Little Ducks Childcare Birkdale

January/February 2017 Newsletter

A note from your Centre Manager

Welcome to the very first newsletter for 2017! We are so happy to welcome you back, and welcome our new families too. For those of you who are new to us, there are some things that I would like to let you know…. Firstly, this is our centre newsletter! These are done every two months throughout the course of the year. They will be emailed to you, as well as there being a link on our website so you can share them with your families too, if you wish. Each class will contribute a summary of information about what skills your child has been developing over the past couple of months, as well as what developing interests may be blossoming. There will be upcoming centre events, birthdays, friendly reminders along with a healthy recipe for you to try out together on the weekends. Good nutrition is vital growing up and involving your children in the process of cooking and creating healthy meals is a great way to encouraging trying a new variety of foods. Towards the back of the newsletter you will find a list of the policies that are due for review. There is a folder in the foyer in the office that copies of these policies will be in, ready for your review or feedback. They will also be available on email upon request.

Our centre has a quality improvement plan (QIP) which is available to view in our foyer. We regularly engage in self assessments and reflections of our service and would love to invite your feedback on the newsletter, our policies, program and documentation and general centre practices. Positive or constructive, your feedback is always welcome!

You may notice out in the playground, we had a mud kitchen built last year made from upcycled pallets from a local business along with a kitchen sink from one of our families. The children have already explored so many great things in this area of our outdoor environment but just be mindful that the kids may get dirty, so please bring in a spare change of (named) clothing, should they need them.

Our centres foyer is full of lots of great information. There is information from government and local services on raising healthy kids and families, speech pathologists, paediatricians, information in a variety of languages and community classes for dance, soccer, fitness etc. and an area where you can provide feedback on our centres current topic of reflection. If you are looking for something in particular and you are unable to find it, let us know so we can add this valuable information for you and other families too. Finally, thank you to all of our amazing families who helped bring a smile to some sick children's faces over the Christmas period with your very generous donations to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.





My office hours are from 8.00-4.30 Monday-Thursday and 7.00-3.30 on Friday so feel free to stop by, call or email for a chat anytime. I look forward to sharing our adventure again in March.

Cassie...

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Recipe of the Month!

Healthy Ice Blocks

Nothing beats the heat like an ice block. But before you head to the shop to buy some, why not try filling your freezer with these healthy versions. We guarantee the kids – and the big kids too – will love them just as much!



Strawberry and banana ice blocks

Place 2 cups strawberry yoghurt, 1 mashed ripe banana and 1 tablespoon honey in a bowl and stir to combine. Pour into an ice block mould and freeze.

Mango ice blocks

Place the flesh from 3 mangoes, 2 tablespoons honey and 2 tablespoons lime juice in a blender and blitz until smooth. Pour into an ice block mould and freeze.

Pineapple and coconut ice blocks

Place 1 cup milk, ½ cup pineapple chunks, 1 tablespoon honey and ½ teaspoon coconut extract in a blender and blitz until smooth. Pour into an ice block mould and freeze.



Banana ice blocks

Place 1 cup milk, ¾ cup mashed ripe banana, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and 1 tablespoon honey in a bowl and stir to combine. Pour into an ice block mould and freeze.



Watermelon ice blocks

Cut a large piece of watermelon into chunks and puree in a blender until smooth. Add 2 tablespoons lime juice and 2 tablespoons caster sugar and blend to combine. Pour into an ice block mould and freeze.

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Centre Events!

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

...January...

Sunday 1st - **New Year's Day**

Monday 2nd – **New Year's Day**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday 3rd -**First day at Little Ducks for 2016**
Welcome back everyone!

Saturday 14th – **Little Ducks Wilston Open day!**

Wednesday 27th – **Celebrating Australia Day**
Come along in your best Aussie outfit of green & gold and bring your favourite Aussie dish to share!!

Thursday 26th - **Australia Day**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

...February...

Monday 6th – **Waitangi Day**
Celebrating New Zealand's National Day.

Monday 6th – **Crocodile and Dragon Show!** Come along and see some scaly, reptiles from 10am.

