



Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

August 2023

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News from Louisa

Welcome to our August edition of the newsletter for 2023. We have had a busy month during July and August. We also have a few events coming up over the next month. Please continue to check emails as we will keep you updated.

Shoe Box Revolution

We will continue with this collection of goods to go into a shoebox for the homeless. [Here](#) are the items that we will be collecting to pass onto the organisation to go into the shoeboxes. Thank you for your support in the very worthy cause.

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

On Sunday 27th August from 11am-2pm we will be celebrating 40 years in operation. Please join us 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 have publicised this event in the Community News, emails, invitations and via our Facebook page. The schedule for the day is as follows.

- 11am with children's entertainment including face painting and balloon sculptures, sausage sizzle (provided by the centre), sweet treats, tea, coffee, baked goods and drinks.
- At 12pm Liesel Tesch will join us for formalities and cutting of the cake.
- From 12.45 there will be a magic show and popcorn (provided by the centre).
- The day will conclude at 2pm.



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

Donations of Cakes, Slices or Biscuits for our 40th Birthday

We are after some donations of cakes, biscuits or slices to sell for a gold coin donation along with tea/coffee. If you could bring them with you on the day, this would be much appreciated. Or alternatively, if you are unable to attend you can drop something off on the Friday 25th August up until 5.30pm.

A BIG THANK YOU TO JOSH (XAVIER'S DAD)

Thank you to Josh for sharing your amazing talent with the children today at the centre. The children loved listening to the didgeridoo, drums, and shakers. They also enjoyed having a play of your drums. Thank you for taking the time to come to the centre and share this experience with the children. We truly appreciate your generosity.

If you have a talent or skill and would like to share this with the children, please feel free to let us know. We would love to welcome you to the centre and the children would appreciate your time.

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

All our Father's, Grandfather's, Uncles and any male role models in your child's life are welcome to join us for a Father's Day afternoon tea here at the centre on Friday 1st September from 3pm – 5pm.

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.

Sharing Photos of holidays or special events



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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.

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

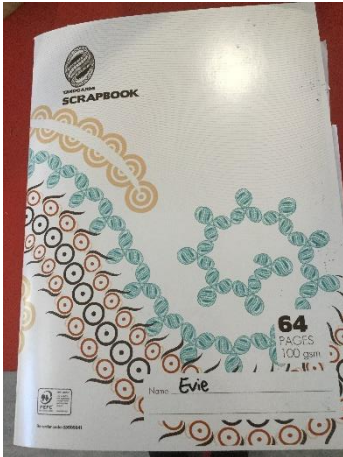


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News from our Educational Leader Kathy



If you have wondered why your child doesn't bring artwork home regularly, it's because the centre recently introduced art scrap books for each child as a way of preserving their precious work. The children's art is filed away and glued into their books when the Educators have time. This scrapbook of art is then sent home at the end of the year. It provides a wonderful keepsake of their special artwork.

If the artwork was to be given to the children each day, it may become screwed up and damaged inside their bags, and consequently, may be thrown out.

However, keeping this artwork here, pasted into a book, has its disadvantages.

When children engage in artwork creativity, they often display pride in their work, and love to share this with their families. How often have we seen children excitedly grab their arts and crafts from their lockers to show Mummy or Daddy at pick up time? Their memory recall and feelings about their art are fresh in their minds and they happily discuss what they have created. This can lead to some wonderful engagement with their families, as they are asked questions about the colours and patterns they have used, and other ideas about their work.

If artwork is placed into a book and not given to them until the end of the year, then they will have probably forgotten those feelings and emotions of their art and the processes they used to create it.

The children love to display their artwork at home, which often is placed proudly on the fridge for all to see and praise. Or maybe they decide to gift the artwork to a special grandparent or other family member.

Again, this isn't possible if glued into a book.

What is the solution? What is best practice to ensure that the families and the children's needs are met when it comes to preserving their precious artwork?

Could we, the Educators, place their artwork into a plastic sleeve or manilla folder to be handed to the families at pickup times, on a regular basis? Fortnightly, or monthly?

Do we ask the children if they would like to take their art home each day? Or give them the choice of pasting it into their book or take home?





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

Some children don't engage in regular artwork, so they may not have any art or crafts to take home regularly, or to glue into their books. We don't force children to participate in arts and crafts. This would be pointless as they would not gain any developmental benefits or enjoyment from being made to do it. We gently encourage these experiences, and often when the children see their peers engaging in this they will happily join in too, but if your child brings home a scrapbook with little artwork in it, it merely means that they have been happily engaging in other types of play experiences.

We are continuing with our artbooks for the remainder of the year, but if you have any input or thoughts on this topic can you please share your ideas with your child's Educators.

We will also add this topic to our children's goals sheet that we send out at the beginning of each year for your input.

Thank you,

Until next time



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)

A special welcome to **Jethro** and **Emilie** who have just started with us in the Joey Room. We look forward to having lots of fun together and getting to know you both better.

In **July** we celebrated Naidoc week, we shared our knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, participated in visual arts experiences, shared picture books about Australia's indigenous people and listened to an Indigenous Lullabies playlist which we enjoyed so much that we continue to listen to most days.



July also saw us hanging out in our pyjamas all day and enjoying a fun teddy bears picnic.

We participated in some wonderful cooking activities this month, making banana muffins and cookies.

A couple of our Joey friends have begun their journey to toilet training. If you're thinking maybe your little one may be ready to begin this journey too or would just like some more information, please don't hesitate to speak to us.





