Little Ducks Childcare Annerley

July/August 2016

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the July/August edition.
As you would already know the centre has been a buzz of activity with lots of things happening and I'm sure you have been receiving regular feedback from the children in regards to their time here each day.
We have had lots of visitors coming through from the fire brigade to the guy with all the drums—as the children have been saying! We acknowledged Sorry Day, Mabo Day and Reconciliation week and the children are practicing the acknowledgement every morning before going inside. The children have really engaged in these experiences which reflects in their conversations and play which is great to see.
I thought I'd share with you a little of what we are currently working on as a centre as part of our continual improvement process. We are currently working on QA7— Leadership and Management services and QA 4— staffing arrangements. Part of this process is to continually look at our practices and assess where we feel we are currently sitting within the National Quality Standards based on feedback from Families, Educators, management and the wider community and what we might need improvement on, then developing an action plan to assist in meeting these areas. Part of this process is to review the centre philosophy and collect feedback from families and Educators on whether we need to make changes to ensure that it reflects this centre and the Annerley community. I sent out a copy of our Centre Philosophy for feedback and would love to hear what you think.



I would like to also remind everyone that we are still collecting blankets for the homeless, I have delivered one load already, so if you have an old blankets lying around at home that you don't use please bring it in so that it can go to someone in need—spread the word and ask your friends and families as well as every little bit helps.
Cheers for now,
Mel.

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Kindergarten Approved Program — Queensland Government

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Upcoming Events!

July Events

Friday 1st July– Canada Day
Celebrate with our Canadian families and let's learn more about this lovely country

Monday 4th—America's Independence Day
America's big celebration today, let's celebrate alongside them.



Monday 4th—10th—NAIDOC Week
This week we celebrated the history, culture and achievements of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Thursday 14th—Bastille Day
The French National Day



Wednesday 20th—PJ Day
No need to get dressed today, come along in your PJ's for a cosy, chilled out day.

Tuesday 26th—Tooth Fairy's on Tour
Learn about our important teeth visit from the tooth fairy 10.30am



Upcoming Events!

August Events!

Monday 1st— Ngutana-Lui Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre
The children will learn how to play the didgeridoo, listen to dream times stories and dance. Please feel free to come along for the morning to experience this with the children.—start time will be 9:45am

Monday 1st—5th—Dental Health Week
Learn all about how to take care of our amazing mouths and teeth.

Wednesday 3rd—Brett Campbell music & dance show
Come along for some fun at 10:30am for our special music show.

Wednesday 10th – Ekka PUBLIC HOLIDAY



Monday 22nd - 26th - Book Week
Bring along your favourite story to share and dress up as your favourite book character on **Thursday 25th.**
The Book Week theme this year is Australia: **Story Country**

Friday 26th - Daffodil Day
Wear your brightest yellow today and donate a gold coin for the Cancer Council.





Reminders

General reminders

- Make sure that the children have some warm clothes in their bags as it's starting to cool down very quickly now in the afternoons.
- Children's toys need to remain at home and not brought to the centre as this can become very distressing for children especially when they either lose these items, they break or another child wants to have a turn—so to avoid any unnecessary heart ache please let them at home.
- Chocolate fundraiser—we need help to sell the last few boxes so if you can help please see one of the Educators and they will help you out.
- Parent information session on Children's Behaviour delivered by the Phoenix group is Thursday 14th July from 5pm—6pm

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

July and August are:

- Centre Philosophy
- Access, equity & enrolment Policy
- Allergy Policy
- Anti-Bias & Cultural Diversity Policy
- Authorised person who arrive in an unfit state to collect children Policy

Centre Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jai, Santiago, Dylan, Kryn, Arkley, Zoe, Amelia, Dakota, Hetty, Katherine, Louise Lewis, Eli, Torah, Dominic. Z, Benjamin, Emmeline, Simon, Theodore, Nicolai and Jasper



Recipe of the month!

Cauliflower Mac & Cheese

Ingredients

- 200g (1 1/3 cups) dried macaroni pasta, plain or wholemeal
- 400g cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 500ml (2 cups) reduced-fat milk
- 40g (1/2 cup) parmesan, finely grated
- 35g (1/3 cup) low-fat vintage cheddar, coarsely grated
- 80g (1/2 cup) frozen peas
- 1/2 bunch fresh continental parsley, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons wholegrain or Dijon mustard
- 2 small garlic cloves, crushed
- 60g fresh wholemeal breadcrumbs



Method:

Step 1

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan forced. Cook the pasta in a saucepan of boiling salted water, following packet directions, adding the cauliflower for the last 4 minutes of cooking time, until al dente. Drain and transfer to a large bowl.

