



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

March 2020

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News from Louisa ...

Building Update

The building is coming along very quickly. We have walls and windows installed. The internal fit outs are also well underway. Here are some photos of the progress. The building is expected to be completed by the end of April (weather permitting).



Celebrations Performance

Next Tuesday, the 17th March 2020 at 10.30am we will have an entertainer come in to hold a performance for the children called "Celebrations". The show will take the children on a journey filled with the stories, music, dancing and ceremonies from different cultures and see how some of the most popular celebrations are celebrated around the world.

Harmony Day

We will be holding our annual Harmony Day celebration at the Centre on Friday, March 20th. You are all welcome to join us for lunch at 11.30am to celebrate Harmony Day. Even if it is not your child's day please feel free to come along and join in.

We would love to share the cultural diversity of our families here at the centre. You can share in this experience by bringing along a food from your family. This may be savoury or sweet, hot or cold. We have facilities to warm food if it needs to be warm.

Dog Safety Visit

We have organised a dog safety visit for the 3-5 year old children at the centre. We will be receiving a visit from a dog trainer and her well trained dog to teach the children about safe behaviour around dogs. The visit will take place on Tuesday, 31st March at 10.30am. We will be sending an email reminder before the event.



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News from Louisa ... (cont.)

Back to Preschool Afternoon Tea

We will be having our back to preschool afternoon tea on Tuesday 31st March here at the centre from 4pm. We look forward to welcoming back the children who went off to kindergarten this year.

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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News from our Educational Leader Kathy

A fundamental part of our Early Years Learning Framework is a view of children's lives being characterised by Belonging, Being and Becoming. We focus a lot on these concepts. For instance in our Snake room we have the children's drawings and photos displayed near the sign on bench. These are not just for 'cuteness value' but provide the children with a sense of Belonging to the Centre and their room.

Another experience in our rooms which promotes Belonging are our Family Trees. The children develop a sense of identity and therefore Belonging when their family photos are on display.

"Experiencing Belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Belonging is central to Being & Becoming in that shapes who children are and who they become."

(From the Early Years Learning Framework)

Another Belonging and Identity concept we incorporate into our rooms is our "Everyone Belongs" world map.



We will provide some small photos of the children next to the map in your children's room so you can place it on the country where your family originates from.

Last year's "Every Belongs" world map

This will help to promote and extend on Harmony Day where we celebrate the diversity of cultures in our Centre. This special day is on Friday 20th March. We hope you can come along and share of your family's cultural foods.

Until next time,

Kathy

MCCC Educational Leader



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Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Rhiannon Hines (Monday to Friday), Alison Monaghan (Monday to Friday)

This month the children have been engaging in a lot of shared played experiences and it's great to see the emerging friendships within the room. The children have been enjoying group times, where they have been practicing the acknowledgement of country, singing and dancing to action songs, listening to felt stories and reading all different books.

Inside, the children have been playing in the home corner with the baby dolls. They have been using their imagination and initiating their own dramatic play and role play experiences which is great for their social development. They have also been challenging themselves with different puzzles that helps them work on colour recognition, shape recognition and counting up to 5.

Outside, we have been going on some nature walks when we have the chance. The children love to walk around the building and explore different parts of the premises. Sometimes, if we are lucky, the cows will be close enough for us to feed and pat. The beautiful interactions with the cows have led into a 'farm animal' interest within the room. We have been focusing some craft time to make awesome farm animal art that is hung up on our wall.



In the yard, the children have loved riding the bikes around on the grass and practicing their balancing skills on the balance beams and stepping stones. Stacking the large blocks outside, allows the children to work on their teamwork's skills and problem solve as they try to stack the tower higher.

We are starting to focus more on the children's self help skills such as putting their own shoes on and taking them off, using a spoon to feed themselves at lunchtime, drinking from a cup, putting their own hat on their head and toilet training. These self help skills allow the children to develop a sense of responsibility as well as further develop their fine and gross motor skills and hand eye coordination.



