

Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

November and December 2015

A note from your Centre Manager

Christmas time already? It feels as though Easter was only just here, but I guess that's the way it goes. We have been very busy little ducks lately, with a number of different events and celebration weeks occurring over the past 8 weeks or so. I'll leave you to read all about these throughout the newsletter.

Coming into the end of the year is always a time for reflection; a time to think about what has happened throughout the year and what could be improved. As a whole, I think this year has been pretty amazing, but I would like to invite all of our families to give their feedback on what could be improved, and even what has really worked this year. There will be an "anonymous feedback" box floating around, so please feel free to pop a note in there with your suggestions.

Although it is almost the end of the year, it doesn't mean we are any less busy! Re-enrolments for 2016 have now been finalised, and have been displayed in each room as well as out the front of the centre. We have recently started our artwork fundraiser, which is our biggest fundraising event for the year. Your little ones have been busy creating their masterpieces, which their educators will be more than happy to show you. The product range is in the office, so please feel free to have a look at these when you're in next. An email went home last week with the ordering process, but please let me know if you need any further clarification.

We have our Centre Christmas Carols coming up on Friday 4 December from 6pm, so please mark this in your diaries. Santa will be in attendance again this year, and we will also be having a sausage sizzle! Fingers crossed that the rain holds off this year!

Before I sign off for another newsletter, I would like to take a moment to say farewell to our families that are off to school in 2016. It has been an absolute pleasure to have your beautiful families as part of our community, with many of the children starting in the Nursery (some even with me!). We wish you all the best, and would love for you all to keep in touch!



I hope everyone has a very happy and safe Christmas, and a wonderful new year! I look forward to seeing everyone from the 4th of January!

Tabitha

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November Calendar



9th—15th … National Recycling Week

We will learn all about recycling and sustainable practices!

recycle now week

transform something today



Wednesday 11th … Remembrance Day

Today we will be making poppies in remembrance of the diggers that gave their lives for our country.

Thursday 11th … Diwali

The "Festival of Lights"

Tuesday 24th … Ehmer's Puppet Show

Today we'll have some puppet friends tell us some stories!



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday 26th—Thanksgiving

Learn all about this holiday and it's significance.



December Calendar

Thursday 3rd … International Day of People with Disabilities

Although everyone is different, today we will learn that we are all the same.



Friday 4th … Centre Christmas Carols

Join us from 6pm for carols at Little Ducks. Santa will even make an appearance!

Thursday 10th … Kindergarten Class Break Up Party

Kindergarten families are invited to come to kindy to celebrate a wonderful year!



Thursday 24th … Christmas Eve!

Friday 25th … Christmas Day

Monday 28th December to Friday 1st January … Centre Closed

This week we will be closed for our Christmas break.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday, 5th January 2015!



Happy Birthday!

November Lachlan D (2) Madelyn (2) Lachlan V (2) Jack B (2) Michael (2) Sophie E (2) Gyanada (2) Arwen (3) Dominic (3) Ellie (3) Sidney (3) Leyla (3) Nellie (5) Phoenix (4) Eugenie (4) Thomas K (4) Maximilian (4) Hugh (4)



December Mia (1) Abigail (2) Arkie (2) Cleo (2) Eric (3) Hazel (3) Evie (4) Charlie (4)

Fortitude Valley

Construction on our 5th centre in Fortitude Valley is now well underway! The multi-level building has been completely refurbished to cater for babies through to school age children, including an approved Kindergarten Program.

We are located in the heart of Fortitude Valley on McLachlan Street, and will open in January 2016. Anyone who would like to join the waiting list can do so on our website or call our office on 3251 6060.



Policy Reviews

In order for our Centre policies to be a reflection of our local community, we welcome your input regarding the policies below. Please refer to our Policy Review Folder located in the foyer for more information or if you would like to make some suggestions or comments.

Some of the policies on review this month are:

- Cultural Diversity
- First Aid and Medication

Nursery Natter!



Since we last spoke we have had so much happen in the Nursery! A few of our friends have reached a very important milestone in their lives, and have begun walking. Bodhi, Mia, Ben, and Simon have found their feet, and have been showing off their new found skill. It has been very exciting to watch this milestone occur.



On the 12th of October saw the start of Nutrition week. This tied in very well with the children's recent interest in our play food. To extend the children's interest in the food, we set up a picnic rug outside, and plates and cups and also some dolls. The children sat on the rug, engaging with each other whilst exploring the different foods. We then continued on with the children's interest by sitting down and making a big batch of fruit salad. The fruit salad was a way of also incorporating the children's senses with the texture and taste of the fruit. The children seemed to really enjoy the fruit salad, with some of them trying fruits that they don't usually eat!



