Term Fees
Thank you to everyone who has paid their fees. Your receipts are in your child’s notice pocket in the locker room. We have created one invoice for the year but you are welcome to pay in 4 termly instalments. The preferred method of payment is through bank transfer with the details being on your invoice. Fees are due by the end of this coming week if paying them in termly instalments.

A few kindy jobs need doing—Can you help out?
We have had a delivery of 5 new tables and 2 water wise portable vegetable gardens which need assembling. If you have some spare time please let Cher know as these items are currently located in the children’s locker room.

Boxes for making
Thanks for all the great donations to my call out for more boxes. We like to use any containers, plastic, cardboard that children can easily cut and join. We also use ribbon, lace, fabric, coloured papers—basically anything safe.

We can not accept donations of toilet rolls or egg cartoons.

CFS CATASTROPHIC DAY HOTLINE 1800 000 279 www.cfs.sa.gov.au
Staffing

Over the next few weeks there are lots of conferences and meetings preschool and school leaders have to attend. While I am away Sara h Crowder will be the relieving teacher. If you need to contact me urgently please send an email as I can access these at home. Sarah is working Monday as I am attending the State DECD Conference.

Sun Safety at kindy

To maintain our Sun Smart Centre rating with the Cancer Council we require all children and staff to wear appropriate clothing that gives them protection. This means broad rimmed hats or legionnaires hats and children must wear t-shirts which cover their shoulders. An options for girls who like wearing strappy dresses is to put a t-shirt on under the dress first.

Parent Complaints

We all expect quality and expert care and teaching for your child in order that they achieve their potential. Working together will give us the best chance of solving a problem that may arise during your child’s time in our kindergarten.

We also recognise that at times things may go wrong. If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know. It’s important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your child’s experience and learning, and also improve processes where possible. All persons in the Stirling East Kindergarten community including children, parents, staff and volunteers have the right to be treated with respect and courtesy in accordance with the preschool’s values.

About complaints or concerns-

This information may be helpful in explaining what a complaint is:

- A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the kindergarten has, for example:
  - done something wrong
  - failed to do something it should have done
  - acted unfairly or impolitely.

- Your concern or complaint may be about:
  - the type, level or quality of services
  - the behaviour and decisions of staff
  - a policy, procedure or practice.

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of State or federal law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

If you are concerned about another child’s behaviour please see one of the teachers. Approaching children’s parents is not advisable to resolve issues.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to the staff member involved, then to the Director if you are still not happy. In the event that you are still not satisfied, you can contact the DECD Office (DECD Mt Barker on 83914705).

In the unlikely event that the matter has not been addressed to your satisfaction, you can contact the If your complaint remains unresolved after working together with our preschool, regional personnel and Regional Director, you should submit, in writing, your complaint to:

Manager, Parent Complaint Unit
Level 6 / 31 Flinders Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Ph: 1800 677 435
Or by email to decd.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au
Curriculum Update from Angela and Hannah

National Curriculum Framework
Belonging, Being and Becoming

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.

When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking.

With the start of the new year it has been wonderful to see the children settle into their kindergarten environment so well. We have watched children become more confident as they explore and try new things. We have seen many special little friendships beginning to form and old friendships re-established. It has been delightful to see the expressions on the children's faces and observe their interactions as they engage in and enjoy the many wonderful learning experiences at kindergarten.

The children have been keen to share their "All about Me Pictures" at group time. It is a lovely way of getting to know each other and finding out how special and unique we are. We will collate all of the pictures and present them in a book for everyone to read. We will be finding our now about the children families so please look for the attached sheet to fill in with your child.

With the beautiful weather the children have enjoyed experimenting with the various properties of water. They made the little frogs come to life in the different sized frog ponds, water painted the kindergarten rocks and pavers and constructed a special water wall using different lengths of plastic tubing. The children helped to attach the tubes to the frame thinking about the direction they should take. We used funnels to pour the water more easily into the tubes and followed the flow of water from the top to the bottom. The children recycled the water from the container underneath to experience the continuous motion of our water wall.

The children are keen to do further experiments with water using the water beads, making ice and we will also try out the special ice machine! Many of the children expressed their interest in paper plane making, so if any parents /care-givers are expert plane makers we would love some ideas or help. The dolls have been very popular and well cared for. Next week the children would like to bath them and feed them with the bottles and baby food.

The children have been getting to know each other and learning to work together in group activities. Sand and water play has been very popular and the children have been working together to build dams, rivers and lakes. Through this play they have been practicing sharing and turn taking, being inclusive of others and developing their collaborative play skills. There has been some fantastic problem solving in their play.

Group construction activities with the waffle blocks have been a highlight as
children worked together to build some fantastic constructions.
They have enjoyed playing with “goop” as a sensory activity that is fun to play with and explore.
They enjoyed exploring the changes as the “goop” sets when you move it quickly then runs through your fingers when you hold it still.
We have been enjoying playing in our beautiful outdoor environment, looking after the chickens and checking for eggs each day, eating mulberries from the tree and watering the garden. The children are beginning to attempt to reach the higher up mulberries on the tree, a challenge to both their physical skills and their problem solving. Oscar and Jet asked for sports day activities on the lawn and helped to build an obstacle course. Many children used the activities and practiced jumping over hurdles, running and weaving through cones, climbing and crawling through a tunnel, as well as practicing ball skills with the rebound net and soccer balls.
We have been learning about keeping score in a number of games including soccer, basketball and motor bike racing. Some children have been interested in counting goals or keeping track of the winners of their races. We have experimented with ways of recording including writing tallies and will continue to develop these skills over the coming weeks.
We have learned some important skills for keeping ourselves safe at kindergarten, including practicing our emergency drills, learning about sun safety and snake safety. The children have done a fantastic job practicing the drills and are now very confident in our emergency procedures. We have borrowed some resources from the Nature Education Centre including some snake specimens for us to explore over the coming weeks.
It has been a fantastic and busy first few weeks at kindergarten and it has been great to see the children making friends and settling in so well.