



# Community Children's Centre

## Family Newsletter

### May 2023

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#### News from Louisa

Welcome to our May edition of the newsletter for 2023.

#### Farewell to Hannah

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Hannah at the end of the month. Hannah is moving on to other adventures closer to home. We will miss Hannah and wish her all the best. Hannah has been an amazing friendly face in the foyer greeting families, answering the phone and being the main contact with the families both existing and new. Please check your emails for further details regarding Hannah's farewell.

#### Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Please join us for our Mother's Day afternoon tea on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May from 3.30pm – 5pm. We would love for you to join us.

#### Socks and Soup Drive

Thank you so much for the overwhelming support for the soup and sock drive. We will be continuing to collect donations during the month of 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 have a collection bin here at the centre so please feel to pop in and drop off some warm socks and or ring pull tins of soup.



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### **News from Louisa (cont.) ..**

#### **Dinosaur Show- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am**

We are looking forward to hosting an incursion here at the centre for the children. If this is not your child's day you are welcome to bring them along to watch, however you will need to stay with them for supervision.

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August from 11am-2pm we will be celebrating 40 years in operation. Please join us for this for this wonderful celebration. Please also 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.

#### **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.

#### **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](mailto: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.) ..

### **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**



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## News from our Educational Leader Kathy

We hope everyone is enjoying their PowerPoint emails that provide a summary of our day. The educators take pride in this form of communication between the centre and the families. It is a chance to showcase some of the wonderful learning experiences that the children engage in throughout the day. This in turn allow our families to gain an insight into their child's day – who they played with, what experiences they enjoyed and the developmental learning that is occurring.

These PowerPoints can take time for the educators creating them. Photos for them are taken throughout the day and they are often completed during the quieter times of the day such as rest/ sleep time.

We have decided to implement a “technology free day” each fortnight on progressive days where we put away our cameras and computers and focus on the children and their play without documenting it. This technology free day also provides educators with additional time to discuss and set up programs for your children for the month ahead as well as helping to extend on our relationship with each child through having more time available. On these technology free days we will not be sending out PowerPoint emails.

There are occasionally also other days where we are unable to send our PowerPoints due to technology issues, power outages and the like. We will endeavour to notify you on the day where possible.

You are always more than welcome to approach the educators to speak to them about your child's day on pick up.



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

We value any feedback from our families. Please feel free to comment (via return email or in person) on our PowerPoint emails. We would welcome a comment of something you enjoyed reading about or a suggestion of an extension to a learning experience. This is invaluable family input into our program and is highly encouraged.

Until next month,



**Kathy**

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

Welcome to May Joey Families and welcome to our new Joey friend Archer who started in the Joey room this week. We are excited to have you with us.

April was another fun filled month, starting with all kinds of bunny business in the lead up to the Easter long weekend. There were stories of painting eggs, special bunny deliveries and hatching eggs. The children enjoyed many craft activities creating Easter chicks, bunnies and carrots with bright colourful hand and foot print art, which is still adorning the walls. The shaker eggs were utilised not only for our usual dancing antics, but also to learn our colours, practice counting, and a shaker egg hunt.





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

To celebrate Nature Play week the children spent time outdoors collecting natural materials to bring indoors to create craft. They went for a walk out on the grounds to collect buckets of autumn leaves, then brought them back to make an oversized autumn tree collage together with glue and paint.



Ramadan came to a conclusion at the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> of April and the Joeys enjoyed trying some delicious treats as part of the Eid-Al-Fitr celebrations. As a mini version of the feast celebrated at the end of the month of fasting, the Joeys tried some new flavours with dates



topped with nut free butter and a honeyed cream cheese.

The week of ANZAC Day we shared stories of remembrance at group time, and created Rosemary scented playdough, which the children



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enjoyed using for the sensory experience of touch as well as smell.

### **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 and Trudy





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### Joeys Room Staff

#### Trudy



**Kristy**



**Cassidy**

#### Abi



#### Eva



#### Antoinette



#### Lovely





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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)

Hi everyone,

What another wonderful month we've had in the Lizard Room!

Firstly, we are excited to introduce our new Lizard Room Pet bunny "Shadow". Thank you to Amayah and Sigrid for bringing Shadow to us. Shadow has made the best of friends with Peter. The children have been using their gentle hands when patting Peter and Shadow. The Lizards have also been helping with changing the hutches and getting the bunnies fresh food and water.

The Lizards have shown a growing interest in all things Gross Motor. The children have been enjoying testing their balancing skills on the higher balance beams. They have also been very determined to have a go on the Monkey bars. We have been encouraging and assisting the children to try holding the side of the bars to build up their upper body strength.



Throughout the month we received some new garbage bins for our room, so we have been learning about recycling and rubbish and what items belong into the red bin and into the yellow bin. The children have been doing a fantastic job of identifying where their waste goes at lunch time.

We have been very busy doing drawing and painting Mother's Day gifts, the children are so excited to give their present and card to you. We hope you have a lovely Mother's Day on Sunday. Don't forget we have our Mother's Day afternoon tea on Friday and would love to see you there.



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### Lizard Room News (cont.) ...

