



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

April 2023

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News from Louisa

Welcome to our third edition of the newsletter for 2023. We hope you are settling into the year and for those with children at school I hope they have settled into the routine as well. I'm sure the school

holidays will provide some much-needed rest after a busy first term.

Positions Vacant (Part Time and Casual)

We are currently looking for some new educators to join our team. We have a part time position available as well as casual positions. Please feel free to get in touch with the centre or check out our advertisement in the back of the Community News. If you know someone who may be interested, please feel free to pass on our number or email address mountainchildren@bigpond.com to get in touch with me.

Socks and Soup Drive

We will be supporting a Sock and Soup Drive from the 8th April – 31st May for people without homes on the Central Coast. This cause needs socks and soup to warm the feet and bellies of our homeless community this winter. We will have a collection bin here at the centre so please feel to pop in and drop off some warm socks and or ring pull tin of soup.

AGM

You are all invited to our next Annual General Meeting as financial members here at the centre on Wednesday 26th April at 7pm to begin at 7.30pm. A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP to mountainchildren@bigpond.com if you can make it. We look forward to welcoming you to the evening.



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News from Louisa (cont.) ..

Toys from home

We have been noticing more and more toys from home being brought in by the children. We ask that toys from home be left at home. If your child would like to bring in something to show their friends, this can be done on their news day when they have a news bag. Alternatively, if they have something special such as from a holiday or weekend event, this news item will be put up away in safe place until news time and then put back in a safe place until home time. If your child does bring something in from home and it is not their news day, you will be asked to take it back home with you before leaving. Educators can assist with helping to send toys home before you leave if required. Please just ask, we are more than happy to help. Toys from home can often go missing, get broken or accidentally go home with another child. Your child will then be upset when they are unable to find them. This also can cause conflict during the day as children may not want to share their own toys and this is perfectly normal. If you have any suggestions for resources for the centre to purchase, please feel free to let the educators know as we are always open to new ideas. On behalf of all the educators we appreciate your co-operation and understanding in this matter. The happiness and well-being of all the children is very important.

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.

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



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News from Louisa (cont.) ..

Harmony Day Lunch

Thank you to all our families who joined us for lunch on Harmony Day. Thank you also to the families who brought along some cultural foods to share. We had the most wonderful variety of foods to share. The children enjoyed trying a little bit of all the foods. Eva's rice vermicelli noodles were popular with the children (many having seconds and thirds).



40th Birthday Celebrations

On Sunday 27th August from 11am-2pm we will be celebrating 40 years in operation. Please spread the word as we would love to have as many of our current families as well as past families and members of the community. We will begin to publicise this event in the Community News, emails, invitations and via our Facebook page.



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News from Louisa (cont.) ..

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.

Kind Regards

Louisa Foxford
Nominated Supervisor





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News from our Educational Leader Kathy

A fundamental part of our Early Years Learning Framework is a view of children's lives being characterised by Belonging, Being and Becoming. We focus a lot on these concepts. For instance, before you enter our rooms we have the children's drawings, hand prints and photos displayed on the wall as a 'Welcome to our Room' feature. These are not just for 'cuteness value' but provide the children with a sense of Belonging to the centre and their room. Social partnerships are also promoted by these when the children and family members stop to look at their child and others they know.



Another experience in our rooms which promotes belonging are our family trees. The children develop a sense of identity and therefore belonging when their family photos are on display. They get a lot of pleasure from seeing their families in their rooms and proudly show their photos to their friends.



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News from our Educational Leader Kathy (cont.) ...

“Experiencing belonging- knowing where and with whom you belong-is integral to human existence. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they become.”

(From the Early Years Learning Framework).

Another belonging and identity concept we incorporate into our rooms is our ‘Everyone belongs!’ world map. This map is designed to promote and acknowledge the diversity of all of our families in the centre and the countries they come from or family origins. Each family is encouraged to locate the photo of their child and place it on their country of origin. This belonging map promoted and extended on our Harmony Day experience that we celebrated with our Harmony Day Lunch on March 24. This day promotes, acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of cultures within our centre. We value this type of family partnerships and diversity of cultures. If you have any experiences you would like to share with the children in the centre we would love to have your participation. This could be a simple cooking experience of a favourite food from your country of origin, or cultural story, book or musical experience.



