



Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre

SEPTEMBER 2016

OFFICE NEWS



FATHER'S DAY

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**Friday 2nd September
2016 @2:30pm**

**Come along and have a sausage
and a play, some special
Father's Day activities will be
available to do with your child.
So come and join the fun!**

FUNDRAISING

Chalk and Parent Direct Catalogues offer good quality educational supplies to families are now available in the front office, if you wish to take advantage of delivery directly to the centre please return orders by

**Friday 16th September
2016.**

Also available to family or friends that may be interested in placing an order please take them some catalogues to view.

REMINDERS FOR SEPT

- Bring back your toy orders
- Call the centre if your child is absent
- Consider care needs for 2017

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.

Have a
great
month,
Michelle

CHILDCARE FOR 2017

I know what you're all thinking, but we are seriously heading into that time of the year again!

So as the year rolls on at an amazing pace we are asking parents to consider what their care needs for the coming year will be, we have started our 2017 booking sheet for existing children and our vacancies for next year are already looking limited across all rooms so we suggest to those families wanting to change days to submit forms sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

We are also asking families with children going off to school and kinder next year to lodge their Termination of Care forms as soon you have a date for their last day, this helps us work out when transitions will take place for those staying at the centre and moving up to the next room.

Maintenance Levy

Maintenance levy will be added to accounts at the end of this month. We have many odd jobs that need to be done around the centre at the moment. If you want to reduce your levy have a look at the following list and come and see us if you can help out, the centre has most of the equipment needed for maintenance jobs including gennie, ladders and cleaning equipment

- Gennie front path way
- Take a load to the tip
- Clean external windows and frames
- Oil bridge over pond
- Clean kitchen oven
- Blow/vac/rake leaves
- Clean outdoor fans

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

TAKING TURNS, A STRUGGLE UNTIL AGE 5

All early childhood educators will have painstakingly separated two children fighting over a toy and taken the time to explain the value of sharing and turn taking. In fact this is a daily experience for some of us. Well, new research out of the UK has shown that children may not learn the value of turn taking until they are 5 years old. *Could all your efforts have been in vain?*

Assistant Professor of Behavioural Science Dr Alicia Melis compared the turn-taking skills of young children and chimpanzees. Her research revealed that five year old's in both groups have much better turn taking skills than three and a half year old's, which may suggest the skill develops as cognitive abilities mature, rather than through adult interventions to change behaviour.

According to Dr Melis the study shows that although young children may be able to engage in reciprocal interactions that are driven by past events – 'she was nice to me, so I will be nice to her now' –they are not aware of prospective turn-taking and are unable to understand the long-term benefits of taking turns.

To investigate turn-taking abilities Dr Melis devised an experiment involving rewards placed on specially designed trays. Each pair of participants had to work together to pull the trays so that a reward would be reachable. Importantly, pulling one tray resulted in losing the reward on the other tray.

The results showed that five year old children managed to access a reward on 99.5 per cent of the trials, while the three and a half year old's were successful in only 62.3 per cent of the trials. The data showed that although some of the younger pairs eventually developed a turn taking strategy, it took them a while to do so and some of the three and a half year old's never resolved their conflict of interest.

"Although young children are encouraged to take turns across many different situations, including in interactions with adults and when sharing resources with other children, findings showed that it was only from age five when the children were able to spontaneously take turns to solve a conflict of interests".



WHITE BALLOON DAY

White Balloon Day is supported by Bravehearts and the aim of this appeal is to protect children against sexual assault.

FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Come dressed in white to help us celebrate and we ask that families and staff bring a gold coin for the cause.

The money raised will allow Bravehearts to continue to visit children Australia wide to educate them on personal safety and provide counselling sessions for those in need.

SHOUT OUT

We have a wonderful group of dedicated educators and staff here at the centre and more often than not we forget (me included) to tell them what a great job they are doing, so next time you're at the centre and you see a great activity, new handmade resources, smell awesome aromas from the kitchen or something makes you smile, give a shout out and let our educators/staff know what a great job there doing.

HAPPINESS IS



...working with
great people.

Until next
month Barb

KITCHEN CAPERS

FUN FOOD FACTS ABOUT THE HUMBLE WATERMELON

We love watermelon here at the centre and we love sharing fun facts about what we eat

- Wild watermelons originated in southern Africa.
- The watermelon can be classed as both a fruit and a vegetable. It is a fruit because it grows from a seed, has a sweet refreshing flavour, and is loosely considered a type of melon (although it is actually a type of berry called a pepo). It is a vegetable because it is a member of the same family as the cucumber, pumpkin and squash. It is also harvested and cleared from fields like other vine growing vegetables.
- By weight, a watermelon contains about 6% sugar and 92% water. The high water and electrolyte content of watermelons make them ideal as refreshing summer thirst quenchers. They keep us hydrated, our skin fresh, and can clean the kidneys of toxins.
- Nutritionally, watermelons contain high levels of vitamin B6 (which increases brainpower), vitamin A (good for eye sight), potassium (which helps in curing heart disease and keeping the heart healthy). The watermelon also contains Vitamin B1, C and manganese which protect against infections.
- All parts of a watermelon can be eaten, even the rind, which actually contains a number of nutrients too, but due to the unappealing flavour is rarely eaten. In China though, the rind is used as a vegetable and stir-fried, stewed or pickled.
- There are more than 1200 varieties of watermelon that come in various weights, shapes, sizes and red, orange, yellow or white in colour.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Italian Chicken Tortellini Soup

