



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

February 2021

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News from Louisa ...

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2021. All the children who have transitioned to new rooms are settling in well. It is wonderful to see so many positive interactions with children, educators, and families.

New Families

A very warm welcome to all our new children and families who have joined us over the past few weeks. Welcome Milyerra, Willow, William, Nicholas, Sarah, Clarke, Emre, Aodhan, and Bart. We hope that you all enjoy your time with us here at Mountain Community Children's Centre.

Working from Home

I will be working from home one day per week. Most often this will be Friday however, this may change on occasion to suit the centre. Please feel free to contact Hannah in the office to pass on any messages. I can still be contacted via phone or email and Hannah will pass any messages on.

Lamington Fundraiser

Thank you to all families and staff who contributed to our lamington fundraiser for Australia Day. In total we raised \$951 which is a fantastic outcome. The funds raised will go towards improvements in the Joeys room.

As we received great feedback on the lamingtons, we will hold another lamington fundraiser for Mother's Day in May so stay tuned, more information will follow closer to the date.

Free Parenting Courses

Central Coast Family Support Services Inc. facilitates a variety of courses, seminars, workshops, and family events open to families living across the Central Coast region. Courses are delivered in a variety of locations and all courses are currently free. For more detailed information on the courses offered, please visit their website: <https://ccfss.org.au/course-work-programs/>



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News from Louisa ... (cont.)

New Casual

We welcome Ingrid to the centre. Ingrid is an Early Childhood Teacher with many years' experience. She will replace either myself or Kathy when we are on leave. Please say hello next time she is in and make her feel welcome.

Family Questionnaire

Thank you to the many of you who have already completed our family questionnaire to set short term and long term goals for your children. The information you have provided is invaluable to us and will be integrated into our program. If you haven't completed the questionnaire yet, please visit the following link to do so at your earliest convenience:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHNhreIWhD32ver9yi3QLWFjzCYsUVx0CKy3VYPttmUr9HYQ/viewform?usp=sf_linkwill

Thank you in advance!

Enrolments

If you have any friends who would be interested in the centre, please encourage them to contact us. We would be happy to arrange a tour of the centre or post out a parent pack.

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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Educational Leader News

Welcome to a New Year at Mountain Community Children's Centre. We are looking forward to another wonderful year with our amazing families and children.

As part of our philosophy, we believe in working in partnerships with our families for the benefit of our children and Centre. We encourage our families to participate in our centre in any way they can. This could be as simple as providing a family photo for a family tree, providing news experiences for the children to share, donation of craft materials or excess produce, or feedback on our experiences within the centre.

We have sent an electronic survey to families to complete to provide us with goals that each family would like us to work towards with the children. They may be short-term or long-term goals. These goals can then be incorporated into our program and curriculum. Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your contributions to this.

We have had families offering to share their excess produce from their farms. We are going to provide a basket out the front for any excess produce to be placed in so other families can benefit from this. This will be an exchange basket for families and the educators to add or take from. This also promotes working in partnerships with our families.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our program, please do not hesitate to speak to the educators.

Until next month

Kathy

MCCC Educational Leader



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Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday and Thursday) and Kristy Hirons (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday), Alison Monaghan (Monday to Friday), Alix Mear (Monday and Wednesday)

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a great break over Christmas, and we are excited to see you all again. We would love to welcome our new friends, Emre, Nicholas, Aodhan, Clarke, Milyerra, Willow and Bart to the Joey Room!

Last month, we kicked things off by learning about Australian Animals. At group time, we read books about different Australian animals and the children seem to be enjoying the stories. For craft we have even made some Australian animals. The children were provided with the opportunity to practice their scissor skills as they cut the spikes of their echidnas.





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

We then moved onto celebrating Chinese New Year. The children loved banging on the table as they stamped fireworks and use bottles to make rainbow cherry blossoms on a tree outline. We also cut and decorated our own lanterns to hang up in our room. We finished off this focus by cooking some fried rice with the children. Everybody agreed it was delicious, going back for seconds or even thirds.



Outside, the Joey's have really been enjoying riding the bikes, throwing and catching the balls and playing on the climbing equipment. These outdoor play activities provide the children with opportunities to develop their gross motor skills, as they practice their foot eye coordination, balancing skills and spatial awareness. We ask that if you haven't already, can you please send in a helmet for your child to wear.



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

We have also been focussing on the children's self-help skills. This includes washing their own hands, putting on their own shoes, tidying up their room, transitioning onto sleeping on a bed, sitting at group time and toilet training. If you are interested in starting the toilet training process with your child, please speak to one of the educators and we can assist you.

Thankyou,

From Ally, Alix, Eva, Kristy and Mary



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Lizard Room News ...

Room Leader – Rhiannon Hines (Monday to Friday), Paris Helson (Monday to Friday)

We are excited to see all our Lizard friends, new and returning. We have had a great first month as we settle into our room for the year. We started off the year with news from everyone, highlighting their adventures over the Christmas break.