Until next month,

Kathy

MCCC Educational Leader





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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), Jessica Hines (Casual), Antoinette Xuereb (Programming and Lunch Cover), Lovely Samejon (Programming and Lunch Cover), Abigail Rickards (Casual)

It's hard to believe yet another month of fun has passed and we are now into April and Summer has well and truly turned to Autumn with cooler, wetter and soon to be shorter days.

Autumn can often bring 4 seasons in one day, particularly on the Mountain, so please pack multiple changes of clothes for both hot and cold/wet weather occasions.

A special welcome to our new Joey **Santino** and his family this month. It is wonderful to have you join us, and we can't wait to get to spend more time getting to know you, watching you grow and learning about all your favourite things to play with and do over the coming months.

During the month of March we had fun with whacky **Dr Seuss week** stories, rhymes and craft, celebrated the wonderful women in our lives for **International Women's Day**, learnt about all things Irish for **St Patrick's Day** and ended the month with a week long celebration of **Harmony Week**, which concluded with an incredible shared lunch to explore the multicultural heritage of our families.





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

As always, cooking experiences are a hit with the Joeys and we had fun with **Green Eggs** for Dr Seuss week, **pancakes** (just because who doesn't love pancakes, right?!) and a special day of trying all kinds of **green** foods to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Reading stories at group time is a great way to explore topics, themes and ideas and last month we have read about **feelings** (When I'm Feeling Angry/Sad/Happy), **inclusion** (We Are All Equal) and how amazing Mums are (My Mummy is Magic, Mummies Are Amazing).



The Joeys have enjoyed many varied **craft** activities including easel painting, stamp pads with stamps and handprints, drawing with markers and using paint dot markers.

Dress ups have also been very popular, especially the Spiderman, Superman, Batman and Chase outfits for our mini superheroes.





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

A lot of our Joey friends are on the journey to toilet training. This can be a difficult process for some, and easy for others, so expect that there may be some wins and some setbacks along the way, and most likely, a bit more laundry for a while. This process is always a little easier if the same thing is happening at home as at preschool, so please don't hesitate to grab one of us for a chat to update us on how things are going or to ask if you have any questions.

Thank you for the parent surveys and family photos we have already received. Our Family Tree on the sleep room door is looking beautiful with the addition of family photos added to it this month, keep a look out for yours, as the children love locating and showing off their photo on the tree. This helps the children have a strong sense of identity and belonging. We are happy for the photos to be emailed in, as we can print them for you here.

Until Next Time,

Cassidy, Kristy, Eva, Abi, Jess and Trudy



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

Joeys Room Staff

Trudy



Kristy



Cassidy



Eva



Antoinette



Lovely



Abi





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Lizard Room News

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

Hello Everyone,

The Lizards room continues to be a busy place as we share new ideas, create new friendship and maintain old ones and develop new skills. We continue to promote self help skills such as managing their lunchboxes, putting their shoes on and making their beds. As well as encouraging verbal communication around asking for turns etc.

We have been exploring the children's interest in colours while extending upon their skills of enquiry through different arts and craft . "I made purple." said Idris. "Yellow and red make orange." commented Leila. "Look Mary! White and blue make light blue" said Isla.



The children were most excited as we created a beauty salon in our room in response to the children's interest in painting their nails and doing their hair. We provided them a range of combs, brushes, hair accessories and clips to use in the dolls hair. This provides the children with the opportunity to develop their self help skills through play. They spent a morning painting their nails with Paris. This was super exciting! "Look at my nails" shouted Zac excitedly. While being lots of fun this also provided the children with the opportunity to refine their hand- eye co-ordination and fine motor skills.



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Lizard Room News (cont.) ...

