



# Mountain Community Children's Centre

## Family Newsletter

**October 2019**

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### News from Louisa ...

#### **New children**

Welcome to our new friends Jasper and Max who have joined our Joeys room. We welcome you and your families to the centre.

#### **Staffing for October**

We welcome back Maria to the centre as a casual educator. You will see Maria at the centre more regularly as she has finished up at her position in Sydney. We also welcome our new casual educator Kasia. Kasia was a trainee at our centre about 5 years ago however, moved away. Kasia is now back so you will see her regularly as well. Rhii has had her wisdom teeth taken out on Tuesday so she will be off work for about a week. Maria is covering for Rhii while she is on leave.

#### **Building Update**

The foundations are currently being prepared and the concrete for the footings is expected to be poured during this week. I will keep you updated.

#### **Superhero Week**

During September we held Superhero Week. The children were very excited about wearing their favourite costumes and participating in Superhero games, Yoga and craft activities. In total we raised \$502. Thank you to everyone for their contribution.

During this special week we also had an amazing and very yummy Superhero cake. Thank you to Candice for organising this.

#### **Country Fair**

The Country Fair Committee is looking for helpers for the Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October to help set up the outdoor area. Thank you to the families who have already volunteered to help. If anyone else can lend a hand for a few hours that would be greatly appreciated.



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### News from Louisa ... (continued)

#### **Produce/Face Painting Stalls at the Country Fair**

Notes were sent home last week to ask for volunteers to help on both our produce and face painting stalls during the Country Fair. We need and would really appreciate your help on the day. If you haven't returned your Country Fair note yet, please do so at your earliest convenience or alternatively send us an email to [mountainchildren@bigpond.com](mailto:mountainchildren@bigpond.com). We need as many helpers as possible even if only for a few hours.

#### **Tiny Tots Circus Show**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September here at the centre at 10.30am we held a circus show at the Centre. It was a big hit with all children who were here to watch the show. Thank you to Playgroup for coming along to join us for the morning.

#### **Bottle Lids for Prosthetic Limbs**

One of our parents has informed us about a very worthy project called 'Envision Hands'. The project asks communities to collect plastic recyclable waste destined for landfills and turn it into filament for 3D printers, then making prosthetic hands for kids. We are very keen to support this cause and the Centre will be a collection point for plastic lids of drink bottles for this purpose. **We will be collecting bottle lids with the numbers 2 and 4 in the recycling symbol.** If you have any of these lids, please bring them to the office so that we can support this cause.

**Envision Hands**  
*We'll turn plastic bottle caps collected by our local community into 100 Hands and arms.*

How you can help?

*'Children helping Children'*  
100 hands is our goal, with our partners at Rotary and your support we can do it!



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#### News from Louisa ... (continued)

##### Family Picnic Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Hosted by St Patricks Parish Gosford here in the grounds of our centre. All welcome to come along. If it rains, there will be still mass but no picnic. If the picnic is cancelled due to the weather, we will send an email out as they will decide on Friday.



##### 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](mailto:louisa_f@bigpond.com)

Kind Regards

Louisa Foxford  
Nominated Supervisor



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### News from our Educational Leader Kathy