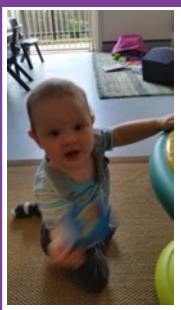
Step 2

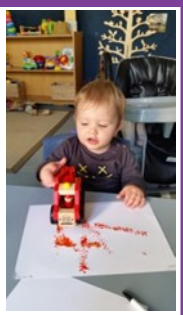
Heat 1 1/2 tbs of the oil in a saucepan over low heat. Add the flour. Cook, stirring, for 1-2 minutes or until mixture bubbles. Gradually stir in the milk, whisking constantly until smooth. Bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring constantly, for 4-5 minutes or until the sauce thickens. Reserve 1 tbs of parmesan. Stir in the remaining parmesan. Stir in the cheddar, peas, parsley, mustard and garlic. Season with pepper. Stir sauce through pasta mixture. Divide mixture among four 375ml (1 1⁄2 cup) ovenproof dishes.

Step 3

Combine the breadcrumbs, remaining oil and reserved parmesan in a bowl. Scatter over the dish. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until top is golden and crisp.

Nursery Natter!





Hello from all of our nursery friends! What a great couple of months we have had in the nursery room! A great big welcome to our new friends Lewis and Oliver who have started in our room with the latest transition, the boys are settling in well and seem to be enjoying their time in their new play environment!

Our nursery friends have been reaching many major and exciting milestones over the past couple of months including gaining muscles to pull themselves up to stand while holding onto something. Showing great balance and self confidence to standing unassisted, and even having great confidence to start walking in the room! Each of the children seem very keen to reach these milestones and with the support and assistance, they are each progressing fantastically each week!



A couple of weeks ago we had the Firemen and Fire truck here at Little Ducks for a visit! Our nursery children were able to go out into the big yard to meet some of the firemen. The children were able to watch one of the firemen squirt water out of the big hose, which made a big puddle for the older children to jump around in! Our friends were even given the opportunity to sit in the front seat of the fire truck which was very exciting! The children had a great time looking around inside of the fire truck and holding tight onto the steering wheel! From this exciting experience we extended the children's knowledge including hearing emergency sounds and creating painting with toy fire trucks!

With our nursery friends getting a little older and more confident within the room, we decided to create sections in the room for them to explore. One of the favourite areas is home corner! Over the past two months the children have been quite interested in the plastic food and kitchen materials! To extend on the children's interests in the area we created different experiences including exploring real fruit and vegetables where the children were taste testing them! and also creating painting with the fruit and vegetables! We also added kitchen utensils including pots and pans and different spatulas which our friends seem to love making music with!





We recently celebrated a couple of indigenous Australian annual events in the nursery room including national sorry day, recreational week and also Mabo day! During the past couple of weeks we have been engaging in experiences surrounding the aboriginal and Torres Strait people of our land. In the nursery we created different experiences each day where the children liked interacting in musical experiences listening to aboriginal music and also playing with aboriginal instruments, egg shaker and wooden drums! We also created art activities with the children where they enjoyed created artworks with crayons, stick to paint in aboriginal and Torres Strait islander colours and also doing a group painting on paper bark!

Until Next time, Miss Alana and Miss Madisson

Toddler 1!

Toddler One Tales

What a fun couple of months we have had in the Toddler one room, we have created different areas within the room for the children to explore such as the Art studio and our home corner area!



Over the past couple of weeks our toddlers have been learning about their colours, shapes and numbers, the children have been showing confidence in their learning, with us also having positive feedback from our parents about what they are learning here at Little Ducks, We have extended on the children's interest by having different coloured shapes for the children to explore, they are starting to recognise the name of each colour and matching it to the correct colour, they are also very proud of themselves with big cheeky smiles on their faces as they count on their fingers and applaud themselves at the end with a big "hooray"!

We have also had some special events happen in the last couple of weeks we had a visit from our local police station and fire station the children thoroughly enjoyed their visit they were able to sit in the police car and sit in the front seat of the fire truck, some of our toddlers enjoyed holding the fire hose and watering the garden and some of their toddler friends!





We also celebrated Sorry Day, Reconciliation week and Mabo day the children learnt about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders culture through activities and materials! We also had a special visitor David from Drums Beats he got the children to collect a drum and start banging and tapping it to create their own music!

Until next time!
Miss Brooke, Miss Erin and Miss Bec

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Toddler 2!

Hello Toddler Two families…





The room is reflecting the needs and interest of the children, activities and learning experiences of individual children are been integrated into our room.
We have been working hard on colours and counting and will continue to focus on this, set up a nature area, had a wonderful time exploring caterpillars and their transformation to a butterfly, home area became a nursery with the children caring for babies (bottle feeding and nappy changing), as well as role play dress ups (ballerina and fireman), personal hygiene teeth brushing and hand washing, encouraging recycling as you may see from our recycling collages on the wall, and along with a variety of cooking experiences.



