# Little Ducks Childcare Bardon
# January / February 2016

## A note from your Centre Manager



**Hello families!**

***Welcome to Little Ducks 2016!!! I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Year. Christmas can either be wonderful or stressful or a mixture of both so I hope you were able to take some time out to relax and enjoy being together. Our hope was that our Carols evening would be one of those times that you could relax together as a family even just for a short time, so I hope those that came along enjoyed it, we hope to do it bigger and better again this year.***

***Well 2016 is off to a busy start already for us here at Little Ducks Bardon. We have welcomed 15 new families already into the centre this year and have even had our day when every enrolment available in the centre was taken, in all age groups! It really shows we have filled a need in the community. We now only have vacancies for children over 3.***

***This is a wonderful milestone to reach for the centre as it means that staffing and child groupings become stable meaning less new staff, less changes to groups as children transition and more time to focus on the children and their learning journey.***

***This also means the sense of community in the centre can grow. Children's learning and development outcomes are better able to be achieved when collaborative partnerships with families and communities is valued and developed. Children feeling welcome and part of a wider community builds confidence and a sense of belonging and provides endless learning opportunities especially if done in a consultative manner. The teachers at Little ducks often provide prompts for feedback and information about the children's life outside the centre these are great prompts for meaningful learning opportunities. Thank you to everyone who participates.***

***Michele***

***"Educational excellence through the power of play based learning"***

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# Upcoming Events!

## ...January ...

Monday 25th - Australia Day – Bring your togs and towel to celebrate Australia Day with a water play day outside. We will be learning about water safety in our classes.




Tuesday 26th – Australia Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY - Have a great day off everyone!

## ...February...

Friday 5th – Waitangi Day— Celebrating New Zealand's National Day (Saturday 6th)

Monday 8th – Ocean Life Show—An opportunity to get up close and personal with some of our amazing ocean dwellers.




Monday 8th— Vietnamese new year and Chinese New Year — Celebrating the Year of the Monkey. Check out your child's educational program to see how they are learning about these wonderful countries.

Tuesday 9th - Brazil's Carnival — Celebrate by dressing up in your most dassling sparkly Carnival Costume for a day of fun and dancing.

Sunday 14th— Valentines Day— Through the week leading up to Valentine's Day we will be talking about and celebrating the people that we love.

Wednesday 18th — Vet Visit — Time to learn about the people that look after our pets.

Saturday 20th— Love your pet day— Leading up to this day we will be talking about our favourite pets.



# Reminders

- **Swipe cards —** The swipe card entry system is in place for the safety of all enrolled children. We can all occasionally forget things but we encourage you to ensure you bring your swipe card each day to access the service. This also ensures our educators can utilise their time best engaging with the children and running their educational programs. If your card is lost, mistaken or stolen please let Michele know immediately
- **Naming your belongings —** It is important to make sure all items you bring to Little Ducks are well named so that our educators can keep track of each child's belongings and make sure they go home with you each day.

# Policy Reviews

**We value your input and feedback so please refer to the Policy Review Folder in the foyer for more information or to provide any comments or suggestions. The policies/ procedures in review during January and February are:**

- Nutrition Policy
- Open Door and Parent Participation Policy
- Harmful Plants Policy and Procedure
- Safety Precautions Policy

# Centre Birthdays!

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:***

***January*** *— Mia, Leith, Sarah M, Saxon, Jack, Oscar*

***February*** *— Archie, Alex, Hugo, Archer, Eloise, Sam*



# Recipe of the month ...

## COCONUT AND BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

### Ingredients

3 eggs.
1/4 cup coconut oil, melted.
2 teaspoons rice malt syrup.
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract.
3/4 cups coconut milk.
1/2 cup coconut flour, sifted.
1/2 teaspoon baking powder.
1/2 cup fresh blueberries.



### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees and grease a six-hole muffin tray with coconut oil, or line with baking paper.

2. Whisk together the eggs, coconut oil, rice malt syrup, vanilla and coconut milk together in a mixing bowl. Stir through the remaining ingredients.

3. Scoop the mixture evenly between the muffin holes and push a few more blueberries on top. Place in the oven to cook for 25-30 minutes or until slightly browned on top.