As it is coming into the warmer months now, we have had some water play days. This has been so much fun, and the children thoroughly enjoy it. We have put on a sprinkler, and filled a clam shell with water, placing some shells and cups in the water for the children to play with. The children have giggled with laughter as the sprinkler has been turned on, spraying them lightly with water. A few of the children have tried to sit on the sprinkler, which sprays water in all directions! The babies have been so full of laughter, it's beautiful to see!



Please make sure you check out the upcoming events calendar in the newsletter, as we have a number of fun events coming up, including a visit from Santa!

Just a few housekeeping reminders as well:

* As it is getting warmer, please remember to bring a hat for the babies to wear outside, and suitable sun smart clothing;
* At least 2 changes of clothes, just in case they get wet or dirty;
* As our mornings can be very busy between 9am-10am, it would appreciated if you could drop your child off prior to 9am. This helps them to settle in easier at drop off time. We understand that sometimes this can't happen as mornings can be busy, but it would be greatly appreciated if you could aim for 9am.



Love Miss Erin and Miss Alana

The scoop on Toddler One!



First of all, I would just love to say thank you for making me feel so welcome and I truly appreciate all the positive feedback I have been receiving. It has been a pleasure working with your little ones and having lots of fun together. I would also like to welcome Remi, Jude, Albi, Tilda, Asha, and Nicolai into Toddler One! We have enjoyed getting to know each other, and it has been wonderful watching their new friendships grow.



In the last few weeks our toddlers have been very fascinated with outdoor play. We have been taking many indoor activities into our outdoor environment. We have especially had a lot of fun doing various water play activities. Our toddlers loved getting splashing in the water and had a great time playing with their friends.



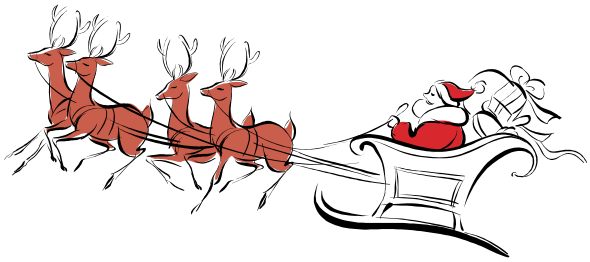
Messy play is also a lot of fun for our children. We have been engaging in a lot of sensory activities with colour mixing in coconut, fresh cream, jelly, and goop. It was lots of fun, with the children using all of their senses to touch, feel, look, smell and even have a taste of them. We also enjoyed making play dough where our toddlers engaged in mixing and blending ingredients together, as well as practicing sharing and turn taking. There were also opportunities for the children to identify different textures, express wonder and develop their social and fine motor skills.

With the warmer weather on the way, we are also encouraging the children to drink more water to keep them hydrated. We provide water at every meal time, as well as having a several group times each day where we all sit together for a big drink.



We would like to hear any funny activities or experiences your babies have been doing or showing interest in at home. Your feedback is very important and valuable to us. It helps us to get to know more about your little ones and share ideas of extending on their interests in our days. Look forward to hearing from you soon!

Love Miss Vicky and Miss Brooke



Sustainability Corner

Spring planting at Little Ducks!

Many of our rooms have been busy planting new seeds for our flower garden and veggie patch! The children have loved helping out with the planting, and have loved showing off the sprouting plants! Keep an eye out for our bush tucker garden in the coming weeks!











Tales from Toddler Two!



Wow!!! I can't believe its November already, where has the year gone?!?

Most of our activities have been focusing on encouraging our very energetic children to participate in activities that help develop both their gross and fine motor skills. Carolin and I have been incorporating some fun activities into our program, with lots of different ball games, obstacle courses, and action songs to boost gross motor development. We have also been concentrating on developing some gross motor skills such as jumping and hopping! With fine motor development, we have been practicing using scissors, and have also been doing thin pencil and texta drawings.



While I was away, Miss Carolin noticed the children were interested in different colours and together they created some great artwork that promoted colour recognition, red, green, blue and yellow. The children loved showing these off to me once I returned!



Sensory play is still a big hit with the Toddie's, they loved the very **messy** goop play and so we followed this experience up with some water play. It was wonderful to see them having such a great time with their friends, splashing one another and even themselves!