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

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

Kristy, Cassidy, Abi, Jess, Eva & Trudy

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), Georgia Dawson (Wednesday and Thursday) Antoinette Xuereb (Programming and Lunch Cover), Lovely Samejon (Programming and Lunch Cover)

Firstly, we would like to welcome Matthew, Gonzalo, Milyerra and their families to the Lizard room. They have settled wonderfully into the room, we are excited to have you with us.

We've had a busy month in the Lizard Room, the children have still been keenly engaged in the alphabet and numbers. Following the children's interest, we have introduced name tracing to the children. Tracing helps refine children's pre-writing skills, and builds the foundation for drawing and writing letters and words. We have been practicing and working with the children to continue this interest. We have added more felt board stories that have focused on numbers. We will continue to foster the children's



interest with all things letter and number recognition through intentional teaching, songs, and books.

All things Safari: Throughout the month we set up a Safari interest corner. The children explored all things safari. We used our scissor skills to cut lion manes, made clay elephants, assembled our own zebras we also painted our own Hippo's and Tigers. The children had a great time role playing with the Rhino's, Elephants, Giraffes & Safari dolls. We also read a lot of stories based on Safari animals.

Outside the children have been showing an increasing interest in the climbing up the big stairs testing their balance and then jumping onto the big mats. This month we introduced Totem tennis, the children have been focusing on their hand eye coordination to hit the ball when it's their turn. The bikes are also very popular, we have seen the children improving their peddling skills going up the big hill. This is a friendly reminder to please check your child's helmet when you're in next to make sure their helmet fits correctly. We will be more than happy to assist you with this.





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Lizard Room News (cont.) ...



The children have been fond of our new dolls house. The children have been engaging through social interactions, imaginative play. This play helps children develop their social skills and make sense of the world. Dollhouse play can also help children strengthen their problem-solving skills because they must use logic and reasoning to solve issues in their miniature world. They are free to experiment with different

scenarios and outcomes, which teaches them valuable lessons about cause-and-effect relationships.

The Lizards have excitingly started going on our bush walks next door. We have been so lucky to explore next door nature. Going on a nature walk and deliberately noticing things encourages children to observe with all their senses. A nature walk can help your children learn to focus their attention and take in the details of things around them.

Until next time,

Paris, Belinda, Mary and Georgia.





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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), Georgia Dawson (Monday) and Holly Pearce (Wednesday)

Welcome to August everyone. We can't believe how fast this year is going!

As we continue to prepare the children for their move off to big school next year, we have focused on providing them with opportunities to build upon their confidence, particularly in group settings. Our recently completed book news experience allowed the children to develop this skill along with their communication skills and build upon their self-esteem. The children love being up in front of their peers, so we extended upon this and gave the children opportunities to lead group time experiences. The children have enjoyed pretending to be the teacher as they mark the role in the morning, act out short stories, lead songs for their peers, read a story on the lounge or be the leader at group time asking their friends all the questions.



During one of the book news' the children began to talk about how the earth spins, causing the change between day and night. This discussion led us into our current focus of space. We have set up a wonderful space discovery area for the children to play with, complete with a space control centre for communicating with the astronauts and rocket ships. They are loving dressing up as astronauts and flying to their favourite planets. During group times we have learnt about each of the different planets, the order they are from the sun and what makes them 'special'. The children have had lots of fun engaging in a variety of craft experiences, as they used their scissor skills to make name

rockets, their creativity to make their own constellations and experimented with colour mixing and different styles of painting to make the planets. To promote literacy learning we have incorporated many fiction, as well as non-fiction, books on Space into our program.





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Snake Room News (cont.) ...

Now that the weather is starting to warm up we have started going on some bush walks to the rock platforms on the property next door. As we walk along, the children are encouraged to look and see what colours and what types of flowers they can find. We also investigate the different patterns and shapes that have formed in the rocks. These bush walks are a great way for the children to connect with nature, and show care and respect for our natural world, as they channel each of their senses and take in the different aspects of the environment around them.



This month, the children have increasingly been engaging in more imaginative role play experiences. They have been librarians loaning out our schoolbooks, chefs creating some amazing and interesting recipes, mums and dads caring for multiple babies at the one time and they have been getting married complete with rings, songs and wedding cakes!



Allowing the children to engage in these imaginative role play experiences helps them develop their ability to think logically, creatively, and solve problems, whilst building their confidence to contribute to social play experiences. We have extended this interest by encouraging the children to incorporate some early literacy skills into their play as well. This involved the children having paper to sign their names and stamp their signatures when they were borrowing a book from the library, as well as drawing pictures of their recipes to use as a menu in their restaurants.

After lunch each day, the snakes are given the opportunity to use their agency and choose some puzzles or games out of the storeroom. Our snakes are becoming very clever and are constantly looking for harder challenges to extend their problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities. We have built upon this and recently taught the children how to play guess who, connect 4, tic-tac-toe, go fish, Uno and many trickier games.





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Snake Room News (cont.) ...

The snakes are always so proud of themselves when they start to grasp the concept of the game and even prouder when they manage to out smart the teachers and beat them too! We have also challenged the children with some harder and larger puzzles. It's great to see the kindness of our snakes' friends as they assist their peers and work together to try and complete some of the challenges.

Until next time,
Ally and Kathy



Snake Room Staff

Kathy



Ally



Lovely



Antoinette





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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 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 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



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News from the Office (cont.) ...

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

Dates for your Diary ...

AUGUST

Sunday, August 20 9am

Working Bee

Sunday, August 27 11am-2pm

40th Birthday Celebrations at the Centre

SEPTEMBER

Friday, 1st September 3pm-5pm

Father's Day Afternoon Tea

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