Little Ducks Childcare Bardon Nov/Dec 2015

A note from your Centre Manager

Hello families!

We are very excited to have celebrated our six month anniversary of being open, it is wonderful to see the children and the educators growing and learning together. We have now added lots of extra adventures and learning opportunities to the children's days. Book club has commenced with our first orders arriving shortly. We have also opened our own Little Ducks Bardon borrowing library where the families can borrow from a changing selection of books to read at home with their families.

Extra curricular activities have also been chosen and started with Ginger Sport Soccer, Chess (Chessmates) and Ballet (Petite Ballerinas) commencing with 4th term.

Another focus at the moment is the building of relationships with the local schools , we progress through our transition to school program. Prep teachers from each of the schools the preschool children will be attending have been visiting the children here at Little Ducks to get to know them in a familiar environment. Emily our Early Childhood Teacher has also been attending meetings at the schools to learn about how we can best prepare the children for their next learning adventure.

Enrolments for 2016 are being confirmed at the moment. All of our rooms for children under 2years 6 months are full. We do however have limited vacancies in our Kindergarten Program and very limited vacancies in our 2.5-3.5 years room. You are welcome to contact the centre to enquire about these vacancies we are happy to answer questions and show you around.



We are also looking forward to celebrating our first Christmas with our children and families. We will celebrate with a carols by candlelight evening on Friday 28 November. Invitations and information will be sent out shortly.

Michele

"Educational excellence through the power of play based learn-

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Upcoming Events!

...November...



Tuesday 3rd - Melbourne Cup

9th-15th – National Recycling Week



Wednesday 11th - Remembrance day

- Diwali (festival of lights)



...December...

Thursday 3rd - International Day of People with disabilities

Monday 7th - Preschool graduation

Friday 12th - Centre Christmas Party

Friday 25th - Christmas Day (Centre closed

reopen Jan 4th)



Reminders

- **2016 reenrolment—**don't forget to sign the 2016 booking sheet to ensure your bookings are correct.
- **Spare clothes—**with the hotter weather it is important to ensure the children have spare clothes in their bags. Water and mud play is very popular in the warmer months but means that a change of clothes is often required.

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 May and June are:

- Access, Equity & enrolment policy
- Accident/Incident policy - severe
- Additional needs policy
- Behaviour management/ positive guidance policy
- Biting management policy and procedure
- Infection control policy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

November—Sophie L, Greta, Chloe G, Hez, EllaL, Henry, Bronte, William

December–Eli, Hayden, Henry, Isabella G, Violet



Nursery Natter!

Lead Educator—Amy Kovchenko

Assistant Educator—Jess Johnston



We have had a few changes to staff in the Nursery this month. Miss Emily has unfortunately had to leave us. She has left to continue her world adventure, her next stop being Asia. We wish her all the best in her future and hope to keep in touch. We will miss her very much!

Miss Amy has stepped up into the Lead Educator roll and we have a new Educator Miss Jess who we welcome with open arms. Miss Jess has her Certificate III in Childcare and has previously been a Nannie for a number of families. We look forward building strong relationships together and creating a fun and educational environment for the nursery children to explore.



This month we also welcomed four new families to our room! Welcome to Chloe G, Harriet, Xavier and Finn.

We have found that all of our new friends have enjoyed the singing we do in our room. So we have continued our Nursery Rhyme theme somewhat. We have added two new favourite songs to our list. ('Galumph went the little green frog' and 'Incy wincey spider') The children love to bop along, clap their hands and even do some actions to the songs when we sing them. Singing helps with speech and language development in children. It also can develop communication skills.



Our other big project this month has been exploring the garden and what is in it. We have done all sorts of activities to do with this theme, including; making gardens with fake flowers and strainers using our fine motor skills, flower print painting to explore different ways to be creative, and exploring our natural environment by going for a play on the grass in the big yard.



We also had a look at a butterfly flutter around in a large container to explore other living things around us. We looked after our butterfly by poking some holes in the top of the container and releasing it after we had a look.

Another exiting thing that has happened this month is that our entire Nursery class can all move around now with Mia and Alex (our youngest) now crawling! We have even had Faith, Max, Hez, Xavier, Theo and Eddie start to walk this month! It is very exciting seeing the children developing their gross motor skills and hit their milestones!



With the end of the year approaching some of our babies will be moving to the Toddler room in the new year. We are spending time with these children helping to learn the skills they will need for the new room such as sleeping on the mattresses and sitting at the table. The children are doing really well!!

We are also excited about Christmas approaching and planning lots of fun Christmas activities!

Amy and jess

Toddler Tales!

