



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2019

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News from Louisa ...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2019. Welcome to our new families who have come to join us; The Gulen Family, Hatfield Family, Hirons Family and Patel Family.

Staffing Updates

Mary is currently taking some personal leave and will return in approximately 4-6 weeks. During this time Rhii has moved to the Joey's room as room leader until Mary returns. Please feel free to see Rhii or Alix or alternatively myself if I can help with anything.

Kristy has returned with Loretta on a part time basis 3 days per week (Monday, Tuesday and Friday) after parental leave. Kristy will cover programming and lunches on Mondays and Fridays and RDOs on Tuesdays. We welcome her back.

We welcome a new casual staff member Trudy (who also teaches Yoga). Trudy is currently studying her Certificate III in Early Education and Care. We also welcome back Cassie who was diagnosed with Lymphoma last year and has been unable to work. The doctor has given her the all clear to return to work. We will be pleased to see her back and well after a very challenging 12 months.

Recent Assessment and Rating Visit

This visit was a positive experience that also provided us with some tools to further reflect on when we return to our old centre at Mangrove Mountain. We have received our draft report following our recent A & R visit in early February. We are currently in the process of submitting further evidence to have our rating changed in several of the quality areas. We will communicate the results with you once they have been finalised.

Living Safely with Dogs Visit

We welcome another visit from the Living Safely with Dogs Program on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 10.30am. This is a free visit and provides the children with lots of age appropriate information about how to be safe around dogs. If it is not your child's day, we encourage you to bring your child along to listen to some very valuable and essential information.

Yoga

Yoga with Trudy will continue once a week on alternating days. This allows all the children to be able to participate in the session. The Lizards and Snakes are participating but if your child is in the Joeys room and you would like them to join in as well please just email Hannah in the office.



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News from Louisa ... (continued)

Harmony Day

We will be celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday 21st March at 11.30am. We invite you to come along and share some cultural food from your family. All are welcome and if you can please wear orange to celebrate this day. We look forward to seeing many of our families!

Raising funds for Jackson

We will be holding a fundraiser week from **Monday 25th March to Friday 29th March** to raise funds for Jackson who was enrolled in our centre last year. Some of you may have read in the Community News Dallas's article about his son's illness and the fundraiser they are doing for Ronald Macdonald House. The family is currently living there and will be until at least June. We would like to acknowledge and support this wonderful cause as it is close to our hearts. Jackson's favourite colour is red and he loves Super Heroes. We will be raising funds by dressing in red and or dressing as a Super Hero. Please support this cause by bringing along a gold coin donation each day you participate. We will then donate this money to the Fundraiser the family has set up.

Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser

We will be conducting a Chocolate Fundraiser with ½ proceeds going to Jackson's cause and the other to upgrade to the Joey's building including new flooring and painting throughout. Hannah will send out an email with more details about the chocolate fundraiser this week.

Back to Preschool Afternoon Tea

We look forward to welcoming back all of the children who went off to Kindergarten this year on **Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 4pm.**

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be on **Wednesday 17th April 2019** at Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club at 7pm to begin the meeting at 7.30pm. You are all most welcome to come along and we encourage you to join us.

Our regular Committee Meetings have changed to Wednesday nights as the Club is now closed on Monday.

Healthy Harold Excursion to Kulnura PS

The Snake Room has been invited to go to Kulnura PS for a Healthy Harold Education session on Thursday 11th April. We are currently trying to work out transport to get the children to school by 9.30am. If you are able to help out with transport or supervision could you please let me know. We will just require a copy of your Comprehensive Car Insurance Policy.



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News from Louisa ... (continued)

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 experiences 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), Kristie Rahkola (Mondays)

We'd like to give a warm welcome to our new friends in the Joeys room Millie, Djuralye, Loretta and Duncan. They are all settling in nicely and are building great relationships with their peers and educators.

We've had a busy start to the year learning about Australian animals by doing collages, painting, stories and sensory activities with the playdough.

This then lead to discovering Teo's interest in birds and learning about the birds we can see in our natural environment. We made bird seed feeders for the children to hang in the yard, binoculars and we had a cooking experience making rice bubble bird nests.

We have created our own belonging tree and every morning we put our pictures on the tree and say hello to all of our friends by singing a welcoming song. This helps the children create a sense of belonging.

Till next time, regards

Mary, Alix and Kristie



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Lizard Room News ...

In the Lizard room we have been settling in all our new Lizard friends from the Joeys room, they have adjusted really well.

We also welcomed our new Lizard friend Taylan to the centre. He is settling in very well and has made many friends.

The Lizards have been learning about Australia and the beautiful animals that live in our country. We have read stories, done puzzles and sung songs about Australian animals.

