Little Ducks Childcare Wilston

September/October 2015

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the September/October newsletter edition!



Good-bye Winter and hello and Spring! I am sure you are all as happy as we are to farewell Winter! Now that the weather is starting to warm up, can you please make sure you are packing appropriate clothing for spare clothes and your child has a wide brimmed sun smart hat to wear while playing outside.

Recently we celebrated dental health week throughout the centre, teaching the children healthy hygiene practices! We were very fortunate to have Dentist, Chris Barker who is also a centre dad, make time to come in and talk to us about how to keep our teeth healthy! Thank you Chris for making the time to come in and share your expertise and resources with us!

I would also like to thank everyone who supported our Jeans for Genes day fundraiser!! We raised $255 on our fundraiser page , very close to our $300 goal! It was great to see parents and children also supporting this great cause by wearing jeans with us and purchasing the 'jeans for Genes day' gifts in the foyer...Thank you for your support!



We look forward to holding our annual Father's day afternoon tea on Friday 4th September—please feel free to come in and share the afternoon with your child.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and as always, if you have any queries or would like to have a chat with me please don't hesitate to let me know.

Ata...

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

...September...

Tuesday 1st - Superhero Dress up day.



Wednesday 2nd – National ECE day.

Thursday 3rd - Australian National Flag Day – celebrate the red white and blue flag that makes us all proud Australians.

Friday 4th - Father's Day Afternoon Tea

Saturday 5th – Little Ducks Wilston Open Day.

Sunday 6th – Father's Day leading up to this day we will be making gifts for the fathers in our lives



Monday 7th – Brazil's Independence Day

Saturday 19th- International 'Talk like a Pirate" day – Come along on Friday 18th ready to talk like a pirate - let's dress up too!

Monday 21st – International Day of Peace

...October...



Thursday 1st – China's National Day.

Monday 5th Labour Day – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Thursday 8th – Life education show – 9 &10am

Friday 16th – World Food Day

Friday 16th – Loud Shirt Day



12th -18th - National Nutrition Week

26-30th – Children's Week

Friday 30th – National Bandana Day

Saturday 31st - Halloween – dress up with us on Friday 30th and enjoy this traditionally Celtic celebration!

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.

What's on ...

...at the Planetarium?

Sunday 1130am ... Tycho to the Moon!

Saturday 1130am ... Secret of the Cardboard Rocket!

The Planetarium offers a number of educational shows for all age groups (including adults!). These two are aimed at 3 to 6 year olds, however check their website for more details.

http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/arts-culture/sir-thomas-brisbane-planetarium

Reminders

- Wilston Open Day! We are having an open day on Saturday 5th September! Feel free to come along and see the barnyard babies and Jasmine the magician!
- Our centre events reminders are on all room doors—don't forget to check these signs for the centre events that are coming up in our centre.
- Signing your children in and out. Please make sure you are signing your

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:

- PETS ON PREMISES POLICY
- ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLAND CULTURE AWARENESS POLICY
- CONTINUITY OF CARE POLICY
- ORIENTATION POLICY—FAMILIES
- ORIENTATION POLICY - EDUCATORS AND STAFF
- PROGRAMMING POLICY
- HARMFUL PLANTS POLICY & PROCEDURE
- ROBBERY POLICY
- SUN PROTECTION AND CLOTHING POLICY
- TEMPERATURE POLICY
- SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT POLICY

You can find copies of these policies available in the foyer in the policy review folder along with feedback Forms. We welcome any feedback you may have.

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Serena.C, James.L, Zahlia.M,

Daniel.P,

Emmett.B, Maya.C, Manaia.F, Bess.M,

Lucinda.S, Edgar.W, George.B, Zara.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.**





Assessment and Rating Process

On another note, there are some exciting times ahead for our centre... Recently we received our letter of notification stating that it is now our turn to go through the Assessment and Rating process. For those of you who are not familiar with what this means, services are assessed against the National Quality Standard (NQS) and given one of five ratings. The five ratings are 1. Excellence Rating (awarded by ACECQA) 2. Exceeding National Quality Standard 3. Meeting National Quality Standard 4. Working Towards National Quality Standard and 5. Significant Improvement Required. You can sight our display of the National Quality Framework Quality Areas in the office foyer and our Quality Improvement Plan and we invite you to provide us with feedback at any time.
Your feedback isn't only welcome on our Quality Improvement Plan, you are welcome to give any type of feedback at any time. There is a suggestion box in the foyer, or simply let us know. We love your input!

