

IN THIS EDITION

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At the time of writing, we have 192 families and 224 children attending the Centre, including the Rosellas, Kingfishers and Kookaburras at Kindergarten.

STAFFING UPDATES

Since the last newsletter we have said a sad farewell to Sophia who was the staff member in our Yarra Gum (youngest babies) room. Sophia advised that the distances she was travelling each day proved to be too tiring for her, she had been with us for four months. We wish her well for the future. Niluji, who had worked in the Yarra Gum room covering breaks and staff leave is now working permanently within the room. Donna and I feel the transition for our beautiful babies was a smooth one.

As we have nearly reached our budgeted capacity, we are currently in the process of interviewing staff for the remaining positions within the service.

Rachel is obviously due to have her baby any minute (end of August) and as such will commence maternity leave in the second week of August. She hopes to return in January (and we also hope she does!). We are currently interviewing for a replacement for the short term assignment.

Leah, who some of you will know as a regular reliever at the KCCC (in between visits to Byron Bay and completing an Arts degree) has left us for a working holiday around Europe.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well it's been a busy six months and unfortunately this has meant a gap between newsletters, so this is a bumper edition.

We continue to orientate new families and are thrilled to receive such a positive response from children and parents alike. The centre is currently sitting on 87% occupancy which means that a number of rooms are nearing capacity. Our buying/selling day's policy can be used when there are no vacancies on a particular day so please take advantage of this opportunity.

The last few months have certainly presented us (the staff) with a number of challenges and I would like to thank our parent body and particularly the board for your ongoing, positive support.

THE WELCOME BREAKFAST

I know it was so long ago, but what a success!!! We all crammed into the area outside the kitchen and spilled into the baby's playground; we enjoyed Heather's beautiful food, each other's company and the beautiful weather. The spirit of community is well and truly alive!!!!

STAFF TRAINING

Over the last month staff have:

- Attended Anaphylaxis training.
- Kelly attended the Early Childhood Australia Conference.
- Kate attended training entitled Shyness and the Development of Anxiety.
- Morag attended training entitled Engaging Boys.
- Liz and Rachel attended respective network meetings

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all those who purchased pies from our last fundraiser. The toys and books purchased with money raised from this event have been on display in the foyer and are now to be distributed to each room. The pasta drive has been even more successful – please check the foyer over the coming weeks for similar displays of purchases made with monies raised. Thank you all so much for your support, we really appreciate it.

DID YOU KNOW.....

.....that each play room has an amount of \$80.00 a month allocated to that room that can be spent at the discretion of the staff within the room. (A little more for kinder). During 'special' celebrations this amount is increased. It is usually spent on paint and paper, equipment, toys, adornments for the room, books etc. Over a year this amount totals \$9,645.00 in new purchases for the children.

.....that each room has an individual file on your child's development that is available to you if ever you would like to view it. The information is photo based and offers anecdotes and insights into your child's personal growth within this setting. Unfortunately you cannot keep this record until your child has finished at KCCC as this information is an example of ongoing records and demonstrates how we cater for individuals when we have a visit from the department or a validator re Accreditation.

EXPANSION UPDATE.

Apart from a few details, one major one being the outdoor area, our expansion is now finished HOORAY!!!! We plan to celebrate on 13/09 so please keep this date free in your diaries - more details to follow.....

CAN YOU HELP????

1. We are looking to borrow a PA system to use at the celebration mentioned above and were wondering if anyone had access to a system?
2. After the recent issues around the pandemic we were wondering if there was anyone within our community who has expertise in risk management and would be willing to review the centre's current insurance and offer advice to the board on appropriate cover.

H1N1. WHERE TO FROM HERE

Maxine Morand, the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, has made money available to the centre, in the form of a 'one off' grant, to offset some of the costs incurred by parents who paid child care fees over the close down period. We are currently working through our Smart Fees system assessing the individual family's fees over this period ie some families attend two days, others one, to ascertain amounts to be allocated. The amount will appear as a credit on your invoice. Thank you to all the families who were so supportive through such a difficult time.

KCCC NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY

SPOTCHECK

On the 7th of July, we were paid an unexpected visit by a National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) validator with the intent to perform a Spot check. A Spot check is an additional part of the Accreditation process, which you may remember we completed in September last year. The purpose of a Spot check is for the NCAC to ensure centers are maintaining best practices and quality assurance in between Accreditation renewals. Checks are unannounced and centres are picked at random by a computer system. Our validator completed a tour of the centre and observed each of the rooms and their practices whilst here. She then completed a report particularly noting positive interactions between carers and children, the rooms and equipment available to children and our progress of our continual improvement plan. Overall the visit was positive and we feel very pleased with the outcome. The report will be made available in the foyer and more information on Spot checks can be found at http://www.ncac.gov.au/about_ncac/spot_checks.asp

POLICY OF THE MONTH

We wanted to draw parent's attention to a change in our fees policy. As you can appreciate, we are now a much larger service and in order to streamline our practices we have included in our policy a request that all families attending the centre be placed on direct debit in preference to any other form of payment. This facilitates the management of the 192 accounts we now service. Thanks for your help.

FEE REVIEW

Just a reminder to all parents, as per our Fees Policy, the annual fee review is underway. This involves the board and office management reviewing the current fee structure while considering the 2009/2010 budget. Parents will be informed asap if there are any proposed changes to the fee structure.

Occupancy and waiting list update