Yield: one large pot of soup

Ingredients

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • 500gms shredded, BBQ chicken | • 1 bay leaf |
| • 3 tablespoons olive oil | • 3 cups ricotta and roast vegetable tortellini |
| • 4 large carrots, peeled and diced | • 1 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese |
| • 4 stalks celery, diced | • Juice of 1 lemon, plus more for serving |
| • 2 large onions, finely diced | • 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped |
| • 8 cloves garlic, minced | |
| • Big pinch of salt | |
| • (2) 32 oz containers chicken stock | |

Instructions

Heat olive oil in a large, heavy bottomed soup pan over a medium flame. Add carrots, celery, and onion; cook - stirring occasionally - for 8-9 minutes. Add garlic and salt and cook for another minute before adding the bay leaf and chicken stock. Increase heat to high, bring soup to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low. Stir in tortellini and simmer for 10 minutes, or until the vegetables are soft and the tortellini is cooked. Stir in the shredded chicken, Parmesan cheese, lemon juice, and parsley. Serve warm.



Stay active and eat well, Michelle, Candice and Barb

Nursery Natter

We have done a few different experiments using the cars to paint with. Firstly we did large car painting, which was great for the babies to explore cause effect, as each vehicle left a different tyre print. We followed this up with small car painting, but we actually painted with the cars onto a canvas which was a firmer base to push the cars along on. The finished canvas looks awesome.



A big happy birthday to Nar-Maya for 7th September and Jenaya who is turning one on the 10th September.



We have been looking at Transport, we have set up an area in the room with different types of vehicles, we have Fire Trucks, Tip Trucks, Buses and cars of different sizes and colors, which helps to encourage language development, also basic maths involving different sizes. Oh yes we even have our own Fireman!

Please make sure you put extra clothes in your baby's bag, as we will be exploring more messy activities. 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.



We have also been doing lots of Messy Play:-

Messy Play Messy play stimulates the senses. The tactile experience gained during messy play helps little ones experience a variety of textures.

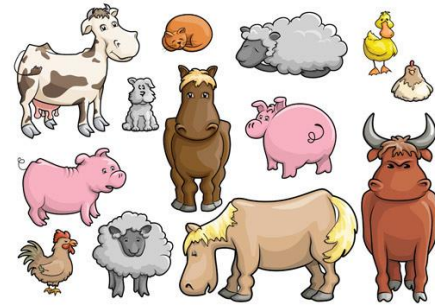
It offers many opportunities for learning:- Creative development; Physical Development; Communication and language development; Personal, Emotional and Social Development; Intellectual Development; Mathematical Development.

Until next month Kathy, Nar Maya and Jelenka

Toddler Torque

Farm Animals

The toddlers have been learning all about farm animals, it all began from Patience singing the song Old MacDonald had a farm to me. At group times we began to sing the song and introduce farm animals, then we set up a farm area for the children to play in. Have a look in our room at the farm area, your child would love to show you. We are looking into organising a visit from Fun- e farm where the children can meet and touch real farm animals. Next we will be finding out all about food produced and grown on farms and tasting some of those foods.



Wags

Our toddler room has its own toy pet named Wags, each week a child is chosen to take Wags and his book home and to look after him for the weekend. We would appreciate it if you can take a couple of photos and write a few comments about the visit into our book. The idea of this is to enable the children to link home and day-care and to provide us with a little bit more information about your child and family. It also gives the child a boost of confidence and pride when they return Wags to show and tell their friends at group time.



Reminders

Educa is a wonderful form of communication for us as educators to pass on information regarding your child's experiences, please feel free to comment on our learning stories in the comments section at the bottom section of the learning story. We appreciate any comments and it assists us to plan for your child.

Cheers and thanks from Cheryl and Miranda.

Preschool



This month we have been very busy in the preschool room. We have had our pet interest going for most of the month learning lots of things about caring for own pets. We also saved money that we made from selling our pup treats to buy our very own pet for the pre-schoolers, a Siamese fighting fish. We were also so lucky to have some children bring their pet dogs in for a visit! How cool! We would like to announce that we have a name for our new pet fish...Fluffy Rucka Studeen!

We also celebrated our Preschool Olympics this month where we competed in lots of different activities such as Pom Pom blowing, Skee ball, Sack racing, Olympic jumping and Olympic chicken throwing competitions. We had finals and scored points for our team and on Friday we had a medal ceremony to mark the closing of our 2016 Preschool Olympic games



Recently we found a butterfly cocoon in the backyard so we decided to learn more about this intriguing creature. We have set up our Preschool butterfly sanctuary and we have lots activities and learning planned for this interest so watch this space.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY TO
RAPHAEL!!



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