



NEWSLETTER



KIRRAWEE CHILD CARE CENTRE

July - August - September 2007

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy couple of months we've had !

Thank you for your continuing support—the last couple of months have been extremely busy, but very rewarding.

The staff have been very busy completing the children's Developmental Summaries. We hope you find them informative and positive.

We have also been preparing for the Parent/Teacher Interviews. They will be held week commencing 16th July. We hope you take this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress.

Lesley will hold her interviews on Tuesday, 17th July, 2007. Amy will hold hers on Wednesday, 18th July, 2007 and Lina will hold hers on Thursday, 19th July, 2007. If you are unable to make an appointment through the week, the girls will be available on Wednesday evening, 18th July, from 6.00pm to 8.30pm. Please check your child's noticeboard to make your appointments.

The Wombats went to see Circus Quirkus on Friday, 22nd June. They were entertained by jugglers, acrobats and comic performers, whose skills and antics amazed and astounded everyone !

With winter approaching, we will be reviewing our Child Health and Sickness Policies. These are displayed on the Notice Board and copies are available for parents. Your thoughts and comments would be most welcome.

Kay Doyle

From the Office

From 1st July, 2007, there will be some important changes.

Each year the indexation rate is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase over the last calendar year. This year, CCB will also be increased by an extra 10% on top of this year's CPI increase of 3.3%.

Overall, this is an increase of more than 13% from July, 2007. This will allow families more choices in balancing their work and family commitments.

The maximum Child Care Benefit Rate for one child in care is \$3.37 per hour.

From January 2008:

Information will be provided over the *internet* for all families, including potential lump sum claimants and those with no eligibility for CCB.

FaCSIA, (Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs) will pay CCB fee reductions to services and become the contact point for all childcare services.

Services will no longer have a direct relationship with Centrelink/FAO (Family Assistance Office) except in relation to appraisals of Special Child Care Benefit and 24 hour care.

Centrelink will calculate Fee Reductions for each child based on the weekly attendance information from the service and the latest family entitlement information held by Centrelink.

Childcare services will no longer be required to calculate CCB fee reduction amounts.

FaCSIA will pay CCB fee reductions to each service and services will be legally obliged to pass on the fee reduction amounts as specified by FaCSIA.

The CCB percentage will be provided to services, together with other eligibility information, at the time an enrolment is confirmed.

Accreditation

We have had our validation visit on 14th and 15th May, 2007 and are now waiting for the Moderators to assess the Parents' Surveys, Staff Surveys and the Validator's Report, and to issue us with our Accreditation Certificate.

Staff News

We welcome **Lina DiQuattro** to the Wombats Room. Lina is replacing Robyn Stewart and comes to us with her Certificate III in Children's Services. Lina has enrolled to complete her Diploma of Children's Services.

Stacey Wilson has commenced her traineeship at KCCC. She will be alternating her shift from early to late on a fortnightly cycle. Please make her feel welcome !



by Reeva

KIRRAWEE CHILD CARE Centre Newsletter

Group News

Possums

We have been having a great time in the Possum Room !

We have had fun with activities that we enjoy doing and which help us practice our new skills !!

We have been exploring our touch, smell and hearing through our manipulative toys and sensory/messy play. This also helps with our fine motor skills.

We are really enjoying dancing, climbing and running around, too !

The baby Possums are settling into our room nicely and it is fantastic to see the older Possums eager to help them by giving them toys to play with and making them smile.

We are working really hard to improve the self-help skills of our older Possums. They are practicing:

- self-feeding (with spoons);
- using words; and
- packing away.

This is to help them transition through to the Wombat Room.

Holly, Austin, Tammy, Katrina and Scarlett will be transitioning over the next three months into the Squirrel Group.

Good Luck—we will miss you!

Lesley, Suzzi, Lauren, Stacey



Squirrels

Hi, I am the new Squirrels Teacher !

