Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

September/October 2016 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the September/October edition of our newsletter. The end of the year is surely coming up fast! Firstly we would like to thank all the families for the donation of recyclable materials that we have utilised in our outdoor environments through creations of tyre gardens and other recyclable materials that have be utilised to create many sustainable resources and masterpieces from the children's creations. Over the next two months you will notice a new change to our large yard as we are in the process of finalising plans to create a garden down towards to the back fence. We are also making arrangements to extend our veggie garden and vegetables that we received from the local community are growing very well at the moment. We are also looking forward to growth of flowers in the hanging tyres in the small yard, giving all the children the opportunity to care for and learn about nature through watering of plants and planting of new plants for the outdoor veranda. We are very excited for the projects ahead and look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

Over the past month Miss Andrea has returned from her leave and is easing her way back into full time work after having her leg surgery as she is Lead Educator with Miss Julie in the Nursery. Miss Debbie will continue to fill in for Miss Andrea on the Fridays she is absent for the next month. Miss Emma has joined the team changing her position from casual to permanent as she works full time as a Lead Educator with Miss Shannon in the Kindy Room. Miss Tahlia is currently floating throughout the centre and will return to Kindy when younger children join the room changing the staff to children ratios. When Cassie returns I will be Lead Educator Float and Miss Tara will continue to be Lead Educator in Junior Kindy Room for the remainder of the year with Miss Bree.

We have recently had a visit from some of our local heroes, the Capalaba Fire Fighters! Four of their officers came along with the Fire Truck to educate the children about why they are such an integral part of our community, and teach the children about Fire Safety. What fun we had turn taking to use the fire hose, listen to the sirens and explore the Truck! The children also love the fire safety children's book and sing-a-long CD that they have provided the centre with.



Thankyou to the families who have given us feedback from the recent survey's sent out, this input is greatly appreciated and taken into consideration for future changes where necessary. My office hours are 8.00am-4.30pm Monday-Friday and I am available to be contacted by phone or email, or feel free to come and have a chat during these times. Thanks for reading!

Natasha...

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Recipe of the Month!

Pea and Noodle Fritters and Cheesy Vegie Muffins

Ingredients

1 1/4 cups frozen peas
1/2 x 440g pkt hokkien noddles
1/4 cup self raising flour
1/4 cup milk
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 cup grated parmesan
1 red onion, finely chopped
1/4 cup rice bran oil
Cherry tomatoes, celery and carrot sticks to serve

Method

Place peas in bowl with boiling water and cover for 2 minutes. Drain and mash with a fork. Add noodles, flour, milk, eggs, parmesan and onion. Stir to combine. Heat oil in a pan and cook 1/4 of batter in the pan to cook the fritters. Repeat with remaining batter and serve.

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups plain flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup coarsely grated carrot
1 cup coarsely grated zucchini
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
2 eggs, lightly whisked
1/2 cup milk
1/3 cup olive oil

Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Grease muffin pan. Sift flour and baking powder into a bowl. Add carrot, zucchini and half the cheddar. Mix to combine. Whisk the egg, milk and oil in a bowl. Mix flour and egg mixture together. Divide mixture evenly into in prepared pan and sprinkle remaining cheddar on top. Bake for 25 minutes.





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Centre Events!

(Let us know if you would like to help out or be involved)

...September...

Thursday 1st - **Superhero Dress up day**
Come dressed in your Superhero costume with a gold coin to support those with Muscular Dystrophy.

Monday 4th - **Australian National Flag**
Celebrate on **Monday 4th** with the red white and blue flag that makes us all proud Australians



Wednesday 7th - **National ECE day**
Celebrating the important role early childhood educators play in educating and caring for tomorrow's leaders

Friday 2nd - **Father's Day Afternoon Tea**
Come along for a special afternoon tea to celebrate our dads. Starting 3:30pm.

Sunday 4th - **Father's Day**

Monday 19th - **International 'Talk like a Pirate' Day**
Come along ready to talk like a pirate - let's dress up too!

Wednesday 21st - **International Day of Peace**
A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people

...October...

Saturday 1st - **China's National Day**
Leading up to this day we'll learn about China and what makes their country special.

Monday 3rd - **Queens Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Sunday 16th - **World Food Day**
A day of action against hunger. Bring along a non-perishable item of food for us to donate to the needy

Friday 21st - **Loud Shirt Day**
It's an excuse to wear your brightest clothes (love 'em, hate 'em, whatever) and raise money to help give the gift of sounds and speech to deaf children.

