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 8 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. Last week I 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.

We have started off the term looking at insects and bugs that live in our garden to celebrate the arrival of Spring. I have been impressed with the children’s ability to retain the information we discuss in the centre as they all seem to remember that insects have three body parts, six legs and antennae. This week we will move onto butterflies and their lifecycle. This is just the start of looking at a variety of lifecycles that commence their journey inside an egg. We will look at frogs, chickens and dinosaurs as well. Of course it is with great excitement that we await the arrival of our chick eggs in their incubator. They will arrive in Week 6 and will stay for two weeks as we watch the eggs hatch and grow into lively little chicks.

This week we start our FMS sessions on Wednesday and Thursday with Ready, Set, Go!. It would be very helpful if the children wore shoes on these days as they will not be allowed on the oval with bare feet. They will also need a hat (we have had a few missing lately). These sessions will culminate in a little Sports Day on Friday 13th November. This is a Seals kindy day which will have a normal morning program. The Dolphins will be asked to arrive at kindy at 12.30 where everyone will have a picnic lunch on the oval with their family (Seals parents need to arrive at 12.30 as well). The children will be gathered and organised for the events at approx. 1.00pm so the afternoon can commence. A note with full details will be sent home closer to the date.

We are working hard to consolidate the children’s knowledge and prepare them for the transition into Pre-Primary. Obviously each child is at a different stage of development but generally we are hoping that they can

- Pick up a pencil correctly and make a good attempt at writing their name using upper and lower case letters.
- Confidently use a pair of scissors.
- Can hear and count the number of words in a sentence.
- Recognise syllables / break words into syllables.
• Recognise and identify rhyming words.
• Recognise some initial sounds of the alphabet starting with s,a,t,p,i,n,c,h,m,r,e,d.
• Understand how text works in a book ie left to right, pictures, title etc.
• Answer questions related to simple texts.
• Recognise and name numbers from 0-10.
• Count with 1-1 correspondence to 20.
• Order three objects from biggest to smallest.
• The list could go on but this just gives you a general idea.

Next week I will be putting additional green cards inside the plastic envelopes of our Reading Box. These cards outline a process called Retelling which is a very important skill to lead into writing stories. Basically the children are asked to recall and retell the story in their own words. The step by step process is outlined on the card. It is not done in one day and requires you to revisit the same story over the week. It would be most helpful if you could tackle this with the same enthusiasm you have shown towards our reading cards. I will leave the question cards in as well in case you want to tackle both over the week.

The concert dates are 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 plenty 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.

Finally, I would like to say a huge Thankyou to Michelle, Lisa, Sandra and Julie for holding the fort and doing an amazing job while I was away last term. Everything ran so smoothly and I can't thank them enough for the energy and love they brought to the centre.

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