Sustainability Corner

10 Ways to Reduce your Family Footprint

- Mend rather than replace
- Turn your heating/cooling down 1 degree
- Bake rather than buy
- Use energy saving light bulbs
- Walk, ride or use public transport when you can
- Turn appliances off at the switch
- Compost your kitchen scraps
- Use reusable bags
- Use both sides of every piece of paper
- Use screens less



Nursery Natter!

Welcome to another edition of Nursery Natter!



Can you believe it's newsletter time again already?! So much has happened over the last two months and I can't wait to share our exciting adventures with you all. So grab a 'cuppa', sit down and relax while your enjoy reading out latest newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to thank Loren for all the hard work she has done in the Nursery since the beginning of the year. The children do miss her but we are very grateful that we still get to see her everyday around the centre. I would also like to send out a big WELCOME to Miss Jess who has recently joined the Nursery family and has become a great addition to our room. It is great to see that we have such a great support network within the Nursery with the parents being so welcoming, supportive and patient. I would like to thank you all for that!

There have been many exciting centre events over the past few months where the Nursery children have had a great time participating in and being apart of the wider community. We invited Tom.B's dad, Chris, who is a dentist, to come in during Dental Health Week to talk to us about the importance of looking after out teeth and how we look after our teeth. We also enjoyed a multi-cultural show during NAIDOC week, which was great fun. Alex, Archie, Alexander, Billy and Elsie all came along and had a great time celebrating many cultures from around the world including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We loved celebrating this through song and dance and everyone got really involved. It was also great to see everyone becoming involved in Jeans for Genes day! All the babies and educators wore their Jeans and we would love to thank you all for your participation and generous donations.





Nursery Natter!

You will also notice that we have added a new space to the room. This is our Belonging, Being and Becoming wall. This is designed for the children to recognise themselves, their peers and their educators and develop a sense of identity and belonging in their learning environment. We would love to have your input on this so please feel free to bring in any family photos, photos of your child doing what they love, pets, holidays etc.

We are also reaching milestones left, right and center. Stephanie, Billy and Tom.B are all crawling very confidently around the room and are also using equipment and furniture to pull themselves up to a standing position and move around the room. We were very excited when Katie came back from her holiday in the UK to see her walking around very confidently displaying balance and coordination. It won't be long before Hugo, Ari and George are all sitting up on their own unassisted, we are already seeing great balance from them.

The older children in the room are becoming effective communicators by using words to communicate and interact with their educators and peers. We use books, flashcards, pictures and verbal prompts to encourage words throughout the day.

Over the next few months we have some very exciting things happening such as Father's Day (afternoon tea 4th September), International "Talk like a pirate" Day (dress up Friday 18th September), Life education show, World Food Day, Loud Shirt Day, Children's week and Halloween.

Thank you once again for tuning into out Nursery newsletter. Like always, if you have any ideas, questions or suggestions please feel free some come and chat to one of the room educators. Until next time, thanks for reading!

Kristin and Jess :)



Toddler Tales!

Hello again Toddlers Families. We've had a wonderful month in the toddler room with lots of exciting things to report about and many more new interests that have been discovered. First of all we would like to say thank you to all of our families for playing an active role in your child's learning this month your feedback and willing to get involved with our program has been so helpful in allowing us to provide an enriching learning experience for the children in the toddler room.

As mentioned last month the children have continued to create their own learning resources with many new toddler illustrated books being seen on our bookshelf. We have also started to turn some of the toddler experiences with families into resources for the children to have a little slice of home at day care. This has gone wonderfully and the children have responded so well to being able to relate to the resources they are using on a daily basis.

This month in the room our main focus has been helping the toddlers to take control of their learning environment by providing more self-help area's where the children can contribute and make more choices about their learning.



We have introduced an art access area to the room where the children are enjoying the access to art materials whenever they choose. This has also prompted us to help the toddlers learn about taking care of our environments, by packing away the materials we are using and getting more involved in daily activities that promote respect for our environment.

In the toddler room we have been encouraging the children to have more influence about what their room looks like and its function. So the toddlers are being encouraged to display art where they please and move furniture and toys where they like. This is helping the toddlers to be in a play space that reflects them as people and learn about simple health and safety strategies. The children have been verbally and non-verbally indicating to their educators where they like to play with certain toys in what areas and the environment has been adjusted to suit these preferences.