As the weather is warming up we will be having lots of water and other messy play included in our weekly curriculum so please make sure your child has spare clothes in their bag.

Over the next few weeks leading up to our Christmas break, we will be very busy creating some Christmas art, and learning some new songs. We will also be promoting some self- help skills for the children, to encourage them to build their confidence in achieving simple tasks.



These include jobs that mum and dad would normally do for them, such as putting their belongings in the correct place, collecting their water bottles at meal times, and helping to pack away toys.

It has been a pleasure to have your children with us this year, and we hope that you all have a safe and happy Christmas!



Love Miss Diane and Miss Carolin

Junior Kindy Capers!

We have been keeping very busy here in the Junior Kindy room!



The children have been exploring the world and a variety of cultures. At group time every week or fortnight a new country is picked at random by one of the children, we then try and learn as much as we can about that particular country. We do art experiences, songs, cooking, and sometimes even general greetings.

The children seem to enjoy expanding their knowledge, and the activities not only build their cultural knowledge but also provide opportunities for them to build and develop their social, sensory, communication and fine motor skills.



Lately the children have been curious about recycling. To encourage this we have been reading several books on recycling garbage as well as recycling water. We have also been doing art experiences with recyclable products such as old magazines, boxes, and containers. The most fascinating thing about the whole process of recycling is the "Garbage truck". They all seem very excited to see the truck every week. We have been using that fascination as a great teaching opportunity to educate and encourage the children not to litter in their surroundings, and they seem to be doing very well.



Well parents, it is almost the end of the year and soon we will be preparing for Christmas. We will be doing Christmas craft and experiences which could make for lovely tree and home decorations. If you have any ideas please share them with us, your input is very valuable and we would love to hear from you. Miss Erica will be finishing up at the beginning of December to prepare for the arrival of her own baby! We wish her all the best!



Love Ms Nancy , Miss Erica and Miss Tiffany

Reading Matters!

Top 10 Books for Under 5's!

Where is the Green Sheep - *Mem Fox*
The Very Hungry Caterpillar - *Eric Carle*
Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes - *Mem Fox*
There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake - *Hazel Edwards*
Imagine - *Alison Lester*
Possum Magic - *Mem Fox*
Dear Zoo - *Rod Campbell*
Twinkle - *Nick Bland*
The Rainbow Fish - *Marcus Pfister*
Guess How Much I Love You - *Sam McBratney*

Have you used our centre library yet? The library is located in the office, and is available to all Little Ducks families. There are plenty of choices, with new books coming in every few weeks!



Annerley Library Events

Monday 10am ... Best Start Toddler Time. Ideal for 1-3 year olds, come and do some singing and dancing!

Monday 11.30 ... Babies, books and rhymes. Meet other parents and babies in this singing and clapping session!

Tuesday 10am ... Children's Story Time. Stories, songs, and craft for 2-5 year olds.

Friday 9.30am ... Cheeky Monkey's secret treehouse book club. Cheeky Monkey wants to share his stories and songs with under 5's!

Senior Kindy Broadcast!



Wow! We have reached our final edition of the newsletter for 2015. What a great year it has been full of growth, opportunities and learning experiences. We have had a lot of fun along the way too!

These past two months have been very busy. More recently we had our Grandparents Afternoon tea. This was a huge success and we were very happy with the turn-out. The children in Senior Kindy were super proud to introduce their Nonnas, Nannas, Grannies and Grampas to Miss Emma and Miss Savita, and we were equally happy to meet them. We could see the safe and secure relationships that the children shared with their Grandparents. This was evident in their interactions. Harriet, Grace and their Grandmas sat down to read stories, while Cleaver's Chumpsy played with the Mobilo. Phoenix enjoyed having both his grandparents in as he proudly introduced them to Miss Emma.



Recently we have had a few children dealing with separation anxiety. This is something we are discussing with the children on a daily basis. We have been reading some books with the children that deal with the issue. The children have reached out to educators and their peers for support. They even get a big clap when they tell their friends that they felt brave this morning on drop-off. It is good to see the children's friendship be a source during stressful times.

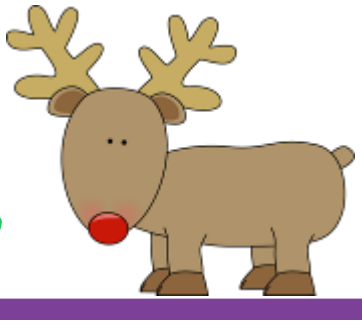


Some current interests amongst the children these past few weeks include caring for the dolls and small world play. The children explore identity through role-play in such experiences. They develop language processes and important social skills. Another interest which remains strong is the Mobilo. The children are designing more and more elaborate structures including helicopters, planes, fire trucks and rockets.



