OUR THANKS
To the Cox family for donation of A4 paper
- To Gillian (Sophie’s Mum) for working on another Bunnings BBQ and raising $600 for the Kindy.
- To Gillian, again for her efforts in working with Bunnings to acquire donations for our kindy
- To Belinda from Lawnton Bunnings for assisting the children to make gifts for their Dads
- For your kind donations for our Bunning Sausage Sizzle

CONGRATULATIONS to Natalie, Peter, Madelyn and Joel Morreau on the safe arrival of their baby boy Asher born on 12th August.

PHOTOS
A reminder that kindergarten photos will be taken by Ivy Photography on Wednesday 10th September for Mrs Murphy’s group. A group photo is usually taken first followed by individual child photos.

A Note about GRANDPARENTS DAY 2014
We have decided to invite Grandparents only to this special day. Due to overwhelming attendances in the past, we would appreciate it if only Grandparents could attend. However if you have an ailing grandparent that requires your assistance, you are welcome to accompany them and provide support for them. Also if there is no Grandparent available, please feel free to ask a special friend to attend in their place. Of course, if you have no one who can attend for your child, a parent is most welcome to attend.

Parents you can assist us on this special day, by providing a plate of healthy morning tea (e.g. fruit platter, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, pikelets, muffins) for everyone to share and sending along a chair for them to sit on for the concert. We will also need flowers from your garden on the day before so that the children can decorate the room.

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE
Lawnton Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 30th August – please keep this date free we need volunteers to assist on the day. Bring your family and friends along to buy a sausage and support our kindergarten!

WORKING BEE
We will be having a working bee 14 September, from 8 am til 12 noon. We would appreciate the help of as many parents as possible. Please watch for the sign showing which tools to bring and to note your RSVP.

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC is a free event at Pine Rivers Park, Gympie Road Strathpine on Wednesday 3rd September 9am to 12 noon. Come our visit our information stall. See flyers in foyer for program.

TOY CATALOGUES Please return Chalk and Parent Direct Toy Catalogues orders by 12th September.

HIGH SCHOOL We will be having a past student of our kindergarten, Kimberley Bagdonnas undertaking her High School work experience at our centre. Kimberley currently attends Albany Creek State High School and will be at the kindergarten from Monday 15th September to Friday 19th September. Please make her feel welcome.

DATES TO NOTE:
Beginning of the week Group:
Saturday 30th August Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

1st Term
Tues 2nd September Grandparents Day (8.45am to 10.30am)

Working Bee
Wed 3rd September Teddy Bears Picnic at Pine Rivers Park

Wed 10th September Photo Day
Sunday 14th Sept Working Bee

Last day Term 3
Tues 16th September

4th Term
Mon 7th October PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tues 8th October First Day Term 4

COMMITTEE MEETING
The Next Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT  

ENROLMENT: We have the same 22 children enrolled in the beginning of the week group. Enrolments for 2015 have commenced. If you have any concerns about your child not being ready for Prep next year, please speak to us by the end of August.

PROGRAM:

The children were eager participants as we demonstrated a fire drill for the Fire Fighters from Petrie Fire Station who showed us their fire engine. The Fire Fighters dressed in their fire fighting clothes to show us not to be afraid and hide if they saw someone looking like this as it would just be a fire fighter coming to help them. They reminded the children to GET OUT AND STAY OUT if there is a fire and to make a plan with their family where to meet them e.g. at the letterbox. The firemen told the children about their special fire fighting clothes and air tanks that enabled them to fight fires and rescue people. After the visit the children have been playing Fire Fighters making fire engines, radios and hoses, putting out fires and rescuing cats. (EYLF Children are effective communicators: They exchange ideas, feelings and understandings using language and representations in play)

Never underestimate the value and learning involved in children’s pretend play. According to a study published in the journal of Social Development, pretend play not only allows children to create their own imaginary worlds whereby they are in control of the scenarios and characters, pretend play also encourages a child’s cognitive and social development. You can access more information on the benefits of children pretend playing on the following website.


