

Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

November/December 2015

A note from your Centre Manager



Hello everyone!

Thank you for taking the time to read our last newsletter for 2015! I can't believe how fast this year has gone! I would like congratulate Miss Emma and her new husband Benson! Check out what a stunning Bride she was!

Thank you to all the Dad's who came in for our father's day afternoon tea. It was great to see so many dad's come in and enjoy the special father's day activities!

We have quite a few exciting events that will be happening over the next two months, such as our first ever art auction! This will be held here at our Centre on Friday 20th November, 5:30 pm - 7:00pm. We will have door prizes so don't be late! We also have our Preschool graduation which will be happening on Thursday 3rd December @ 6pm—don't forget to RSVP and bring lots of tissues! Last but not least, our Christmas party...This year we have decided to host an afternoon Christmas party in our Centre on Friday 9th December from 4:00pm— 5:30pm! Don't forget to check out the back pages for more information about our Art auction and Christmas party!

It has been such a busy year for us and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our Little Ducks Wilston families for letting us to be apart of your child/ren's learning journey. We are grateful for all the support you have offered us through out the year with our Centre fundraisers, parent contributions and the lovely feedback that we receive! It has been very rewarding to watch your children grow and develop!



On that note, I will wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in the new year! Bring on 2016!

Ata

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Upcoming Events!

November Events!



Tuesday 3rd - Melbourne Cup Day – The day that stops the nation! Celebrating in style

9-15th – National Recycling Week— Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! We will be learning about how we can keep Australia beautiful!



Wednesday 11th - Remembrance Day – Lest we forget! We will cover our centre in our poppy art and craft and dedicating one minute of silence for the soldiers who went to war to protect our Country!

Wednesday 11th – Diwali – the 'festival of lights' - Join us and wear a bright coloured shirt to celebrate the special festival of lights!

Thursday 26th – Puppet Show @ 10am — Come and join us for a special story time led by puppets!

December Events!



Thursday 3rd – Preschool Graduation—Please remember all Preschool children are to be here by 5.50pm to prepare for their big night! Don't forget your tissues!

Thursday 3rd – International Day of People with disabilities— A day where we promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being!



Friday 9th @ 4pm onwards – Children's Christmas party—Come and join us during the afternoon for some fun Christmas activities and take a photo with Santa!

Friday 25th - Christmas Day — Centre closed! We wish everyone a very merry Christmas!

Monday 28th December 2015 — Friday 1st January 2016 - Centre closed!

Reminders

- **Signing your child in and out is a legal requirement** as is signing off when your child is absent. This includes pre-arranged holidays and sick days. Please ensure you are catching up on these on your next attendance.
- **Show levy** - $6 per child show levy is charged each quarter to go toward the educational shows we have visit the centre. This will be the last show levy fee for 2015 which will be deducted on the 11th Nov.
- **Rebates** - are gradually running out if you have been attending 4-5 days and do not receive any child care benefit. Please be aware of this with your direct debits and let us know if you would like a statement.

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 September and October are:

- ANTI-BIAS & CULTURAL DIVERSITY POLICY
- CODE OF ETHICS
- DEATH OF A CHILD POLICY
- MEDICATION POLICY
- MEDICATION SHORT AND LONG TERM ADMINISTRATION
- NOSE WIPING PROCEDURE
- NUTRITION POLICY
- EDUCATORS AND STAFF SICKNESS POLICY

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Alexander.Y, Georgia.B, Isobel.P, Maeve.B, Lachlan and Riley.H, Elliot.P, George.T, Emily.B, Ella.D, Emma.H, Cooper.L, Jacob.N, Archie and Aria.R, Charlotte.R, Violet. A, Alice.B, Thomas.C, Robert.C,



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.

Office Spaces Available...

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 you know someone, which has a business that may fit in well with us please don't hesitate to **contact our office for more information on 3251 6060.**





Recipe of the month!