My name is Lina DiQuattro. I hold a Certificate III in Children's Services and am currently studying for my Diploma. I have had four years experience working with children—mostly with 2 to 3 year olds.

I am very excited to be starting at Kirrawee and hope to meet all the parents soon !

What we've been doing:

- ☺ Learning Italian !! (My background is Italian) We have been practicing singing in Italian:
 - **Incy Wincy Spider**
 - **Old McDonald**
 - **Counting in Italian**
- ☺ Learning dynamics in music—the children have been choosing the songs and we talk about high, low, loud and soft. They have been practicing songs by playing musical instruments
- ☺ We have been practicing recognising our colours and counting objects 1 to 10, and recognising numerals.
- ☺ We made a set of Room Rules—the children came up with some excellent rules, such as sharing and being nice to our friends.
- ☺ We bought some candles for our tables for lunch time, and morning and afternoon tea—the children absolutely love them ! We blow them out to end our meal times !!

Lina

Wombats

We have had a very busy and fun time in the Wombat Room over the past few months !

We have been through some huge changes and everyone has coped well. I would like to thank all the staff and families for their support since I took over the Wombat Room—it has been a lot of fun !

We have almost come to the end of our dinosaur project. The children have loved learning about types of dinosaurs, the way they lived and even about fossils.

We are now searching for new ideas for a project in July.

With all thanks to Sarah, the children have come far in learning their letters. I am continuing the 'Mystery Letter of the Week' program and for some of the older children, we are practicing putting letters together to form words.

Over the next few months we will be working towards transitioning some of our children to school.

We have begun visits to local Primary Schools and will continue to help the children develop the skills that will ease them into their first year of school.

We have started to re-organise our room into learning centres. This will encourage the children to play in the designated learning areas and self select activities.

Amy



Safety Corner

Please hold children's hands when entering and exiting the gates into the car park

Gate Safety

The gates are there to keep your child safe. Please do not allow your child to open and close the gates as this teaches them that it is OK for them to open and close the gates, even when Mum or Dad are not there.

Please ensure the gate is closed securely behind you when entering or leaving the Centre.

Children need to have a safe environment. They are too young to behave safely. Telling them and teaching them about danger does not keep them safe.

Keeping your child safe is your responsibility

Some reminders:

- Have emergency phone numbers near the phone
- Have a first aid kit in the house and car
- Install an earth leakage breaker in your fuse box
- Install a smoke detector
- Check that homes you visit with your child are safe
- Do a first aid course which includes emergency resuscitation so you will know what to do in an emergency



by Sophie

Reminders

- As we are coming into the cooler weather, it is important to provide your child with a warm jacket for outside play and a blanket for rest time.
- All medication must be placed in the fridge or in the First Aid cupboard in each room. No medication is to be left in a child's bag.
- Staff are only allowed to administer medication which has been prescribed by a Doctor. This means that Panadol, Demazin and cough mixtures cannot be administered unless accompanied by a Doctor's Certificate stating the dosages and dates to be administered.

Special Events

July, 2007

Tanabata Festival (Saturday, 7th July, 2007)

The Tanabata Festival falls on Saturday, 7th July, 2007. We are told that once a year, on the evening of this day, Altair and Vega of the Milky Way meet. The Festival has its origins in an ancient Chinese legend. **Children will celebrate Tanabata at KCCC during the week commencing 2nd July in the traditional way by writing their wishes on Tanzaku (oblong pieces of coloured paper) and tying them on bamboo branches.**

We invite all parents to join in as well, by adding their own wishes to our display—may all your wishes come true !!

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Celebrations—NAIDOC Week will be celebrated at KCCC from the 8th to 15th July, 2007.