The children have been eager participants in wood working since the introduction of our carpentry bench. We discussed with the children the benefits of carpentry and what we would need to do to keep us safe. We started mainly hammering nails through objects into a single piece of wood but now are able to make constructions that include hammering pieces of wood together. Does anyone have any soft (untreated) timber off cuts that we could use at our carpentry bench as we use a lot of timber when the children are involved in making their projects? (QKLG: Active Learning: Teachers promote the children’s interest in and understandings about everyday tools)

We have introduced the children to mixing their own colours when painting. They are given the three primary colours and encouraged to make their own orange, purple, green and of course there has
been lots of brown as well. Later we will add white so that we can experiment with tints. (ACTIVE LEARNING – children show increasing confidence and involvement in learning by making choices and organizing resources for learning).

**Book Week Saturday 16 August - Friday 22 August**

Each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians develop activities, offer competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading. Your local library will have a display and activities so this could be a great week to visit your local library. (EYLF OUTCOME 5 /QKLG -COMMUNICATING – children have positive engagement with a variety of print and multimedia texts and the arts)

We been reading some of the short-listed books for Early Childhood

Last Week we were again visited by Shelley a Librarian, from the Strathpine Library and we look forward to one more visit next term. Did the children tell you about her stories? ,

Kevin from Evergreen Children’s Theatre taught us a lot about the animals who call the Great Barrier Reef home and how we can help to protect their environment. Have you seen our favourite sea creature pictures in book corner? We celebrated National Tree Week by discussing why we need trees (shade, homes for animals, wood, air to breathe) and have enjoyed spending time in our reading tree area. (QKLG - CONNECTEDNESS – Children are developing interest in ways to care for and respect plants and animals, awareness of positive and negative interactions between humans and environments).

The children have been engaging in many sustainable activities. Why should we bother with educating our children about sustainability? Sustainability is included in the Early Years Learning Framing (National curriculum for our young children) and the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline.

Children are connected and contribute to their world. This means connecting and contributing to ‘their world’ at so many different levels.

- Their family
- Their Kindergarten
- Their community
- Their state and country
- and of course our world

“The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination” – Albert Einstein

“Children are socially responsible and show respect for the environment”. As with all of the outcomes, that’s a pretty powerful statement. It should not be taken lightly; this statement in the
Early Years curriculum is one of the most important outcomes. If a child is willing to go out of their way to protect a worm, stuck on the footpath, I believe they will go out of their way to help anyone else, and they will be kind, they will be generous, they will have the self-esteem and drive to do anything they want, and we certainly need more people like that. (http://sustainableece.wordpress.com)

We often talk about the environment with the children and how we can help look after it and keep it ‘healthy’. Our centre promotes conservation and sustainability and we encourage children and families to protect the environment and use fresh food for lunch and morning tea to reduce the overuse of packaging. This is an environmental issue as well as a nutritional one. We encourage parents to provide their children with a ‘Litterless Lunch’. That means providing your child’s lunch in containers, not plastic wrapping (e.g. putting yoghurt/sandwiches into a plastic container/lunchbox from home). Parents are asked to consider these issues carefully and see how you can reduce the use of glad-wrap and over-packaging in the children’s lunch boxes. As parents and educators we can support children to become socially responsible and show respect for their environment by making practical changes and embedding them within the culture of the home and the early childhood setting. These are just some of the things we can do to empower children and make a difference!! As parents, we are all aware there are challenges in packing lunches however I urge you to make considered choices about the food you send for your child in relation to both its health value and re-usable packaging. The following website provides a range of great re-usable containers, sandwich wraps and the like. http://www.biome.com.au/brisbane-eco-store

The children love looking in the garden to see the fruits’ of their labour (watering, weeding and aerating) and have enjoyed tasting the snow peas and beans that we have growing. We will use our parsley in our cooking for Grandparents Day and will plant some more flowers in our flower garden before their visit. Children are continuing to provide scraps for our worms in the worm towers and love looking down the towers to see any worms. We talked to the children about the benefits of trees during National Tree Week in July. As part of our participation in Planet Ark’s Schools Tree Day, we have been focusing on the importance of trees in our environment and why we and many animals and creatures rely on them.

