Centre Update from Catriona

Kindy Photos
As soon as the photos are returned we will send them home.

Children’s Book Week Library Visit
Thanks to Elly, Meredith and Floria who walked with us to the library. We all enjoyed seeing Janeen Brian and hearing about who she wrote some of her stories.

Book Donations
Thank you to the 7 families who have donated books during Children’s Book Week. We still have 15 books which we are hoping will be donated so we are leaving the donation book display up for another week. Payments can be made via the internet and each book donated will have a beautiful donation label placed on the inside of the book with your child’s name on it.

Children’s Disco
Our dance lessons start this Tuesday 1st September with Heidi from Dancify. The lessons start at 9.30am so please try to arrive at kindy on time at 9.00am.

Cable drums
A big thank you to Craig, Bella dad for finding some wooden cable drums for our yard. We are now asking you to have a look in your garden shed for old outdoor house paint (lead free) in the tones of green, brown or grey to paint the cable drums as without paint they will deteriorate quickly. Once we have some donations and some fine weather we will be inviting parents to come and join us in a painting the cable drums morning.

Child Youth Health Screening Day
The final health screening day is this coming Tuesday 1st September. Vonny has all the appointment times if you need to check yours.
If you have any concerns about your child’s development you can contact Child Youth Health on 8398 6600 in Mt Barker. This service is free.

Parent Opinion Survey
This coming week you may be asked to complete a Parent Opinion Survey for kindy. We do value your ideas and feedback and ask that completed surveys are put into the RETURN BOX by Wednesday.

Stirling Christmas Pageant
Each year the kindy participates in the Stirling Christmas Pageant. This year the pageant is on Sunday 15th November at 11.30am. The theme is “Christmas Under the Sea” so we would like your ideas on how the children can dress up. A simple costume that can be easily made and is highly effective and visible on mass is what we are looking for. One adult is required to walk with each child so also think about how you could dress up also. We have had some suggestions such as Rainbow Fish and Octopus’ Garden so if you like one of these or have another idea please put in in the return box and we will make a decision at the next Governing Council meeting on Monday 31st August.

Congratulations to Hannah and her husband who are expecting their second child in March.
We have had a very busy time at kindergarten enjoying the many special activities and events happening at the moment. After visiting the Patch Theatre and watching “The Moon is a Balloon” we got the idea of making some balloon balls to play hand tennis. We used some very strong balloons and filled them with fine sand. We used funnels to channel the sand inside and blew them up very carefully. We attached some string and hung them from our new pergola. The balloons were heavy and wobbly and it was quite a feat to predict where the balloon was going to swing and the direction it would take on the way back. Sometimes the balloons swung around like a pendulum creating a smaller and smaller circular movement. Some children balanced them on their heads and others turned balloon batting into a special game, climbing up the staircase platform constructed with the large outdoor blocks. We also observed some very good team work as children hit the balloons to each other. Many children enjoyed experimenting with the unique motion of the balloons. It was great to watch them persist and gain control of their movements and to see how much fun they were having. A wonderful activity to foster hand/eye coordination, tracking skills, balance, visual motor integration and cooperative play.

Another highlight of the week was the special visiting science show about space. The children have been very inquisitive about space and have asked many questions at brainstorming time. David the science teacher enlightened us with lots of information and amazing facts about space. Even the teachers learnt something new! We discovered more about the planet Earth, how it revolves around the sun, its polar caps and how Earth fits into our solar system. We did an experiment on perspective and how very big things can look tiny when they are far away like the planets and the stars. David talked about the phases of the moon and the children delighted in making craters on the pretend moon surface using round magnets as meteorites. The grand finale of the show was creating rockets using Bi-carb and vinegar in little tubes. Wow, what a reaction! They flew up into the sky like a real rocket launching into space! We will be continuing with some of these amazing activities over the next week.

We celebrated Book Week this week with a visit to the library to listen to author Janeen Brian. The theme of Book Week is “Books Light Up Our World” and we have discussed how special this is and what it could mean to us. The children always come up with such insightful answers and questions. The theme has fitted in very nicely with our space focus as well. Janeen shared some of her many books with us including Wishbone, I’m A Dirty Dinosaur and her latest, I’m a Hungry Dinosaur. It was very interesting to hear how she got some of the inspirations for her books. The children listened very well and did an excellent job walking there and back in the beautiful sunshine. We always enjoy being out and about in the community! Thankyou to the parents who came with us and helped to keep us safe.

The children have enjoyed dressing up for Book Week on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Children came dressed as a range of characters from their favourite books and stories. There were fairy tale characters like Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks, favourite book characters like Saucepan Man from The Faraway Tree, dragons and dinosaurs, doctors and policemen and a range of princesses and superheroes. Some brought in their favourite books to share with the group and we enjoyed reading some of them together. As we have been celebrating book week we have had a cozy reading corner outside where children have enjoyed looking at books together.

We are continuing with our Story A Day program and the focus stories for the last two weeks have been Jack and the Beanstalk and Pete the Cat. We have explored different versions of Jack and the Beanstalk and retold both stories in a range of ways, including puppet play and role play. The children have used shadow puppets this week to retell the story of Pete the Cat and have also begun making their own shadow puppet characters. We have been learning about writing books including finding out about authors and illustrators and what they do. We have read the book Recipe for a Story which beautifully introduces some elements of a book including an idea, characters, plot or action, feelings and emotions, different types of words, and grammatical terms like capital letters and full stops.

We have been collecting donations of materials to extend our outdoor play and have been given some fantastic cable drums and some big sticks that we have started using this week. These materials encourage children to think creatively, work together, problem solve and construct. The children have been enjoying them already!

We have seen renewed interest in climbing the mulberry tree and children’s physical skills and confidence have improved since the beginning of the year with many testing their abilities by balancing on branches or jumping and swinging. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to engage in risky play, where children learn to manage their own level of risk and keep themselves and others safe. They are a responsible group of children and it is fantastic to see them managing their risk taking independently.