The theme for this year is **50 Years, Looking Forward, Looking Blak.**

The children will be exposed to a variety of Aboriginal cultural stories, songs and language.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

will be held week commencing 16th July

Lesley—10.00am to 6.00pm, Tuesday

Amy—8.30am to 5.00pm, Wednesday

Lina—9.00am to 5.30pm, Thursday

Wednesday Evening:

Lesley, Amy and Lina, from 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Please make your appointment with your child's teacher

National Day—Peru (28th July)

Potato Day—Friday, 27th July

Believe it or not, potatoes didn't come from Ireland—they came from Peru !

The Incas of ancient Peru grew potatoes more than 5,000 years ago. Modern day Peruvians still eat lots of potatoes. During the week commencing 23rd July, the children will be involved in a different activity each day involving potatoes.



National Tree Day and Save the Koala Day
Friday, 27th July, 2007

Children will be talking about how important trees are and ways we can help save the koala

Special Events

August, 2007

Wattle Day

Wednesday, 1st August

Kirrawee Child Care Centre will celebrate Wattle Day by wearing yellow

Jeans for Genes Day

Friday, 3rd August, 2007

KCCC will wear jeans on Friday

Parent Meeting

Wednesday, 22nd August, 2007

The next Parent Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22nd August, at 7.00pm.

We look forward to seeing you all there !

Daffodil Day

Friday, 24th August, 2007

KCCC will celebrate Daffodil Day by planting daffodils and nurturing our garden.

Sutherland Shire Belly Dancers

will visit the Centre on **Thursday, 30th August, 2007** at 10.30am

Cost: \$5.00 per family

Fathers' Day Morning Tea

Friday, 31st August, 2007

Please come and join your child for morning tea at 10.00am.

September, 2007

Ramadan (Muslim) begins on Thursday, 13th September, 2007

Ananse Stories—Sam Derchie

Thursday, 20th September, 2007

Using the tradition of the talking drum and other percussive instruments, Sam explores the exploits of Ananse, the folkloric spider character of the Ashanti forests of Ghana

Cost: \$10.00 per child

If your child does not attend on this day and you would like them to see the show, you are welcome to bring them at 10.00am

International Day of Peace

Friday, 21st September

Disco and Sausage Sizzle

Friday, 21st September, 2007

KCCC will be holding a Disco and Sausage Sizzle for the children on **Friday, 21st September** from 6.30pm to 8.00pm

All families are welcome to come and join in the fun !

Yom Kippur (Jewish)

Saturday, 22nd September

School Photos

These will be taken on Tuesday, 25th September, 2007, commencing 9.30am

If you wish your child to be photographed, please feel free to bring them to the Centre on this day.

Moon Festival (Chinese)

Tuesday, 25th September, 2007 is a special Asian festival called **Moon Festival, (Zhong Quidie)**. It is held on the day of the Full Moon in mid Autumn. On this day, the Moon is farthest from the Earth and it is said that on this night the Moon is the biggest and brightest.

In Chinese mythology, the Moon has always been linked with Yin, which represents feminine nature, while the Sun is seen as Yang, or masculine.

Many years ago, offerings were made to the Moon on this day. Altars were set up with a statue of the Rabbit that the Chinese see in the Moon, or a picture of the Moon Palace.

Rounded fruits representing the Moon, such as peaches, melons and grapes, were laid out on plates. There were also 13 mooncakes—one for each month of the lunar year.

The Moon Festival is a happy family occasion. The family gathers together to enjoy a sumptuous dinner and an outdoor picnic to enjoy the beautiful Moon. Children have fun playing with lit up paper lanterns which they have made themselves, or bought from the market. The lanterns are of different shapes and colours.

This special night is also celebrated with the consumption of mooncakes and fruits until midnight. The mooncakes are made of sweet lotus seed paste with one to four cooked duck egg yolks inside, symbolising the Moon.

Happy Moon Festival to all
KCCC Families

Inserted in this Newsletter are:

- Article—The Common Cold
- Calendars for July, August, September

Best wishes for the months ahead,

Fikry Bassiuoni

Kay Doyle