An extremely popular activity that many of us did over the break was going to the beach. To follow on from this interest, we set up a beach/ under the sea themed corner. We engaged in activities, like sensory play, puzzles, memory games, craft and reading books at group time to explore all the cool things we might find at the beach or in the ocean. The children especially like to engage in self-initiated dramatic play with the large sea creatures.

Outside the children have been loving all the new equipment in the big yard. The trampoline, stilts and climbing frames have been extremely popular with the children as they continue to challenge their developing gross motor skills. They have also been getting creative in the mud kitchen, cooking up a storm with all the natural resources that they find around the yard.



To follow on with the interest in meal preparation, we have been cooking with the children. They are a great help when measuring, pouring, and stirring the mixture. So far, we have made Zucchini slice, pancakes, fried rice, and dumplings. We cannot wait to see what else we

will cook in the months to come.



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Lizard Room News ... (cont.)

We also celebrated Chinese New Year, year of the Ox. We did craft, read books, and dressed up in traditional Chinese clothing all while learning about the culture and the celebration. Our favourite part was wearing the lion costume and doing the lion dance to Chinese music.



Finally, we have got in touch with our inner green thumbs and have begun to make a veggie



garden. Using the Woolworth Discovery Garden pots, we have begun to plant the seeds and are starting to learn about all the things we are trying to grow. We planted them on Tuesday and they have already started to sprout, how exciting! We would greatly appreciate anyone who wishes to donate more Woolworths discovery pots to expand our garden.

Please feel free to come and see us if you have any inputs into our programme or any questions.

Thank you,

Rhii and Paris



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Snake Room News ...

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Tuesday to Friday), Jessica Hines (Monday to Friday)

We would like to welcome our new Snake friends and their families into our Snake room.

Everyone has settled in well and is loving being in the 'big' Snake room.

We have been working on developing each child's feelings of 'belonging' and identity in their new room. We have a special belonging tree on our lockers where the children can hang their names upon arrival. This promotes their sense of belonging in their new room. We set up an 'our Country Australia' discovery area for the children to explore. There are Australian animals to investigate as well as many literacy items incorporating Australian animal books and pictures. We drew some fantastic animals and discussed our favourite Australian animals and something unique about them. We had fun retelling one of our favourite stories 'Wombat Stew'. The children all added the stew ingredients into the billycan whilst they told the story using the Australian animals. This type of experience promotes drama, language, and literacy skills.

Two weeks ago, we also celebrated Chinese New Year. We all danced to Chinese music in our Chinese lion costumes. Others played instruments whilst they watched their friends dancing. At lunchtime we



enjoyed eating some yummy Chinese food including fried rice, dumplings, and spring rolls.



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Snake Room News ... (cont.)

We even used chopsticks while we ate. This type of celebration promotes the children's cultural awareness, acceptance, and knowledge of the different cultures in our society.



Lots of our children are requesting news, so we have introduced "news bags". They will take it in turns to bring in one of their favourite books to discuss before their peers and educators. This is always an extremely popular experience that promotes literacy, early reading skills, confidence, and self-esteem.

Thank you to all the families that have already sent in their family photos for our family tree. This also promotes the children's sense of belonging in their room and the centre. We are extending on this by encouraging the children to draw their houses and tell us who lives in their house. We will display those so do not forget to check them out next time you are in the room.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Until next time,

Kathy and Jess



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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.

Confirming your income with Services Australia for 2018 – 2019

Services Australia (the government body administering child care subsidy) has asked us a child care provider to share the following information with you. **In short, all you need to do is either have your 2018 -2019 tax return lodged with the ATO or inform them that no lodgement of a tax return is required.** The ATO will feed your income details to Services Australia who will use this information for child care subsidy balancing purposes. The following information is copied straight from the Services Australia letter:

Did you get Child Care Subsidy for 2018-19? If you got Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for the 2018-19 financial year, you must confirm your income. Most parents have already done this. If you haven't, do it now. If you don't confirm your income by 31 March 2021, your CCS will reduce to 0%. This means you'll need to pay full fees when you access child care. The deadline for confirming your income was extended from 30 June 2020 to 31 March 2021 because of COVID-19. If you confirm your income after 31 March 2021 we can start your CCS again. But if there's a gap between your CCS stopping and starting again, you'll miss out on CCS for that time. We sent letters to families in February 2021 asking them to confirm their income. How to confirm your income You don't need to call or visit us to confirm your income. You need to either: • lodge your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) • tell us you don't need to lodge one and confirm your income online. If you have a partner, they'll need to do this too. If you separated during the year, we'll also need your ex-partner's income. To check if you need to lodge a return, use the Do I need to lodge a tax return? tool on ato.gov.au If you've lodged your tax return, the ATO will send us your income information. We usually get this within 28 days from when you get your Notice of Assessment. If you or your partner don't need to lodge a tax return, you need to let us know. You must do this, even if you've told the ATO that you don't need to lodge. You can do this and confirm your income for the year using either your: • Centrelink online account through myGov • Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

Please contact Services Australia if you have any questions about this process.

Until next time,

Hannah