We have been talking lots about what happens when we bite or hit our friends, we will continue to work on these basic daily life skills in teaching children about personal space and how to be a good friend.
Thanks for all the parent input for our program as we follow up with learning experiences for your child.





Thanks Miss Janelle and Miss Vicky



Junior Kindy!

What a wonderful few last weeks have had in the junior kindy room! We have been so busy with various centre events happening such as the fire truck visit, the drum beats and we are currently organising an Indigenous elder to come to the centre for a visit. All of these exciting things have led us to many exciting things within the room! Following on from the drum beats visit the children have thoroughly been investigating the musical instruments, singing and dancing! Following the fire truck visit the children have been so intrigued and interested in the trucks and diggers that are around the centre.



We have also started to create our little "theme" of the room which is 'under the sea'! You will see all of the children's creations and conversations that we have been having down in the art studio as they occur. We have also had the pleasure of spending a few group times in the kindergarten room with the interactive white board and watching some under the sea documentaries and all of the children have loved watching the mysterious and wonderful creatures that live beneath the surface. We are going to be reading stories about the different creatures and learning about them in depth over the following weeks, hopefully this sparks some conversations around the house and you too can join in with discussing the sea life with your children. The children have also started taking interest in letters and recognising their names, so as an extension of their learning from these activities we have started to dot out the first letter of their name and allow them to practice it if they please. They have shown great interest in concentrating and trying really hard to get the letters right! Well done junior kindy! If the children do not wish to participate we do not push for this to happen, we allow the children to choose if they would like to do this or not.





Talking about choice, lately in the junior kindy room you may have noticed that the children may be eating morning and afternoon tea at different times to their class mates. This is something that we have introduced to help children make their own decisions and have a choice, whilst the junior kindy children have a daily routine in place, this is something that we offer to the children to help with their independence and decision making. This also comes along with the children choosing their own lockers of a morning so this is why we have removed the name tags. Overall, the last few weeks have surely been busy but no doubt amazing and we are looking forward to the coming months of fun, learning and interactions, but for now that is all and remember if you have questions, concerns or would just like to have a chat please feel free to come and see one of us within the room.

Miss Leighanne, Miss Bree, Miss Bec and Miss Anna.

Senior Kindy!

Hello Everyone!

Well Term 3 has certainly crept on us pretty quickly. The Sr. Kindy children have had a pretty exciting past term learning a lot about Sustainability. Some of our activities included planting and caring for our herb and veggie garden, caring for our other patio plants and collecting items from home for the recycling art materials. The worm farm has also drawn a fair bit of attention as Ms. Leighanne has shared some interesting chats with the children showing them our worms growth progress using our food scraps to grow and to make great compost and worm tea to place into the soil on our veggie garden.
We have enjoyed one fun cooking experience using our fresh herbs and will have more cooking experiences in the near future as well. The children also take the opportunity to taste test the herbs straight out of the garden sometimes when they are performing their garden duties.





Our “Space Station” has been valuable learning area for the children this term. The children have done well absorbing information about space and our planets. It’s great to hear how the information is going home and parents are getting involved looking at the stars and moon in the evenings with their children.





Senior Kindy!



Extending on the Indigenous Sorry Day and Reconciliation week, the children perform a short little child's acknowledgment to country thanking the Indigenous people for the land we share etc. We do this on a daily basis before we enter our room. We also shared Winston's special culture helping him celebrate Matariki which is New Zealand's New Year. Winston demonstrated the "Harka", showed us the Maori flag and told us how he says his name in Maori. We also shared some yummy biscuits his Mum made and Kiwi fruit. The children really enjoyed them.



This next term we are hoping to extend on the children's interest in story telling as we have observed how well the children have been using great expressive language skills when telling us stories at group time. We will be writing our own story allowing the children to expand their creative ideas and explore their imaginations. It should be interesting.
The children will be offered more writing practice experiences this term as well as using our number and alphabet cards.



As the Space Station is soon coming to a close, we have asked the children what they would like next in our interest area and several children have requested an " Octonauts" station. This may be our way of studying our Ocean Life next. We are here to follow the children's interests and we will implement their requests into our program.
We have a few more special celebrations coming up in the new future being Canada Day where I will share a little about "My" country of origin, also we will help Tasman share his Dad's American culture on July 4th. " American Independence day". We also have Bastille Day on July 14th. Where we will help our little French girl Leyla celebrate her culture.
Don't forget our Pyjama Day coming up on Wed. July 20th. Wear your PJ's and bring your Ted or any stuffed to for our inside games if you can. It should be a lot of fun. Ms. Savita and myself will be providing toast ,fruit and flavoured milk for breakfast that day so don't pack in too much for morning tea.

