Pooraka Community Kindergarten

Newsletter Number 9  17-9-2012

Winner of the term 3 Attendance Prize is Maddison Sanders with just one day away. Well done to Maddison and her family for their teamwork.

Winner of the term 3 Book Borrowing Prize is Oliver Waters with an amazing 108 books borrowed. Congratulations on a big effort.

Learning Results for term 3.

There has been a constant theme in this term's work—construction. Whether it was with construction sets such as Duplo or Lego, or with boxes and sticky tape, there has been something each week to make.

Your child's folder should have a photo of something 'made'. Maybe it is at your house in pride of place. Constructing requires planning, fine motor control and persistence. All good skills for learning and life.

There was the dramatic play, dress up and special interest play with the fairy land garden, the space cave, car cave and finally the animal land. The children worked really well together in groups of 5 or 6 to share their imaginary playspace.

Exclamation mark, question mark, rhyming and letter of the week are ideas introduced by the teachers to give factual information about literacy to complement the children's enjoyment of stories, songs, and text.

A visit from Kevin, a local aboriginal man was a high-light; we heard stories from an aboriginal perspective as well as some cultural facts. We followed this visit up with some aboriginal language learning....Ninna marni means hello. Use it at home, your child will know what it means.

Kevin gave the children an insight into aboriginal cultural knowledge.

Do you remember the photo booth? Children used the camera to take photos of their friends and teachers. The camera is not quite the same but their photos were displayed and proved a popular spot for mums and dads to view their children at work and play.

The child protection curriculum has taught the children many important ideas about staying safe.

Assessment results from this term are very encouraging.

16 children are off to school and we see the improvements they have made since they began with us. Naturally they have made improvement because they have had 12 months of maturity but we see very specific changes. For example, we test understanding and responding to questions of increasing complexity. The first question is “Show me the scissors”, the last question is “What do you think might be inside the present?” which requires children to make an estimation, thinking and answering conceptually. 50% of the children achieved this level. They are punching above their weight in this regard because level 2 is considered age appropriate. One area where we have not made the result we might have hoped for is print knowledge. Some children have left us knowing nearly all the names and sounds of the alphabet, others only have a very small number of names only. We ask ourselves what else could we do to make this learning fun.
Sad News:

Our staffing allocation has been reduced for next term as our enrolment falls from 59 to 46. We have had a half time early childhood worker job, shared by three wonderful staff members. Kerryanne will be returning on Tuesday afternoons as a preschool support worker, Sharon will not be working at all and Neda will only be volunteering.

It is a difficult reality that our staffing allocation is based on actual attendances and not just on enrolments so I urge you to consider days away from kindy very carefully. It does make a difference.

You might like to join me in thanking these staff members for their careful and reliable efforts to the care and education of children at Pooraka Kindy.

Holiday Programmes

www.salisbury.sa.gov.au is the website for the local council school holiday activities.

Don’t forget Cleland Recreation Park where kangaroos will feed from your hand.

Try a bus ride into the city to walk through the museum. Kids under 5 are free on Serco buses.

Take the kids for lunch in the central market, eat there or buy there and eat in the parklands.

Plant some sunflower seeds and watch them grow. We have some to give you!! Tomatoes can be planted at the beginning of October for a stunning summer crop.

Salisbury libraries have story telling and activity sessions as regular events, go to www.salisbury.sa.gov.au

Our closest library is just behind the Ingle Farm shops.

Cooking with kids is great fun and you get to eat the results.

Start an art project which all the family can participate in, create something unusual, disposable, recyclable...from your recycling. Just add sticky tape!

I have a selection of paper folding activities, helicopters, jets, baskets, just ask and I can copy some for you.

Early childhood is such an important time in life for learning. Children learn at a phenomenal rate...don’t hold anything back. Have a great holiday.

Our next governing council meeting is penciled in for Tuesday the 23rd October. Recently I made an invitation to many parents who I thought might have time to attend a couple of meetings a term.

I have not been overwhelmed by a response. If you have an opinion about how kindergarten should be then this is your chance to have a say. The governing council is a formal structure with some responsibilities but nothing too hard.

Your presence at the meeting with a readiness to give your opinions is really all that is required. Please consider lending a hand.

Give Liliana Skeens a round of applause as she leaves governing council as her second child goes to school. Thanks a lot Liliana.

Hot Weather Issues

Hats for next term are a must. Please name each hat.

We ask families to apply sunscreen to exposed areas. If you supply a tube of sunscreen we will help your child reapply it after lunch time when your child stays all day.

We always position activities in the shade. We have plenty of shade so that’s easy. We have air conditioning and often choose to stay inside if the weather is too hot.

Send a change of clothes for when we have lots of lovely wet play.

Where will you go in the holidays?