



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

2829 Wisemans Ferry Road,
Mangrove Mountain
NSW 2250
Phone: 4374 1239
www.mountainchildren.com.au
E: mountainchildren@bigpond.com

News from Louisa

Welcome to our September edition of the newsletter for 2023. We have had such a busy month during August. We also have a few events coming up over the next month. Please continue to

check emails as we will keep you updated.

Farewell to Erin

Over the next month we will be farewelling Erin in the office. We are currently interviewing for someone to replace Erin. We thank Erin for her time, care and patience with the families, children, and staff. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Working Bee

A huge thank you to The Chin family, the Skinner family, John Amedeo and Antionette for helping with our new garden. The garden has lots of bush tucker plants that we are looking forward to sharing with the children.

Country Fair

This will be held on **Saturday 21st October from 9am – 3pm** at the Mangrove Mountain Hall and Reserve. We will be hosting the produce stall and face painting. We will be looking for volunteers to help with our stalls. I will send out a note requesting helpers next month.

Centre Photos

Our photo week for 2023 will be Monday 13th November -Friday 17th November. More information will be provided including links to register closer to the date.

40th Birthday Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who came along to share our 40th Birthday celebrations. Thank you also to all our committee, staff and families who helped on the day and beforehand. Thank



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

you to everyone who baked something to sell with tea and coffee. We had a wonderful day with perfect weather and many happy children.

Congratulations Jasper and Daisy

Congratulations Jasper (snake room) and Daisy (joey room) on the birth of your baby sister Evie. We wish the family all the best and look forward to meeting the baby.

Christmas Concert

To provide you with plenty of notice, we have already scheduled our Christmas Concert for 2023. Please pencil Friday, December 1 at 4.30pm into your diaries for our end of year celebration at the Centre. More information will follow closer to the date.

Father's Day Afternoon Tea

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Afternoon Tea. It was a wonderful afternoon shared with the children and their families. A huge thank you to Trudy for making the brownies including vegan brownies for afternoon tea.

Mangrove Mountain & Districts Country Fair

Please save the date Saturday 21st October from 9am – 3pm for the annual Country Fair. Further details to follow next month.

Grandparents Day Afternoon Tea

We will be having an afternoon tea to celebrate grandparent's day on Friday 27th October from 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Please feel free to let all grandparents know. I will send out an invitation that you can share soon.

Sharing Photos of holidays or special events

Please feel free to continue to email any special photos from holidays or weekend adventures that your child may like to share with the room for news. Please email photos to mountainchildren@bigpond.com and we can print them out for your child to show for news. You may also like to include a brief description to prompt questions. If we do not get



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

time to do news on the day, then we will do them on the next day your child attends the centre.

Nut Free Lunchboxes

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation to keep the Centre nut free due to children with allergies. Just a reminder to please not pack any nuts or food containing nuts. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, muesli bars and any spreads containing nuts.

Kind Regards

Louisa Foxford
Nominated Supervisor





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Joey's Room News

Kristy Hirons (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday), Cassidy Turner (Monday to Friday), Trudy Gray (Monday to Friday), Eva Sung (Tuesday to Friday), Antoinette Xuereb (Programming and Lunch Cover), Lovely Samejon (Programming and Lunch Cover), Abigail Rickards (Casual)



A special welcome to **Christian** who joined us in August and who has an older brother Gonzalo in the Lizard Room. We look forward to getting to know you as we learn and play over the coming months.



This August we celebrated **National Tree Day** (6) by going out into the yard to collect leaves to create some beautiful nature art.



During **Dental Health Week** (7-14) we read books about the importance of brushing our teeth morning and night, painted teeth art with toothbrush paint to practice getting all our teeth squeaky



clean while singing songs about brush, brush, brushing and practiced on our special giant teeth and little chompy chompers.

During **National Science Week** (14-18) we made a special sticky bubble mix to experiment with making bubbles strong enough to catch without popping them. Made a real-life exploding sand volcano with bubbly red vinegar & bicarb lava and tested what happens when oil, food colouring and paint mix in water with cotton buds.





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Joey's Room News (cont.) ...



The Joey teachers made **Book Week** (21-25) especially fun for the children, picking a special book for each day of the week and dressing up as a character from the story to read to the children, bringing the stories to life.



Spring is already off to a very warm start, so please remember to layer the children with long sleeve tops for the cooler mornings and evenings and have shorts and t-shirts (no sleeveless tops please, to keep small shoulders protected from the sun) available for the warmer parts of the day for comfort during outdoor play.