We celebrated Harmony Week with a series of craft activities as well as watching several short clips that explained the meaning of Harmony Day. Harmony week concluded with a lovely lunch with our friends and families. the children enjoyed the opportunity to explore different expand their palate by trying the many different foods on offer. "Can I have more" asked Giulietta. We should do this every month!" said



Oakley's
mum.



The children continue to enjoy sharing their pet news as well as caring for our rabbit Peter and our spiny stick insects. Towards the end month we welcomed our rescue rabbit "Shadow". Shadow is fitting in beautiful and loving all the attention from the children.

The children are very excited about Easter and hence we have started to do some Easter crafts and are doing some Easter egg hunts this week.





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Lizard Room News (cont.) ...

Until next time,

Paris, Belinda, Mary, Lovely and Antoinette

Lizard Room Staff

Paris



Belinda



Mary



Lovely



Antoinette





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Snake Room News

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Tuesday to Friday), Allison Monaghan (Monday to Friday), Lovely (Programming and Lunch Cover), Louisa Foxford (Monday)

As a major part of our programming curriculum, we focus on the children's interests, which at the moment is learning all about insects, bugs, and spiders in our natural environment. The children have been exploring and discovering a vast number of different bugs outside. We have enjoyed investigating them before releasing them back into their natural environment.

We have set up an insect discovery area in our room,



natural world and the insects and bugs that inhabit it.



We have also incorporated this interest into our arts and craft area where we have created many insects and spider creations. We have also added a variety of insect books which promotes literacy learning and also expands on their curiosity and knowledge.

We have learnt lots of facts about insects and spiders, such as how many legs a spider has, what they might eat and where they might live. We have designed and created insect habitats as we learn about the different places they might live.

Next time you're in our room, take the chance to explore our insect discovery display centre.



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Snake Room News (cont.) ...

A special thanks to Ally's Dad who built us a fantastic wooden bug hotel!

Our pet news experiences continue to be popular with all the children as they bring in their photos of their pets to discuss and show the group. Discussing their pets provides a link from home to the centre, and promotes a sense of belonging, identity and pride.

These types of news experiences promote wonderful learning opportunities for both the presenter and the listeners. This includes confidence when speaking to the group, self-esteem, ability to answer questions, and memory recall when recalling details about their pets.



To further enhance the children's sense of belonging and ownership of the Snake room we used intentional teaching to discuss our room rules. We wrote down the children's thoughts and ideas on what rules we need to keep us safe, as well as keeping our toys and furniture safe. The children could verbalise their ideas and thoughts for the room rules well.





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Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Family photos continue to be another popular news type experience. The children love showing and discussing their family photos with the group. If you still haven't sent in a family photo, it is not too late. You can bring one in or email it and we can print it off for the children to show and add to our tree.

The Woolworths farm bricks have been extremely popular with all our children. They are loving using their own creative design skills to build assorted farms, vegetable gardens, orchards and so on. If anyone has been collecting them for home and you have spares you don't need. We would love to add them to our collection.



Some of the school readiness skills we are currently working on include name recognition skills, attention span at group time, ability to listen without distracting others and following instructions. We have also been working on our self help skills to build on the children's independence which promotes pride in own achievements.

If you have any questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to speak to Kathy or Ally.

Until next time

Kathy and Ally



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Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Snake Room Staff

Kathy



Ally



Holly



Antoinette



Lovely





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News from the Office

Working Hours of Administration Officer

I work part time and am at the Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9.30am and 3.30pm. If you need to contact me, please feel free to do so on my workdays - Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. You can also email me at any time at mountainchildren@bigpond.com and I will get back to you on my next workday. 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. 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 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.

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.

Hannah

Administration Officer





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Dates for your Diary ...

APRIL

Wednesday, April 26 at 7pm

AGM at the Centre (invitations to follow)

MAY

Friday, May 12 3-5pm

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at the Centre

AUGUST

Sunday, August 27 11am-2pm

40th Birthday Celebrations at the Centre

DECEMBER

Friday, December 1 at 4.30pm

Christmas Concert at the Centre