



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

July 2018

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News from Louisa ...

I would like to warmly welcome you to our July newsletter. We would also like to welcome our new families and children – Eli and Teo (both in our Joey's Room) and Phoenix who will be starting in the Lizard Room after the holidays. We hope you will enjoy your time here with us.

Welcome Maria

We would like to welcome Maria to the centre, Maria is working in the Joey's room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in the Snake room on a Thursday to assist Kathy and Rhii.

New Casual Educator

We welcome Nerida to the team of casuals. Nerida brings with her many years of experience. She also has a guitar that she loves to play for the children. Please make her feel welcome and say hello.

New Babies

Congratulations to Tjandamurra and Yulara on the birth of their baby brother Djuralye and to Melinda on the birth of her twin brothers. We wish the families all the very best.

Casey's Warehouse Shopping Night

We have organised another exclusive shopping night for our families from our centre on Tuesday, October 16 from 6-8pm at Casey's Toys at 24 Karalta Road in Erina. So, if you would like to hold off on your Christmas shopping until then and join us for a night of fun, we would love to see you there! Please feel free to bring family and friends for a relaxed night of shopping without the kids. Please RSVP to the office.

Christmas Concert

Once again, we are very much looking forward to having our Christmas Concert at the end of the year! It will be held on December 2 at Kulnura Hall. Please mark the date in your diary and we will share more details once they become available.

Warm Clothes

Please send in labelled jackets for your child to wear in the colder weather.



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News from Louisa ... (cont.)

Blankets for sleep time

If you haven't done so already, please bring in a labelled blanket for your child's rest time. We can keep this blanket in your child's sheet bag.

Hats

If you drop off your child at the centre when the staff and the other children are already playing outside, could you please ensure your child is wearing a hat before taking them outside to join their friends.

Sharing your skills or talents

Do you or someone in your family have a skill or talent that you could share with the children? This could be playing an instrument, cooking, gardening or anything else. We would love to have you join us and share this talent with the children. We love supporting and encouraging our partnerships with families.

We have an open-door policy. If you have any friends who would be interested in the centre please send them to visit. They are welcome anytime.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to come and see me. Or if you would like to contribute in any way to the experience with the children please come and see me or email suggestions to louisa_f@bigpond.com.

Kind Regards

Louisa Foxford

Nominated Supervisor



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Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday to Friday), Alix Mear (Trainee, Monday to Friday) and Maria Batuyong (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed several new friends and their families to the Joey family. Welcome Eli and Teo. Welcome also to Yulara's new baby brother Djuralye. Congratulations Yulara.

We have also have had a new educator Maria join our room. The children and I are loving having Maria with us. We have had a very enjoyable month exploring the colours blue, green, yellow and red through crafts, cooking experiences, stories and songs. We will continue to support this interest and extend upon it over the coming months.

We have observed that several of our friends are also interested in labelling and drawing shapes with several already able to draw and label a circle. We will support this interest by making simple shape recognition one of our intentional teaching focuses this month.

With most of the group now able to sit at the table for meals we are focusing on simple table manners, using a spoon and fork appropriately and drinking from a normal cup as part of our self-help skills. Toilet training and putting on our own shoes are other self-help skills we are focusing on.

Please let us know if you have anything you would like us to focus upon or a skill you would like to share with the children.

Regards

Mary, Alix and Maria



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Lizard Room News ...

We would like to welcome our new friends Ariella and Sam to the Lizard room. It is wonderful to have you with us.

Lately in the Lizard room we have been continuing our magic lunchbox concept. The children love looking through their lunchboxes and comparing it with the poster on the wall. At group time we have been sorting a variety of food images into "foods for school" and "foods for home."

The children have been loving our doctors home corner. Using their social skills, they were able to diagnose their friends and assign the correct number of needles to save their life. Some of the children loved dressing up in the doctor's clothes, whilst others just liked walking around with the different tools. The addition of band aids and bandages intrigued the children, allowing them to decorate the arms, legs and heads of their friends.

The children have been really interested in reading the "fuzzy yellow duckling" book at group time. This book focuses on different shapes including square, rectangle, triangle, crescent, line, circle, etc, as well as colours and animals. Following on from this we have begun talking to the children about different shapes and colours. The children have enjoyed painting shape collages using stamps and bubble wrap. We have introduced a new song to the children focusing on the number of sides and corners of each shape, whilst the children search the floor to find that shape.

Continuing with this theme we made the children a worksheet of shapes to colour in and talk about. Some of the children decided that they would like to practice their scissor skills and cut out the shapes after they coloured them in. We spoke about the correct way to hold the scissors and allowed the children to try and follow the line to cut out the shapes, which they all did well. Using these cut out shapes a few of the children tried to create another image such as a house with a triangle and square, therefore we introduced the tangram game to our room.

The children have been showing a real interest in animals since Eliza bought in her guinea pigs and Adrian bought in his baby ducklings. Following on from this we invite the children to bring in their pets for a small visit or bring in a photo of their pets, so they can tell all their friends about them.