Thanks for a great month and looking forward to catching up next time.

Kristy, Cassidy, Abi, Jess, Eva & Trudy

Coming up in September:

1 First Day of Spring, 3 Father's Day, 4 National Child Protection Week, 6 Early Childhood Educators Day, 7 International Literacy Day, 14 R U Okay Day, 19 Talk Like A Pirate Day, 21 World Gratitude Day, 22 World Rhino Day, 30 Save The Koala Day.



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Joey's Room News (cont.) ...

Joeys Room Staff

Trudy



Kristy



Cassidy

Abi



Eva



Antoinette



Lovely





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Lizard Room News

Room Leader – Paris Helson (Monday to Friday), Belinda Stark (Tuesday to Friday), Mary Todd (Monday, Thursday and Friday), Georgia Dawson (Wednesday and Thursday) Antoinette Xuereb (Programming and Lunch Cover), Lovely Samejon (Programming and Lunch Cover)

We would like to welcome Charlie and Matilda to the Lizard Room. They have been exploring all the fun things in our room and making new friends.

This last month we have learnt about some of the creatures that live in the sea and have made some of them too. There were rainbow fish, jelly fish, sea horses and star fish. We



also had an interest area with our big sea creatures and shells to play with. The children would create their own aquariums lining them up on the mat and naming them all. The sharks were the scariest!!

Our silkworms have hatched, and we have a few hundred of them. So please feel free to come take some home if you would like to, just ask one of the teachers. You just need to have a mulberry tree to feed them or take some from our tree. We have enjoyed our visits out to the tree to collect the leaves to feed them too.



We celebrated National Science Week by doing some cool experiments. We made fireworks using water with oil and food colouring, did some marbling, made some flowers change colours by placing them in water with different food colouring and then made some clouds. There was much fun and learning to be had!



With it being Springtime now we decided to hatch some baby chickens and ducks in the incubators again. We have been marking off the days as the Hatch Days approach and are very excited to see how many we get.





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Lizard Room News (cont.) ...



A BIG THANK YOU to Xavier's Dad Josh for coming in and sharing his musical talents with us. He played his Djembe Drums and the Didgeridoo.....Together!!! The children all had an opportunity to play the drums after Josh's performance.

We hope all the Dads liked their Father's Day presents and had a wonderful Father's Day. The children were very excited to give them to their Dads and we hope you enjoyed playing your gift with them.

Until next time,

Paris, Belinda, Georgia and Mary.

Lizard Room Staff



Paris



Belinda



Mary

Lovely



Antoinette





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Snake Room News

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Tuesday to Friday), Allison Monaghan (Monday to Friday), Lovely (Programming and Lunch Cover), Georgia Dawson (Monday) and Holly Pearce (Wednesday)

Firstly, we would like to welcome our new friend Jameson to the snake room. We are sure you will have a wonderful time here at MCCC, making lots of new friends and exploring your new environment. Congratulations to Jasper and Daisy (joey room) on the birth of their baby sister Evie.



During our indoor play, the children have really enjoyed sensory experiences, such as slime, finger painting and playdough. The slime especially has been a hit as of late and it's a great activity for the children to develop their fine motor skills while it also promotes a sense of focus and calmness during the experience. Their creativeness shone through, and they have worked out that stretching the slime out and throwing it down on the table creates a large bubble. We extended upon this by encouraging the children to think of other ways they could make a bubble, including blowing it up with a straw. The children love seeing who can make the biggest bubble with the slime without it popping!



Last week we celebrated book week. Each day, we read a different one of the children's favourite stories and did some fun craft about it. Book week serves as an opportunity to cultivate a love for reading among early learners, igniting their imagination, creativity, and cognitive growth. We started of the week filled with glitter, sequins and stickers as the children made their own unicorns to replicate the story "Thelma The Unicorn." We then practiced our scissor skills with a collaging activity focused on the book "Go Away Big Green Monster". This story teaches the children empowerment, and how they can help to control their fears. They get to control the monster and send it away! On Wednesday, we read the story



"We're Going On A Croc Hunt", which we replicated into a real-life adventure through our yard, searching for the hidden crocodile toy. We finished off the week reading "You Can't Take An Elephant On A Bus." There were lots of giggles during this story as different animals





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Snake Room News (cont.) ...

tried to use impractical types of transport. The children then each decorated a section of a centipede on roller skates, before connecting it altogether to make one giant centipede to be proudly displayed in our room.