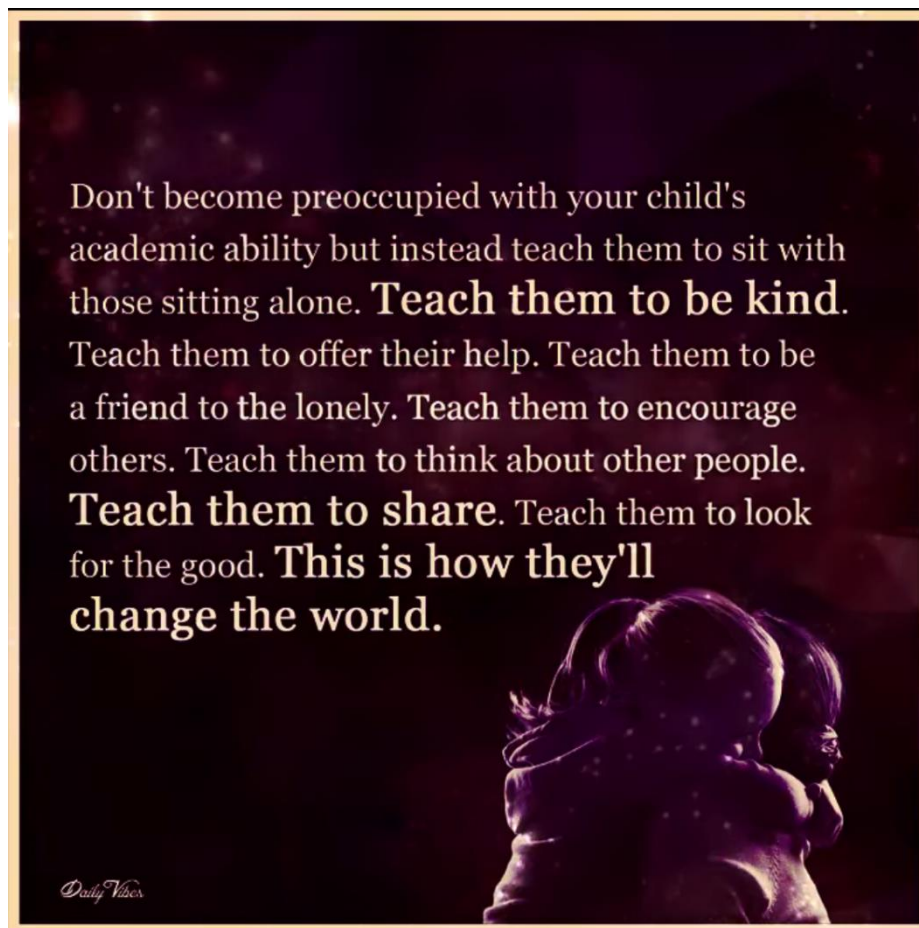
One of the initiatives we have introduced to our Snake Room is our Kindness Tree. You may have noticed it in our room and via our emails.

This tree is designed to recognise those kind acts that are instigated by the children with no prompting from the Educators and with no recognition required or sought. An act that is purely for kindness only. A kind action that requires empathy towards others, with no regard for any reward or "thank you"s. These little moments of kindness can often go unnoticed as the children don't look for recognition, so we are providing our kindness leaves to recognise these special acts.

The children love to receive these leaves and are very proud of them.

We recognise that all children have the potential to be kind to their peers and educators and often are every day and we acknowledge each kind act with praise, but this tree is specifically for the unprompted acts that they do not seek recognition for.

The following picture reflects our kindness tree succinctly, which reinforces the concept of teaching our children to be kind as a wonderful, enduring life skill.





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

If you have any input into our curriculum or any suggestions, please don't hesitate to speak to myself, Louisa or your child's educators.

Until next time,

Kathy



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### Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Rhiannon Hines (Monday to Friday), Alix Mear (Trainee, Monday to Friday)

First of all, welcome to our new friend Jasper, he is settling in so quickly and we enjoy having him with us.

Throughout the month of September, we have been focusing lots of our experiences around 'caring for nature'. The children have been thoroughly enjoying the new Woolworths 'Discovery Garden' and being able to plant and water all different kinds of seeds. Every day we go to check on how they are going and water them a little bit more. We've noticed that our lettuce, parsley and basil have begun to sprout.

Inside we have set up a standing train track as a follow on from the children's interest in transport vehicles. This experience helps promote turn taking, sharing and promotes social play.

Based on the children's current interest we have set up a construction and tool area inside. Many of the children have shown interest in building and construction experiences and using toy tools in their everyday play. We have also extended on this by engaging in supervised risky play with real hammers, wood and nails outside. This experience promotes healthy, risky play and working on our hand and eye coordination.