16th - 22nd - **National Nutrition Week**
Let's learn to eat right and eat for our health

22nd - 30th - **Children's Week**
Children's Week celebrated the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.

Friday 28th - **National Bandana Day**
Support young children living with cancer by buying a bandana.

Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

September

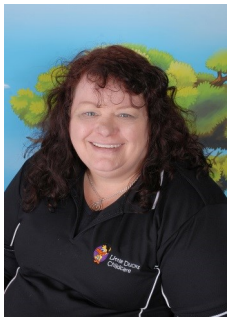
Enuki
Brodie
Nathan
Emily
Max U
Eve
Olivia N
Audrey
Mahta
Jacob
Thomas
Chloe
Miss Amanda



October

Gemma
Harper
Olivia B
Oliver
Angus
Taylor
Emiliana
Miss Cassie
Miss Holly
Miss Debbie

Nursery Natter!



Hi Families! My name is Andrea I have just recently returned from leave since being the Kindy Room and have joined the Nursery as Miss Natasha is now pregnant. I hold my Diploma in Children Services and I will be the Lead Educator in the Room and I am also the centres Educational Leader. I am looking forward to meeting you all if I haven't already done so since being in the Kindy Room this year. In the last three months we have seen amazing growth and development of the children in the Nursery. In June, a lot of the children were exploring their balance coordination and now most of the children are reaching the next milestone standing on their own and some are even walking! They are all making outstanding progress in their milestones. Arielle joined our happy group in June, and has become part of our Nursery family, assimilating with the carers, the other children and our Nursery environment. On the 4th July, we celebrated American Independence Day, by having the children paint an American flag, and play with red white and blue balloons.



We celebrated Naidoc Week 4th - 10th July, as the children created paintings using earth colours, which is displayed in our room as well as dancing to a variety of Indigenous music whilst exploring the clapping sticks. For French Bastille Day the 14th July, the children participated in finger painting using colours of the French flag, and their work was displayed on the wall. On Wednesday 20th July, we celebrated pyjama day which gave the children and the staff the opportunity to come dressed in their pyjamas. In August we celebrated Dental Health Week 1st - 5th August as the children painted cardboard teeth with toothbrush's, and practiced 'Swish and Swallow" routines at meal times introducing hygiene practices to the children. On Wednesday 10th August, the children attended the Brett Campbell's Music Movement and Dance Show in which they took part, this was a great music and movement experience for the children to enjoy as they listened and danced along to a variety of action songs and Nursery Rhymes. Recently in Nursery we have started to utilize the idea of having a theme, which can run for as long as it is relevant, and is still of interest to the children. Our theme has been Transportation, encompassing land vehicles, air vehicles and creatures that fly in the air, and this week we have been focusing on water vessels and creatures that live in the sea.



During the upcoming months, we will be focusing on creating a natural area with natural resources for the children to explore providing a different stimulating environment. We will also be introducing the children to new multi-cultural dolls, puppets, and activities that will assist in their understanding of the cultural world we live in. Thanks for reading our article! Miss Andrea and Miss Julie

Toddler Tales!

Welcome families and families moving up from the “nursery” to our “toddler” room! We are very excited to share the journey through the toddlers room with you and your family. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask one of our friendly educators. The last month has been very enjoyable with the children exploring their surroundings, making new friends, and for some adjusting to child care for the first time. Home corner has proved to be a favourite with our dress up box, kitchen set and baby dolls. Our toddlers seem to be quite the budding little artists whether it be with collage, paint or drawing. Their knowledge of colour recognition is improving and we have also been enjoying counting songs, rhymes and dancing during group times. We have a new poster on our wall displaying the new songs we are learning and this will be contributed to each week. The busy life of a toddler sees your child becoming more independent and increasingly interested in the world around them, throughout the upcoming months we will be focusing on your children’s interests and extending from these. One of our current projects is Transport as the toddlers are always pointing to the sky and saying “plane” when they hear a plane flying over or “car” when they hear the cars from the carpark. Chloe also recently went on a plane to Melbourne with her family so we are also extending from that family input. Please parents if your family has done something over the weekend, just anything small or big, please let us know as this is parent input that we can extend from which is a great way of sharing information to reinforce our partnership.







We have the parent input display above the children’s lockers which can write your input onto the Whiteboard provided or complete and input sheet or you can let us know during arrival and departure times.