Lead Educator—Kitty Spencer
Assistant Educator—Jaimee Thompson

What a busy time we've had in the Toddler Room. The first 6 months have flown by and its wonderful to see how much our Toddlers have grown. We would like To welcome Jack, Charlie and Harvey who have come up from the Nursery. We have been focusing lots on our senses, especially touch. We've had lots of fun with activities as we've explored many different textures. The children have been enjoying our sensory wall, where they can feel many different textures from rough to bumpy to smooth. We have also had fun getting messy, playing with goop, water, slime made from soap flakes and playdough.

Animals have been a big favourite in the our room, and to continue with this we created or own barnyard, making lots of farm animals. The children are doing so well recognising the different animals and the sounds they make. We read the book "Old McDonald" and sang along as well. We also enjoyed singing "5 little Ducks".

Many of the Toddlers have seen the dinosaurs at the Museum so we have also enjoyed looking at dinosaurs. We make our own fossil prints using salt dough and pushing in dinosaur shapes as well as plants. They look great hanging in our room. Outside we had fun doing a "Dino-stomp". We also created a volcano for our dino wall, where everyone helped collage the volcano and we used our handprints to make the lava. There was lots of stomping and we think roaring like a dinosaur was the most fun.

The children are loving choosing stories to read, favourites at the moment are "Dear Zoo" and "Animal ABC:" Please feel free to bring any favourite books from home for your child to share with us. It is great to see so many children coming to sit and listen to a story. Also in group time we have continued doing lots of action songs and really enjoying doing "Galumph went the Little Green Frog". The children's language is really developing and its lovely to hear so many comments about the children's manners at home, and to hear lots of thankyou's in our room.

With the end of the year fast approaching, the next couple of months we will be starting Christmas craft and activities, How exciting We are looking forward to singing lots of great Christmas songs too! Please feel welcome to take your time and have a look around our room at all the wonderful art and activities your Toddlers have enjoyed doing.





Junior Kindy Jumble!

Lead Educator : Leighanne Clancy

Assistant Educator: Ashley Nicoll

Assistant Educator: Tatiana Hogan

It is hard to believe how fast the year is going – but what a wonderful time we have been having in the Junior Kindy room. We would like to welcome all of our new friends into the room – those whom have come up from the toddler room and also the children who are new to the centre – we have very much enjoyed getting to know each of our new little friends, and it has been wonderful watching all the friendships grow within our room.



Over the past few months we have been working a lot on toilet training the children – and are really happy with the progress most of the children are making in this task. Almost all of the children are now feeling confident in sitting on the toilet and many of them are actually using the toilet – and are so proud of themselves. We hope that now the weather is getting warmer we can progress further with this task and have many of the children in underpants before the end of the year.

We have also been working very hard over the past few weeks on making our garden in the playground – the children have been very excited about this. The children have really embraced this project – learning about how plants grow, how to look after the garden and taken responsibility to ensure that our garden is properly cared for. Now that the children are starting to see some progress in the garden – there is even more excitement as we explore each day to see what changes have occurred. We intend to continue to work on this project over the coming months – also making small plants for the room and for the children to take home as well. Next time you are in look at how the garden has grown!



The children have really started to extend on their gross motor skills – and show much more confidence as they engage in these experiences – especially on the obstacle course, where they are exploring different ways that they can manipulate the equipment and maintain their balance and coordination. The children are also enjoying many more group games – such as Duck Duck Goose, what's the time Mr. Wolf and Hide and seek – with the other children from the centre – so the children are developing a wider sense of belonging not just to our room – but to the centre as a whole.





Recently the children have shown an interest in exploring our Globe of the world, learning where we live now and about other countries around the world – so over the coming months we will be looking at the different countries that our families come from and learning more about their heritage – if anyone has any interesting objects, music, stories or any other items that the children may be interested in – please let us know.

We welcome any input from the families into our program – so if you have anything you would like to add – please do not hesitate to contact us – thanks.

Kindy Catch Up!

Kindy Lead Educator—Gayle McKeown

Kindy Assistant Educator—Melina McCormack

Kindy Assistant Educator—Alysia Pieburg

Welcome to Kindy Catch Up and updates of how busy we all have been.

We welcome lots of new children to our Kindy group, and say goodbye to our older children who are transitioning up to Preschool Room.

We have been promoting self help skills by encouraging all of our children to be responsible for their own belongings eg hats, water bottles, shoes being kept safely in our special lockers. Also encouraging routines and transitioning to the bathroom, washing our hands and sitting on the toilet. Some of our younger children are progressing so well with their toilet training. We are all very proud of you. No more nappies. Yay!!

We have been learning some great new songs, and the songs are also heling us with transition times—to the bathroom, packing up etc. Some of our songsa re: Bee, Bee Bumble bee, can you clap your name to me", "Ickle, Ockle Blue Bottle", (this is a friend song, and helps us transition to the toilet by choosing a new friend, to take to the bathroom to wash hands), "Sleeping Bunnies", "Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow " are our favourites.