Also check out our veggie gardens. Miss Savita and the children have been busy preparing and planting some seeds. We can already see the little carrots and sunflower plants begin to grow. Our next step is to get a scarecrow standing! Upcoming events include Day for Daniel and of course our Christmas preparations. The children have been practicing their songs for our Christmas concert which will take place on the 4th December.

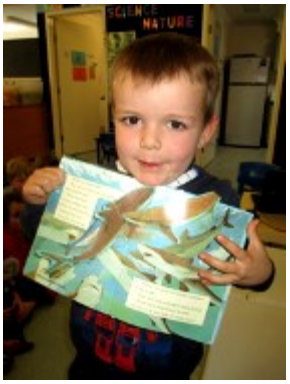
Until then, we hope that you enjoy the upcoming Summer months!



Love Miss Emma and Miss Savita

Kindergarten Chronicles!

Welcome to another edition of Kindergarten Chronicles! I can't believe we are into October already; the year is almost at an end and what a great year it has been!



We have finished focusing on a letter each week during our literacy sessions as we have completed the alphabet and have now moved onto sounds. The class are really enjoying our literacy component and are doing a great job identifying and sounding out different words in the environment.

We have recently been on an outer space adventure – exploring the topic of space for National Space Week! We set up a space corner in the classroom, filled with posters, stories, pictures of the planets, rockets and astronauts and we made our very own space station! The class loved role playing in this area and had many questions about the universe! During group time we explored and learnt the names of each planet, we put them in order closest to the sun and learnt some amazing facts about the solar system, we discussed astronauts and the moon, discovered what life would be like at an International Space Station and watched a space shuttle launch, which was everyone's favourite!



We explored the topic of healthy eating and looking after ourselves after our visit from the Life Education Van and as part of National Nutrition Week. We identified healthy foods and 'sometimes' foods, made a class graph identifying everyone's favourite fruit, learnt about different food groups, and other ways we can stay healthy such as exercising, drinking water and brushing our teeth. The class have been hunting for bugs and insects lately during outdoor play, so we decided to set up a nature exploration table in the room. It is filled with bug catchers and various bugs, insects, posters, stories and other nature items and creepy crawlies!





We have just finished exploring different occupations and people in our local community and the children have enjoyed talking about what they would like to be when they grow up. We have lots of vets, doctors, police officers, pilots and builders in the making! We discussed a range of different occupations and talked about what each job entails and set up a dramatic play area for the children to role play different occupations using the costumes. Over the coming weeks we are going to explore the topic of safety and identify people in the community who are there to help us and keep us safe, a discussion which started on Day for Daniel.

We are going to continue being busy for the remainder of the year with National Recycling Week, where we will learn about the importance of recycling and what we can do to help and Remembrance Day, where we will be making poppies and paying our respects to those who gave their lives for our country. *Love, Miss Jess and Miss Janelle*



It's Getting Warmer...

And that means that it's time for water play! Please remember to pack at least one change of clothes for your child just in case they take part in a water play activity.



The warmer weather also means that we need to be super sun smart! Please apply sunscreen onto your child when you arrive at Little Ducks - there is a sunscreen station next to the sign in and out sheets on the veranda. We also ask that you do not send your child to kindy in singlet straps or without a hat!

Updating Immunisations

We are currently updating our centre records for 2016 and are encouraging all families to let us know the dates of their child's immunisations. According to the National Immunisation Program Schedule, children need to be immunised at Birth, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, and 4 years.



If your child has received any immunisations since starting at Little Ducks, please let us know so that we can keep track.

Extra Curricular Activities

Tuesday—Physi Kids

Wednesday—Happy Feet Fitness

Thursday—French with Play Frog

Friday—Soccer with Ginger Sport

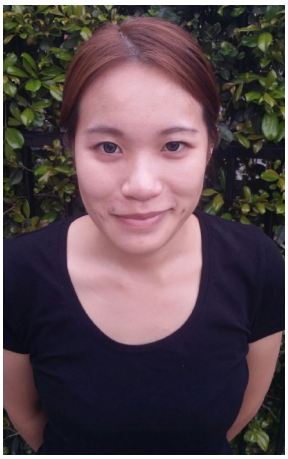
Please let us know if there is a particular activity you would like us to look into for 2016.