Our toddlers language is beginning to advance and they are showing a lot of interest in story time and books and are able to concentrate and sit for longer periods of time. As an extension of this we will continue planning language and listening skills through group times - stories, songs, reading books, puppets and creative transitions between experiences. Social skills are developing through playing and sharing with friends, learning to take turns, and initiating role play whilst exploring home corner. We will continue with the toddlers interest in home corner by incorporating some real cooking experiences, do you have a healthy recipe that your toddler loves that you would like to share? We will be putting together some gardening experiences also in the upcoming months in our toddler yard using the tyres we now have hanging on the fence, planting seeds inside. If you have any plants or plant clippings that you would like to donate to us we would be very grateful, also things like pvc tubes, wood offcuts, washing machine hoses, pot plants, tubs or anything that you don't need anymore please feel free to donate to our toddler room. Thanks for reading!

Until next time Miss Alisha and Miss Amanda

Junior Kindy Jabber!

Hi families and welcome to the September/October edition of Junior Kindy news!
Over the past few weeks we have made many changes to the room, we have been busy moving the room around and putting up some of the new, lovely artwork that your children have done. In July, the children initiated a lot of “monsters” in their imaginative play as they used sheets to cover themselves and made scary noises to imitate being monsters. From this, we focused on monsters as we read stories about monsters and implemented a monster theme into our program. One of the favourites for the children was using a different technique of painting when we painted monsters by blowing paint through straws. Starting in July, we also began to focus on being gentle and sharing through discussions of gentle words and being kind to our friends. We also implemented strategies into routines and activities such as our “Gentle Tent” to assist the children with learning to share and take turns. The intention of the Gentle Tent was for the children to have a nice and comfy place to go to when wanting to be calm and have some quiet play. The children are improving on their turn taking skills and being gentle every day as we continue to focus on this currently.



Naidoc week was a successful week with celebrations through discussions about the Indigenous culture, dot painting, dreamtime stories and the group artwork we did of our hand and footprints which sparked discussions about equality and how we treat one another. We celebrated Isla’s birthday party recently and had a party to celebrate! We would also like to welcome our new friend Charlotte to Junior Kindy who has recently transitioned from the Toddler room. Recently we had a visit from the Tooth Fairy which supported Dental Health Week. The children were so excited to see The Tooth Fairy as she spoke to us about the importance of keeping our teeth clean and healthy. The Tooth Fairy showed us what foods we should be eating to keep our teeth healthy and what foods we shouldn’t have because it makes our teeth sad! The Tooth Fairy showed us her friend, Leo the Lion. Enuki got to have a turn at helping Leo the Lion brush his teeth! You will notice the children have been very busy with all of their Dental Health Week artwork displayed up on the wall. During this week, Miss Bree discussed with the children the importance of looking after our teeth by brushing them and eating healthy. Miss Bree showed us a picture of what our teeth would like if we don’t look after them and don’t brush them. We also looked at a picture of what our teeth look like when they are nice and clean and healthy – it’s safe to say the children looked a lot more impressed with the healthy looking teeth! We practiced the motion of brushing our teeth through toothbrush painting and listening to the “Brush Your Teeth” song as we pretended to brush our teeth during group time. By the end of the week, Harper even told Miss Tara that we have to brush our teeth twice a day – morning and night! Harper was very clever remembering this. With celebrations of the Olympics occurring, we have been focusing on Music and Movement through our web project of this theme and physical activities implemented into our program. Recent centre events have been focused around Music and Movement as well with the Brett Campbell Music Show and the Happy Feet Olympics show both on second week of August – the children thoroughly enjoyed this as the whole centre combined and everyone was happily engaged in the performances and physical activity. A shout out to parents, we would like to say a big thank you to our parents for all of your recent input onto our parent input communication board. We look forward to hearing from you and your children and love to know what you get up to as every little bit of information is great to be included into the children’s education. A big thank you to Stella and her mum, Karleigh for bringing in Marco and Polo the Guinea Pigs for a show and tell! Soon we will be moving onto our new theme of identity, we will be discussing members of our family, talking about ourselves and body parts and lots more. To begin our theme of identity, we would love to start displaying family photos up on the wall and talk about these photos together so if you can, please bring in a small photo for us to put up on this display this would be greatly appreciated. That’s all for now, thanks for reading! Miss Tara and Miss Bree



Kindy Kapers!

