Term two is rapidly drawing to a close and finally we are starting to see some cold, winter weather. The children have been coping well with the change and are still enthusiastic about completing the obstacle course in the morning. We are seeing an improvement in their core strength and balance which helps in all areas of their development. We have also introduced some early throwing and catching practice — encouraging them to step on their opposite leg when they throw. We are looking at underarm throwing at the moment using their ‘elephant trunk’ arm so any extra practice at the park would be great. Thanks to Rachel (Anika’s mum in the Seals) for contacting the City of Joondalup about our lack of heating. A work order enquiry has been submitted again so stay tuned.

I have been putting the children’s name cards out in the morning just so that they have a little more practice writing their names using the correct letter formations. It also allows you to see how their name should look and how your child is going. Yes it sounds a little formal but it really is just a means of providing opportunities for those children that are ready. Please don’t stress if your child is still struggling with pencil control and finger strength. They are all at a different stage in their development and we will continue to work on all aspects of this skill. You may also notice some ‘writing’ pages coming home where we are practising some of the letters we talk about. Again it is just provided for those who are ready to progress to the next step so please don’t go home and start drilling them and putting them off writing altogether. Experiences are provided for them just to ‘have a go!’

This term we have been listening to sounds that are continual such as s, m, l, n etc. The children are embracing making the sounds and being able to determine which picture card starts with which sound. Even though this is an oral activity and the sound is the important element here a lot of the children are already connecting it to the diagraph and are wanting to have a go at writing it. We have also been working hard at our oral speaking with activities such as Event News and presenting the Surprise Box. We are very
pleased to hear the children speaking in sentences and answering questions in sentences as well as using the person’s name they are speaking to. Wow they have come so far. Next we will look at using more complex, descriptive sentences so we talk about making things sound more exciting or colourful when we speak eg yes it is a dog, it is a small, black and white, furry dog. The more we talk the better we get!

We have been doing a lot of counting throughout the term and so some children are ready to progress to recognition of their numbers greater than 10 so we are starting on the teen numbers. The most effective way to learn these are seeing them in the environment and simply pointing them out ie house numbers – oh look a 1and a5 that says fifteen etc. Michelle has also been working on their shape names as well as the characteristics of each shape. Here again spotting them around the house and in things they use is the best way to reinforce the information.

We have conducted quite a few experiments this term to complement our topics on weather, water and the ocean. We have also touched briefly on the different forms of matter ie gas, water and solid. Never shy away from using terms such as evaporation and condensation. The children love new words that are a bit of a challenge for them especially when they remember them the next day. One of our daily weather forecasters even reported last week that the weather was dewy – never under estimate a four year old.

At the end of the term (in just over a week) it also marks the end of our first semester. This means that we will be sending home a small report and your child’s portfolio for you to have a look at. In the past I have also provided a short interview for each family to discuss each of the above. Once again at times we have found it a little difficult for workers etc to make an interview time during the day. It seems unnecessary to reorganise your whole day for a short 10 minute interview. This year I am going to make the interview optional. I will send portfolios home on the Mon/Tuesday of week 10 to be returned on the Wed/Thursday. The report will be inside the portfolio. If after you have read both and you have things that you would like to discuss with me then I will make myself available on the last Thursday afternoon and Friday of term for short interview slots. A booking sheet for interviews will be outside on the kindy bench. The Dolphins will be at kindy with Michelle
and so we have to make sure that we don’t disrupt her program. If you would like an interview time but you can’t make it on the Friday we can organise a time early next term after kindy some time. Please don’t feel that you have to have an interview. PORTFOLIOS must be returned to kindy before the holidays because they are a work in progress – please try to avoid damage to them. The Social and Emotional report inside the portfolio is yours to keep.
Please remember to register your child’s name for Pre-Primary before the end of term so that you do not miss out on any relevant paperwork or information provided by your school.

Term three commences on Tuesday 19th July for the Dolphins and Wednesday 20th July for the Seals. The first Friday in Term 3 is the Seals. There are no public holidays in Term 3 but we have PD days on the first and last day of term for staff so we have minimal interruptions just 10 weeks of fun and learning. We are crossing over the half way mark so don’t blink because the year is disappearing quickly.
Thankyou again for your support throughout the term and your friendship. It is always a pleasure coming to work.

Alison, Michelle, Julie and Sandra.