Kindergarten Gold
Term 4

Mrs Tracey Poinen
St. Emilie’s Catholic Primary School
Welcome Back!

Dear families,

We hope your children feel rested and ready for another great term ahead!

Please read on to find out what will be happening in our Term 4 program....
Mrs Wishy Washy!

We are really looking forward to seeing the children’s happy, smiling faces and hearing all their exciting holiday news!

Our final term in Kindy promises to be packed with more learning and some **MESSY, MUDDY, FUN** with Mrs Wishy Washy and the farm characters from her stories.

As we will be getting messy and muddy (even more than usual) this term, we ask that your child comes to school dressed in “play clothes”, not their best clothes or “dress ups”. We also ask that you pack some ‘spares’ in their school bag (labelled). We will be initiating mud play this term. If children feel that they are not allowed to get dirty, then they are unlikely to participate freely and join in with our messy fun. Our mud play integrates with our learning program about germs and cleanliness. We would love all children to participate, freely and we thank you for your assistance and cooperation!

We look forward to a visit from the one and only Mrs Wishy-Washy herself!
LITERACY PROGRAM

PHONEMIC AWARENESS:
- Consolidation of alphabet knowledge: letter names & sounds
- Experimenting with 3 letter CVC words eg mat, dog, run
- Establishing the awareness of continuent sounds
- Establishing the awareness of stop sounds
- Listening for initial sounds in words

FAIRYTALES:
We will be investigating a number of fairytales. The focus being on characters, setting, story language, retelling and sequencing of the events. Our discussions will investigate “good” and “bad” characters, and the moral of the tales. We will consider and use our CREATIVITY to ponder alternative endings or continuations of various tales. The children will have opportunities to play with props and puppets designed specifically for each tale in order to retell the stories themselves. There are also plenty of dress ups to encourage the re-enactment of the stories.

QUESTIONS! QUESTIONS! QUESTIONS!
We are also thinking about questions! What is a question? We will be playing a guessing game where the children have to ask good questions to deduct the answer to various clues!
**Literacy - Reading & Writing**

“Read to Me” Program & Library:

Our library day will continue on Fridays this term. Affording children the opportunity to regularly attend and borrow books from the library, encourages children to think about and enjoy literature in their everyday lives as well as teaching them about early reading behaviours. Please send your child’s library bag with their return book every Friday. The “Read to Me” program continues this term also...please return these books and packs every Tuesday. Please ensure ALL books are looked after well and returned in good condition. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

**What is “Kid Writing”?**

- Children write daily.
- Children use phonemic skills they’ve acquired.
- A social activity with children helping each other.
- During conferencing, teachers write the conventional spelling and give individual mini-lessons for writing skills.
- Group sharing and celebrating ALL attempts at writing.
- Children use crayons, markers or pencils.

**More Personal Benefits to Kid Writing**

- Opportunity to share personal experiences with each other.
- Preparation for talking to an audience.
- Acquires letter/sound relationships in context.
- Children make connections for writing in other content areas.

Our shared and modelled reading experiences will reflect our integrated topics:

- Creepy Crawlies
- Fairytales
- The Wishy Washy series
- Farm Animals
- Mud & Germs
- Christmas & Nativity

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**Role Play & Experimental Writing:**

A number of children have begun to show interest in writing at Kindy. Staff have been guiding children who want to have a go at writing.

We will continue to support the children as they master writing of their names using correct letter formation and pencil grip.
Here are just five ways (of many) that dirt can benefit your children:

1. Did you know that studies have shown dirt is good for your brain? There are types of bacteria naturally found in soil that activate the neurons that produce serotonin, a key chemical in many bodily functions, as well as a natural anti-depressant.

2. Dirt is also great for the immune system, especially in children. Research has shown that early exposure to naturally occurring microbes in soil will help build stronger, more disease-resistant kiddos.