Hi Families!
Firstly let me introduce myself (Miss Emma), I am the new Lead Educator in the Kindy Room. I have been doing casual relief work at Little Ducks for a few months and have now been made permanent. I hold my Diploma in children's services and have worked in childcare for more than 10years so I have loads of experience!! I look forward to getting to know you all and teaching your beautiful children.
As you would have noticed this week, Miss Shannon and Miss Emma came in over the weekend to change the room around and create some great learning spaces for the children to explore and engage in. The children have already noticed the changes and have been excited to play and explore in these new areas and engage with some new resources that have been added. The block area has had some great things added to it also which the children have loved this week. Lots of creating and building has occurred in the block area and we hope to add more 'spare' parts for the children to create with. We ask if any parents have any old pots or pans, wood offcuts or anything else at home they wish to donate to our 'spare' parts area, please do so, we love donations.



Over the last couple of weeks the kindy children have started their web of interest on 'space'. The children have shown a great interest in this and have contributed to lots of discussions about where they want to go with this interest.



Galaxy playdough was firstly made, with lots of sparkles added to represent the stars in the galaxy. The children then asked about the planets, a discussion on planets proceeded and how to make some planets. As a group we came up with the idea of making paper mache planets. The children worked together to form the mache balls and paint each of them. Be sure to check these out as they are now displayed in the room! The children have continued to show an interest in this and have asked about aliens and astronauts, which we will extend on in the coming weeks!! We will be working on a crater for the children's creative aliens to go into and also share many books relating to this topic through story-telling experiences at Group Times. Over the next coming week we will be focusing on making gifts for Father's Day as we have many experiences planned.



The children have also enjoyed exploring our Dinosaur Garden in the large yard and have been learning how to care for plants watering the veggies in the veggie patch on a daily basis. If you have any input that you would like to share please inform us carer's of document this input on our Whiteboard or weekend sheets displayed near the children's lockers. This would be greatly appreciated.
Parents we have noticed that some children are attending kindy without hats and drink bottles, please remember to pack these on a daily basis as well as spare clothes and sheets and label with their name clearly. This makes the daily running of the room run much smoother, thanks for your cooperation.
Miss Emma, Miss Shannon and Miss Tahlia

Preschool Press!

Hello Preschool Families!
The winter months certainly have begun at great speed with a lot of events occurring Tooth Fairy's on tour, Pyjama Day, Brett Campbell and Ngutana Lui music and movement show as well as the Fire truck visit.



We celebrated NAIDOC week by practicing the Aboriginal traditional technique; dot painting. It was great to see how the children got creative and designed gorgeous patterns on a piece of paper, followed up decorating their names by using dot painting. The children developed their fine motor control, concentration and creativity and so on.
Dramatic play is a daily favourite for most of the children in the Preschool Room. Two children showed interest in fairy gardens by having a fairy garden at home and then sharing it with the group. As an extension of this interest we created our own fairy garden by working together with the families and Mr Walter from the community.



Our magical Fairy garden project brings many joys for the children. This peaceful area of the room where "mystical" conversation and magical imagination has begun. This imaginary play promoted connectedness with the outdoors and nature. It also developed the children's creative thinking and aided their vocabulary. This type of small world scene is wonderful for fostering imagination.
Dinosaurs also have been featuring quite a bit in our play lately since Miss Holly created a dinosaur small world play scene outside. There are so many discoveries that the children have been exploring. Making bones, footprints and creating a dinosaur model from boxes were popular activities.
The Olympics has influenced the children in the room. They are interested in what's happening in the world around them. The children gained their knowledge about the Olympic symbols such as the Olympic flame, torch and the five rings. They enjoyed observing different countries' flags and creating their own unique flag on a special fabric. Fostering the children's interest in the Olympic Games we are hosting a mini Olympic in the Centre. Developing the children's confidence in movement challenges such as long jump, running, relay racing and shot put.



The parent-teacher interviews last week and this week gave us great opportunities to reflect on the year so far and what each child has achieved, and to set some common goals for the remainder of the preschool year.



Birkdale South School is working together with the families to help facilitate a smooth transition of the children into the school. The Pre-Prep program provides activities with different teachers every Tuesday. The group of children eagerly attend the school and love the wide range of opportunities.
We are focusing on name writing and revisiting the letters that we have learnt and are learning the left over new letters in the next few months. As we head towards the second half of 2016 it promises to be an exciting time for the centre. Father's Day celebrations will be held at the centre on Friday the 2nd of September, we look forward to seeing our lovely dads at our afternoon tea. This is followed by Children's week and Halloween. We love and encourage all members of our families to provide new and interesting ideas to the Centre's programming. This can take the form of sharing photos and anecdotes of family trips, birthdays and family celebrations and visits to attractions or general information about a topic your child is particularly interested in.
Until next time, Miss Csilla and Miss Holly

The Schoolies Scoop!

