



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

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News from Louisa ...

I would like to warmly welcome you to our first newsletter for the year. We would also like to welcome our new families and children, Nicholas, Cherish, Thomas, Flora, Jack, Luca and Archer. We hope you will enjoy your time here with us.

We welcome Sarah to the centre. Sarah is one of our casual staff members but will be with us each Tuesday as a student. Sarah is studying her diploma and is finishing off her last practicum placement with Tafe.

We also welcome Amy Yorke who is a high school student. She will also be with us each Tuesday for work experience.

Please make them both feel welcome.

We have definitely settled into our new premises and have established routines. We have installed new fly screen doors which has made an improvement.

Over the next few weeks we are getting a shipping container for outdoor storage. We will also have a sandpit built in the Joeys yard for all of the children to use. A shade sail will also be put up in the large grass area to provide much needed shade.

Please ensure that you continue parking in the paddock, exit the centre via Nyah Road and drive at walking speed when on our premises.

Congratulations to Emily

Emily welcomed baby Millie into the world on Wednesday 21st February. We wish Emily and Tim all the happiness in the world as they become parents for the first time. Emily will call in for a visit with baby Millie some time over the next few weeks.



Casual staff

We are currently in need of some more casual staff. So if you know someone who may be interested please get them to give me a call.



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

News from Louisa ... (cont.)

New casual staff member

We welcome Cassie to the team. Cassie finished her certificate III last year as a trainee and lives locally. We look forward to working with Cassie.

Clothes between seasons

With the unpredictable temperatures, could you please ensure that you send a mix of clothes in your child's bag, i.e. lighter jackets etc. That way we can make sure your child is comfortably dressed in any weather.

Sunscreen and 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 you apply sunscreen to your child and get them to wear 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



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday to Friday), Ashley Lillecrapp (Monday to Friday), Judy Brown (Tuesday to Thursday) and Kristie Rahkola (Monday, Friday)

Welcome to our new friends Luca, Jack, Nicholas, Thomas, Flora and Archer. They have settled in well and are building great relationships with our old friends and educators.

We have had a busy start to the year, settling in to our new environment. We celebrated Australia Day by painting flags and Australian animals. We have been having sensory experiences, some slimy bubbly, playdough, coloured ice and paint bags. These sensory activities allow explorations and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they play.

We had a living safely with dogs visit where we learnt about different rules when being around dogs. We also had the opportunity to put this into practice by meeting a dog and giving him a pat. We followed up this experience by painting some puppies.

This lead into us celebrating Chinese New Year, the year of the dog. We painted some Chinese flags, created some glitter dragons and recycled bottles to create blossom trees. We also had a cooking experience of making fried rice, which we really enjoyed so much that some children had a second helping. A big thank you to Flora's mum who brought in dumplings for us to taste, they were yummy!

The children really enjoy cooking, we also made pancakes and tasted frozen bananas. Cooking with the children is an opportunity to teach nutrition education, such as planning meals and making healthy food choices.

Please take some time to explore the many wonderful displays we have in our room. The children really like looking at their masterpieces displayed on the walls. We are currently in the process of creating our very own little people with our faces, above our lockers, giving the children a greater sense of belonging.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us.

Regards! Mary, Ashley, Judy and Kristie



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

Lizard Room News ...

Room Leader – Belinda Stark (Monday to Friday), Alison Monaghan (Monday to Friday)

We would like to welcome back all the children to the Lizard room, new and old. Everyone has been settling in well considering the changes and have loved seeing all their friends and making new ones.

We celebrated Australia Day by painting flags and learning about Australian animals.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed all the craft activities we did, e.g. making cherry blossom trees, paper dragons and year of the dog pictures. We were lucky enough to make our own fried rice and try pork dumplings that Eric's mum (Snake room) brought in for us.

We have been learning about what animal come from eggs by reading stories and having surprise eggs which you put in water and an animal hatches out. The children have enjoyed this and have eagerly been checking the egg each day to see if it's cracked.

The Lizards now have a new block shelf with blocks and were happy building with them. We added some dinosaurs to extend their imaginative play to the area as well.

Bye for now,

Belinda and Ally



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

Snake Room News ...