# Reading Matters!

## Real World Literacy Opportunities

Building the foundations of writing and reading starts from the moment children are born. Environmental print plays an important role in helping children make connections about the purpose of print and role writing and reading plays.

**Reading**

- Collect business cards from all the places you and your child visit and make a business card book
- Place letter magnets on the fridge at child height

**Writing**

- Have a designated note book for your child to write their own shopping lists to take to the supermarket

# Nursery Natter!

**Lead Educator— Dani Norris**

**Assistant Educator—Amy Kovchenko**

We would like to welcome you into the Nursery Room for 2016.

Our new Lead Educator for the Nursery, Dani will be starting with us on February 1st. Dani comes to us highly recommended and has lots of experience working with under twos. She has completed her Diploma of Children's Services and has been working in the childcare sector for many years. We are very excited to welcome Dani to our team and look forward to seeing the amazing impact she will have on the lives of the children in the Nursery.

Amy is the Educator in the Nursery. Since joining Little Ducks Bardon Amy has been the Educator and the Lead Educator of the Nursery room. She has her Certificate III in Early Leaning and has been working with children for 4 years now. She has been involved with children and their learning her whole life as her mum is also in the industry. She is currently studying her Diploma. Amy particularly loves working with the younger age groups. She has previously studied fashion design and loves being creative! Amy is really looking forward to meeting you or continuing to get to know you and looks forward to all the precious moments you will share.

We are all very excited to meet those new to the room and to continue the fun with the children still in the Nursery. We are all ready to start what is going to be a fantastic year. Our number one priority in the Nursery Room is to create a warm, safe and fun environment to ensure the individual needs of every child is met. We aim to form strong bonds with the children by providing love, care and security. The routine will be very flexible as we will be planning for all your children's individual needs. Each of your children will have a portfolio which will have their learning and creative work recorded, this will also include observations, artwork and parent input.

Baskets are available on the shelf in the kitchen to store your child's bottles, dummies etc each day. Food can be distributed into the morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea baskets in the fridge with made up bottles being placed in the bottom of the fridge. Other items like nappies, sheets and changes of clothes can stay in your child's bag in their locker.

Sign in/ out sheets and bottle receipt sheets are located on the top of the lockers to be completed before you leave your child. At the end of the day you will find our Daily Journal on the parent notice board with a story about what we have been doing through the day. On the notice board there is also a program of the experiences for the week. We will also complete a short form that you can collect at the end of the day that gives you details of the bottles, food and sleep and any notes and messages.

Looking forward to building strong relationships with you all

Dani and Amy

# Toddler Tales!

**Lead Educator— Tamasin Batten**
**Assistant Educator— Tatiana Hogan**

We would like to welcome you to the Toddler Room for 2016 and are looking forward to an amazing year. We are very excited to get to know you and your child and to share their journey throughout the year with you.

This year we have been joined by Tamasin who will be our new Lead Educator in the Toddler room. Tamasin has her Diploma in Children's Services and is currently studying her Bachelor of Early Childhood. She is originally from Adelaide having moved to Brisbane just a couple of years ago. She lives locally and is loving the very short trip to the centre after a few years of working a long way from home. Tamasin is excited to be working at Little Ducks and look forward to getting to know you.

Working alongside Tamasin will be Tatiana the Educator in the Toddler room. She has worked in childcare for a few years and has her Certificate 3 in Children's Services. She is looking forward to getting to know you and know we will have a great year!

See the below tips and tricks to help you and your child settle into our room:

- Lockers – The lockers have tags located on the side wall of each locker so your child's name can be placed there to easily identify their bag.
- Sheets and bedding can be left in the children's bags. We ask for you to have the sheets in a cloth bag with the child's name clearly written on both the bag and the sheets.
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea can be placed in the appropriate basket in the fridge. There is a pen available on the fridge to write your child's name on if not already on the container.
- Baskets are located on the shelf in the kitchen for other belongings such as cups, dummies extra food etc.
- The children's hats can stay with their bag if we are inside. If we are outside when you arrive there is sunscreen available at the sunscreen station in the room for your to apply if not already done at home.
- Our daily journal, program information and information about what we have eaten and slept will be displayed in the parent information area each afternoon.