Speedy Rainbow Noodle Stir fry! (Serves 4)

- 500g beef rump (or any meat of your choice/ no meat) sliced into think strips
- 3 teaspoons crushed garlic
- 1 teaspoon crushed ginger
- 2 tablespoons salt reduced soy sauce
- 1 brown onion
- 2 carrots
- 100g beans
- 1 small head broccoli
- 1 red capsicum
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 packet hokkien noodles
- 1 tablespoon sweet soy sauce



Method:

1. Place beef strips in a bowl and stir through garlic, ginger and soy sauce. Allow to marinate for 10 minutes.
2. Chop onion, carrots, beans, broccoli and capsicum into bite-sized pieces and set aside ready to be stir-fried.
3. Heat oil on a medium to high heat in a fry pan
4. Add the marinated beef strips and cook through for three minutes. Remove from pan.
5. Add onion and cook until soft.
6. Add all other vegetables and cook for a few minutes until they begin to soften.
7. Pour boiling water over the noodles to soften them. Drain water and separate (be careful they may be hot).
8. Add the noodles to the vegetable mixture in the frypan to heat through for a few minutes.
9. Return the beef to the pan and add the sweet soy sauce and sweet chilli sauce.

Nursery Natter!

Nursery Newsletter

Welcome to the last edition of Nursery Natter for 2015! Can you believe that Christmas is only 8 weeks away? The end of the year is fast approaching and we can't wait to get into the fun and exciting Christmas activities at the beginning of December!

We have had a couple of movements in the room with two of our oldest children beginning some days up in the toddler room. This has made space for our new friend Sienna to join the Nursery family and she is settling in really well!

In our last newsletter we celebrated some exciting milestones that some of the children in the Nursery have been reaching. Since then Stephanie and Billy have started walking. They move around the room confidently and are able to initiate their own play experiences, extending their own learning and interests. George is also now sitting up all on his own! He is always on the move, crawling around the room on his hands and knees very confidently and quickly I might add. Every week we are hearing new words from all of our children, which is always very exciting when they demonstrate their well-developing language skills!



Over the last few months we have explored many different themes and topics of interest. We went 'Under the Sea' and also learnt about farm animals. We had the Ocean Life Education show come to Little Ducks and the children were able to explore and learn about life in the ocean. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to touch some of the sea animals as well such as the Sea Cucumber, starfish and many more. Oscar, Dylan and Alexander had a great time and showed a lot of interest in learning more about the Ocean Life so we thought we would use this interest to explore our senses and learn about colours.

When Oscar's family went on a camping trip to a friend's farm we thought this would be a great opportunity to incorporate this into our program. We added books and puzzles to the room and used our intentional teaching practices to teach the children about life on the farm and what noises all of the animals make.



We have celebrated some exciting center events over couple of months as well including Nutrition week, Loud shirt day and World food day. Thank you to everyone who participated in these events and donated to the respective charities. We really appreciate your help. Between now and Christmas we will be celebrating Melbourne Cup, National Recycling week and Remembrance Day. We will also be having a puppet show visit the center on the 26th of November at 10am, which all families are welcome to come along to if you child is not attending that day.

Also, between now and Christmas Jess and I will both be enjoying some annual leave. Jess is off to Thailand for a trekking holiday and will be away from 6th of November and will return to work on the 17th of November. Miss Kristin will also be finishing up work for the year on the 9th of December and will be jetting off for a family holiday to L.A and New York!

We have loved building bonds with the children and families this year and watching them grow and develop is so rewarding. Thank you for tuning into our last edition of the newsletter for the year, please feel free to talk to either of the room educators if you have any concerns or ideas for the room.

Kristin and Jess!

Toddler Tales!

Hello Toddler families!

How fast is this year going?! Less than 7 weeks until Santa visits! We've been busy bees in the toddler room lately. Firstly we would like to thank the fathers who were able to make it to our Father's Day Afternoon tea. We would also like to say a warm welcome to our new friends that have just joined our room. It is great to see the beautiful new relationships building.



