Centre Update from Catriona

**Children’s Disco**

This Wednesday afternoon is the children’s disco from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. A parent or nominated responsible adult is required to stay with each child. The children have enjoyed their dance lessons with Heidi and are really excited about the disco. Children can come dressed up but please be aware that the children will be hot fairly quickly with all the dancing so a layered approach to clothing is advisable. We will be having a drink break half way through. We encourage other siblings not to attend if possible due to the limited space.

**Stirling Christmas Pageant**

At our recent Governing Council meeting it was decided the Stirling East Kindergarten pageant entry will be Rainbow Fish. Rainbow Fish is a story about friendships and as such we felt it was very appropriate for our children.

**Cable drums**

As yet we have not received any donations of paint for our cable drums. 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. We will paint them next term.

**BOXES BOXES BOXES**

The children have been SO busy creative 3D constructions on the verandah that we have run out of boxes, all plastic containers, tubes etc. (Note we don’t use toilet rolls)

Please start collecting so the children can keep creating.

Sunsmart Policy and Hats

Please send a sun smart hat for your child in their bag. On days of very sunny weather children can then access their hats. Due to our very long wet and cold winter we are not enforcing hats unless the UV rating is above 3 for the next two weeks. We do have concerns that children and adults are not getting enough vitamin D presently and as we have more shade in our yard now we are seeking a balanced approach. This strategy was discussed at our last Governing Council meeting and approved by the members. As from the beginning of term 4 all children will be required to wear a hat outside and come with sunscreen on. Staff will assist children to reapply during the lunch break for children who stay all day.

Kindy Closure Day

The Governing Council and the Education Director have approved a kindergarten closure day on **Tuesday 27th October**. This means there is no kindy sessions on this day. The whole staff team will be engaging in WHS updates, reviewing our QIP and the numeracy and literacy indicators.

Long Service Leave

I am taking Long Service Leave in the final week of this term. Susan Jenner will be teaching with the team during this time.

Correct Pencil Grip

Recently I have observed many children are still struggling with how they hold pencils and texts. When ever your child is doing some drawing or writing please have a look at how they are holding their writing tool and help them to hold the tool in the correct position. This will give them better control over their movements.
Curriculum Update from Angela and Hannah

National Curriculum Framework  Belonging, Being and Becoming

In our group discussions it has been wonderful to share with the children their reflections on the special focus stories we have been engaging with. They are able to recount and retell the story with confidence and enthusiasm, helping each other to remember and piece together the general narrative of the picture book. Last week’s focus story was “Possum Magic” and as well as retelling the story using puppets and props we enjoyed a range of games and activities based on the themes of the book. We enjoyed playing the circle game Highway Number One about travelling around Australia, explored concepts of invisibility through colour resist paintings and made Anzac biscuits and vegemite sandwiches for a “Possum Magic” themed morning tea. This week we are discovering the story “With Nan” about a small boy who enjoys an adventure walk with his grandma and discovers many surprises and beautiful moments in nature through the wise eyes of grandma. Most of all he loves to curl up and take a nap in her soft and safe lap after their special time together. We have read the book, making the story come to life with visual aids exploring the amazing world of camouflage. The story also ties in well with the idea behind “Possum Magic”, Hush and his very special Grandma Poss. At the end of our focus stories the children will have the opportunity to vote on their favourite book. We will collate this data and it will be interesting to find out what the children’s thoughts are and which books are the most popular. The children are keen to create a magical fairy garden outside. We have been painting glitter rocks and making sun catchers to encourage the fairies into our kindergarten. It was suggested we make the garden inside our living cubby as it is a cozy and quiet, secluded spot. We will continue to share our ideas and add to this special little project over the coming weeks. Some big toadstools and bead sun catchers are our next thoughts!

Heidi our disco dance teacher has been working with us on our special dances for our Disco Night next week. We are learning some great new moves and grooves and can’t wait to perform all of our energetic dances to our families on the night. Heidi’s sessions are a great way to get physical as the children can participate at their own level and pace. It is wonderful to see the children all joining in together and having such great fun!

We have been enjoying nature play at kindergarten this week with the children making some fantastic creations with some of the sticks that have been donated. We have created a tee pee and a jungle in the sandpit. These materials lead to some wonderful collaborative play and group problem solving. The jungle has been a lot of fun with children incorporating this into other areas of their play, including making jungle animals at the making table and creating imaginary games for this setting. This play linked well into the themes of our book of the week “With Nan” with children able to go on their own discovery walks to see what they could find hiding in the jungle. The children have continued to enjoy exploring the environment, looking for living creatures, and we have enjoyed using bug catches to keep the creatures in while we have a look. The children are great at caring for living creatures and will often ask themselves what the creature they have found needs to eat and where it likes to live. The children have been enjoying some sensory activities this week with rice pouring being a favourite activity for many. The rice feels lovely to pour between your fingers and is fun to explore with a range of pouring and measuring tools. It creates a space for social play with children pretending to make cakes and other food, build mountains and even a recycling centre where water wheel was used as a metal grinder and the children recycled metal to make new cars! What fantastic imagination!