Centre Update from Catriona

Governing Council

We held our first meeting on Monday 23rd February and have started planning for the year. In the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to order an original Kindy Tea Towel with a picture drawn by every child. Georgia, Jet’s mum has kindly offered to coordinate this fundraiser so you will have time to order extras for Mother’s Day—a great gift idea for every grandma / nanna.

We will also be having a Sausage Sizzle at Bunning Kent Town on Anzac Day and Patrick, Liam B’s dad is coordinating this so he will be seeking volunteers to cook, serve and sell on the day. More information about this soon.

The Governing Council is also looking over our Quality Improvement Plan and supporting staff to make the kindy the most engaging learning environment for your child. Our plans for this year include creating a digging / mud patch so children can engage fully with the natural environment. The children will be involved in the planning and designing stages however we may need some adult help to locate and move moss rocks, large logs and of course dirt/sandy loam to complete the area. We also have plans to build a new pergola over the paved area creating much needed shade in the summer afternoons and more outdoor space on wet days in winter. A roof over the existing deck including a rainwater tank is also on the horizon. All these projects will create a better outdoor learning environment for your child so please support our fundraising ventures to make them happen.

A Big thank you …..

Goes to Sarah, Alex’s mum for putting together our five new tables and to Ethan’s parents Brooke and Tim for building our new planter beds. The children helped me plant one on Thursday afternoon so we hope to be enjoying foods from our garden in the coming weeks and months. Our second garden bed will be planted out on Monday with more seedling and seeds.

Family Excursion to Cleland Wild Life Park

We are planning a Family Excursion for all kindy children and their families on Thursday 10th April. I am in the process of confirming details with the park and Education Officers but ask you to keep this day free. There is no entry cost for kindy children and we usually have a group booking cost for adults. The day will include an education session where the children will have the opportunity to touch some native animals and learn some amazing facts. If parents are unable to attend, grand parents or other adult family members may be able to. This excursion is a great way to meet others and enjoy the learning of the children. More information will follow but please keep the date free if possible. This excursion is for everyone regardless of what days they attend.

Do you need a table in the garden or veranda for the children?

We have a large round table, large rectangular table and small round table which are now surplus to our needs. If you are interested please see a staff member. We can arrange to put them outside the gates for easy collection after hours.

CFS CATASTROPIC DAY HOTLINE 1800 000 279 www.cfs.sa.gov.au
Curriculum Update from Angela and Hannah

National Curriculum Framework  Belonging, Being and Becoming

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
Children use play to investigate, project and explore new ideas.

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
Children engage in increasingly complex sensory-motor skills and movement patterns.

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators
Children use language to communicate thinking about quantities to describe attributes of objects and collections and to explain mathematical ideas.

With the beautiful sunny weather the children have enthusiastically engaged in the many experiences and activities presented in our outdoor environment. One highlight was our snow making machine which turned our ice cubes and ice blocks into a cool fruity delight. It was so popular that the children requested the activity again with everyone enjoying the icy snow cups. It was a great hand eye coordination feat as the children needed to press the start button and catch the snow in their cups very quickly as it shot out the spout! As a follow up experience using another machine we will look at creating healthy boost juices.

The children made some colourful ice blocks and experimented with ice block painting. We also made an ice dome and dropped colourful dye over the top using eye droppers. The colour spread through the cracks in the ice and flowed down the sides like runny lava. The children were very observant and noticed that the frozen ice dome was transparent on the outer part and opaque in the middle.

These experiments foster wonderful and interesting science language and understanding. The fishing game using magnetic fishing rods has been a very popular activity. We constructed the sea incorporating the play boat and a small jetty. The children caught many fish with their rods and eagerly placed them in their buckets. We did lots of counting and sang 12345 Once I Caught a fish Alive. Once again it was a great hand eye coordination experience and the look of delight and excited responses when the children finally caught something on their line was a delight to see. The children were very proud of their achievements. Fishing in the boat also promoted some very positive social and imaginative play scenarios.

The wonder of magnets led to some very interesting discoveries with the children finding all sorts of objects made out of metal that the fishing rods could magically stick to. We will extend this interest with the further exploration of the properties of magnets through a variety of activities and experiments.

The children had the opportunity to navigate our low, long, straight obstacle course on the lawn. It required lots of balancing over a variety of surfaces. We could see the children's confidence and skill develop as they practised. Next the children can experiment with developing their own obstacle course.
Learning through Play: Play can expand children's thinking and enhance their desire to learn. In these ways play can promote positive dispositions towards learning. Children’s immersion in play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being.

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities
Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

The children have been continuing to share their About Me and Family profiles. This has been a fantastic opportunity to learn more about each other. We have enjoyed hearing the story behind each child's name and learning about each other's unique personalities, interests and families. It has been wonderful to see each child share so confidently with the group. We have continued to play name games like "Doggy, Doggy who's got the bone?" and "Who's that hiding under the rug?" to help us to get to know each other's names.

We have continued developing our play skills, learning to share, take turns and negotiate roles and themes in our play. This has been a particular focus of some group play areas including the sand pit, the waffle blocks and block area. We have read the book "Our House" and learned about being inclusive in our play.

We have had a reptiles kit loaned from the Nature Education Centre for the last two weeks, allowing us to explore real specimens of snakes and lizards as we learn about snake safety at kindergarten. The children have enjoyed exploring the items borrowed and have drawn some wonderful snake pictures. We have learned new words to describe the snakes as we explore including lots of "S" words like slither, slide and scales!

This week we have some caterpillars, also from the Nature Education Centre and have borrowed a turtle to look after at kindergarten. We have drawn some detailed pictures of the caterpillars and are developing our observation skills. We have asked questions about our caterpillars and researching to find out some answers. The turtle has been fun to watch. We have learned about his webbed feet, fed him his meals of fish and meat and had a turn at touching his shell. We look forward to another fun week of learning about these creatures.

We have explored colour for the last two weeks, stemming from the children's many requests for blue activities! We had a week of blue, including blue paints in a range of shades and blue play dough. Our relief teacher Sarah introduced us to Picasso's blue period and showed us some of his beautiful paintings that look a lot like the ones the children had been painting this week. We have moved on to a week of green and enjoyed mixing our blue and yellow play dough to make green, as well as exploring a range of colour mixing activities using the light box, powder paints, butterfly paintings and ice paintings. We have enjoyed the book "Mix it Up" where we were able to mix the colours on the page with our magic hands!

We have enjoyed some muddy play outside after sharing the book "I'm a Dirty Dinosaur", and enjoyed making muddy puddles for our dinosaurs to splash in. Parents are welcome to come and join our learning and have fun with us at any time.