To help the children have ownerships of their environment and to incorporate our wonderful diverse cultures in the toddler room we have created an area to celebrate our heritage. The children have been learning about their friends and their own place in the world through connecting with their families and cultural heritage. We have had many great discussions about where our friends come from and the appearance of the different flags that are displayed in the room. We thank you all for sharing with us information about your family's cultural heritage and allowing us to celebrate this diversity in the room.

Toddler Tales!



The children this month have been exploring the older playground. This has been part of an intentional teaching concept where the aim is to help the toddlers become familiar with this environment in preparation for when they are getting to a junior kindy age and will start transitioning to the older play ground. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this experience and it has become part of our weekly routine to visit the older playground when the big children are in their classrooms. Visiting the older yard has been teaching the toddlers resilience by incorporating some routine changes into our weekly program.
Coming up in the toddler room we are going to be continuing to encourage self-help skills and language development through our environments. All of the children are getting to a stage where they are craving the ability to complete tasks for themselves and to cater to the interests, abilities and skills we will be using our environment as a teaching tool.
We can't wait to get creative in the next month and fill up our art gallery with lots of different styles of art creations by the toddler children. Please share with us your thoughts on our ever changing learning environment we love your feedback and involvement in the learning journeys of the toddler children.

That's all for now...stay informed with what your children are exploring through their portfolios and our room planning journal in tour toddler room parent area.

Thank you for reading out Toddler Tales...Miss Dana and Miss Nicola!



Junior Kindy Jumble!

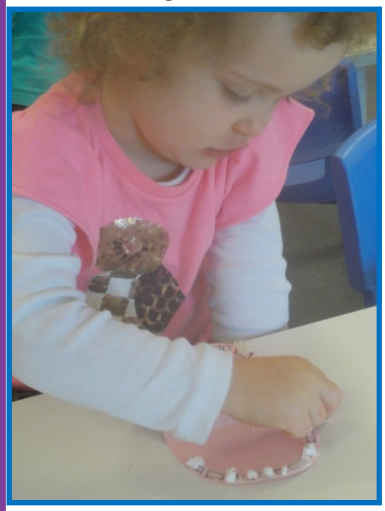
Namaste families and welcome to my first newsletter as educator in the Junior Kindy room, time really does fly as it's almost the end of August.

My name is Savannah and I am the new Lead Educator in the Junior Kindy room. Miss Emma and the children have made me feel so welcome and I would also like to thank all the Junior Kindy parents for being so welcoming as well. Recently we have welcomed Amber and Alfie into our room and they have adjusted quite well into their new surroundings! We look forward to working together more and seeing where the rest of the year takes us.

Let's get on to what has been happening…



Over the last few weeks we have been exploring a number of interests. First one was the development of our Gross Motor Skills, this started out from a ball games experience, where we practiced our hand eye coordination skills. From this we set up an obstacle course in the room to ensure the children had the opportunity to explore their physical strengths indoors as much as do outside in the yard too. They exploring climbing on the A-frame and balancing on beams, walking over the bridge and jumping through hoops, the children worked well together to achieve goals, cheering on friends and helping them as they struggles. This was very rewarding to see! From here we continued exploring our gross motor experiences outside, balancing on tyres and hanging from the monkey bars. It has been so rewarding to contribute great to see the continuing development of the children.



Our next interest stemmed from Dental Health Week, the children had a visit from Dr Chris Barker (George B's dad) who gave us masks and gloves and showed us how to brush our teeth. From here we started to explore occupations and learn about our self-identity. We asked parents for input about their occupations so we could incorporate this into our play and so far we have been dentists, doctors, hairdressers and teachers.

Junior Kindy Jumble!



As hairdressers, we practiced brushing our hair and putting it up in hair ties, we even created a salon where we could go and get our hair done. This helped the children understand the need of personal care and something that they could do independently. As teachers we placed posters up on our wall about shapes, colours, numbers and a world map. We are learning about where we come from and different languages around the world. This identity interest is still ongoing and constantly changing as we plan for further occupations.