At the end of August the children we had an awesome show called 'Ocean Life' visit us! Nathan (Show presenter) came took us on an underwater journey, teaching us about the sea creatures! We got to touch the different sea creatures while learning how to handle them properly. The children were a little hesitant at the start (as were a few educators) but soon everyone warmed up to the beautiful creatures! We explored textures through touch and language, using words such as, "sticky", "slimy" and "soft". This event was great as the children were able to get hands on with the creatures and learn more, as they were able to interact with them.



Recently we have been focussing on good nutrition as we celebrated 'National Nutrition Week' this month. The children are learning what food we eat every day and the food which we eat 'sometimes'. We extended on this interest by introducing a pizza making experience…the staff were just as excited as the children! We spoke about why we chose to use fresh toppings, extending language as we named the different vegetables and ingredients that we were using. The children were able to follow Miss Nicola to the kitchen to watch the pizzas go in the oven. Another learning experience from our National Nutrition week was our big fence painting that the children loved creating! We painted fruit together, while talking about our favourite choices…the children were able to recognise fruit that were familiar with by pointing to the pictures and naming them correctly! We had so much learning about good nutrition!

As the weather is warming up leading into Summer, we will be doing more water based activities to help us cool down. Recently we went 'swimming' in our tubs that we filled with water and placed on the ground! We thoroughly enjoyed splashing and cooling off with friends! Please make sure you are packing lots of spare clothes (or togs) for your children. We have been encouraging self-help skills quite a lot, encouraging the children to help dress themselves, put their shoes on and now help apply their sunscreen onto their bodies! Not to worry, the children are only encouraged to rub their sunscreen onto their arms and legs not their faces J

During November we will be celebrating 'National Recycling Week' (9th-15th Nov) where we will only be using recycled items for our art and crafts throughout the week, Remembrance Day (11th Nov) we will create art work in remembrance of the soldiers who have passed, and last but not least…we will be beginning to celebrate Christmas!! If you have anything at home that you don't need and we could recycle please let us know.

Thank you for reading our last newsletter for 2015…Let the fun times begin!

Miss Nicola & Miss Regina



Junior Kindy Jumble!

Bula families and welcome to the next chapter in the Junior Kindy news!
Firstly we would like to welcome our new friends from toddlers. Hugh, Oliver, Joshua P and Anja! We are happy to that they have settled into the room and are developing strong positive relationships with the educators and peers in the room!
Let's get on to what has been happening...
Throughout the last two months we have had a few centre events happen that sparked new interests amongst our children in the Junior Kindy! The first centre event was the Ocean Life Show! From that show it instigated a big interest in sea life and learning about the ocean. We extended the children's interest through art and crafts, such as creating our own sea wall where the children were offered the opportunity to create their own sea animals to be added to our 'sea wall'. We looked at the different animals that live in the ocean and how we can protect the ocean life, learning the different names of sea creatures and extending our language skills and knowledge. We also shared books and stories about our own beach/sea experiences. This helped the children to develop the confidence in speaking in front of others, turn taking and communication skills. Another centre even that we celebrated was Father's Day Afternoon Tea! We were so grateful that our dads came in and shared a special afternoon with us. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon tea just as much as we did.



Recently our current interests in the room are trains and snakes! The children have been exploring the trains shapes, sizes and colours. We have extended this interest by looking at the different types of trains from around the world! The children have been using their creative skills to create tracks using different mediums such as blocks, recycled tissue boxes and sand. It is so rewarding to be a part of their learning journey and witness the children developing their cognitive skills as they problem solve and manipulating different objects to create their own ideas.



Snakes! We are very grateful that we are receiving lots of parent feedback and input which is where the snake interest came from! Our friend Archie.G has a favourite book called 'Stanley mows the lawn' and in that book a snake is discovered! From this story we have been learning that it is not safe to touch snakes and exploring the many different types of snakes in Australia! The children have been extending their interest through different resources such as playdough – creating their own pretend snakes and through art and craft experiences which we plan to continue and see where the snake road takes us!



