Centre Update from Catriona

A big thank you to all of our Grandparents and special visitors that were able to attend our morning tea. The children were really excited to have their special people at kindy and share their learning with them.

A really BIG thank you goes to all those behind the scene which made the morning such a success. Philippa and Taetia for cooking scones with the children Wednesday morning. Donations of scones from Sharon and Gill and Anzac biscuits from Kelly and Bianca. Donations of cream and jam from Tracy, Asta, Philippa and Karen. Gill, Kylie and Angela worked to put the morning tea together and make tea and coffee for all the children’s guests. We really value parent participation in our program and collectively you have all helped make a wonderful morning for the children and their grandparents and special guests.

A Story–A–Day

Sharing Stories

Attention and concentration
Time spent together
Talking together
Children join in
Children ask questions
Parents give answers
Children learn new ideas and new words.

Watching TV

Short attention span—30 second ads every 8 minutes
Not talking together
Can’t talk to TV
Can’t stop TV and ask questions
Don’t need to think!

Benefits of Regular Story Times to Parents

Routines such as reading can help with bed time. When stories are loved, read them again as this helps children to develop skills of prediction, rhyme, recall, “reading along” and letter identification. Reading together helps build up your child’s attention span. Allow them time to reflect on the story and ask questions. A book can be taken anywhere and needs no power to work. It is a time when your child has your total attention and cuddles….And children can be happier to give you the time you need, after their needs are met.
People's Choice Credit Union Lottery.

Please return your sold raffle book by this coming Thursday 26th May with the $20.00. 100% profit goes to the kindergarten so we are seeking 100% returned and sold.

Online tickets will still be available for the Community Lottery until 31st August. There’s no limit to the number of tickets which we can sell online and the funds raised are over and above what we will sell in paper tickets. We are raising funds to further develop our Nature Play learning environment. So far we have raised $0.00 through online sales.

Please go to:

Hats and the UV Index

Many children are still not bringing HATS to kindy every day. Please make sure your child's hat is in their bag. Baseball caps are not acceptable.

Coventry Library Visit

On Tuesday 31st May we are walking to the Coventry Library for a Story Time session. We will be leaving kindy at 10am to arrive at the library at 10.30am. We are seeking parents to walk with us as we will be crossing Mt Barker Road. Please let a staff member know if you can join us.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a wide selection of items that have been left at kindy and are now located in the LOST PROPERTY BASKET which is next to the sign in desk. Please have a look next time you are in.

TOOTH BRUSHES

We only have 20 soft quality Colgate tooth brushes left on sale at kindy for only $2.50 each. These are great for small mouths and a fraction of the price you would pay in the supermarket. They are in a yellow box on the sign in desk. Please place your cash payment in to an envelope with your child's name on it and the amount enclosed.

TERM DATES 2016

2 May — 8 July
25 July — 30 Sept
17 Oct — 16 Dec

Focus Stories for weeks 4 and 5

Our focus stories for the next two weeks are “There’s a Hipposotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake” by Hazel Edwards and “Big Rain Coming” by Katrina Germein. Have you looked through our Learning Floor Book lately? There has been a lot of learning at kindy and we try to record as much as we can through this document.

Parent Teacher Conversations

Susan and I will be available on Tuesday the 7th and Wednesday 8th June to have fifteen minute conversations with you about your child. Angela has spoken with her group last term before going on leave. Please find an invitation in your child notice pocket this coming week to make an appointment time to chat with
The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
Belonging, Being and Becoming

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.

When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other’s thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking.

We have had two very busy weeks at kindy, since the last newsletter, with our Literacy and Numeracy focuses continuing to grow and develop.

**WEEK 2 FOCUS STORY: ‘Arthur’ by Amanda Graham**

Our focus story for Week 2 was *Arthur*, which tells of an “ordinary brown dog” in a pet shop, who is looking for a home and a “pair of old slippers to chew”. Arthur tries to imitate the other animals in the shop, believing that this will make him a more desirable choice of pet.

On Tuesday the 10th of May we were particularly lucky to have a visit from **Amanda Graham**, the author of our focus story. Amanda is also a teacher, living and working here in the Adelaide Hills. She read a number of the books she has written and illustrated and worked with the children to write their own book. She spoke about choosing a character, setting and a problem for a story. Together with Amanda, the children and illustrated wrote *Hoppy and Beary*, the tail of bunny in search of a new home. The book is on display in our reading corner, so please take a look.

As an adjunct to our focus story, *Arthur*, we set up a **pet shop** at kindy and children were invited to bring their soft toys to be the pets for sale. The children exchanged pets at the pet shop and also bought food, leads and grooming tools to help them care for their pets.

We also invited the children to bring in photos of their own pets to share with the group. Then, we made a graph showing the different types of pets our kindy friends own.

**ESTIMATING JAR**

Continuing with our Numeracy focus, we introduced the concept of estimation through the addition of an **Estimating Jar**. Each week the jar is filled with different items and the children are invited to estimate how many objects are in the jar. At the end of each week we will review the different estimations and check how many objects there are, by counting them. This project gives children the opportunity to explore the skills of observation and prediction necessary for estimation as well as allowing them to practise counting using one-to-one correspondence. We also encourage children to have a go at writing their own numbers, to learn the corresponding numeral symbols.

**WEEK 3 FOCUS STORY: ‘Shoes from Grandpa’ by Mem Fox**

This week our focus story has been *Shoes from Grandpa* by **Mem Fox**. The story follows Jessie, a young girl who is given a pair of shoes from her grandfather. Following this many members of Jessie’s family decide that she needs new clothing “to go with the shoes from Grandpa”. As the story goes on Jessie’s outfits become more and more muddled and, whilst grateful for all the gifts, Jessie expresses that all she really wants is a pair of jeans.
GRANDPARENTS’ & SPECIAL PERSONS’ MORNING TEA

A special focus this fortnight, inspired by *Shoes from Grandpa*, was our Grandparents’ and Special Persons’ Morning Tea. The children have been engaged in making invitations, decorating ‘welcome’ signs and baking scones and Anzac biscuits in preparation. The event was an enormous success with over 55 grandparents and special people attending. The children did a wonderful job of playing ‘tour guide’ to their guests, showing them around the kindy and sharing their learning journals with them. It was clear how much pride they all take in their kindy. After a delicious morning tea, our visitors were entertained with some songs and one of our favourite dances, *The Wombat Wobble*, and listened to a reading of *Shoes from Grandpa*. There was an incredible atmosphere of love, support and encouragement at the morning tea – what lucky children to have such wonderful grandparents and special people in their lives! Thank you to all who attended for making this such a successful event.

AUTHOR VISIT – ALEESAH DARLISON

We were privileged to have another Australian children’s author, Aleesah Darlison, visit our kindy this week. Aleesah read us two of her picture books; *Puggles Problem*, about a tiny echidna who desperately wants to grow spines, and *Warambi*, the story of a microbat whose home is destroyed by human development. Aleesah shared some interesting knowledge about these and other native Australian animals and engaged the children in some dramatic animal characterisation. Thanks to a donation from Annabelle and Scarlett’s grandparents we have been able to purchase these books.

GARDENING

Some keen gardeners have worked together to sow lettuce seeds and plant spring bulbs in our kindergarten yard. We are looking forward to watching them grow… hopefully with as much vigour as our vegetable garden.

OUR STORY—A—DAY TREE

Another thing growing quickly is our Kindy Story—A—Day Tree. In just one week it has sprouted leaves of all shapes, colours and sizes, reflecting just how much valuable reading is taking place in your homes. Keep up the great work!