Centre Update from Catriona

It is hard to believe that this term only has eight weeks left. As you can see from the Diary Dates there will be a lot happening so please check your emails and put important dates in your diary.

This term we welcome Peri and her family to kindy. We hope they have a great final term with us.

We do still have some Occasional Care positions available on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Please send me an email if you would like to make a booking anytime over the coming weeks.

I am currently making arrangements with Stirling East Primary School to do some afternoon visits. This means all the children will walk up to school leaving kindy at 1.30pm and being collected by parents / carers at school at 3.00pm. As soon as the dates are finalized I will email everyone. We will be looking for some parent volunteers to walk with us on these days.

Kindy Closure Day
The Governing Council and the Education Director have approved a kindergarten closure day on Tuesday 27th October. This means there are 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.

Student Teacher
We welcome Adele Steel a 2nd year pre-service teacher who is working with us for four weeks. This is her first placement in a kindergarten.

Stirling Christmas Pageant
Yes, Christmas is nearly here and the pageant is only weeks away. This year the Stirling Pageant is on Sunday 15th November and starts at 11.30am. Traditionally we have walked as a group in the pageant and all dressed in the nominated theme. This year’s theme is ‘Christmas under the Sea’. We have entered our group as Rainbow Fish. Please make/dress your child as a fish for the walk. We will be getting some special sparkly fabric and cutting it into scales so every child has one “Special scale” as in the story. If you are not familiar with the story there is a copy on the sign in desk to look at.

We will have a meeting place on Druids Ave which will be advised, and at the end of the walk families disperse to view the rest of the pageant. A parent must walk with their child on the day. Please email me back ASAP if you will be walking with your child in our group. Parents are asked to dress in blue to symbolize the sea.

Woolworths Stickers
Thank you to everyone who collected their stickers for kindy. We collected 5580 points which have been used to purchase some new equipment that will be arriving in the next few weeks.

Staff Training
Over the next few weeks Angela and I have to attend several meetings and training sessions. During this time Susan Jenner will be relieving.

Summer Clothing
With the warmer weather the children are engaging in more water play activities. Please ensure they have a change of SUMMER clothes in their bags. Children are also required to have their shoulders fully cover by a T-shirt. Singlet tops and dresses are not allowed as they do not protect children from sun damage. Please make sure your child has sunscreen applied at home before coming to kindy each day.

Raised Garden Beds
We have won two raised garden beds. Is someone able to come in and build them?
Curriculum Update from Angela and Hannah

National Curriculum Framework  Belonging, Being and Becoming

What a great effort with our Story a Day program, our trees looked amazing at the end of last term. The children are ready to take down the leaves and we will tally up the amount of leaves we finally ended up with. Lots and lots of adding up to do! The children were very enthusiastic when it came to voting on their favourite focus book. We reviewed the stories we had read over the term and the children were very clear on their favourite and why they chose it. The children wrote their name on a card and posted it in a box behind the book cover. We are excited to announce that “Pete The Cat” won with 14 votes, 5 more than its nearest contender “Three Billy Goats Gruff”. The stories were well chosen and enjoyed with each of the 8 books receiving more than two votes. We completed the voting by drawing up a graph so that we could count and compare and see the data clearly. Our curriculum this term will focus more specifically on numeracy, so this has been a great start.

We now have a new kitchen in the mud patch and will be adding a variety of resources and loose parts for the children to explore and experiment with. As part of our numeracy focus this term we have set up an estimating table as you enter the front door. The children are encouraged to develop their estimation skills by guessing and eventually judging how many things there are in the special jar. Please tick your name off the list on the wall when you have had a turn and we will unveil and count the amount to see if anyone is spot on! This activity will progressively become more interesting and tricky as the children have more practice and learn new skills. Children need varied experiences to practice estimating and to build an understanding between volume and capacity.

Our bean stalks grew quickly over the school holidays and the children were eager to measure how tall they had become. First we needed to make them straight by tying them up with string. The children decided 8 cm lengths of string worked well and still enabled the plant to grow even more. The lengths were cut to perfection and the children helped each other to measure with the tape, hold the string and then cut, great team work! One bean stalk had reached 47cm tall and the second one was even taller at 60cm. We compared their heights and will continue to observe and measure any new growth.