We have also learnt Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes Rhyme and we extended this to tracing around one of the children's bodies. We then Discussed all of our body parts, heads, shoulders, knew elbows etc. Extending from this we created a picture of own little bodies and decorated them with collage and colouring to helping to develop our fine motor skills, as well as our knowledge of our body parts.

We have also recently had the opportunity to taste some freshly fruit and vegetables. One of the children brought in some delicious strawberries from their garden and Miss Melina's Dad gave us some tomatoes and paw paw from his garden. Miss Melina also brought in her favourite vegetable— some delicious purple carrots which were very funny to look at.

We have also been exploring our sensory touch with different textures and fine motor skills though our art—cotton bud painting, ball painting, butterfly painting, slime, playdough, colouring pasta, threading flowers and pipe cleaners in our colander and making pasta necklaces.

We have discovered we are wonderful artists, developing dispositions for learning such as curiosity, creativity, persistence and imagination, creating such unique and individual pieces.

We are looking forward to our very spooky Halloween Party on Friday with lots of parents also getting involved and contributing ideas, party food, costumes and lots of enthusiasm. We can't wait to see everyone dressed up!!

We are looking forward to the next exciting weeks.

Miss Melina, Miss GG and Miss Alysia.







Preschool Pride!

Early Childhood Teacher—Kindergarten Program—Emily Bates

Pre School Assistant—Tiana Stirrup

It has been a very busy time since our last newsletter and you may have noticed plenty of changes within our room! We have enjoyed welcoming many new children that have transitioned up from the Kindy Room and also a few new families to the Centre! This transition time is very beneficial for both the existing and new Preschool children . We have also welcomed Miss Tiana to our team!

We have a new locker tag system that you may or may not have noticed. At the beginning of the day, the children are required to find their locker tag in the basket on top of the lockers. Inside the basket are markers and as you sign in, the children can also sign in by tracing the letters on the locker tags and placing them inside their chosen locker. At the end of the day, the locker tag can be cleaned and placed back inside the basket. This means that the children are able to choose a different locker each day. We have noticed many items being left behind which does result in personal items being misplaced or lost. Please be aware that we do have a great amount of children in the room that attend across the week and you cannot save your locker for the entire week as it will most likely be used by another child on another day. We would not like to see any personal items lost or misplaced, so we do ask that on your child's last consecutive day that the locker is cleaned out entirely.

The new Preschool children have enjoyed being inspired by the skills of the existing children that are about to start Prep. The new Preschool children have been very eager to practice and develop their handwriting skills using a range of our resources that encourage spontaneous skill development, as well as approaching educators and asking to do writing activities.

We have combined group times that are a focus on the group's current interests and in October we focused on our own human bodies! We have enjoyed gaining knowledge of our organs and bones. We have included many creative and sensory experiences and also had opportunities for handwriting and labelling throughout these tasks. The children are beginning to display an interest in the weather as we have had some very unpredictable weather recently, so perhaps this will be our topic of focus for November! A highlight at the moment is our Halloween party! Thank you to all of our families that got a little competitive are planning some very spooky and creative snacks and treats to share amongst our Kindy and Preschool Rooms! We are even carving a pumpkin!

During October, we started to focus on 'school readiness' with the children that have confirmed their placements in Prep for 2016. We are focused on building a great amount of independence and responsibility to prepare them for the environment change. We are continually encouraging their social and emotional development as we believe that this is a priority before Prep.

If your child is going to Prep in 2016, we will be providing you with a 'transition to school' statement. We highly encourage that you do pass this along to your child's new teacher or school as this will allow them to grasp a greater sense of your child's personality, learning and development and they also often assist with class placements. We are also having many meetings with the local schools that we feed into for each child and you should be comforted in knowing that each school is making a strong effort to learn about your children so they can be prepared for them to start in 2016 and support them in every way possible.





We are looking forward to the remainder of the year and we are starting to (very sadly and excitedly) plan our first Little Ducks Bardon Graduation!

Kindest Regards, Emily and Tiana

Other News!!



Open Day was very successful, full of magic, face painting, Kindy Program Information and getting to know our new families. Thanks to Simon the Magician, Lions Sausage Sizzle and Ann from Ithaca State School for your contribution!

Six Months on—what do we look like?.....



Toddler room





Jnr Kindy room



Preschool room

Little Ducks Fortitude Valley!!

Construction on our 5th centre LITTLE DUCKS FORTITUDE VALLEY is well underway!!

We are located in the heart of Fortitude Valley on McLachlan Street and will open in January 2016.
The multi-level building has been completely refurbished to cater for babies through to school age children, including an approved Kindergarten Program.
Anyone 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.