Our doctor corner has been a great social experience for the children. They have been showing empathy, caring and role playing as they interact with each other.

We learnt about caterpillars and their life cycle. Belinda even found one in her garden called a 'hawk moth'. We learnt then that not all caterpillars turn into butterflies but some turn into moths too.

The Lizards celebrated Chinese New Year by watching Lion Dances and being given the opportunity to make our own lanterns and fire works paintings.

Our lovely Yoga Teacher Trudy is back for Yoga classes which have different themes each week. Last week we were animals in the jungle which the children enjoyed very much. Trudy rotates her days she comes to the centre this year so that each child gets the opportunity to participate in Yoga. The children get very excited when it's their turn for Yoga.

Until next time

Belinda and Rhii



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Snake Room News ...

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Monday to Thursday), Ally Monaghan (Monday to Friday)

Welcome to our room for 2019, all of our new Snake friends have settled into their new room so confidently. They all display a wonderful sense of belonging and self esteem in our room. They are excited to finally be the 'big kids' in the Snake room!

We began our year by spending time with each child, forming quality relationships and getting to know each and every child, for instance their interests and personalities.

We used intentional teaching to set up an interest area all about our wonderful country Australia. We used our globe to locate Australia and discussed where we live in Australia. This led to us all drawing our own maps of Australia where our houses are. We investigated and discussed the many varied and unique animals we have and drew our own pictures to display on the wall.

This interest area has now wound down, so we have used the children's emerging interest in bugs and insects to provide a new interest discovery centre to investigate all about insects, bugs and spiders. The children find a variety of creatures in our natural environment each day, so we are providing this interest area to extend on their knowledge and understandings of the creatures that share our natural world. We have provided books and pictures in this area to enhance and promote the children's literacy. Thank you to all the families who have provided family photos for our family belonging tree.

It is not too late to bring along a photo or email one to Hannah if you haven't had a chance yet.

The children love looking at their family photos and they enjoy showing them to their friends, which promotes a sense of belonging in our room.

We have 2 new friends in our room – a big welcome to Trey and his family and Maher and her family. They are settling in well and quickly making friends.

We would like to say a big Thank You to Ben and Ellie's Dad Nick for making us our new, fantastic mud kitchen! The children are loving it and creating lots of mud cakes and soup!

We have also initiated some healthy food discussions to promote healthy lunchboxes and healthy eating. This led to some simple cooking experiences such as making hummus with vegetable sticks, as well as some Weet-bix balls.

We will continue healthy eating discussions as a long term room goal.

Trudy, our wonderful Yoga teacher, has been coming to the centre to present amazing Yoga sessions with the children. Are children are very enthusiastic participants in our Yoga, which promotes a sense of health and wellbeing.

Thank you also to the families who have returned their children's goals sheets. It is not too late to bring them back or we may ask you at pick up or drop off time for your ideas on your children's goals and interests that we can extend of through the year.



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Snake Room News ... (continued)

We value our families' input so thank you for your assistance in this – we are working in partnerships with you for the benefit of your children.

We hope you are all enjoying receiving our daily summary pages via email. We realise some families don't have time to look at our PowerPoint slides of the day at pick up time, so this way you can look at your child's day in the time that suits you. This also opens up communication with your child as you discuss their day using the slides as inspiration and you can print off any special ones you want to keep at home. We will endeavour to do these each day, but sometimes we may run out of time or the internet may be down so we apologise in advance if this happens.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to contribute to our program, please don't hesitate to see Kathy or Ally.

Until next time,

Kathy and Ally

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News from the Office ...

Immunisations

Thank you to everyone who has recently sent through their children's updated immunisation history statements. Please ensure that you email or bring in your children's documentation after each immunisation as we are legally required to keep these statements on file.

Upcoming Events

We have some very exciting events coming up soon. Please find a snapshot of all events in March and April for your diary below.

Until next time,

Hannah

Dates for your Diary ...

MARCH

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 19th March

Thursday 21st March

Monday 25th March – Friday 29th March

Living Safely with Dogs 10.30am

Back to Preschool Afternoon Tea 4pm

Harmony Day Lunch 11.30am

Dress Up Week for Jackson

APRIL

Thursday 11th April

Wednesday 17th April

Healthy Harold excursion to Kulnura PS

AGM at Mangrove Mountain Golf Club

Management Committee News

Next Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20th March 2019

7pm

At Mangrove Mountain Golf Club

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am a local singer/ song writer and mum from the Mountain, looking for interest from Children and Adults alike for Singing lessons on the Mountain.

Krysten Radmanovic

krystenradmanovic@hotmail.com

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