We are also sad to say that our "Move like a Mariner" 6 week program is over. But just because it's over, doesn't mean we are going to stop. Both the children and educators learnt some really fun games that help promote and work on our fundamental movement skills and we are going to continue to incorporate them into our everyday program.

The children enjoying the 'Move like a Mariner' program

Bye for now,

Rhii and Alix



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### Lizard Room News ...

Room Leader – Belinda Stark (Monday to Friday), Kristy Hirons (Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays)

In the Lizard room we have still been learning all about spring. We saw a crow building a nest the other day on our walk to the creek. We watched as he collected sticks from the big fallen tree and flew up to his nest in the tree near the aviary. On our walks we have continued collecting flowers at the creek and pretending to fish.

The children were given the opportunity to make their own greenhouses. They chose between sunflowers and grass seeds to grow. They put the seeds, cotton wool and water in them and have been checking on them we have lunch as they are stuck on the window in the lunch room.



**The Lizard room greenhouses thriving on the lunch room window**

The spring table in the room has been popular with bird nests, flowers, a snake skin, toy birds and fairies. The Lizard children have been naming the birds as they play with them in the nests. The fairies have also been played with daily in their flower scene or on the table with the spring items we have collected.

Belinda found a frog which the children were excited to look at and learn about. We made our own craft frogs, learnt about the frog life cycle and read stories about them.

We have finished our 6 week "Move like a Mariner" program and the children have loved learning new games and using all the fantastic new equipment. They have still been requesting the games and we will continue to incorporate the games in our outdoor program.

Until next time

Belinda, Kristy & friends



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### Snake Room News ...

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

Welcome to October and our second month of Spring. We have been busy planting for spring—we have grown some very cute grass heads! The children's faces are on the side of the cups and they all have a healthy head of 'grass' hair! We'll be able to give them a haircut soon!



Unfortunately, our teddy bear sunflowers don't think it's warm enough to sprout yet! We're still hopeful!

Thank you to the families who have brought in the Woolworths plants (Discovery garden) – we are currently in the process of planting these.

Our new home corner cooking area has been very popular with all the children. Using their wonderful social skills and imaginations, the Snakes have created some amazing new recipes for their friends to try. We have also added some recipe books to help support the children's growing literacy skills, as well as some notepaper and writing materials. William spent a long time writing his 'menu' for our kitchen! By providing a variety of literacy resources for the children to engage with, such as magazines, catalogues, recipe books and pictures, we are encouraging their literacy awareness and development. They learn to actively use, engage with and share the enjoyment of texts in a range of ways. They also begin to understand key literacy concepts.





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

We have been busy practicing our songs to sing at the Country Fair. The children are all excited to sing on the stage. We hope to see you all there.

Thank you to Chloe's mum Havannah who came into the Snake room to discuss mental health (feelings) with our children. The children all listened well as she talked about our feelings and strategies to help us manage our feelings in an age appropriate way.

We love to have family input into our room curriculum, so thank you Havannah!

Until next time,  
Kathy and Ally

### **News from the Office ...**

#### **Extra days in late December**

The Centre will be open for extra days in late December: December 23, 24 and 27. Information has been sent out to parents who had expressed interest in care on these days. We still have some vacancies on these days so if you do need care on these days but haven't let us know yet, please contact Louisa or me to enquire about availability.

#### **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**

Please find a snapshot of all events in the coming months for your diary below.

Until next time,

Hannah



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

#### Dates for your Diary ...

##### OCTOBER

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October

**Country Fair  
Mangrove Mountain**

Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Transition to School Information Session**  
For Snake Room Parents  
4pm at the Centre

##### DECEMBER

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 5pm

**Christmas Concert at the Centre**  
SAVE THE DATE – Details to follow

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Graduation for children in Snake Room**  
SAVE THE DATE – Details to follow

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December

**LAST DAY FOR 2019**