Monday 8th –**Chinese New Year**

Friday 10th – **Brazil's Carnival**

Tuesday 14th - **Valentine's Day** Wear red or pink

Monday 20th **– Love your pet day**
Leading up to this day we will be talking about our favourite pets. Got a friendly pet at home? Feel free to bring along pictures to share!
Tuesday 28th **– Shrove Tuesday**

Birthdays!

A very happy birthday to ...

...January...

Avalon
Hadi
Sophie
Willow
Miss Tahlia



...February...

Parker
Isobel
Ruby
Euan
Miss Julie

Junior Nursery Natter!



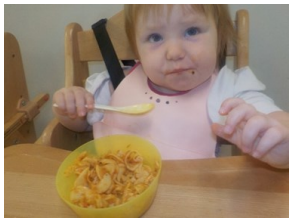
Hello Again to the families of our Senior Nursery Children. Well 2016 absolutely flew by and we are happy to back for a great start to 2017. We finished off the year being very busy and seen lots of milestones in the last few months. Welcome to Hadi and Harvey who have joined the Nursery since the last newsletter .They are all settling in to their new environment at Little Ducks. Warner and Taylor are starting to pull themselves up on everything wanting to get a better view of the world.



Thank you to our families that donated the activity centres they have been greatly appreciated and are being used to further develop some of our children's gross motor strength. We have been further developing the children's self-help skills preparing them for the transition to the Senior Nursery.

The Grandparents morning tea went off with a bang the babies had fun with their families that attended. Thank you for taking time out.

Our community wall in the nursery is coming along there are only a couple of parents that haven't sent through some photos for our wall so if are one of these it would be great if u could just even send some through in an email.



With the weather getting hotter could we please ensure all children have named sun safe clothing such as t-shirts (no singlets) and remember your hats for outside play. Also water bottle or cup to encourage the drinking of plenty of water in the summer months. We hope the families have enjoyed looking over their child's portfolio it will make a nice keepsake for your children at the end of the year. Our vision for 2017 is to continue building relationships with our families and children, also focusing on welcoming our new families and children developing a feeling of belonging to the junior nursery.

We understand that the decision to leave your baby in care for the first time



can be extremely daunting so we are here to help you through the process every step of the way! Don't feel the need to rush away urgently, you can stay as long as you (or your baby) needs. Australia Day will be our first day of celebration so wear your red white and blue or green and gold and slip slop slap if the weather is fine we will have a water play day. If you have any questions we are always willing to help so feel free to talk to Miss Andrea or Miss Julie. If we can't assist you in your enquiries we will find someone that will :)



Senior Nursery News!



Welcome to the new Senior Nursery room Newsletter! We are excited to change the name of the room to better reflect the age of the children and we hope you like it too! Currently, we have an exciting and fun holiday program running which includes a disco, water play days, crazy hair day, pajama party day, cooking day, a messy play day with mud, goop, slime and paint and a camping day with cooking damper included! We also saw this program end the year with some awesome Christmas crafts and games.



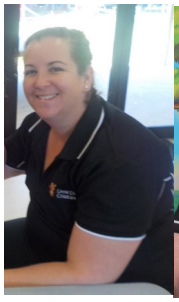
What a wonderful year we had in our previously named toddler room last year. We have gotten to know each child's beautiful qualities, quirks and challenges and Christmas was such a wonderful time to just share in the rest of our time together before everyone commences their new chapters in 2017. Amanda is absolutely delighted that she is able to continue to engage with our wonderful group of children when they continue their journey next year in newly named Toddler room.

For those families with our children who are yet to turn two, Miss Debbie is continuing on in our room along side Miss Emma, who is currently our Kindy room Lead Educator.



Miss Debbie and Miss Emma will commence the year by building consistent and warm nurturing relationships with the children and forming partnerships with families. Gradually the main goals of the newly named Senior Nursery environment will be to help the children develop the skills to function independently, to allow them to explore the environment and manipulate the objects in the environment freely, to assist in their rapid language development and to introduce them to methods of developing their minds and bodies.

Thank you families for a wonderful year, I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to share in your child's early childhood journey!





Miss Emma and Miss Debbie

Toddler Tales!