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

Welcome to the Snake Room for 2018. Our Snake friends have all settled happily into our new Centre and their rooms, with everyone already displaying a wonderful sense of wellbeing and belonging.

Throughout the year in the Snake Room we will be working on developing many skills that will make the transition to school easier. We will inform you of your school readiness goal in the near future and also ask for your input for goals for your children.

We began the year exploring our country Australia to celebrate Australia Day. We also explored Chinese New Year with some fun dragon/ lion dancing with Chinese music. We participated in Chinese craft, as well as some Chinese cooking of yummy fried rice. Thank you to Eric's mum for providing some delicious dumplings for the children to enjoy as well as the fantastic Chinese lion head costume. These types of experiences broaden the children's knowledge of the world around them as they gain an understanding of diversity that exists in our community (learning outcome 2 of EYLF and QA partnerships with family and Principle 2 family partnerships).

In response to some of our children's interest in the beach and Cohen's interest in fishing we set up our 'Under the Sea' area for the children to explore and investigate life under the sea. We have been enjoying sea life books and stories, group time language aids such as puppets and shells, sea life songs, as well as fun creating sea life arts and crafts.

This interest centre relates to Practice 2 responsiveness to the children's interest within our program.

We have all enjoyed drawing ourselves to put with our photos as a welcome display in our room. Don't forget to look for your child's picture - they are all very proud of them.

These drawings promote the children's sense of identity and belonging to their room and the Centre.

We have also been exploring the many different types of feathers that the children have been finding in our natural environment – this began with the moulting of our resident peacock. The children are placing their feathers in our feather basket as they try and identify what type of bird the feather has come from using the provided identification bird charts. This experience relates to Learning Outcome 2 as they explore their natural world and Outcome 4 as they use their problem solving and investigative skills.



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

Snake Room News ... cont.

We also have begun our very popular newsbags. If your child brings a newsbag home please help them to select favourite toy, book or anything special that they can show and talk about at group time. The news opportunities promote the children's language skills and confidence with speaking before the group – their very first public speaking experiences! This relates to Learning Outcome 5 communication skills.

The NSW Government runs a program which tests the vision of all 4 year old children. Nurses will visit our Centre on Wednesday, March 14 and Thursday, March to test the children's vision. If your child is 4 years old and didn't get tested last year, you would have received a consent pack this week. If you could please fill in the required paperwork and return it to the Snake staff or the office as soon as possible.

If you have any suggestions for activities, ideas or interests for the children, or simply have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Kathy or Rhii.

We look forward to enjoying a wonderful year with your children!

Until next time

Kathy & Rhii



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2018

News from the Office ...

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Immunisation

Please remember to provide us with an updated immunisation history statement when your child has their next immunisation. This is a statutory requirement. The regulation changed on January 1, 2018 and **children are not able to attend child care in Australia unless their immunisation is up to date!**

Transition to Child Care Subsidy from July 1

As you may be aware, the Australian Government is replacing the child care rebate and benefit with one single payment, the child care subsidy from July 1 and this will affect your gap payment for child care.

To calculate an estimate of the gap you will be liable for your child's care with us after July 1, please visit the government calculator under the following link:

<https://www.education.gov.au/sites/education/files/chcare/est/index.html>

The Government will provide you with further information from April and we will update you as well as new details become available.

To prepare for the changes to the child care subsidy, the Government recommends that you create a myGov account and link your Centrelink online account to it. Please visit this link to do so: <https://my.gov.au/EnrolService/enrolService.htm? flowId=mgv2-enrolment-mg-flow& flowExecutionKey=e1s1>

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

Kind regards,

Hannah

Dates for your Diary ...

MARCH

Tuesday 6th March – 11am Aqua Marine Life Show

Wednesday 14th March – Vision Screening for all 4 year olds at the centre

Thursday 15th March – Vision Screening for all 4 year olds at the centre

Wednesday 21st March – 4pm Back to Preschool Afternoon Tea

Management Committee News

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 19th March 2018

7pm

All welcome to attend!

All of the cakes for our special occasions here at the centre are donated by ...

Dolce Charlene Catering

Dolce Charlene can cater for all your special occasions

PH: 4374197

MOB: 0428741130

Email: charlene.xuereb@bigpond.com