Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the families who were able to attend the welcome barbeque last Friday. It was a great opportunity for parents and children to get to know each other in true Bethany spirit.

What’s happening in Kindergarten next week?

- **Religion** – We will continue our unit, ‘God Loves Me’. Children will be exploring how individuals express their feelings differently. We will be reading and discussing the scripture story *Jesus Blesses the Little Children* (Lk 18:15-17).
- **English** – We will be starting an author study of Eric Carle. The book focus for the week is ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. Children are introduced to letters, words, text direction, spacing between words, full stops and capital letters. Children will be singing ‘Ants in the Apple’ to assist in developing their phonemic awareness.
- **Mathematics** – The focus for the week is patterns. Children will create and continue shape and colour patterns, forming the basis for number patterns later. Part of each Mathematics lesson will also focus on whole number (estimating and counting collections of objects, reading and writing numbers).
- **Theme** – We will continue our unit, ‘School Days’ focusing on different places within the school are used.

Special Messages.....

- From this Monday, 23rd February Kindergarten will be dismissed at the usual school finishing time of 2:45p.m.
- Thank you for returning readers back to school today. Homework, readers and sight word folders will go home each Monday. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that these items are returned each Friday, as it gives the teachers time to organise homework, readers and sight words for the following week.
- This week we sent home coloured copies of ‘Ants in the Apple’ cards. You may like to ask your child if they can sing the song for you while showing the appropriate card. We have provided two copies of each letter so that you can play memory or snap using the cards. This is one way to develop your child’s letter sound knowledge.
- Please reinforce the school’s ‘hands off’ rule at home with your child. We encourage children to report incidents of hitting etc. to the teacher, as we take any form of violence seriously.
- Kindergarten will begin having ‘Crunch and Sip’ from Monday, 2nd March. A note will be sent home outlining what food may be brought to school for this purpose.
- Parent helpers will be invited to assist in the classroom from Monday, 2nd March. A confirmation note will be sent home prior to this date. Thank you for offering your assistance.
- Please ensure that you write a note to the class teacher explaining your child’s absence from school if they are away for any reason. Teachers are legally required to record all explained/unexplained absences in the class roll.

Kind regards,
Sue Neilly, Karina Sarkisian and Karen Shillito