Centre Update from Catriona

Governing Council

Family Excursion to Cleland Wild Life Park

We have booked our Family Excursion for all kindy children and their families on Wednesday 9th April. The date change is due to Stirling East primary School holding their sports day on Thursday 10th April. The majority of families indicated the 8th was suitable for them. The entry cost for adults is $15.00 which is being subsidized by the kindy. Please let me know if you have a membership which gives you free entry as you will need to bring this on the day.

Younger children are most welcome to attend this excursion and all children under 4 years of age are free. The walking paths are pram friendly. Our day will start meeting all families at 9.30am at the front gates before we enter the park.

Parents need to transport their own child/ren to the park. We will then have our morning snack and a drink before breaking into two groups. We will be doing a lot of walking so please make sure all children have suitable footwear—no thongs or crocs. Our Education Sessions are booked for 11.30am and 12.30pm so each group will make decisions what time they will have their lunch. The day will finish at 2.30pm as everyone will be very tired by then giving you enough time to get back to Stirling for school pick-ups. If parents are unable to attend, grandparents or other adult family members may be able to. Please come and talk with me if an adult can not attend with your child as we may have other options. This excursion is a great way to meet others and enjoy the learning of the children.

This excursion is for everyone regardless of what days they attend kindy normally.

Library Visit

We are visiting the Stirling Coventry Library on Tuesday 24th March for a story session at 10.30am. We have a bus booked to take us there and then we will be walking back. This will be our first really long walk so we do need parents to help out if you are available. Younger children are again welcome to join us. Please complete the consent form in your child’s notice pocket.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

We still need 8 more volunteers for the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Kent Town on Anzac Day. If we can’t fill our roster we may have to forfeit the day to another group and potentially lose $1000.00. The roster is on the sign in desk.

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

We still have one large round table to give away. If you are interested please see a staff member. We can arrange to put it outside the gates for easy collection after hours.
Curriculum Update from Angela and Hannah

National Curriculum Framework  Belonging, Being and Becoming
Outcome 2: Children are Connected and Contribute to their World
Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Outcome 3: Children Have a Strong Sense of Wellbeing
Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

We have begun learning about our bodies this week including looking at the skeleton (ours is called George) and learning about how parts of our body work. We have observed how our heart beat changes as we exercise, how our lungs help us breathe and how our muscles help us to be strong. The children have shown great curiosity and raised some fantastic questions that we will continue to investigate over the coming weeks. We have drawn bodies using our new "Mr Bendy" models to observe and copy. The children have explored a range of passive and active physical activities including relaxation stories and yoga, challenging climbing activities, rope swings and trapeze and the trampoline. These are a great way to start exploring the way exercise effects our bodies. The children have been involved in designing the obstacle courses and setting themselves new challenges. Does anyone have access to an Human Anatomy Torso model showing the heart, liver, lungs, stomach etc. That we could borrow for a few days?

We have enjoyed a number of cooking experiences over the last two weeks, including baking gingerbread and Anzac biscuits. The children enjoyed measuring ingredients, mixing and stirring and cutting the biscuits into shapes. They smelled delicious while they were baking and tasted good too! We made some healthy fruit and vegetable juices and tried making a few different flavours, including apple and carrot and pear and cucumber. Yum! Using the juicing machine was fun but a bit noisy!

We have enjoyed looking after our kindergarten creatures. We have said goodbye to our turtle who has returned to the Nature Education Centre. We enjoyed having him visit and learned a lot as we looked after him. The children have been helping to feed the chickens and collect the eggs. The chickens are now laying regularly so soon we will be able to cook and eat some of the eggs.

Our caterpillars are all now in their cocoons and we have enjoyed observing them as they change. It is a great opportunity to practice observing and describing what we see. The children have raised lots of interesting questions and we have had some great discussions.
We have explored numeracy concepts including counting, basic number problems and graphing as we watched the caterpillars change. This week we also collected some tadpoles from the Nature Education Centre. We are now watching them grow and hope they will develop into frogs. As our tadpoles grow they will need pond slime for eating, so if you have a supply or can go exploring the local creeks with your family to find some our tadpoles will be very happy. We will be continuing to explore life cycles through to the end of the term.

The children have planted the vegetable gardens in the new raised garden beds. We are growing strawberries, kale, mixed lettuce and celery. The children have been helping to look after their garden and have been watering every day.

The children have been exploring a range of creative techniques including marble painting and using pipettes to drop dye to make butterflies. We have made handprint paintings and will be continuing on with finger painting and foot print painting next week.

Have you seen the Learning Floor Book which is normally near the front door. It captures the learning during our day and we welcome your comments.

Occasional Care

Some children are now accessing occasional care during the kindy week. What is Occasional Care? It means your child can stay for a full day instead of a half day of kindy. Do you need some extra time? Is your child wanting to stay at kindy longer? The cost is $30.00 per half day which is cheaper than most child care. We need a minimum of four children to make this a viable program each day as we need the funds to pay staff. We are making available 7 positions on Monday afternoons, 6 positions on Tuesday afternoons and 12 positions on Thursday afternoons. You can make a booking for the entire term. Please email me your requests and I will send you a confirmation as soon as I can.

Easter

With Easter just around the corner we respect every family has different beliefs and practices. We believe Easter is a special time for families to celebrate in their own way. As such there will not be any structured Easter craft at kindy. Children are always able to create using their own ideas.