So till next time, keep safe & warm,
Nancy & Savita

Kindergarten Program!



Well… We have covered a LOT of ground in Kindergarten over the past two months. Our teaching team is very proud of how the children in our room are developing, everyone is very comfortable with our routines and expectations now and are thriving as a result.

The beginning of May saw us focus on our beautiful Mums and we did a range of activities to celebrate Mother's Day. We made some fantastic presents and our work coincided with the Letter 'M' in our Alphabet Schedule, which was MAGNIFICENT!!



Dramatic Play has been a big focus of ours, and we set up different areas for the children to play in and explore. We created a Police Station after our visit from Constable Chris at the Annerley Police Station, and a Bakery in Home Corner with different sensory play doughs. Everyone is still very interested in Ms Lauren's baby girl Annie, so we established a Nursery complete with babies, cots, bottles, change tables and blankets. Each area provided wonderful opportunities for literacy development and we ensured that they were print rich environments complete with illustrations, signs, word cards and labels.



The Annerley Fire Department came to visit on the 11th of May and our children loved connecting with this sector of our community. Spraying the fire hose was very popular, as was climbing into the Fire Engine and taking hold of the wheel! We enjoyed a Drum Beats Show last week where children explored the power of music – and danced all afternoon to keep the rhythm going!



We've had some wonderful literacy experiences over the past two months and have enjoyed exploring classic books such as 'Animalia' and 'Wombat Stew'. Our activities are all designed to be fun, and children have enjoyed making necklaces for the Letter 'N', learning about Opposites for the letter 'O', and dressing like Pirates for the Letter 'P'!



Kindergarten Program!

We've also taken time to reflect upon our year so far, and look through our folios to revisit what we have learnt. This experience was invaluable as it also showed our teaching team what our children have enjoyed, and what they would like to see more of in our day to day activities. Reflection is an important activity for not only our staff but our children as well, each afternoon we look at photos from the day and share our thoughts and feelings about experiences.



We've been getting active and learning about the importance of physical exercise. We've been completing obstacle courses in our playground to develop our gross motor skills, and Ms Leighanne has been kind enough to come over and run our class through Boot Camp! Everyone loves Ms Leighanne and enjoys reconnecting with her through this thirty minutes of fun. We love having visitors in our classroom so are also going to invite parents in to share interests areas. We have a huge variety of different occupations in our parent group and this knowledge is invaluable!



We have no plans of slowing down over the next two months and our heads are spinning with ideas to support our children's interests. We're going to start exploring Space this week for the Letter 'S', are looking forward to creating vegetable and herb gardens in our playground, and will learn about recycling and ways that we can look after our beautiful planet. Winter always brings fantastic opportunities for learning about the seasons as the weather gets colder, so we will no doubt weave that into our program! We look forward to updating you again in two months.

Lauren, Di & Jenny







Sustainability



Nude food challenge

Over the past month – the older children from within the centre have been participating in a Nude Food Challenge – teaching the children about how we can make a difference in the environment – and at the same time ensure that we are making healthy choices in our food – and a variety of good nutritious choices. Through this process we endeavour to monitor both our rubbish and food choices – extending on the children learning and understanding of how we can make a difference in protecting our environment, and at the same time ensuring that our bodies are also healthy.

Nude food is simply food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic or commercial packaging. The best type of nude food consists mainly of fresh food, so that it is healthy and nutritious plus environmentally friendly. We are trying to teach the children to avoid Zip lock or plastic bags, cling wrap or aluminium foil, packaged drinks, single serves yoghurts and cheese and pre-packaged foods (biscuits, snack bars and chips) – and with this process we are explaining to the children that these packaging's do not degrade in our landfills – so consequently are polluting our environment. We have been doing a graph in the rooms to record the difference the children are making as they learn more about how THEY can make a difference and it is great to see that the amount of packaging is decreasing – we would love to see if we can achieve a zero packaging within our centre.

Promoting Nude Food empowers the children to make conscious choices about what they eat, and encourages them to think about their impact on the environment (and their health). Should you need any further information about this – please do not hesitate to see your child's educators – or consequently look up www.nudefoodday.com.au/resources for Nude Food recipe ideas.



Prep enrolments



Open for 2017 Enrolments - Prep to Year 6

For Prep children born between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012

Parents are invited to complete an enrolment application form for Prep 2017. Application forms can be collected from the school office at 141 Kadumba St, Yeronga or completed online from the school website **www.stsebastiansyeronga.qld.edu.au**

St Sebastian's is an inclusive Catholic school and offers enrolments to Catholic and non Catholic families.