



Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre

OCTOBER 2016

OFFICE NEWS

Xmas Hampers

We are asking parents and carers to donate goods for our annual Xmas Raffle. We will have a couple of baskets in the front office in coming weeks for donations.

Tickets for the hampers will go on sale mid-November and prizes will be drawn at our Children's Xmas Party on Friday 16th December.

Parents will be given tickets to sell from the end of November

REMINDERS FOR SEPT

- Call the centre if your child is absent
- Consider care needs for 2017
- Fill out holiday forms

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

The centre will hold its annual Halloween festivities from the 24th October-4th November, the centre will be decorated for 2wks. Children can come dressed in their favourite costume for the week of the 31st Oct to 4th November. We will have a few Halloween activities set up in the yard for children to participate in and we will have our annual trick and treating on Halloween Day Monday 31th October.

WHAT'S COMING UP??

ANNUAL WORKING BEE

Saturday 3rd December from 8am

This is your final chance to reduce levy payment and a great way to be involved at the centre, children are welcome under their parent's supervision and any time donated by parents will reduce their end of year levy.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 16th December at 2pm

Activities, afternoon tea and a visit from Santa

Signup sheets will be available in the front office for these events from early November

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

This year the centre will be closed from Monday 26th December until Friday 6th January 2017.

We will reopen on Monday 9th January at 7.30am

HATS, SUNSCREEN AND REPELLANT

As we head into spring and summer we would like to remind parents that all children must bring a named hat to daycare so that they can play out in the yard.

We also suggest that preschool parents whose children are off to school next year, allow them to start taking responsibility for their own hats, clothes, bags etc, as this will be the expected of them at school next year.

We also ask that you dress your children in sunsmart clothes which means no singlets or shoe string dresses.

Please remember to apply sunscreen and insect repellent on arrival!

Have a great month,
Michelle

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

TRANSITIONING

As the year comes to an end, our little people have lots of transitions to work through to get them prepared for the next big step in their lives, some will head off to school and kindy and others will be moving up to the next room to begin a new learning journey. Our educators spend lots of time preparing children for their transitions, preparation helps both the child and parent as it allows children to develop a sense of what's going to come next and also allows children to get to know their new educators prior to their permanent move.

The following tips are a great guide for parents to use at home to help our educators make the move to a new room/school as easy as possible:

- ✓ Nursery children are given the same cups that are used in the toddler room, to help them get used to drinking from them
- ✓ Nursery children are given tongs to use so that they will be able to serve themselves
- ✓ Toddlers are engaged in extended group times
- ✓ Toddlers are encouraged to put their own clothes on
- ✓ Toddlers are encouraged to pack up toys etc
- ✓ Preschoolers are given the responsibility of looking after their own belongings e.g. hats, clothes, toys etc
- ✓ Preschoolers are engaged in longer sit down group times
- ✓ Preschoolers are encouraged to think for themselves and make their own decisions with guidance
- ✓ Preschoolers are encouraged to be independent

**I am an
EARLY
CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL,
not a
babysitter.
I NEVER
once sat
on a baby!**

WEDDING WISHES

We would all like to wish Karly and her partner Ammon all the best for their big day on Saturday 8th October 2016.

The children are super excited and can't wait to see photos of our lovely Karly all dressed up, especially after their own wedding rehearsals earlier this year.

Karly will be away from the centre for her Wedding Celebrations from Monday 3rd October and will return on Wednesday 19th October as Mrs Davie



SHOUT OUT

We have another shout out this month to our wonderful dads who have been helping with our pallet furniture projects and other various handyman jobs around the centre.

Your help with these projects has been priceless and both the staff and children greatly appreciate the awesome effort you have all put in over the past months.

**There is no "I" in
Team, but we sure
are glad there is "u"
in our volunteers!**

Until next
month Barb

KITCHEN CAPERS

FUN FOOD FACTS ABOUT THE STRAWBERRY

- Strawberries come from a plant called 'fragaria'.
- Strawberries are edible (and rather tasty) but technically they are receptacles (the thickened part of a stem) rather than berries
- The little hard pieces that appear to be seeds on a strawberry are actually a type of dry fruit (called achene) that contain their own seeds!
- Strawberries have lots of vitamin C.
- Unlike some other fruits, they don't continue to ripen after being picked.
- Strawberries survive in a range of conditions and will grow happily in most places around the world.
- Strawberry is also a popular artificial flavour added to a variety of foods.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Healthy Strawberry Oatmeal Bars

One bowl and 100% whole grain—perfect for a snack or dessert!

STRAWBERRY BARS:

- 1 cup old fashioned rolled oats
- 3/4 cup white whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp each of ground ginger & kosher salt
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar, divided

- 2 cups, small-diced strawberries

VANILLA GLAZE (OPTIONAL BUT DELICIOUS):

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon milk (any kind you like)



DIRECTIONS:

1. Pre heat oven to 190 degrees. Line an 8-by-8-inch baking pan with baking paper so that the paper overhangs two sides like "handles."
2. In a medium bowl, combine the oats, 3/4 cup flour, brown sugar, ginger, and salt. Pour in the melted butter and stir until it forms clumps and the dry ingredients are evenly moistened. Set aside 1/2 cup of the crumble mixture, then press the rest into an even layer in the bottom of the prepared pan.
3. Scatter half of the strawberries over the crust. Sprinkle the cornstarch evenly over the top, then sprinkle on the lemon juice, and 1/2 tablespoon of the granulated sugar. Scatter on the remaining berries, then the remaining 1/2 tablespoon sugar. Sprinkle the reserved crumbs evenly over the top.
4. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, until the fruit is bubbly and the crumb topping looks golden. Place the pan on a wire rack to cool. Prepare the glaze: in a medium bowl, whisk the powdered sugar, vanilla, and milk until smooth. Add more milk if a thinner consistency is desired. Using the baking paper handles, lift from the pan. Drizzle with glaze, slice, and serve.

