This term has been very busy for everyone involved with kindy and we only have two weeks of the term left. The children's learning has been captured through the Learning Floor Book and their individual Learning Journals. The Learning Journals will be available to take home in the final week of this term to share with family and friends over the holidays.

A very big thank you to all the parents who have been taking the kindy washing home weekly as it is really appreciated. We are still hoping for a volunteer to put a second coat of paint on our cable drums while the weather is fine. This can happen anytime during a kindy session as it doesn't have to be after hours or on the weekend.

Tea Towel Orders are due by Thursday 7th April.

Family Excursion to Cleland Wild Life Park

Final Information:
Date: Thursday 7th April
Time 9.30am to 2.30pm
Meet: At the entrance to Cleland outside the main entry gates.
Cost: Please pay for adults prior to the day via the internet to the kindy. We are not making payments on the day as the kindy will be invoiced. Parents with memberships or Cleland passes need to have those with them on the day.

Children must have suitable footwear—no thongs or crocs.

BYO: Drinks, food (snack and lunch) hat, sunscreen.

ALL ADULTS are required to wear hats as we are ROLE MODELS for the children.

The Kindergarten Mobile Number is 0439 283 176 if you need to contact us on the day.

Staff Update
Angela is taking Long Service Leave for term 2, so we are very happy to have Asta Gehling appointed. Asta will be working Monday and Tuesdays through out term 2. Asta has worked with us on many occasions this term so the children know her.

Introducing Asta
I graduated from my Primary Teaching and Arts degrees in 2010 and was appointed as a Reception-3 teacher in the APY Lands. I spent three years in this role. It was a very rewarding but also very challenging experience. During this time I chose to undertake an Early Childhood Teaching degree in order to greater develop my skills in working with young learners. I completed this degree last year.

After leaving the Lands, I spent 2014 relieving and volunteering at a range of schools and kindergartens and also spent a few months travelling in Europe and Africa. In 2015 I taught R-2 in Melrose in the Flinders Ranges. This year I moved back the Adelaide Hills with my partner and we are currently renovating a house in Bridgewater. Both of us grew up in the Hills and are very happy to return here after many years away.
Hats and the UV Index

With the change of season the UV Index has reduced significantly and our SunSmart policy is based around the UV Index. When the index is 3 or lower the children are not required to wear hats outside. We use the SunSmart app daily to monitor the UV Index. In the past 2 weeks children have played outside without hats until 10.30am as advised by SunSmart. Children MUST HAVE A HAT EACH DAY and staff will tell them when hats must go on daily.

People’s Choice Credit Union Lottery.

This year we are selling tickets in the People’s Choice Credit Union Lottery. All families will receive a book to sell later this term however you can also buy tickets online and it is a great way you can ask family and friends interstate and overseas to support the kindergarten and possibly win a great prize.

Online tickets for the Community Lottery are now on sale and are an easy way to kick start our Community Lottery fundraising. 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.

Please go to:
To purchase tickets today.

Stirling East Primary School

We have been notified that Stirling East Primary School would like all children who will be attending in 2017 to collect enrolment forms and complete them as soon as possible. Please call into the school office to collect your forms if you want your child attending Stirling East primary in 2017.

END OF TERM CLEAN UP

On Wednesday 13th April we will be doing our end of term clean up. Your help for an hour makes a big difference to the cleanliness of the centres equipment that your child uses each week. We ask all parents to help during this clean up. Jobs include: washing toys, wiping furniture, weeding the garden.

Parental involvement is encouraged at kindy as you are your child’s first and most important educator. By sharing your skills with us and the children we are all learning together. Each week something new and exciting happens and we encourage your involvement. Please feel welcome to stay a while when dropping off your child or returning early to join in group time learning opportunities.
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 been learning about our bodies this term at kindy. During a brainstorming session, Jacob expressed an interest in finding out more about the brain, including what it looks like. We invited Jacob’s mum Sarah, who is a doctor, to come in and share her knowledge about some of our important organs.

Catriona purchased some real animal organs (bones, hearts, liver, kidney and of course brains) from the local butcher and Sarah dissected these while the group observed. She provided us with a wealth of interesting facts and information about these essential parts of our bodies and the ‘hands on’ approach really brought the learning to life for us all. We all learnt something new, teachers included!

During the day children had the opportunity to feel the organs (which were in sealed bags) and investigate them closer using magnifying glasses. It was an experience that will be remembered by the children for a long time.

It’s wonderful when unexpected opportunities arise that inspire the direction of our curriculum. This was certainly the case last week when Zoe’s three older brothers – Ari, Micah & Ben – dropped in on a student free day to share their musical skills with us. We were entertained by the cello, trombone, violin and guitar! The boys talked about their instruments (how they are played, what they are made of and names of different parts) and the children were introduced to some musical vocabulary such as “audience”, “performance” and “composer”. Everyone was captivated by the performance and it inspired much ‘musical play’ for the rest of the day. Some children made their own musical instruments and all had the opportunity to investigate and play a range of kindy instruments.

This provided a great launching pad for further musical investigation and learning.

It was incredible to see how quickly our chicks grew in the two weeks they were at kindy. We watched them become more and more active every day and even start flying a little as their wings gained strength. The three girls have now gone to live with Zoe’s family so we look forward to hearing about them and perhaps seeing some photos in the coming months. I wonder when they will lay their first eggs?
Another timely pre-Easter treat was a visit by Sophie’s family’s two adorable pet rabbits, Bella and Nibbles. Sophie and her mum explained what was involved in caring for rabbits and we all had the opportunity to pat them and feel first hand how very soft they are! Have a look in our Floor Book for some more gorgeous pictures.

Whilst much less cuddly, the Hermit Crabs have provided another source of interest for the children over the past few weeks. What a variety of animals we have been lucky to meet and/or care for at kindy this term! The children have learnt so much about their various features, life cycles and requirements. Some were noisy, others quite, some moved slowly, others fast, some needed warmth and all needed water. Some had 2 legs, others 10 or more... This week we have been exploring the various similarities and differences and practicing using our descriptive skills during a group time game.

**Breakfast at kindy** was a highlight on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. We all came to kindy in our pajamas and enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet! Children were encouraged to be independent in serving up their own cereal and/or putting spreads on their toast, cleaning up their dishes and changing into play clothes once breakfast was finished. Some children even brought their toothbrush to clean their teeth. Leading up to this, the children all decorated their own placemats and helped to brainstorm the breakfast menu, focusing on healthy choices.

We collected data about what children ate for breakfast and how many enjoyed that particular breakfast food. We found out through counting that Cheerios was the most popular.

What a wonderful and exciting start to the day!