Our current interest and main focus is space, this developed from a video of a rocket ship taking off and quickly expanded to the entire solar system. We are learning songs about space and the planets, the children really enjoy singing our new Martian song that we made some Martian helmets and made a flying saucer. The children thought this was so much fun. We have also been creating a lot of sensory experiences regarding space, this includes paper mache for planets, moon dust and Martian goop. The children love these sensory experiences and really benefit from playing together as a whole group. We are currently learning about the planet Earth and that we live on Earth! These conversations with the children are very interesting and quite funny at times too! Through discussions we have been learning about the objects that are in our sky, such as the sun, moon, stars, clouds and introducing star constellations too. We look forward to extending this interest with the children and exploring what new interests the children bring up from learning about space.



Well that's all from us in Junior Kindy and I hope it gives you some insight into the experiences we have been doing. We welcome any parent input with open arms and great big smiles, so please feel free to have a chat to us or leave us notes in our parent communication book!

Thank you, Miss Savannah and Miss Emma.

Kindy Catch Up!

Kia Ora families (hello in Maori),



Can you believe how fast this year is going? Before we know it, it will be Christmas! We have been having such a wonderful time in the Kindy room this year!
I would like to thank Leo and Torben for sharing their strong interest in trains with the class! This interest inspired us to do a train theme exploration where we created many exciting train theme activities. These included making trains, stations and tracks out of recycled items such as cardboard boxes and paddle pop sticks. The children made train collages and Miss Mary-Anne made for the children pretend go cards and go card machines for train role play games. The children have been so enthusiastic about all of these activities. The children are still using our recycled craft for games and exploring dramatic play with the go cards. Please let us know if your child has a specific interest which you would like us to explore at kindy!
We have recently begun a learning exploration of families, culture and heritage. I hope you have taken time to have a look at our family photos wall and Kindy family's world map? Thanks to everyone that has brought in a family photo and who have contributed to our world map by informing us of what countries your families are from and what countries your families have visited. If you haven't supplied your photo or this information yet, please do so, so your child can learn about and share their culture and heritage with the class. To further explore this topic, we are asking families to please bring in any pictures, photos, books, music etc. relating the countries your families are from or the countries you have visited. We will be creating booklets for the children (which they can access at any time) with these pictures in them.



Kindy Catch Up!

This study of cultures and heritage will instil a strong sense of identity and teach the children to respond to diversity with respect.

Our other most recent area of exploration is our Sea Creature / Ocean life study. This was inspired by a beautiful fish drawing Ella made in class one day. Lots of children have expressed their interest in sea creatures so we decided to extend on this by creating our ocean wall. We have begun creating some beautiful sea creature art / craft to decorate our ocean wall and shelves. We've been having some wonderful discussions about oceans and sea creatures, reading lots of books and singing lots of songs on the topic. If your child has any sea creature books or pictures at home please bring them in to contribute to our study!

A big thanks to Miss Nabia for exploring sustainability with the Kindy children by creating a worm farm at Little Ducks. The children have been very enthusiastic to put their food scraps in the worm farm every day to feed our pet worms! We've been having lots of discussions and reading lots of books to educate the children about reducing waste and caring for our world. This experience is teaching the children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

We are sad to see Miss Sandy leave us as she is retiring from Tuesday 25th of August onwards. She has been such a wonderful educator at Little Ducks that we will all miss very much. We wish you all the best Miss Sandy!



Until next time,

Miss Mary-Anne, Miss Sawsan, and Miss Amy.

Preschool Pride!

Bon jour families!! Welcome to another addition of the preschool catch up.
Can you believe that September is upon us already! As our group of children expands, this month we have welcomed two new friends to the preschool room. Serena and Daniel have been a great addition to an already awesome group of children and are already settling well into their new surroundings. We look forward to working with and building some great friendships.
As most of you would have seen in and around the room our interest has led us away from Crabs and into the world around us; which has also lead us towards Australia and the Australian bush. As we begin to explore diversity, we have been looking at the different cultures and family back grounds in our room. What a wonderful opportunity to be able to share the interesting countries and cultures that our preschool families belong to. Rodrigo's family are from Peru, and in celebrating Peru's National Day we were able to learn more about their culture and have been very lucky that Rodrigo's family sent along some special Peruvian toys, blanket, money and information to help us learn more about their culture. We have looked at books, pictures of different landmarks in various countries, and explored the world map and flags from different countries. Mel and Vicki would like to say thank you to all the families that have shared special information about your backgrounds and cultures, we have been using this information to help shape our daily program and discussions. Take the time to come in and have a look around the pre-school room… you will see the world map and how widespread our families and cultures are, you might also find some hidden books, pictures, counting numbers and words in different languages.