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Lizard Room News ... (cont.)

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name, particularly jumpers as the children do take them on and off quite often. This will help us ensure none of your child's belonging go missing or accidentally end up in another child's bag. Also, if you haven't yet brought in a photo for our family tree, you can still send one.

Bye for now,

Belinda and Ally

Snake Room News ...

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Monday to Thursday), Rhiannon Hines (Monday to Friday)

First, we would like to congratulate our families on the arrival of some beautiful baby boys. Tjandamurra and his family have welcomed Djuralye, a new brother for Tjandamurra and Yulara.

Melinda and her family have welcomed not one but two bouncing baby boys! Twin baby brothers for Melinda and her siblings! Congratulations!

We would also like to congratulate Rhii on her completion of her Diploma of Early Childhood. She has just finished her final Prac in our room which brought up the end of her course. Sarah, Ben & Ellie's Mum, who does casual work for us, has also just completed her Diploma as well. Congratulations girls!

We are currently enjoying the school holidays. Next week we are looking forward to pyjama week. It will be fun and comfy to wear our pyjamas all day!

We have packed our dinosaur corner away and are in the process of organising and setting up our new space command centre. This new dramatic play area is based on the children's interests as they discuss planets and space. If anyone has any space related toys, books or old and unworking laptops or keypads we would love to incorporate them into our space discovery Centre.

Thank you!

It is also Naidoc week this week. We will present some learning experiences to promote and acknowledge this important week. Tjandamurra's Uncle Jake is coming in to present and play the didgeridoo for the children to enjoy. This provides a wonderful example of promoting and respecting diversity of cultures.



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Snake Room News ... (cont.)

We are also incorporating a simple Acknowledgment of Country into our morning circle / group time.

Another interest of the children has been trucks & building machinery. We therefore set up a small quarry area in our room with small excavation trucks and lots of rocks to load, unload & move around. This has been very popular with all the children. We also incorporated some fun truck creating craft activities which extended on the children's scissor skills and creative ideas.

Our healthy 'magic' lunchbox initiative has been very successful with our children. Our magic lunch box has promoted many discussions amongst the children, with their peers, the Educators and their families, as they talk about the different foods and whether they are healthy or sometimes foods. We never say that the children cannot eat their 'sometimes' foods, rather we discuss the healthier options they have in their lunchbox and encourage these to be eaten first. We hope that this experience has promoted some healthy discussions with you at home with your children as they share their knowledge with you. This learning experience is promoting our centres healthy eating policy.

If any of our wonderful families have any skills, interests or experiences they would like to share with the children we would love to incorporate this into our program. Even something as simple as reading to the children can be wonderfully rewarding for everyone!

Until next time, Kathy & Rhii

News from the Office ...

Child Care Subsidy

The new child care subsidy came into effect on July 2 which has changed the gap amounts for most of you. I have sent out statements last Friday and will continue regularly email them to you every second Friday. If you ever need any clarification to anything on the statements, please feel free to come and see me or send me an email.



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News from the Office ... (cont.)

Change to Payment Provider

We will be transitioning to a new payment provider to handle your payments.

From July 23, we are changing the company that processes payments for us. We will be starting to use Debitsuccess instead of Ezidebit. This change is due to the child care software we use at the Centre and not something that we could influence.

All direct debit authorities you have already completed will transfer over to debitsuccess.

The only change you will notice is that you will see "Debitsuccess" as the company processing your payment on your bank statement or credit card statement from July 23. You do not have to action this change in any way.

Picture Plates

We sent off the order with the many beautiful picture plates templates in early June and have been informed that the picture plates will be sent to us in mid August. We will send the picture plates home with your children as soon as we receive them which should be in late August at the latest.

Digital Sign Ins and Outs

Thank you to all you wonderful families for adjusting so quickly to our digital sign ins and outs on the iPads on the sign in bench. You have helped to make this transition very smooth and we appreciate it. If you are ever unsure of anything on the iPads, please see a staff member, we are always more than happy to help!

Lost Property

We have set up a lost property tub by the front door. Please take a look to see if any of the items in it belong to your child. If the clothing isn't claimed after two weeks, we will start using it as spare clothes.

Please also label all items of clothing that you send with your child as we can then return them to you and they won't need to be placed in lost property.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Hannah



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Dates for your Diary ...

JULY

Monday 16th July – Friday July 20th - Pyjama Week

Monday 23rd July – Committee Meeting

OCTOBER

Tuesday 16th October - Casey's Warehouse Shopping Night 6-8pm
Casey's Toys, 24 Karalta Road, Erina

NOVEMBER

Saturday 17th November - Bunnings BBQ at West Gosford (details to follow)

DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd December - Christmas Concert at Kulnura Hall (details to follow)

Management Committee News

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 23rd July 2018

7pm

At Mangrove Mountain Golf Club

All welcome to attend!