If you have any other questions or concerns please do not hesitate to have a chat with us, we are always available to ensure the best care for your child.

Looking forward to a fantastic year with you!

Tamasin and Tatiana

# Junior Kindy Jumble!

**Lead Educator : Kitty Spencer**

**Assistant Educator: Jaimee Thompson  Assistant Educator: Jess Johnson**

Hi everyone! welcome to 2016 in the Junior Kindy room. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your big Junior Kindy children throughout the next few weeks!

My name is Kitty and I am going to be your Lead Educator. I am so excited to join your children in the Junior Kindy room. Last year I was just next door in the toddler room, so I know a fair few of the children already. I am looking forward to getting to know each child individually as we begin our new journey together. I have had over 3 years childcare experience, where I have only ever been with the toddlers, so this will be a whole new and exciting experience for me. I am currently studying my Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) with the hope of becoming a special needs teacher in the future. I am so excited to have older children, where I can continue to watch each child grow and develop. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions to make.

Hi, my name is Jaimee and I'll be one of the Educators in Junior Kindy this year. After starting here in Junior Kindy I moved to Toddlers where I have spent the most time. I am looking forward to being back with some of the Toddlers moving up and getting to know all the Junior Kindy children and their families again. I have been working in Childcare for l9 years and have my Certificate lll in Children's Services. I also have two young daughters of my own aged 6 and 3. This will be an exciting and fun year as we build relationships and friendships with all the children and their families.

My name is Jess and I will be an Educator in the Junior Kindy room. When I joined Little Ducks last year I was working in the Nursery room, previous to this I was a nanny looking after children aged between 1-4. I currently have my Certificate lll in Children's Services and hope to further my studies in the near future. I am very excited to get to know all the children and form a strong relationship with them and their families.

We will be really focusing on toilet training in the next coming months by sitting the children on the toilet at each nappy change. If you have any interest in toilet training your child we would love your help. Please pack your children's bag with plenty of spare undies and a few pairs of spare pants. In the fridge, we will be having Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea labelled on each shelf. We will also be introducing boxes directly across from the fridge for you to put in anything that doesn't need to be put into the fridge. Please remember to separate your child's lunches into the correct shelves and boxes as we don't have the space for big lunch boxes in the fridge. As we are new to the Junior Kindy room, please fill out the Getting To Know You form  so we can use some of this information in our daily program and begin forming strong relationships with your child. We love to hear about what your child gets up to when they aren't at Kindy. We will have a form in which you can fill out. You will find this on top of the lockers - next to the sign in book. Please write about any special interests your child may have, also any exciting event that is coming up or simply what you did on the weekend with your child. We can't wait to hear about your child's interests as we integrate these into our weekly program.

Looking forward to getting to know you all
Kitty, Jaimee and Jess

# Kindy Catch Up!

**Kindy Lead Educator— Alex Gayed**

**Kindy Lead Educator—Kate Fawcett**

**Kindy Assistant Educator— Tiana Stirrup**

Welcome to a brand new year in the Kindy Room! We would like to take this opportunity to let you know a little bit about the Kindy Room, our routines, what to bring and possibly get some feedback and ideas on what you and your children's goals might be for the coming year.

Hello everyone, I am Kate and will be one of your lead educators! I am so excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with such grownups. I have moved up with some of you from the Junior Kindy room and I am sure we will work together to get the most out of this very important transitional period in your lives. I have over five years' experience in the childcare industry and I'm currently completing my Diploma of early childhood and education. I have almost completed my Bachelor of Music which I hope to use to the advantage of the little superstars among this group! I love to use music as an avenue for all types of learning, especially creativity and self-expression. My goal is to build meaningful relationships with you all and work as a team to ensure that we have beautiful and enriching learning experiences.

