Welcome back for Term 4 and the final term for our Kindy year. It is hard to believe that we are once again nearing the end of our Kindy program but when you see how far the children have come since February I suppose we have crammed a lot into our time together. The next 6 weeks will fly by as we are so busy finishing off and preparing for our end of year concert and all of the fun and celebrations that go with Christmas. I have sent home an outline of the term and some important dates for you to put into your calendars. As you can see we have a lot to look forward to.

To start off the term we have been looking at Lifecycles and things that come out of eggs. This week we will be hatching some eggs using an incubator which is always a big hit. The baby chicks stay with us for two weeks and the children become very attached to them (the chicks need therapy once they leave!) but they all survive. It is also very important that the children wash their hands if they have been touching the chicks. This is something we always make them do but if they take you into Kindy before or after the session to hold them can you please remind them as well.

We have looked at the Lifecycle of a Butterfly. We made our caterpillars and their chrysalis and then we hung them up to sleep and hopefully with a bit of 'Kindy Magic' they will turn into butterflies. Who knows what else we will find coming out of eggs??

Just to add a little more excitement to the term we are lucky enough to have Miss Heather Reed in the centre with us. Heather is completing her final practicum for her Graduate Diploma of Education and is from ECU. She will be with us until the end of week 7. From this week Heather will be actually running the program under my guidance which couldn’t come at a better time as I race to complete final testing for the schools and write reports etc. The children will really enjoy having a young teacher with so many new ideas for a change I am sure.

The new National Curriculum seems to be putting pressure on our schools to perform and along with the stress of Naplan everyone is striving to push the children more and more. The expectations for Pre-Primary have increased and so therefore so have the expectations for Kindy. Hence we are working hard to consolidate the children’s knowledge of hearing words in a sentence, syllables and
initial sounds. We are hoping that by the end of the year the children can recognise the letters/sounds s,a,t,p,i,n and hopefully have moved onto others as well. We continue to encourage them to use a pencil with confidence and write their name as well as being able to communicate their ideas using complex sentences and joining words. We have worked very hard this year so hopefully the children have the skills they require to commence a successful pre-primary journey. Talk, talk, talk!!! I can’t emphasize this enough. This is how they will learn as they hear you model and then they can grow from there.

Hopefully, once we get through all of the formal testing we will still have time to thoroughly enjoy our four week Christmas program. The concert date is out and we are already practising some of the songs we will be performing. Each child will be given a skirt(girls) and shorts (boys) and you will be required to provide a Christmas tee-shirt. Please feel free to decorate the costume so that it looks nice and Christmassy! There will be more notes and information given as the time approaches.

Well now that Term 4 is underway it will just fly by so we need to enjoy every minute of your child’s last few weeks with us.

Enjoy the Term,
Alison, Michelle, Heather, Julie and Sandra.