Newsletter No. 8
3rd June 2016

Diary Dates

📅 Monday 6th June
Stirling East Primary Reception class visit (afternoon)

📅 Tuesday 7th June
Teacher /Parent Conversations

📅 Wednesday 8th June
Teacher /Parent Conversations

📅 Monday 13th June
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

Reminders

☐ Bring a healthy snack, lunch and water bottle
☐ Have a change of clothes in your bag
☐ Rain coats and rubber boots are great for outside play in wet weather.
☐ Everyone must have a HAT
☐ Apply sunscreen before coming to kindy
☐ PLEASE LABLE ALL YOUR CHILD’S BELONGINGS OR CHECK LOST PROPERTY DAILY :-)

Focus Stories for Weeks 6 & 7

Our focus stories for the next two weeks are “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” and “Pete the Cat—I Love My White Shoes” by Eric Litwin.

If your child has a version of Goldilocks in their home library we would love them to bring it to kindy so we can investigate the similarities and differences between different versions of this traditional tale, as we did at the beginning of the term with “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”.

Hats and the UV Index

Whilst sun protection has not been required for the past week or so, we are still checking the UV Index daily. Please make sure your child brings a HAT every day in case the UV Index is 3 or over. Baseball caps are not acceptable.

SIGN IN SHEET

Please remember to sign your child in and out each day on the sign in sheet. If grandparents or other people are involved in dropping off or collecting your child, please make sure they are also aware of this requirement.

REMEMBER: Parent Teacher Conversations

Susan and Catriona will be meeting with parents 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.

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. Proceeds from the sale of these tooth brushes support Stirling East Kindy.

TERM DATES 2016

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

WEEK 4

Focus Story and Excursion

In week 4 our focus story was *There’s a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake* by Hazel Edwards. The story is told by a young girl who has a hippopotamus as an imaginary friend, and it follows the adventures they have together. There are a number of other books in series where the little girl and other children go on many adventures with the hippopotamus. They go to the beach, they go to the hospital and they even have a jungle themed birthday party.

We took the opportunity to learn some things about hippopotami – where they live, what they eat, and how big they are. We measured out the average length and width of a hippo on the floor and drew a chalk outline. It was so big that all the children were able to sit inside! Zachary (B) and Ben had recently been to the Adelaide Zoo and shared some photographs of Brutus and Susie, the resident hippos. Coincidentally Brutus shares a birthday with Zac and we discovered that he had just turned 50! We viewed a news story of Brutus being presented with a special birthday cake (made of pumpkins).

To tie in with our focus story, one area of kindy was turned into a jungle, complete with vines and jungle animal figurines and puppets. There were even jungle sounds playing in the background to add to the scene.

To finish the week, we were able to see a performance called *Hippo Hippo*, a musical production based on the series of books by Hazel Edwards. As part of the excursion, kindy friends made their first journey together on a bus. This was very exciting! It allowed the children engage with the broader community as a cohort of students. This would have been a new experience for many. The children also made animal masks so that they could participate in the Jungle Birthday Party at the end of the show. This experience gave the kindy children the opportunity to engage with live performance and to experience the retelling of a story known to them in a different way. It also offered an opportunity for the children to see how music can be incorporated into story telling.

WEEK 5

Focus Story and Reconciliation Week

The focus story this week has been *Big Rain Coming* by Katrina Germein. The story was chosen to align with Reconciliation Week. This is an annual event that recognises Indigenous Australians as the first Australians and supports the goal of improving relations between Indigenous Australians and other Australians.

The story of *Big Rain Coming* follows a week in the community of Minyerri in the Northern Territory. An elder, Old Stephen, sees some clouds and informs the community there will soon be rain. Over the week we see how people and animals make do and keep cool while they wait for the rain. Finally, on Saturday, rain arrives and everybody celebrates.
Over the course of the week, Asta has been sharing some of her experiences working in the Indigenous community of Mimili in Central Australia. We have learnt some songs in Pitjantjatjara (one of the languages of the region), looked at photos and videos of the school and the surrounding environment and Asta has shared some of the art pieces she collected during her time there. We also saw pictures of a community in Arnhem Land and watched a news report about bilingual education in Broome.

The children have also painted in the style of some Indigenous art and have been able draw symbols in red sand, like the sand in the central Australian desert. We have shared some Indigenous Dreaming stories and have listened to the music of Gurrumul Yunupingu.

Many children made props so that we could retell the story of *Big Rain Coming* together. We have made a series of posters illustrating our retelling of the story. Please come and take a look.

**The Rain Gauge and the Water Cycle**

While reading *Big Rain Coming* we have been discussing water and rain. We have talked about where rain comes from and what a cloud is. We have also discussed the uses of water and why water is so important for life. Over the week, we have measured and graphed the rainfall here at kindy. Each morning we have checked the rain gauge to see how many millimetres of rain have fallen overnight. We put a little paint powder in the rain gauge so we can clearly read the measurement.

As we measured the rain, we discussed how to accurately read the rain gauge and how the measurement can appear different depending on how you hold the gauge.

**Library Visit**

On Tuesday morning we walked to the Stirling Library. It was a long and slightly uphill walk to get there, with a few roads to cross along the way. We were very lucky to have fine weather for the outing as well as a couple of parent helpers!

Along the way we walked past Lucas’s house and Zoe, Jacob and Grace pointed out their street. Children identified with various local landmarks along the way including the *Stirling Oval*, the *Woolworths Shopping Centre* and *The Stirling Hotel*.

Many of our kindy children are regular library visitors and this was evidenced by the lovely ‘library etiquette’ displayed by the group. We sang some songs and Caroline read us three books, including one about ‘How the Kangaroos Got Their Tails’, linking in with our Aboriginal focus this week. We look forward to our next Library visit in week 9!

**Clay**

We have introduced the children to clay over the past fortnight, something that we will continue to work with throughout the year. Clay offers many benefits to children. These include: sensory development, motor skills, self-esteem and self-expression, problem solving skills, discipline and pride. It also provides opportunities for the development of mathematic understandings and literacy growth. We look forward to developing the children’s skills and creating some wonderful clay pieces to include in our Art Show in Term 3.

**SEP Visit**

On Thursday we had a visit from one of the Reception classes at Stirling East Primary. After a picnic lunch, the children had an extended play together. For many of the school children this was a return to their kindy, and they thoroughly enjoyed revisiting everything, especially the sandpit and making table! It was wonderful to see the children again and observe how much they have developed since going to school. This is the first step in our *Transition to School* program, which will continue throughout the year. Another Reception class will be visiting next week.