Hi, I am Alex and I will be the other Lead Educator. After spending the last few months of 2015 in the Kindy Room, I am so happy to be here again for the New Year. We have some new faces in the Kindy Room as well as some familiar faces, our main initial focus will be ensuring that each child transitions in to the New Year comfortably. I am currently studying my Diploma of Early Childhood, between my work in Early Childhood, and my previous studies of a Bachelor of Primary Education, I have over 5 years of experience in the Childcare Industry. My goal in the Kindy Room is to work as a team with Kate and Tiana to create a welcoming and inspiring environment, where everyone feels welcome. I will aim to provide your children with a place to discover and build their interests, and allow them to build friendships and develop their skills along the way. I am looking forward to another fun year in the Kindy Room and am excited to form some great relationships with you all.

Hello, I am Tiana and I will be the Assistant in the Kindy room this year! I am very excited to be working with some familiar faces and some new faces. My goal is to ensure that all children settle into the Kindy room feeling safe, secure, welcome and supported and continue to be throughout their time here in the kindy room. I aim to implement an educational program and environment that promotes each child's interest, culture, learning, development and individuality.  I have my Certificate III in Childcare and am studying my Diploma of Early Education. I look forward to starting a new year with you all and building partnerships with the families.

Looking forward to building partnerships with you all!
Alex, Kate and Tiana

# Preschool Pride!

**Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Emily Bates**

**Pre School Assistant—Melina McCormack**

Welcome to Pre-Prep for 2016! We are off to a great start and have enjoyed settling our new and existing children into our wonderful room and getting started on our learning journey this year.

Hello everyone, I am Emily, the Early Childhood Teacher, and am looking forward to my second year in this room and particularly working with the children in the Kindergarten Program as we prepare them for Prep in 2017! School readiness is such an important aspect of this room and we see the children progress so much throughout the year. I have had over six years' experience in the field of Early Childhood and quickly developed a passion for educating young minds in a creative and home-like way embracing the children holistically and ensuring that all aspects of who they are developed and are supported. In 2014 I graduated from Charles Sturt University with my Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood). Last year, I completed my Masters of Special Education (Early Childhood) through the University of Newcastle which I did out of interest as I find the development of children very interesting and it is great to be very aware of typical and atypical development in children as a teacher, and have the ability respond to concerns appropriately as well as support and educate children regardless of their developmental level and additional needs. Last year I made the move from Sydney to Brisbane just as I know lots of our families have done as my partner is in the Air Force and so far am loving this beautiful, relaxed and often too hot place!

Hello, I am Melina, and I am delighted to be in the big Pre-Prep room with a lot of my old kindy darlings. I have been living in Brisbane now for 3 years, where I moved from Innisfail. N,Q . This is my second year at Little Ducks and am loving being back with the little kiddies. A little about myself, I have over 20 years' experience as I originally started as a kindergarten/ preschool assistant in a C & K Kindergarten in Innisfail. My children then grew up and I went onto different ventures, massage therapist and a personal trainer. However, moving to Brisbane, I decided I would come back to my passion and that is be with the children. They are such wonderful little human beings, and I learn something new every day from them. So excited to be able to have such fun and great opportunities and looking forward to meeting all of you as well. I am looking forward to finishing my Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care very soon.

Last year we spent a lot of time forming partnerships with our local Primary schools to enhance the process of transition from Little Ducks into Prep. We have many lovely teachers and schools in the local area and we enjoyed visiting most and we even had some teachers spend some time at Little Ducks too. We will work together again this year to ensure that not only the children are ready for Prep in 2017, but the schools are ready for our children!

Emily and Melina

# Sustainability Corner

## 10 Ways to Reduce your Family Foot-print

1. Mend rather than replace
2. Turn your heating/cooling down 1 degree
3. Bake rather than buy
4. Use energy saving light bulbs
5. Walk, ride or use public transport when you can
6. Turn appliances off at the switch
7. Compost your kitchen scraps
8. Use reusable bags



# Other News!!

## Little Ducks Fortitude Valley!!

**Little Ducks Fortitude Valley officially opened on 11 January, 2016**

**It is located in the heart of Fortitude Valley on McLachlan Street.**

**The multi-level building has been completely refurbished to cater for babies through to school age children, including an approved Kindergarten Program. It is a unique beautiful centre.**

**Anyone who may be interested in enrolling or who would like to join the waiting list can do so on our website or call Cait the Manager for Fortitude Valley on 3252 1841.**