This month, we also celebrated Science week in our room. We investigated chemical reactions as we made erupting volcanoes and used bicarb and vinegar to make fizzing rainbows. We explored capillary action and colour mixing with a walking water experiment.

We also explored the changes in concentration levels using an experiment with skittles in water. The colours of the skittles began to dissolve into the water making a rainbow pattern. During each of these experiments the children were encouraged to try and hypothesis what they thought would happen.



Our silkworms hatched a few weeks ago, and the children have been amazing little helpers, helping to clean out the shoeboxes and pick new leaves off the mulberry tree for the silkworms to eat. As the children gently interact with the silkworms, they are learning to show care and respect towards living creatures. We have also used this experience to discuss life cycles and the transformation process that the silkworms will undertake. If you would like to continue this experience at home with your child, we have plenty of silkworms to share. Just chat to Kathy or Ally.

We also want to say thank you to all of the wonderful Fathers and Grandfathers who came to our Father's Day afternoon tea. We had so much fun, and we hope you did too. We also hope that you had a lovely Father's Day on Sunday and loved the special gifts that the children made you!

Until next time,
Ally and Kathy



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Snake Room Staff

Kathy



Ally



Lovely



Antoinette





Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

News from the Office

Picture Plate Orders

I am loving seeing the beautiful designs the children have been creating for their picture plates in their classrooms, if you have taken a form home for your child or their sibling to do at home, could you ***please make sure you return the completed design back to the centre early next week*** so we can ensure you don't miss out when we send the order off.

2024 Enrolment Forms

Thank you to everyone who has returned your child's 2024 enrolment form. Please let me know if you haven't received a copy of the form yet and I can email one out to you, or you can fill out a copy at the front sign in desk. ***If your child is starting Primary School next year, please let us know if you would like them to attend the centre in January 2024 before school starts.***

Changes to Child Care Subsidy

From 10 July 2023, there are changes to the way Services Australia work out your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) entitlement. Child care will be cheaper for most families.

A fact sheet about the changes to be implemented can be found here: [Changes to Child Care Subsidy Fact Sheet - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

A calculator can also be accessed to work out the approximate gap fees that will apply to child care for your children from July 10: [Child Care Subsidy Calculator at Starting Blocks.gov.au](#)

Working Hours of Administration Officer

I work part time at the Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, between 8am and 2pm. If you need to contact me, please feel free to do so on my workdays - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You can also email me at any time at mountainchildren@bigpond.com and I will get back to you on my next workday or Louisa will reply in the meantime. In urgent cases, please feel free to contact the Centre on any of our opening days (Mondays – Fridays from 7.30am to 5.30pm) and speak to any of our staff.

Statements

Statements are sent out weekly on Wednesdays. Please check your statements closely - on page 3 or 4 under "**Account Transactions**" of your statement you will find the future payment to be deducted with "**Fee Payment by Batch DD/ CC**" in bold and the date and amount next to it. **If there is ever a problem with the date or amount to be deducted and**



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

News from the Office (cont.) ...

you need to change this, please contact us as soon as possible to avoid a dishonour fee of \$19.95 (this is charged by Debitsuccess who handles the payments for us and beyond our control). **If you need to make any changes to your payment date or amount, please let us know with a minimum of 48 hours' notice** to amend a payment as they are locked in by Debitsuccess after.

We have had a few families querying why their CCS % rebate has changed lately, unfortunately this is out of our control, and if you have any queries, you will need to call Centrelink directly, or log on to your MyGov account. There can be a number of reasons why your CCS can change including a parent returning to work, an older child turning six, you may have lodged your Tax Return and your family's income may have changed, you may have an outstanding debt with Centrelink that they are recovering through charging you higher fees (Centrelink's Debt Recovery Line is 1800 076 072).

I am always here to discuss your account with you if you have any concerns.

Immunisations

Thank you to everyone who has recently sent through their children's updated immunisation history statements. Updated immunisation history statements can be downloaded from your Medicare services within your myGov account. Please ensure that you email us an updated copy after each immunisation as we are legally required to keep them in your child's file.

Erin

Administration Officer



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

September 2023

Dates for your Diary ...

OCTOBER

Saturday, 21st October 9am – 3pm

Mangrove Mountain and Districts Country Fair

Friday, 27th October 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Grandparent's Day Afternoon Tea

NOVEMBER

Monday, 13th – Friday 17th November

Photo Week

DECEMBER

Friday, December 1 at 4.30pm

Christmas Concert at the Centre

Friday, December 22nd

LAST DAY FOR 2023

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 16th 2024

FIRST DAY FOR 2024