(QKLG Connectedness– A kindergarten child who is connected with and contributes to their world shows increasing respect for environments).

Photos
This year, the Kindergarten photo day for our group will be Wednesday 10th September. The children will be visited by our photographer from Ivy Photography. After the holidays, group photos will be displayed on the noticeboard near sign on, for you to view before ordering. You will also receive a photo envelope (with the photo of your child on the front selected by the photographer). You can swap from the photographer’s choice to the photo that you want for your child’s individual photos and return with your money to your teacher.

GENERAL: Transition Statements
In Term 4 we will work on a transition statement about each child's learning and development. It will be created by teachers in collaboration with the children, their parents and support personnel. Parents are encouraged to pass on a copy of the transition statement to the school or to use it as a basis for
discussion with their child’s prep teacher. Next term, we will send home a form for parents to fill in and return to your teacher.

Professional Development
During July, August and September I will be attending a series of 4 workshops at Petrie from 4pm to 8pm by *Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective in Early Childhood (EATSIPEC)* a cultural competence support and guidance program. Their focus is to help us get to know and understand the needs of our own local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community so we can build genuine partnerships. Please let us know how you would like to see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives embedded in our everyday practice with our children.

I will also be attending the second Pine Rivers Early Learning Forum on Tuesday 2nd September 6-8pm to continue to enhance collaboration between early childhood centres and schools especially in regard to transitioning children from Kindergarten to Prep. Please see list at end of newsletter for Transitions and School Readiness Resources from the first forum.

Soon all staff will meet with an executive committee representative to complete an Individual Professional Performance Appraisal form. Discussion will involve staff members’ professional goals, support and learning priorities, strategies they intend to implement, and how the organisation can best support each staff member over the coming year.

Parent Roster
A reminder that the end of the year is fast approaching and we do cross off the last few weeks of Term 4 for parent rosters as we are busy with Christmas and end of year surprises. So, if you have been planning to spend the day or part of a day with your child at kindergarten - time is running out. The children love having family members come and contribute to our days so please add your name to the calendar on the front counter – just bring your own morning tea, lunch and a hat.

GRANDPARENTS DAY
Just a note to please remind Grandparents (or another special friend if Grandparents are unable to come) to set aside the morning to come and visit our Kindergarten on **Tuesday 2nd September (FROM 8.45AM TO 10.30AM)**.

As mentioned, parents can you assist with the following.....

- Could each child please bring 1 or 2 flowers or some foliage along on Monday 1st September (**DAY BEFORE GRANDPARENTS DAY**) so that we can do some flower arranging for this special day.
- A small plate of food would be greatly appreciated, on Grandparents day but please do not ask our visitors to provide anything.
- The children will not need individual morning tea as we will be sharing morning tea with our visitors. Please send your child’s usual lunch food in their own lunchbox.
- You may also like to bring some folding chairs on the day as we only have 20 adult plastic outdoor ones.
Workplace Health and Safety Regulations state “No tea or coffee near children”, so please advise our visitors to have a cuppa before they leave home, we however will serve a nice fruit punch.

DATES TO REMEMBER
Saturday 30th August           Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
Tues 2nd September            Grandparents Day (8.45am to 10.30am)
Wed 3rd September             Teddy Bears Picnic at Pine Rivers Park
Wed 10th September            Photo Day
Sunday 14th Sept              Working Bee
Tues 16th September           Last day Term 3

4th Term
Monday 7th October            PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 7th October            First Day Term 4
Tuesday 14th October           Excursion to Strathpine West State Primary School to visit Prep Classrooms, Library, Playground
Tuesday 4th November           Librarian Visit

Thank you,

Kay & Leone