



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

June 2019

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News from Louisa ...

News from Louisa

Welcome to our new family and child who has joined us since the last newsletter - Oscar and your family! We hope you settle in well and enjoy being part of our community.

Fundraising for Jackson

Thank you to everyone for dressing up and donating towards Jackson's cause. We truly appreciate all of your contributions. We raised just over \$1400 on behalf of Jackson. This money will be donated to Ronald Macdonald House. Thank you again for the amazing effort and enthusiasm for the fundraiser.

Our Educational Leader Kathy

Kathy is the centre's Educational Leader. Kathy's role is very valuable, and we appreciate all that she does to ensure the learning outcomes for children are positive. Kathy spends a lot of time researching best practice and innovative ways to share the Educational Program with the children. As the Educational Leader Kathy works with all educators in all rooms to develop their individual Educational Programs. Kathy mentors educators to articulate the learning that is occurring with all the children. Kathy will now begin to include a brief outline of the Educational Program into each edition of the newsletter. Kathy loves to receive feedback so please have chat to her anytime regarding your child's learning or the Educational Program.

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

We are always reflecting on how to improve our communication and partnerships with our families as this is highly valued by our centre. Families often arrive in the mornings and tell us about experiences the children have had over the weekend, or news for that day, such as "It's Nanna's birthday today". This is often valuable communication information that we can then incorporate into our program such as discussing the children's weekend visit to the beach, zoo, fishing etc, or creating a birthday card for Nanna. To assist with this communication and to help promote it, we are going to place a small whiteboard on the sign in bench with some post-it notes, for the families to write on when they would like to tell us about their family news. Of course you can also tell your child's educators as well. However sometimes they may not have commenced their shift yet, or they may be busy with other children or families so this will ensure this information is recognised and responded to with your child and the daily program.

Please also feel free to email any photos of your child's weekend/ holidays/ special event to mountainchildren@bigpond.com. We can then print them off and your child can present them to their room.

We are continuing to reflect on our memory books/ portfolios and their value versus the time and expense of creating them. I will be attending the next committee meeting to put forward our ideas and suggestions of whether we continue with these books next year or do begin to phase them out altogether. We realise how much the families enjoy receiving them but now that we are sending our a daily email that includes a lot of what would have been included in the old portfolios we do not want to double up. We will keep you informed. If you have any suggestions into this please see Louisa or myself as we value your input.

If you have any question or concerns about your child's development, or if you would like to speak to your child's educator and view their developmental notes, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Until next time,

Kathy



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Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday to Friday), Alix Mear (Trainee, Monday to Friday), Kristie Rahkola (Mondays)

Thank you to all our parents for providing jackets, slippers and blankets. Could you please ensure everything is labelled.

We have had lots of positive feedback from our families regarding the children's advancing colour recognition skills. We will continue to support the children's interest in counting.

We have extended our social, concentration and counting skills by interesting simple board games. The children are finding this challenging but enjoyable.

We have also extended our puzzle skills by introducing 9, 12 and 15 piece interlocking puzzles. We would love to hear about our children's interest and if they do something over the weekend or during the week that they enjoyed. Perhaps you could tell one of us or make a note in their communication books. You can also put a post it note on the white board on the sign in bench that we will set up next week.

We are trying to promote language use by the children so if you could email photos to mountainchildren@bigpond.com that we can then print and the children can present to the group, that would be amazing as well.

Regards

Mary, Alix, Kristie



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Lizard Room News ...

Room Leader – Belinda Stark (Monday to Friday)

Our beloved space corner has come to an end, but a new corner has emerged? The Lizard room Italian restaurant. Valentina's mum and nonna have generously offered to do some cooking experiences with the Lizards over the next few weeks. We can't wait to make homemade pizzas and pasta!

Inside we have been working on our fine motor skills with threading, gluing and cutting with scissors.

We have a new interest area in our room and it's dedicated to tigers! The children have shown an increasing interest in the stripy animal so over the next few weeks we will read books and do craft based on tigers.

Until next time

Belinda, Rhi, Jessie, Kristie & Emily



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Snake Room News ...

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

Our Snake Room Supermarket continues to be a fantastic source of dramatic play with all the children. This type of play promotes the children's pro-social skills as they need to cooperate and negotiate the different roles of people at the supermarket. They have to share the available shopping resources. They develop literacy and numeracy skills as they investigate the signs, catalogues, shopping lists and the amount of money.

The educators have been working on improving their slime making abilities due to its popularity with the children. Slime provides a wonderful opportunity to explore a sensory, relaxing fine motor skills experience.

Card games such as memory and snap also continue to be popular. These experiences promote skills such as following rules for the game, turn taking skills and social skills in group play.

We have been enjoying some wonderful picnics outside in the sun. Once day we even took our lunch down to the creek and ate it on the rocks while we listened to the bubbling water and the birds singing in the trees.

Last Friday we all enjoyed a wonderful performance about African culture that included African drumming, songs and stories.

These types of cultural incursions promote awareness and understanding of cultural diversity with the children. They are learning about respecting other cultures.

Last week the centre participated in simultaneous story time. This is a promotion that recognises the importance of literacy and instils a love of books and reading in all children. It also promotes Australian authors. The book this year was "Alpacas with Maracas". This wonderful story inspired our children to create their own maracas using cylinder, patty pans and beads. We have such creative children in our room!

Until next time,
Kathy and Ally



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News from the Office ...

Picture Plates

As we have done in previous years, we will be offering the children the opportunity again to create a plate with their own artwork or educator assisted handprints for the younger children. We will send order forms home next week and will start working on the artworks/handprints for the picture plates soon after.

Media Consent Forms

Thank you to all families who have signed the media consent form for your child/ren. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to sign this form on drop off or pick up. The forms are kept on the sign in bench. Please speak to any staff member if you need any assistance with this.

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.

Until next time,

Hannah