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

We have started adding some family photos to our tree. The children have loved telling their friends all about their families at group time. We can't wait to add some more photos to our tree. If you haven't brought in your photo yet, you are more than welcome to via email to mountainchildren@bigpond.com and we will happily print it off for you.

Thank you also for bringing in the goals sheets. We love learning more about your child's interests and what to incorporate into our program. Remember, you can still bring your goal sheet in or have a chat with Ally and Rhii about any goals for your child.

Thank you,

From Rhii and Ally



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Lizard Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), Kristy Hirons (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

The children of the Lizard room continue to be settled and welcoming as they met our new friend Brooklynn and her family.

We have had a delightful month with lots of language developing which in turn is enabling



the children to develop their social skills. Rather than playing beside each other we are starting to play together sharing ideas and equipment. We have supported this by creating a camping theme dramatic play area which was a particular interest of Luca, Edison and Jack.

Literacy /reading seems to be another area of particular interest so we will be pursuing this through reading of stories, crafts and dramatic play experiences.

We are continuing to work with our families as we work towards having all the children in the Lizard room completely toilet trained. We would appreciate if you could return your children's goal sheets (if you have lost your sheet, we will happily print you a new one) so we can work together to achieve these goals.

As the seasons start to change with us having cooler mornings and afternoons could you please ensure that your children have a labelled jumper, long pants and socks as well as their usual changes of clothes.

If you haven't already, please bring in (or email to mountainchildren@bigpond.com) a family photo to add to our tree.

Bye from Mary and Kristy



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Snake Room News ...

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Tuesday to Friday), Belinda Stark (Monday to Friday)

Welcome to our new friend Eva who has rejoined our Snake Room. We're sure she will settle back in quickly and reform friendships.

We have been learning all about sea creatures and have set up a discovery table that the children have been interacting with. The posters on the wall help us learn the different names of whales and dolphins. We also have a variety of shells that we hear the ocean in when we hold them to our ears. The Snake children have made fish, orca and shellfish craft to decorate our room with.

Macy brought in some tiny tadpoles that she found at home. This provided a wonderful opportunity to learn and discover all about the frog/ tadpole lifecycle. We set up a frog discovery table to explore. The children excitedly investigate the tadpoles every day to see if they have grown legs. We provided many literacy items such as frog books, pictures and posters which support their knowledge and understandings of this interesting life cycle.





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Snake Room News ... (cont.)

There is still lots of room on our family tree, so if you haven't had the chance to bring or send in (to mountainchildren@bigpond.com) in your family photo yet it is not too late. The children love showing off their wonderful families to their friends.

Thank you to the families who have returned their children's outcome/ goal sheets. Your input into our room program with your children's goals is so valuable. It is not too late to return the form or we can fill it out with you if that helps.

Newstime is always a valuable and popular experience in our room. Thank you so much for sending in news for your children. They are always very excited about sharing their news and it's a great opportunity for them to speak in front of a group. On some occasions, there may be several news items brought in by children and it may mean that your children might not get their turn to do their news until their next day at preschool. Thank you for your understanding if this situation occurs. We also want to expand the popular news sharing and will begin to hand out special newsbags to a few children per day to bring in a favourite book to share with their friends at storytime. Please encourage your child to choose a book they are familiar with. They will be asked some questions about their book by their educators and friends. This develops language and communication skills, confidence as well as self-esteem.

We also still encourage our family news input on our small whiteboard on the sign in bench if the children have a special occasion or event they wish to share.

Thank you, until next time

Kathy & Belinda



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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

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

Hannah

Dates for your Diary ...

MARCH

Tuesday, 17th March 10.30am

Celebrations Show

Friday, 20th March

Harmony Day at the Centre
Please RSVP

Tuesday, 31st March

Dog Safety Show for 3-5 year olds
Note to follow

APRIL

Monday, 20th April 7pm

AGM at the Centre