From our interest in countries, the children have just begun to talk about our very own backyard, the Australian Bush. This interest began from reading some of our Aboriginal tales… interesting fact, did you know that two of our families have Aboriginal backgrounds. Over the coming weeks we will be looking at different animals of Australia and creating some amazing art work that will be proudly displayed in our room as we earn more about the amazing animals in Australia, starting with our tree of life that is beginning to take shape on the wall.
The pre-schoolers have been busy this past few months celebrating pyjama day, with all the children and staff coming dressed in the best pyjamas and eating popcorn and watching some of our favourite movies in the 'preschool cinema'. We also celebrated Jeans for Genes Day and were lucky enough to raise some much needed money for their foundation with the gold coins donated from all the families. We also did some wonderful activities for the national days of Peru, Canada, Switzerland and France celebrating Bastille Day. We celebrated NAIDOC week, with the children learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Taking the time to talk about and celebrate various celebrations from around the word is a great way to show respect as we explore different cultures and heritages and the world around us.

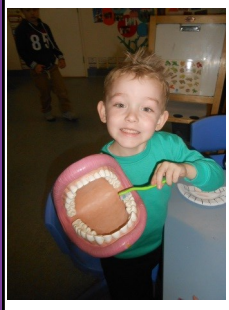
Preschool Pride!



An update about our garden…
All our hard work watering, weeding and caring for our plants is beginning to pay off! We are starting to see our wild flowers blossom with some wonderful and unusual flowers appearing daily. Come check them out next time you drop off or pick your children up. The children have shown a sense of pride and achievement in looking after our flowers so well and would love to show them off! We are also looking forward to using some of the herbs at the front of the garden in some cooking experiences, if you know of any great recipes with mint, basil or parsley let us know!



We have made some great changes around the pre-school room, relocating our construction corner to our courtyard. This has given the children more space to be creative with the different construction materials, using the tools and safety vests in their construction role-play. This space has been a huge hit with the pre-schoolers, and they have especially enjoyed being able to leave their construction to continue at a later time with special signs to show that they would be back to keep working and to please not touch. Mel and Vicki have been busy creating areas of the room that reflect the children's interest and we have noticed a continued interest in the baby dolls. So we have created a nursery in our home corner with baby dolls, blankets and nappies. The children have made good use of this area and practice caring for dolls, feeding them in the high chair and dressing them in the dolls clothes. This gives the children a sense of responsibility, something they pride themselves on when helping out at home and at day care.



Busy, busy, busy! We have also been focusing on learning outcome three: children have a strong sense of wellbeing. Exploring ways to manage personal hygiene with discussions on why we wash our hands. We discussed how to wash our hands correctly and made slime with 'germs' hidden inside. The children loved getting their hands dirty and were able to demonstrate what they have learnt and put into practice, washing their hands before meals time and after messy activities. We were also lucky to have George's dad from Junior kindy, come and share with us some ways to look after our teeth. As well as looking after our teeth, we have been learning about what food is good for our bodies and foods that make us healthy and strong. Some of our fun activities involved taste testing new fruits and creating vegetable funny faces. What a great way to promote healthy food choices!
In September we will be holding meetings for the parents of the children moving on to school next year, who wish to speak with Vicki about their child's progression to school. Keep an eye out for an e-mail with date for these meetings.
If you ever have any questions, idea's, or just want to chat about the pre-school 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. Vicki & Mel

Centre Events

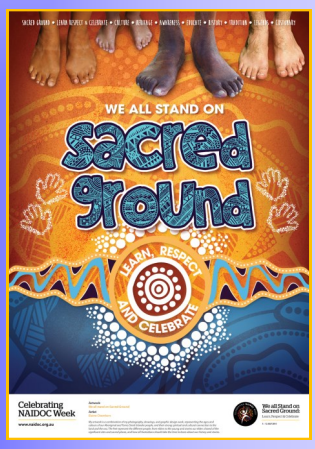
NAIDOC WEEK

06/07/15 –12/07/15









Book Week!

22/08/15— 28/08/15







...Jeans for Genes Day 2015 @ Little Ducks...









Thank you for supporting Jeans for Genes day with us!