Over the next couple of months we will be beginning to explore recycling for Recycling week through the use of a variety of planned experiences. One of my favourite activities is our magnetic activity, this activity explores what we can and can't recycle! We have many centre events coming up over the next two months which includes the biggest and busiest time of the year... Christmas! We are beginning to plan activities such as art and crafts, learning Christmas songs in English and exploring other languages. We will have stories about Christmas and beginning to discuss what Christmas means to us, as well as preparing for our gifts and cards for friends and family. If you have any ideas that you would like your children to learn or create about any events coming up especially Christmas, please let us know J
Last but not least, as we head into the warmer season, Emma and I would like to kindly remind you to please make sure that there are summer clothes in your child's bag and that water bottles and hats are coming to childcare every day J If you have any suggestions for us or have something at home that might be useful to our explorations, then please bring them in to share.
Well that's all from us in Junior Kindy and I hope it gives you some insight into what your child is learning and developing with us!
Thank you for reading, Miss Savannah and Miss Emma.

Kindy Catch Up!

Talofa families (hello in Samoan),
Wow isn't this year going fast? Can you believe it's nearly Christmas?! Firstly, a big welcome to our new Kindy friends Aria, Archie .R, Samuel, Zara, Joshua and Elijah! We are so happy to have you join us! We look forward to getting to know you and your families.
We have been very busy in the Kindy room over the past few months learning about a variety of interesting and exciting things. Our most recent learning journey has been exploring outer space, which was inspired by Archie .Q when he brought in his craft planets that he had made at home. The children were really interested in discussing the planets so we began an exploration of the solar system. During our study we used books, posters and pictures to develop more knowledge about the different planets, sun, moon, rocket ships and astronauts. The children expressed their ideas and made meaning of this learning through a variety of wonderful space themed art and craft activities. I hope you have taken the time to have a look at our 'Space Zone' area and the amazing art the children have created. The children also explored their learning and understanding of outer space through a variety of dramatic play games. They created alien space helmets, astronaut helmets and a huge rocket ship out of the crazy fort connectors which were fantastic props for our space travel games. It was delightful to see the children express such curiosity, enthusiasm, creativity and imagination during our space study.



We were lucky enough to have Harold the giraffe from the Life Education show visit us on the 8th of October. During the interactive and entertaining show Harold educated the children on the importance of healthy lifestyles, including good nutrition, exercise and hygiene. The show was a great lead up to Nutrition week as it sparked the children's interest and enthusiasm in exploring healthy foods and sometimes foods. During nutrition week we explored healthy eating through a variety of different activities. A big thanks to all the parents who donated fruit, vegetables and herbs for our healthy taste testing and food stamper painting activities. Both activities were a big hit with the children. The children especially enjoyed using their sense of taste to explore the different yummy foods! Throughout our 'nutrition' exploration experiences, we also used toy foods and magazine pictures of foods to distinguish between 'healthy foods' and 'sometimes foods'. The children demonstrated an excellent understanding of the differences and could state why the sometimes foods are not good for us...we are very proud of our Kindy children! We continued extending this interest through the use of books, songs and dramatic play about healthy eating, the children participated in games where they 'cooked, served and ate' with healthy foods in our home corner area. These experiences fostered a strong sense of wellbeing for the children, where they developed increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition.



Most recently we have begun exploring the American celebration 'Halloween'. We will be learning all about Trick or Treating and exploring the different types of costumes for Halloween dress up day on the 30th of October. We will be doing a variety of fun Halloween activities such as green slime and making lots of 'spooky' art and craft. This exploration will educate the children on the diversities of culture and tradition around the world. Happy Halloween everyone!
The children have expressed their interest and enthusiasm in zoo animals after Miss Mary-Anne shared with the class her photos from her trip to Australia zoo. To extend on this interest of the children's we will be exploring the different types of zoo animals. We will use a variety of resources (books, posters and pictures) to learn about the animals and explore our discoveries in a variety of ways (art / craft, song, dramatic play etc). Through these planned teaching experiences we aim to teach the children about the different living things in our world and to become more connected with by having a better understanding on how we can care for and respect other living things. If your child has any zoo animal books at home, please feel free to bring them in for our study.
Until next time, Miss Mary-Anne, Miss Sawsan and Miss Amy.

Preschool Pride!

