Centre Update from Catriona

Governing Council Update

This year the kindergarten is selling tickets for The People’s Choice Community Raffle. Each ticket is only $2.00 and there are some fantastic prizes to be had including a car and travel prizes. Our own Vonny won 4th prize of $20,000 travel in 2008. We are asking each family to take one book of tickets to sell and return the collected money and ticket book to the kindy by Thursday 11th June. Tickets can now also be bought on line by following the link below.


All proceeds come to the kindy and we are using this money towards a new pergola which will be constructed during the July school holidays.

The tea towels and bags have been ordered and will be delivered very soon.

Working Bee

On Saturday 23rd May we are having a short working bee at kindy to remove the old chicken shed. This area has become home to many unwanted rats so the Governing Council are going to rebuild a new home for chickens later in the year.

We need at least two trailers, picks, wheel barrows and tools that would be useful in demolishing the old shed and timber enclosure. Luke Bettany is going to be bringing his Dingo digger to break up the concrete base which we will also have to remove and take to the dump. Please bring your own safety equipment. We can start at 8.30am and hope to be finished by 11.30am. Please let one of the staff know if you can help.

Thank you to Pete Monaghan and Luke Bettany for painting the home corner room in the last school holidays. This was the last of the blue walls to be painted. The room is now much lighter and brighter.

PUPIL FREE DAY NOTIFICATION

Each year the kindergarten is able to have two PUPIL FREE DAYS to enable staff to work on DECD initiatives or attend other professional training sessions. The Kindergarten will be closed on Thursday May 21 as the staff work on the DECD initiative of Literacy and Numeracy Indicators.

New Puzzles

We have just purchased some new puzzles for the children which need to be stamped prior to the children using them. If you have some free time on Monday and would like to help out stamping puzzles please let us know.

Art Show Consent Forms

Please return the BLUE consent form as soon as possible as children will start to work on their individual paintings once the forms are returned.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the Art Gallery excursion with us. Both visits were fabulous and I know the parents were pleased to help and enjoyed the learning as well. If you are looking for a FREE activity this weekend why not visit the Art Gallery. Our time was very limited and there is SO MUCH to see.
Curriculum Update from Angela and Hannah

National Curriculum Framework  Belonging, Being and Becoming

The children have enjoyed two fantastic excursions to the Art Gallery this week. We had a guided tour from one of the Gallery volunteers and saw a range of art works including still life, landscape, portrait and abstract paintings, sculptures, folk art and indigenous art. We have been exploring some of these media from the beginning of this term with a particular focus on water colour and easel painting and sculpture. We have used play dough, clay and white clay together with beads, cork wire and feathers to create some fantastic sculptures. The children have tried dot painting and have learned about some of the symbols used in dot paintings. The children will be displaying some of their work in their Art Gallery and Studio just inside the kindergarten entrance. We have discussed the many ways in which we are artists at kindy and of course the whole kindergarten can be our studio. Art work happens everywhere! We will be continuing to explore a variety of artistic techniques and processes throughout the term as we lead up to the Art Show in week 7.

We have established our mud digging patch with the help of a number of parents and all of the children! We had a great morning shifting the soil to the mud digging patch and have enjoyed some muddy play. A big thank you to those families who helped out. The children have made mud pies in the mud kitchen, enjoyed digging for worms, played with trucks and diggers and enjoyed getting dirty. They can be used to construct and build, as tables or chairs and hay can be pulled out and used in pretend cooking, imaginary games or art work. We are exploring the use of loose parts play as a way of challenging children to come up with their own uses for materials. Children use their problem solving skills, imagination and creativity as they play with these open ended resources.

We have enjoyed playing with construction sets over the last few weeks, especially tool-o and the marble run. These are some challenging sets that have sparked a lot of interest and the children have played collaboratively as they build. There have been many vehicles made and kept to show families at the end of the day. The children have been very proud of their work!

We have been exploring safe play and positive behaviour with the children this week. The children have been asked to describe the type of play that we would like to see at kindergarten. We are asking the children to express this in the positive, for example playing gently and being kind, rather than negatively with statements like no hitting or no shouting. This can be a difficult shift in thinking for children and adults alike. It would be great for families to help support this by using positive rules at home.

As a follow up from our Cleland Family Excursion the children have enjoyed taking care of our Plains Mice from the Nature Education Centre. As well as learning different facts about how special the mice are, the children were extremely keen to sing and dramatize a variety of songs about mice, including Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, Hickory Dickory Dock and Little Mice are Creeping. Nursery Rhymes play an important role in developing literacy skills as they are predictable, easily remembered, use repetitive language and tell a story. Once again performing in front of the group helps children to develop confidence as well as promoting cooperative skills, opportunity to following directions, experience in interpreting a story and expressing themselves creatively. The songs sparked off a great flurry of clock making with wonderful opportunities for numeracy, especially lots of number writing and counting!

The children have started exploring sculpture this week using the different mediums of play dough, brown clay and special white clay. It was wonderful to watch them explore and use a variety of adjuncts to create their works of art, such as wire, pipe cleaners, buttons, corks, beads to name a few. They worked with such enthusiasm and their natural ability to make their ideas a reality is truly amazing.

In coming weeks we will be setting up our Can Of Worms worm farm as part of developing our sustainability practices. With all the wonderful mud play currently happening I am sure the exploration of worms will fit in very nicely!
This coming week we welcome back Jalna who is a student teacher.

My name is Jalna Anspach and I am currently in my third year studying a Bachelor of Early childhood Education at the University of South Australia at Magill Campus. As part of my studies I will be undertaking Professional Experience at Stirling East Kindergarten for 28 days. I have completed three full day visits and my block practicum begins next week until Tuesday 23rd of June.

I currently work as a relief staff in a childcare centre and Preschool. I have had a range of experience working with children which include ages from 0-13 years, and also in different countries including Italy and Canada. I love being around children, watching and conversing with them and teaching them new things. In my free time I like to play netball, run, cycle, and watch movies. I am a very open-minded, easy going person and love to experience new things. I am very much looking forward to my time here at Stirling East Kindergarten.

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 for additional 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.

Learning Journals

We hope you enjoyed sharing in your child's Learning Journal during the term break. Please return your child's Journal this week. We are still missing some and have lots of new stories to add.

A Big Thank You to Rory's family and Marshall's family for looking after the chickens in the school holidays.

Term 2 Fees are now due.
Payments are due 22nd May.
Thank you to those who have already paid.