We have celebrated the birth of Charlie since the last newsletter. Our Congratulations, the community warm wishes and gifts have been forwarded to Rebecca, Nick and family. Rebecca has called to say thanks and will visit soon with Charlie when they are all up to it.

In the last newsletter we welcomed Malcolm, Ben, Amber and their families to Riverton Kindergarten and we would like to extend this welcome to Ebony, Seth and their families who have also joined us this term. We hope that you will get involved and have a lovely time at Kindy. We have also farewelled Peter and Paige who have moved from our community this term.

Over the next few weeks Lachlan and Zoe will begin their extra transition visits to Riverton Primary School and Maveryke will start at Horizon’s Christian College in Balaklava. We wish them all the best as they continue in this exciting stage of their learning journeys.

Just letting you know that we have our finances managed off site and sometimes it can take a few weeks for things to be processed. Money and invoices are sent weekly to our finance officer and they are processed, we also only work ½ day a week on administration, so there is some delay. If you receive and invoice and have already paid fees etc don’t be alarmed, just let me know so we can keep you up to date as much as possible.

Thankyou to all families, the great partnerships and contributions to our kindy community have been most welcomed.

This Term we will have 19 children and 1 Pre entry enrolment:
We have an extra 11 hour of preschool support which has allowed us to have Karen and Cassie working alongside us to support several children on Mondays and Wednesdays.
Monday’s – Maria, Karlie, Melissa & Karen
Wednesday’s – Maria, Melissa & Cassie
This term the focus is on the 'Being' aspect of the Early Years Learning Framework Curriculum. I have been putting up some information to compliment the program board and an over view of our focus areas this term. There is also a science program on the exploratory table that outlines some of the things we incorporate into the learning environment to stimulate children's interest and exploration, investigation abilities.

An interest in the Circus at the end of last term has been picked up as a theme to support planning in the first four weeks. This term we wanted to help children to explore and understand their own skills and abilities and knowledge. As we have role played, read books and sung songs we have been identifying interests and planning activities that reflect these interest. We have involved the children in setting up challenging fine motor activities and obstacle courses. Clowning around and group time has incorporated physical development activities of balance, posture as well as numeracy and language sound activities.

It has been fun identifying particular interests and strength that children each have and helpful to find common interests to allow us to support the new children to join in play groups. Have a look at the wall of skills and interest that is developing around the clowns it is now displayed as the Talent spot on the window.

During week five we had fun discovering many different cultures as part of book week theme 'One World Many Stories'. In our world tour over two days the kindy smelt of spices and the children played and challenged themselves using chopsticks, singing song in different languages and listened carefully to stories and information about countries around the world.

Since week 6 the focus has changed to ‘Being with nature’ and bears, bears, bears as a certain cheeky bear hides and is found up to mischief each week. We have pitched tents, camped, fished and explored the natural environment every day. We have also had new chickens visit each week and this has been a wonderful addition to our program learning about how things grow and change.

Each day we aim to incorporate different numeracy activities into the learning environment. This term the focus is on shapes, number recognition, 1:1 matching, patterns, sequencing. We have also been exploring our places in space ie position. Front, back, under, over, on top, behind, left, right, this side, that side and inside/outside.

We have continued to work on introducing new words, songs and language experiences to children each week and have a strong focus on providing opportunities to develop oral language skills. Stories and songs with strong rhyme and repeating patterns have been effective in involving children as they confidently participate in singing or reading as a group. We have also been exploring rhythm and sounds in language, with a strong interest in music and dancing has been realised and we will tap into this interest more.
Curriculum News

This term the children have also taken photos and we have been putting them up with daily photos for an end of day slide show. It’s always interesting to see what the children like to photograph and how they describe and critique their own photos. They get great delighted in seeing photos of them selves and this has been a wonderful source for conversation starters.

We would like to encourage use of ‘oral language’ skills as part of our site improvement plan and children being involved in conversations or hearing conversations helps them to learn fundamental listening and speaking skills. Please feel free to watch slide show and chat to you child about the day.

We have also had many children bring things from home to show and at the end of the day have a line up to stand up the front show and tell. As the day runs out to quickly, we have re introduced the star box for children to take home and bring some items to show. It is going to be sent home with each child as the term progresses and we will still allow some time for those special occasions that may need a spontaneous show and tell time. We are also continuing with the photos stories with new children.

This term we will also continue to visit the children at the Primary School and they will come to visit us. This is a great opportunity for old kindy friends to catch up and to make new school friends. At kindy we spend a lot of time supporting children to develop social skills and confidence so this is a wonderful opportunity to develop skills as the two groups of children mix each week.

Afternoon Fruit and healthy food

It’s great to share an afternoon picnic fruit time and chat about the day. The plan to bring fruit on Mondays only is working out well and we don’t have so much left over at the end of the week. Each child is asked to bring a piece of fruit each week to be shared and this creates a positive healthy eating experience for all children.

We have notice that children are bringing a lot of packaged foods for lunch and snack time. We understand that this great convinience food but is also generally highly processes and at Kindy we need to encourage whole and nutritious foods that give children longer lasting energy benefits. Children can bring snack boxes with a variety of cut up fruit or veg, cheese and pasta to nibble on and they always look inviting.
Thankyou

Thankyou to everyone who donated toys, baked goods, time and effort for the Town Garage Sale. We had a lovely spot to offer morning teas and sold a few toys too. We had to compete with over 44 sites so money was a little spare by the time people got to us. We did have several out of town visitors who really appreciated the morning tea spoils though.

Thankyou Susan for an enormous effort to make signs, scones, organise many other items and set up to stay to and help out on the day. There were some other very generous helpers in the background and on the day too and this was certainly appreciated. The children helped to make the signs and we managed to raise $150 and still have some nice toys that could be used at Kindy and playgroup. Including a certain Blue Bear who has inspired our learning journey over the last few weeks. Oh where, Oh where is that Bear 😊

To all those people who help out with little things around the place and with all the fundraising activities. Your time and effort is really appreciated as we know how busy peoples lives get and volunteers time and skills is one of the most valuable resources we have in the Kindy community.

Staff Development

Our whole staff team attended a full day workshop learning about the Reflect, Respect, Relate rating and assessment system. We really appreciated the time to work together and plan how to use this tool at Riverton Kindergarten. We have already begun to make observations and started to talk about focusing on the wellbeing of the children. This has been particularly relevant with four new children and some children who have had some major life changing events occurring in their lives this year.

As a staff team we have already begun making observation and change some of our practices to support children to become confident to explore and engage in our everyday activities for learning. We are excited about how this quality improvement and reflective practice tool will help us to continuously work on improving our program and developing the active learning environment to a high standard.

I have also attended Several Leaders and have been developing an understanding of the new National Quality Standards and Universal Access strategies which we need to begin to implement next year. Children will be able to access 15 hours of Pre School at Riverton Kindergarten as from the beginning of next year. This will mean an extra half a day a week, so we will be looking at how to provide that service to best suit the community.

There has been some discussion about the introduction of single entry and at this stage there is no official news but it looks likely that this will not begin in Kindergarten until 2013 and schools in 2014.

© Maria, Karlie, Melissa, Karen and Cassie 😊

Sunday 18th September
11 am till 3 pm
Freeling Recreation Park
FREE entry, many different stalls to shop from, photographer, sausage sizzle and much more
Next Market Date: December 11th
Facebook: www.facebook.com/barossachildrensmarket