3. If you’ve read The Last Child in the Woods, you’re familiar with the term “nature-deficit disorder.” In our technologically savvy generation, kids just aren’t getting enough time to play outside, and that has now been linked to attention disorders, depression (yes, in children), and obesity.

4. Children who play outside laugh more, which means they’re happy! It also means their blood pressure and stress levels are lower.

5. Kids who play outside grow in their character development: they become more adventurous, more self-motivated, and they are better able to understand and assess risk.

Article source:
http://theartofsimple.net/let-your-kids-get-dirty/
Science Program

Our inquiry unit is called “Muds and Suds,” the Science of Cleanliness. Mrs Wishy-Washy is the catalyst that kicks off the program... ask your child what Mrs Wishy-Washy loves to do! Why do the farm animals love mud?

We will conduct some investigations involving mud and bubbles. We will look into how people and animals can become dirty and how they can also clean themselves. We will discuss how germs can be harmful to our health and learn about the importance of washing our hands!
Religious Education Program:

Our first unit this term is "Creepy Crawlies". We will be finding out about insects and wondering how God knew how to make so many different kinds all over the world! Further into the term, we will begin our Program on Advent in the lead up to Christmas. We will examine the events prior to Jesus’ birth and retell the Christmas story through scripture, role play, Godly Play and craft.

Maths Program:

Math discussions and activities will include concepts such as symmetry, odd and even, half and whole, estimation, calendar work (days of the week) and we will be working with patterns and simple addition. We will continue to consolidate our understanding of number concepts including recognising numbers, number formation, subitising, what comes before, what comes after and how many?

Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Weeks 1-4: Faithfulness
Weeks 5-9: Patience
“Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.”

Bob Beauprez

Should you have any concerns throughout the term regarding your child’s progress, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to have a friendly chat. Remember, your child’s teacher is the first port of call, should an issue arise or to simply clarify any given situation. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with you all.

Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly.

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.

- Jane D. Hull
NEW! Bodies, Brains & Balls!
This is a hand-eye coordination, gross motor and fitness program that will run throughout the term on FRIDAY mornings, beginning in Week 2. Please dress your children accordingly (sporting attire & sport shoes please). A fabulous opportunity run by "Play for Life."

Incursion – Week 3
On Wednesday 26th October the children will be involved in an incursion from a mobile animal farm. This experience links into our inquiry topic. The children will be taught how to care for the animals and will have the opportunity to handle them if they wish.

Other notices:

SHOE BOXES!
Please send in ONE empty shoe box, LABELLED with your child’s name inside as soon as you have one available. We will be using these for Christmas activities later in the term. Thank you!

Notice Board & Play Roster:
Please continue to check notices on the notice board, our school website and our class blog to keep abreast of what is happening in our school. Please add your name to our Play Roster for this term. We have had many cancellations on the roster last term, without any prior notice given. It would be appreciated if you could KEEP to your rostered date or give us notice of your intent not to attend, as there are other family members who would like to come along on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning and have some fun with us! Activities are specifically planned for, when we know parents are on roster. Please remember, when on roster, we expect your confidentiality. We hope to see you and look forward to your assistance! Thank you!
Important dates in Kindy Gold for term 4, 2016

Week 1  12th October  Whole School Walkathon
Week 3  26th October  Old MacDonald Farm Incursion
Week 4  2nd November  All Souls’ Day
               8am Community Mass
Week 5  8th November  TWO-WAY Parent Teacher Interviews BEGIN (whole week)
Week 6  ------------------- TWO-WAY Parent Teacher Interviews CONTINUE (whole week) until Friday 18th November.
Week 7  23rd November  6.30pm AGM Whole School Community Invited
Week 8  2nd December  6pm School Christmas Concert
Week 9  7th December  Kindy Celebration Day & Talent Awards presented to students
Week 9  9th December  Final day for students

As you can see, we will be very busy again this term and look forward for your continued support!
Kind Regards,
Mrs Poinen & Kindy Gold Staff