Thank you to the families that sent in their Pet News, the children have enjoyed seeing and hearing all about your pets at home. Through the participation of news time the children are developing the confidence to speak before a group as they grow in their ability to be effective communicators. They are also developing feelings of self esteem and belonging as they share their special news. Please feel free to send in photos or mementos of your children's weekend adventures or other events for your child to share during news time.



During International Fire Fighters week we read lots of stories, made our own fire truck and completed Fire fighter craft. A special thank you to Jacob P. and his Dad Joel for coming in and speaking to us about his job as a fire fighter. The children had a great time listening and learning from you. We learnt we need to get down low and go, go, go crawling to the closest door if there's a fire, we also learnt that 000 is the number you call when there's a fire or an emergency.



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### Lizard Room News (cont.) ...

Another special Thank you to Iluka's Grandma for bringing in some RFS helmets and T-shirts the children have been having a ball dressing up as fire fighters.



During the month the Lizards learnt about Eid, we watched some educational videos about Eid what is it and how its celebrated, extending on the videos we did some moon and star craft. Idris brought in some news about how his family celebrated the end of Eid. We would like to Thank Idris and his family for bringing in some delicious cupcakes for us to celebrate the end of Eid.





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### Lizard Room News (cont.) ...

Loose parts have been very popular in the Lizard Room this month. The children have been using their imagination and creativity to build and make their own creations. Through playing with loose parts they are learning the early concepts of engineering and physics - about weight, density and how things work. They take their ideas and turn them into physical phenomena, engaging in early forms of storytelling as they place different objects together.



Belinda, Mary and I would love to hear from you about your child's interest or if we can assist in anyway.

Until next time,

Paris, Belinda, Mary, Lovely and Antoinette



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### 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), Holly Pearce (Monday)

Firstly, we would like to welcome our new friend Lincoln 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.

We have been very busy creating our beautiful mother's a wonderful mothers day gift. The gifts have been made with lots of love so we hope you love them as much as the children enjoyed making them. We hope you can all come to our Mothers day afternoon tea on Friday. The children are excited to pamper you with doing your nails and hair!

Whilst enjoying our wonderful social lunchtimes we have taken the opportunity to discuss healthy foods vs sometimes treat foods. We have been encouraging the children to eat their healthy food first before eating their treat foods. The children are wonderful at problem solving which foods are healthy options to eat first. We don't prevent the children from eating any of the food in their lunchboxes, merely steer them in the right direction to make healthy choices. We hope that our discussions open up chats at home to enhance the children's knowledge of healthy foods and promote healthy growing bodies and strong bones and teeth.

To extend on this valuable learning we have also introduced a new story called, "The Magic Lunchbox." This story is a Munch and Move health initiative that promotes healthy foods in children's lunchboxes. The Magic lunchbox only keeps the healthy food inside, and ejects the treat food. We have copies of this book and will be sending them home with the children to enjoy at home.



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### Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Last week was International Firefighters Day and we were lucky enough to have Jacob's dad come into the centre and present a wonderful, informative presentation on the roles of a firefighter and fire safety. The children loved his talk and all listened intently. We learnt all about what firefighters do, what smoke alarms are for, good fires and bad fires, and how to stop, drop and go, go, go if there was a fire. We all practiced the emergency number of 000 and when we should call it. It was a wonderful example of family participation into our centre and educational program! Thanks again to Jacob's Dad!



One of our school readiness skills we are currently working on include developing our social skills. Forming friendships and developing the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively together are very important skills to develop. Becoming strong in emotional resilience in play is another important skill, for instance, not always being the winner, being supportive of others and being able to share and take turns during play episodes. Our





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children are very social at this age. They are loving working together as they use their imaginations in play to build forts, role play families, put on shows and performances and so on. We assist this through providing the resources and tools to promote their play.

### Snake Room News (cont.) ...



Our news bags are continuing to be popular with all the children as we work through the process of ensuring everyone has a turn. The child may bring in anything they would like to

show and talk about, we ask for one item only so we can focus on it.





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### **Snake Room News (cont.) ...**

Ally and I were amused last week when one of our children saw a CD/DVD disc on the counter and said, with a puzzled look on her face, "What is this? What does it do?" The next generation of "streaming only" has begun!!

We would like to incorporate a small section of our newsletter to "The funny things kids say". We hear so many funny things from the children, so would like to share them with you, anonymously of course!

Child A came over to tell us she'd seen a spider. I replied, "It's probably just a little garden spider, is it?" to which she replied "NO! It's a real one!"

Child B came over to tell us they had been bumped in the face. When we questioned child C about what happened they reasoned it by saying "I just wanted to put my hand there, but her face was there first!"

Until next time,

Kathy and Ally



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### Snake Room Staff

**Kathy**



**Ally**



**Holly**



**Antoinette**



**Lovely**





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### News from the Office

#### 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 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](mailto: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 on Fridays. 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



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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.

### News from the Office (cont.) ...



#### 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**

### Dates for your Diary ...

**MAY**



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Friday, May 12 3.30 -5pm

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at the Centre

**AUGUST**

Sunday, August 27 11am-2pm

40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations at the Centre

**DECEMBER**

Friday, December 1 at 4.30pm

Christmas Concert at the Centre