French with Miss Corrine!

Meet our Staff!

Miss Jenny



Lead Educator Float

Miss Jenny is a new member of staff here at Little Ducks! Miss Jenny is a qualified Early Childhood Teacher, and is very excited to get to know your children!



Miss Mitaly

Float Educator

Miss Mitaly has been with us for over 6 years! Miss Mitaly loves cooking with the children, and can often be found in the garden too!



Office Space?

Our Bardon centre also incorporates great office spaces that house child related services (i.e. speech pathologist) for Little Ducks parents and the local community. We currently have some availability for more tenants. If you, or someone you know, has a business that may fit in well with us please don't hesitate to contact our office for more information on 3251 6060.













We love our Grandparents!







Pear & Raspberry Bread

Ingredients



Olive oil cooking spray
410g can pear slices in juice, drained
$1^1/_2$ cups wholemeal self-raising flour
$^1/_4$ cup plain flour
$^1/_4$ cup desiccated coconut
$^1/_3$ cup raw sugar
$^1/_3$ cup reduced fat milk
1 large egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp vanilla extract
$^1/_3$ cup sunflower oil

Method

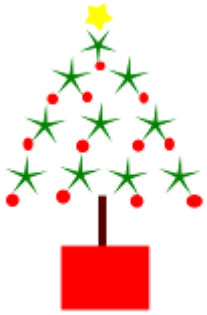
1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced).
2. Place pear slices in a food processor. Process to form a smooth puree.
3. Sift flours into a large bowl. Return husks to bowl. Stir in coconut and sugar.
4. Whisk milk, egg and vanilla together in a jug. Add to flour mixture with pear puree and oil. Stir until just combined then gently stir in $^3/_4$ cup of the raspberries.
5. Spoon mixture into a greased loaf pan. Sprinkle with remaining raspberries.
6. Bake in preheated over for about 1 hour or until cooked in centre when tested with a skewer. Stand in pan 10 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Lunchbox Ideas



Are you stuck on lunchbox ideas? We understand that packing lunch for your child everyday can be quite tricky, which is why we've come up with a list of exciting ideas to inspire you! The list is available in the office, or from your child's educators.

If there is something specific you would like to see us include, please let Tabitha know so that in can be included on the next idea list!



Peach Tree



Becoming a parent, particularly for the first time, is an emotional and very challenging experience. Peach Tree is a charity founded and operated by mothers who have personal experience with perinatal mental illness.

Peach Tree is a Not For Profit charity organisation raising awareness about perinatal mental illness, including anxiety and depression, since 2011.

Peach Tree is the first and largest perinatal peer-support organisation of its kind in Queensland, offering education and support to help parents cope emotionally and mentally during the parenthood transition. The services provided by Peach Tree are led by volunteers who themselves have experienced perinatal mental illness and know first-hand the challenges such families face during this difficult time.

Peach Tree's services include:

- Free, weekly parent meetings for parents worried about, or diagnosed with, perinatal mental illness (from conception to 36 months post-birth). Parent meeting locations include Caboolture, Stafford, Bulimba, Logan, Caloundra, and Yeppoon, providing a safe and non-judgemental environment for mothers to share experiences and connect in an authentic and honest way.
- Perinatal Wellness Education packages – the PEPP (Preparing Emotionally for the Perinatal Period) Talk. A group-based education workshop for expecting parents to learn more about emotional wellness in preparation for their parenthood journey.
- Circle of Security education - a relationship (theory) based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between parents and their children. This DVD guided course provides a practical framework to help parents better understand their own, and their child's, attachment needs, increasing parenting confidence.
- Awareness raising, through public speaking engagements and event activities. Our annual events include the Peach Tree Trek (May) and the Vintage Gala (November).

To contact Peach Tree, please email or visit the website below:

peachtree@peachtree.org.au

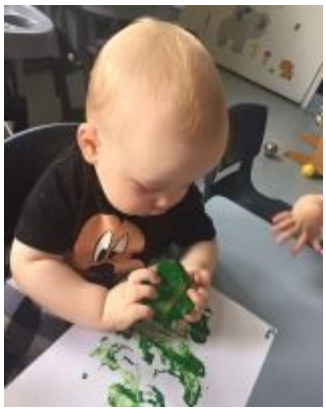
www.peachtree.org.au

Peach Tree
PERINATAL WELLNESS








Nutrition Week





Space Week!








From all of the staff at Little Ducks Annerley, we hope you have a magical Christmas!