Bula Families!! Welcome to another addition of the preschool news. This year sure has flown by, can you believe that October is over already. Before we know it our Christmas trees will be up!

We have a few new faces in the preschool room this month, as most of you would already be aware; we have transitioned some of the Kindy children up to the preschool room, as we get ready to say good bye to our friends who will be heading to prep next year. Welcome to the preschool room Maya, Bess, Hayden, Violet and Jacob. Miss Vicki and Mel can't wait to work with you all and form some special friendships with you and your families.

Our pre-school friends have been busy these past few months, moving our interest from the Australian bush and animals, to showing lots of interest in bugs and insects, in particular the story of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". We have had some great learning opportunities, as the children explore different ways to show increasing respect for environments; including learning about the life cycle of the butterfly, setting up an investigation table with insects and books to explore, going on bug hunts in our garden and creating some excellent art pieces. We also recreated the story of The Hungry Caterpillar, which is displayed in our room. If you haven't already seen our giant caterpillar display, come check it out. The children are very proud of their work and love to show it off, this gives them a sense of confidence and pride in themselves. As well as exploring insects and bugs, the children have shown continued interest in our camping space. With a change around of our outdoor area the children have been given more space to explore our camping environment and what better way to go camping than to have a real tent! This has been something the children have loved exploring and we were able to have some great activities in this area, from using role play and interaction with our friends, camping out in the wilderness talking about past experiences and our favourite, toasting marshmallows around the camp fire and exchanging stories with our friends . This was lots of fun and continues to be, as the children stay connected with the world around them, sharing their





Preschool Pride!



Our calendar of events over the past couple of months has been super busy. From Super Hero Day, Australian National Flag Day, where the children made some awesome flags, Talk like a Pirate Day where we all dressed like pirates and our Father's Day afternoon tea was a huge success! Thanks to all the Dad's that made the effort to come in and enjoying the fun fishing, construction and shaving activities with your child. This is something they won't forget, and to hear them talking about it in the days after was really special. We have had a special visit from Life education and the children fell in love with Harold the Giraffe, learning all about nutrition and caring for our bodies. This is something we have been teaching the children all year, with focusing on learning outcome three and promoting way to stay healthy and safe, with good food choice, washing hands and physical activity. We have also been focusing on our lunch foods, identifying always and sometimes foods while including discussions around fruits and vegetables.
We would like to invite our preschool parents to come in and spend some time with the preschool children, sharing favourite experiences such as cooking, crafts, sports songs or story time. If you would like to come and spend some time in our room, please have a chat or send an email to Vicki and we can organise a date and time. We believe that partnerships with families and parents becoming involved and interested in their children development is greatly beneficial to the children's learning.

We look forward to the last two months of the year; with our preschool graduation evening, Little Ducks Christmas party and end of year celebrations!

If you ever have any questions, idea's, or just want to chat about the preschool room or your child, feel free to come in and chat to Mel or Vicki or send us an e-mail. We really appreciate the feedback we get regarding the room and our program and look forward to hearing more from you over the next couple of months.

Until next time….
Vicki & Mel

Little Ducks Childcare

WILSTON

invite you to their first ever

Mini Masterpiece

ART SHOW & AUCTION!

Friday 20th November
5:30 pm - 7:00pm
169 Newmarket Road Wilston

Auctions
individual children's art
children's group artworks
paintings by local artists & educators

◆raffles ◆door prizes ◆silent auctions
◆handmade jewellery ◆games ◆lucky dip

◆Children's artwork from $10◆Raffles $2◆Games $2

Bring a pocket full of coins
and join us for an evening full of fun!

Christmas Party @ Little Ducks Wilston 2015!

Come along and celebrate Christmas with us!

This year we will be throwing an afternoon Christmas party here in our Centre!

When: Friday 9th December from 4pm!

Who: All Little Ducks Wilston families

What will Little Ducks be providing:

- Sausage sizzle
- Drinks
- Christmas goody bag for all Little Ducks children
- Santa / Mr. Duck photo booth
- Christmas activities

If you have any questions please speak to Ata or Vicki…