Hello!



Over the last few months the schoolies have been busy working on lots of different projects that have stemmed from their own ideas and interests. To help the children have input we created a poster display where they could write down their ideas on activities to play and we could implement these throughout the week. Since then we have explored various art activities such as boomerang making with paints followed by exploring how to throw them, creating aquariums and ships from recyclables, airplanes with different designs followed by a competition to see whose plane would fly the furthest and whose plane would fly the highest, paddle pop stick baskets, alfoil robots, mosaic collages and swirly glue patterns. Through these activities the children were able to implement their creativity and reflective thinking ideas to achieve their desired design. They developed social skills such as negotiation, sharing and sharing happiness with one another. They were able to demonstrate their knowledge on what they thought things should look like. For example; Charlie's robot had a body, head, antenna and eyes. Gemma's mosaic she decided to create into a butterfly shape with patterns on the wings. We have also celebrated Bastille Day in which the children used some paper towel roles fanned out to create fireworks with the French colours red, blue and white. This turned into creating swirls in the paint which is where our swirly glue patterns came from. Using glue and paint we swirled the colours in and let them dry to find they had dried with the swirl patterns visible. Physical skills outside have also been a keen interest for the schoolies with them exploring basketball, football, soccer and cricket. These games develop sportsmanship as they co-operate with one another and negotiate roles within the play insuring everyone is included in the play and has a position to play. They created their own challenges with each game. For example; moving further away from the basketball hoop to see how far they could get and still be able to get the ball in the hoop. We adapted our cricket to include two batsmen to further extend the children's own interests and learning as this provided a different medium and set of rules for the game. Ebony and Gemma have been creating their own imaginary play of pirates while outside in the yard. The fort has become a pirate ship with the children in the playground role playing pirates. Extending on this we created some pirate eye patches and telescopes. The girls used their telescopes before deciding to paint them in which they turned into rollers to create patterns on paper. "Look at mine" shouted Gemma. "That's so cool" replied Ebony. We explored a science experiment with balloons in which we placed them on a line of string blown up and let them go. The balloons lost their air and flew along the string. After drawing designs on our balloons Sophie and Charlie decided to race one another with their balloons. They enjoyed this activity as it gave them a great laugh and they were able to engage together. Moving forward we will continue to follow the interests of the children throughout the upcoming months. Parent input is always appreciated so if you have any ideas on activities or things we should implement please see myself or Miss Holly.









Until next time, Miss Tara and Miss Holly

Did you know?

Friendly reminders

Hats and Shirts!



We still have Little Ducks shirts and bucket hats for sale. These are available for purchase from Cassie or Natasha in the office, during office hours.

Charlie, Charlie, Where are you?

Did you know that it is a legal requirement for all children to be singed in and out of the centre by a responsible adult? A responsible adult is classed as someone over the age of 18 years who is a parent/guardian/relative of the child. A friend may also drop off or collect children as long as they are on our contact list. Signing in and out is very important as these documents are used as attendance records for not only our records, but also in the event that we have to evacuate the building due to emergency.

Lost property!

In order to ensure we don't mix up your child's belongings and can rehome any lost property, we ask that you name everything that comes to Kindy. This includes, sheets, hats, drink bottles, containers, clothes, shoes, nappies etc; We appreciate you taking the time to do so.

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:

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Culture Awareness Policy
* Behaviour Management - Positive Guidance Policy
* Biting Management Policy and Procedure
* Continuity of Care
* Chemical Storage and Dangerous Products Policy
* Cleaning and Hygiene Policy
* Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Occupational Violence Policy
* Nose Wiping Procedure
* Programming Policy
* Harmful Plants Policy and Procedure
* Robbery Policy
* Temperature Policy
* Social Media Engagement Policy

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



Fundraiser

The centre will be supporting White Balloon Day joining Australia's biggest child protection challenge. White Balloon Day is Braveheart's national campaign to encourage communities to 'break the silence' and to work together to protect kids from child sexual assault. The Annual White Balloon Day will be held on the 9th September, please feel free to show your support by dressing the children in white on this day and donating a gold coin to the Braveheart's charity box that will be available in the foyer. Will also be holding other experiences for the children throughout the day to support this event.