Note: I use frozen Strawberries, blueberries or mixed berries when fresh berries aren't available

Stay active and eat well, Michelle, Candice and Barb

Nursery Natter

A huge thank you to Scott Webb for making our mud kitchen, the babies are loving it, we even have water hooked up to the tap, so we are looking forward to lots of mud pie creations. A mud kitchen can be messy but it can also be great fun, what child doesn't love mixing up a mud pie? For younger children, mud kitchens can also provide a whole variety of different learning opportunities including sensory, imaginative, creative and exploratory play. Being outdoors gives children the chance to connect and learn about nature, to be creative and invent their own role play games and can even allow opportunities for early maths and science activities.



To celebrate Spring we have planted Sunflower seeds in our garden area, we are looking forward to them flowering.



We have a little Pet Shop (Peek-A-Boo-Pet Shop) set up in the room, as the babies are loving dogs, cats, birds and fish at the moment. We are learning a new song 'Parts of the Dog' which is sung to the tune of 'The Wheels on the Bus'. I have put a copy of the song on our Program board outside the room.

We have also been enjoying water play and messy play, so don't forget to put spare clothes in your baby's bag.

Also make sure your baby's items are clearly marked with their name. Please remember we have an open door policy and are available for any questions you may have.

Until next month Kathy, Nar Maya and Jelenka

Toddler Torque

Have you noticed our exciting new look road and traffic signs around the big yard? We have street names, parking signs, speed limits, directional signs, give way signs and more. These signs have given the children inspiration to learn concepts, road rules, to read words, numbers and explore new play ideas.

Play-based learning plays a crucial role in the development of literacy and numeracy. Both literacy and numeracy are forms of communication; ways in which we represent and share information with others about our world. Because literacy and numeracy are essential life skills, children need opportunities to use them (and to see them being used) in real life situations.

We are so excited to have our traffic signs on display around the yard. We have been using them to learn many different concepts: number recognition, letter recognition, shapes, and to talk about different speeds (higher numbers means faster etc).

With numeracy skills being so important in the early years it is great that we can incorporate every day signs in to our teachable moments. All of these conversations are helping to develop the children's numeracy skills. It's good to get back to basics by using your everyday environment to help develop these skills. Next time you are driving or walking around the street you might like to take the opportunity to have your own numeracy discussion with your child/children.

A big thank-you to Brad Harpur for putting the signs up for us the children and staff are enjoying this whole new look in the yard. Also thanks to Miranda and Karly for organising the donation of the signs!

Cheers and thanks from Cheryl and Miranda.

New toddler

We would like to welcome Leabphia and her lovely family to our toddler group, I'm sure Leabphia will settle in quickly and make lots of new friends.

Exploring farms.

The toddlers are still involved in our little farm area, so far we have learnt about some farm animals and now we have moved on to discovering farm foods we looked at and cracked chicken eggs and smelt, cooked and tasted corn and popcorn.



Next we are thinking of growing carrots from carrot tops just to show the children where food comes from and that it is possible to grow your own fruit and vegetables.



Preschool



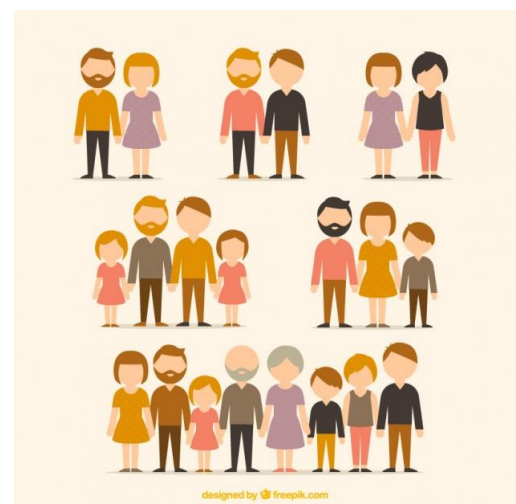
We have been super busy this month with learning about caterpillars, cocoons and butterflies. We have had so many great learning experiences from this topic and it continues to keep the children intrigued. Through this interest, we have learned about the life cycle of a butterfly and how to care for nature. We have learned fine motor skills through clay, drawing and other arts and Craft that you can find displayed in the room. We worked really hard on our life size life cycle of a butterfly and the end result is amazing! We have also learned about the life cycle through doing egg, butterfly and cocoon yoga.

Different types of families

Because young children form ideas about themselves and other people early in life, it is important to begin teaching anti-bias lessons early and to help children recognize and accept differences and see similarities beyond the surface. We have been speaking to the children at group time around the different dynamics that make up a family. Some families have two dads, some families are big and some small. If we reinforce these lessons, children will learn to appreciate, rather than fear differences and to recognize bias and stereotypes when they see them. As children begin to compare their family situation with others, they may start expressing their concerns about being different. We know that children need to be reassured that differences are fine. The exposure to families that may not be like their own in particular encourages tolerance and acceptance because they see that even within their own classroom, everyone's family is unique!

Welcome to our new friends Felix, Aaylie and Archie and their families.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Jiwoo, Lythe and Felix!!



Until next month...**Karly, Kathleen, Hedy, Rohana and Angie**