Welcome to 2017! What an exciting and educational year we've concluded last year. It was an absolute pleasure to watch all of your children grow.
The last few months we have been working on our beach project which has come from your weekend journeys. The children used group time to express their ideas and understanding about what sorts of toys, animals and equipment we need to take with us when we go to the beach. "Swimmers" said Avalon. "To see the dolphins" said Charlotte. "A noodle" said Stella. "My jack" said Isla. "Fishies" Summer exclaimed. From these ideas, we created some animals using paint and collage so the children could express their creativity and imagination, a beach ball, a towel and discussed the safety and importance of lifesavers and sun safety. We used technology to listen to the slip, slop, slap, seek and slide song before putting this into practice ourselves here at kindy.

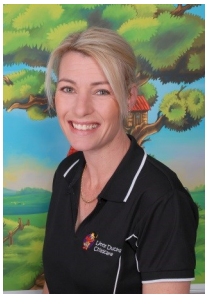


The Christmas party was a great success and it was a great time to catch up and reflect on the year that's been so thank you for that. Our Christmas crafts are on display in the room and will be sent home to you before the Christmas break. The children are very excited about Santa!
Now it is time to introduce Miss Amanda and Miss Holly, who will be taking on the room with its new room name of Toddlers! I (Miss Amanda) am so excited to move to the room with her children and it's great for them to have someone who they have already established a bond with. Miss Holly is looking forward to getting to know all the children and families and have snuggle time with the younger children for a change. From now and moving forward, the toddlers and their teachers will be working on getting to know one another and forming special bonds as well as helping the children create a routine so they can predict their daily plan. Holly and I are very excited to help build a warm and comforting environment for your children to flourish in. We will check back in with you in March! Thanks for reading -





Amanda and Holly



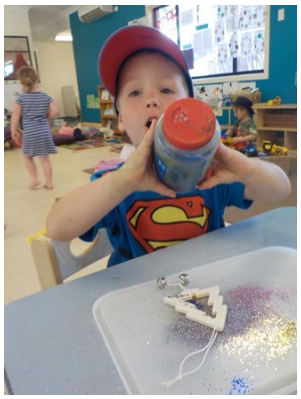


Junior Kindy Jabber!



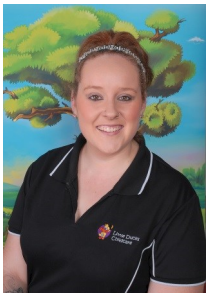
As this new year commences, we are excited to announce that Miss Tara and I (Miss Shannon) will be your educators in the newly named Junior Kindy room for 2017.
We ended the year on a high with many celebrations for the holiday season which saw us doing a lot of Christmas art work and the children suggesting some art activities and games for us to do. We finished up our portfolios and handed out our Christmas presents, which culminated with a lovely afternoon for our Christmas party. What an amazing turnout!
Miss Tara and I are so excited to start the year on a high and get to know all of the new children moving into our Junior Kindy room. I am also very excited to be able to stay with the children who are not yet ready for Kindergarten and Miss Tara is looking forward to coming up to the older room. Moving forward for the year our goals for the children will be getting to know their personalities and interests as well as assisting the children to feel comfortable, safe and secure in their new room.





We will be setting up the room with different learning spaces for the children to learn and increase their knowledge. We will be setting up a writing area, where the children can look at the alphabet, learn and write as well as draw to practices letters, numbers and use their imagination to create pictures. We will be also having block area and homer corner. Watch this space for the exciting changes! We will also begin our year with an about me project to further get to know the children and families. We will ask the children the questions about what sorts of things they do at home and help them to learn similarities and differences between themselves and celebrate diversity. We will help them to develop friendships with one another and learn ways in which to care for each other and show respect. There is so much planned, we can't wait to start!





Until next time…. Miss Tara and Miss Shannon

Kindergarten Kapers!











It is hard to believe that here we are at the start of 2017. What a year it was last year, full of many wonderful events. There was a huge excitement when the science man came with all his equipment in the centre at the end of November. Dr Joe explained to us about Gravity and the Milky Way, why we can't live in space and how rockets shoot up into space! He also showed us how to make rocket fuel and the set it on FIRE! The last few weeks were very busy as 25 excited children graduated on the 5th December, followed by a great Little Ducks Christmas Party celebration with a visit from Santa! It was a fantastic night where the children enjoyed their parent's company, with sausage sizzles and presents from Santa. The children really got into the Christmas spirit. They sang many jolly Christmas carols and created heaps of awesome Christmas art during the last few weeks. As the days went by, we all excitedly counted down the days until Christmas. Our garden was extended with a mud kitchen at the weekend. The children enjoy getting hands-on exploring and playing with mud and water, in a fun way. Our mud kitchen also provides a whole variety of different learning opportunities including sensory, imaginative, creative and exploratory play.

It is almost time for newcomers to come to the Preschool Room and we are so excited to see them! Next year, Miss Tahlia and myself are working in the Preschool Room Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Miss Tahlia is looking forward to joining the newly renamed Kindergarten Room in 2017 alongside the children she has bonded with through last year and before as well as making new bonds with the children and families. Miss Renee is returning from her maternity leave at the beginning of February. She works on Thursdays and Fridays and I will be with her those days. First, we would like to get to know the children and form a strong, bonding relationship with them.Some children have already started attending the Preschool room recently. They love to interact with activities alongside their peers. Here at Little Ducks, we will be focusing on creating a comfortable and fun learning environment for newcomers so that their transition from kindy to preschool will be as smooth as possible. We can't wait to meet them all, and find out more about them. We are going to have a great time together. We will sing songs, read stories, make projects and learn many wonderful fun things. We will have fun writing and will be playing some excellent maths games.

Miss Csilla, Miss Renee and
Miss Tahlia







The Schoolies Scoop!



Hello families and welcome to the next edition of schoolies scoop! Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself briefly. My name is Bree and as some of you may be aware, I will be taking over the position of Schoolies Lead Educator for 2017. Early last year, I began working here at Little Ducks and have had the pleasure of getting to know each and every one of your beautiful children! I have been the assistant educator in the Junior Kindy room over these last 9 months and I have thoroughly enjoyed this position but I am super excited and privileged to be taking on this new role here in the New Year. Please feel free to come and have a chat with me if you see me around in the yard, I'm looking forward to getting to know you all!

Over the last couple of months, the schoolies children have been very busy as they use their imagination and creativity throughout activities and experiences in their own initiated play. Construction and role play has been a big thing for the children as they put their minds together and using their teamwork, have created a few things outside using play equipment such as cubby houses, boats, ships and even some campfires with the rocks and sticks! We've seen lots of physical movement throughout the last few weeks as well as the children have engaged in a few "Just Dance" discos with one another and with the Preschool children. And we all love seeing how clever Charlie is as he remembers the moves to some of the songs to dance to!! With Christmas around the corner, the children have been enjoying some Christmas colouring in too – some favourites have been Rudolph. We've had lots of discussions of Christmas as the children get excited and share their thoughts of this special day. "Santa comes when you've been good." Ebony says. "Yeah and you get presents." Sophie replied. "We have to leave him milk and cookies." Charlie said.

Moving forward, as we will have a few new schoolies that have graduated from Preschool this year, we will focus on getting to know each other and building strong relationships through 'about me' surveys. From here, we will use our survey answers to plan activities and experiences coming from the children's interests and ideas. I am excited to get stuck into all the fun and learning with the schoolies of 2017 so be sure to stay tuned for our next edition to read all about it!



Thanks for reading! Miss Bree

Did you know?

Friendly reminders

Naming Belongings!

In order to ensure we don't loose or mix up your child's belongings 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 and hopefully this will help with things getting miss placed.

Sun Protection Policy

Summer is here and with the increase in the moderate, high and extreme UV periods we need to make sure you are vigilant in adhering to our sun safety and protection policy. Please make sure that you child has a broad brimmed hat, Shirt with sleeves that cover the shoulders and come to the centre ready with sunscreen already applied.

Cashless Centre!

We want to remind parents that we are a cashless centre. This is to minimise the risk of parents money being stolen or going missing. All fees are payable via direct debit. If you are making additional payments this can be done via our EFTPOS machine in the office.

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 January and February are:

* Child protection policy and procedure
* Critical incident policy
* Emergency evacuation policy
* Emergency lockdown/evacuation alert procedure
* Staffing and supervision policy
* Feeding policy—infants
* Maintenance policy
* Maintenance and care of equipment and physical environment policy
* Natural disaster/sever storm policy
* Occupational health and safety policy
* Smoking, alcohol and drugs policy

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