



## Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre

**DECEMBER 2016**

### **OFFICE NEWS**

#### **WHAT'S COMING UP??**

##### **ANNUAL WORKING BEE**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

##### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**12/12/2016 TO 22/01/17**

Please ensure holiday forms are filled out if your child will be spending time at home with sibling's during this time.

##### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**

**Activities, afternoon tea and a visit from Santa**

**Signup sheets for catering purposes are available in the front office**

##### **CHRISTMAS CLOSURE**

**The centre will be closed from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

**We will reopen on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30am**

#### **REMINDERS FOR DEC**

- Call the centre if your child is absent
- Consider care needs for 2017
- Fill out Holiday, Change of care and Termination of Care forms.

#### **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

**LOOK AT OUR AMAZING HAMPERS UP FOR RAFFLE IN THE FOYER!**

(A big thanks to the families that donated goodies)  
All families and staff have been given a book of 10 raffle tickets. Please return money or unsold tickets to the office no later than Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Prizes will be drawn at our Children's Xmas Party on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

All monies raised from our hamper raffle will be used to purchase resources for 2017.  
**COME AND SEE US IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE**

#### **FINALISING 2016 ACCOUNTS**

We ask that parents to please pay their accounts in full by no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016; as a non for profit we do rely on all child care fees being up to date to cover wages over the Christmas break.

Fee reminders have been charged to the centres last day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 and have been placed in your child's pocket today so that you can budget accordingly.

Child care fee accounts that are overdue upon our return in January will have their days reduced or their place terminated altogether and the account handed over to a debt collection agency.

Merry  
Christmas and  
a safe and  
prosperous New  
Year  
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



**Wishing you all a  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.**



### SAD GOODBYE

To our children going to BIG SCHOOL I hope that we have fulfilled *our mission*: that you will be **"life long learners"**.

We wish you all the best for your school years and hope that you remember your days at TAFE Child Care as a happy time and that you go on to believe in your unique capabilities, and thrive in the wider world of school and beyond.

## **Educa Files**

**To all the families that are leaving us, don't forget to bring in a USB!**

When children leave our service their Educa Profiles are archived, which means families can no longer see them! 😞

As a lot of work has gone into these portfolios and there are many memories for you and your child we would like to ensure that you have a copy before you leave the centre.

**We ask that you bring in a USB with your child's name on it and I will transfer a downloaded copy of your Educa file on to the USB for you to keep.**

(The file contains all the photos from your Educa profile but also a hotmail file with all of the learning stories - this will need the internet to open.)

## KITCHEN CAPERS

### CHRISTMAS FOOD FACTS

- Legend has it that candy canes were invented in 1670, when the choirmaster of the Cologne Cathedral commissioned candies shaped like a shepherd's crook so they could be handed out to children attending the church's crèche scene to keep them quiet. The stripes came later.
- The Cost of the Milk and Cookies Left for Santa Really Adds Up It's been estimated that the price of all the milk and cookies left out for Santa around the world amounts to about \$189 million
- Apples were the first known Christmas tree decorations.
- December 23 is the busiest grocery store day of the year.
- Thank Queen Elizabeth I for adorable little gingerbread people. While she didn't actually bake the cookies herself (she was a queen, after all), she did request that her royal bakers create gingerbread cookies shaped like visiting dignitaries in order to honour them.

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH-

#### **Creamy Carrot Cake Dip and Gingerbread Cookie Stick**

- 12 oz. cream cheese
  - ½ cup Greek yoghurt
  - 1/4 c. powdered sugar
  - 1/4 c. brown sugar
  - ¾ tsp. cinnamon
  - ¼ tsp. nutmeg
  - pinch of ground cloves
- ½ c. finely shredded carrot



#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Combine all ingredients except carrots and mix on medium-high speed 1-2 minutes.
2. Stir in shredded carrots.
3. Serve with cookies

#### **GINGERBREAD**

- 1 cup butter at room temperature
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 egg

Mix all these ingredients and set aside

#### **In large bowl mix together:**

- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. allspice

Preheat oven to 180 degrees Add all of the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and mix well.

On floured surface roll out cookies immediately and slice into small rectangles, mixture can be stored in the refrigerator up to a week. Bake 8-12. minutes. Let cool on pan for 10 minutes.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM CANDICE MICHELLE AND GARY**



## Nursery Natter

Hi all, it has been a very busy month in the nursery room. We have kept the babies busy with sensory explorations and caring for our garden!

The babies have been enjoying experiences like painting, shaving cream painting, slime, goop, play dough and water play under the sprinkler and in the mud kitchen. Through these experiences they have been playing with and learning the difference between warm and cold.

The babies have also been enjoying our walks to the nature garden to further develop their sense of smell and experimenting with different scents through play.

As you have probably noticed we have set up our Christmas area early, some of the babies have been enjoying talking about Christmas and looking at Christmas lights with their families. For the month of December we will still be planning sensory experiences but will also be focusing on Christmas and Christmas craft.



We would like to welcome our new friend William to the nursery room, we look forward to getting to know you.

A big Happy Birthday to Nina who turns 2 on the 16th of December.

**Merry Christmas to all our families, we will see you in 2017!**

**Until next time... Miranda, Rohana, Nar Maya and Angie**

## Toddler Torque

### *African Storyteller.*

Last week we had a special visitor to the centre.

Sam Derchie is a descendant of the Ashanti people of Ghana in West Africa. From the age of six, under the tutelage of his grandfather he was taught the storytelling art of "Anansesem" and the art of the Talking Drum. He is a multi-instrumentalist playing piano and many percussion instruments. After completing his studies of African Literature he worked as a professional musician and composer before migrating to Australia in 1982. He has toured the highly acclaimed "Ananse Stories" extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand. The toddlers enjoyed listening to the stories, hearing the music and playing the instruments with Sam.



### *Promoting literacy.*

I would like to say a big thank you to everybody that is using our Let's Read Library; I hope you are all enjoying reading with your child. Please consider borrowing the books if you haven't already done so. Reading stories promotes language, extends vocabularies, and provides that special one on one time with your child.

***We welcome Keziah and her family to the toddler room and a big Happy Birthday this month to Amreen and Keziah!***

***Cheers and all the best for the New Year 2017 From Cheryl and Kathy.***

Ho ho ho and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Thank you to all of the parents and families for your help during the year and to your wonderful children, we have all had a great year together.



### *What have we been doing?*

Although our farm area has been packed up we are still learning about farm animals and currently we are looking at the story of the 3 Little Pigs. The children have made a house of straw and a house of sticks and next of course will be the house of bricks.



### *Next year many of our toddlers will become pre-schoolers*

Transitioning soon into the pre-school during December will be the following children,

Joseph, Rosie, Amreen and Aura.

During January it will be Albie, Renner, Jessie and Blake's turn. We are sad to see you go but we are very lucky in our centre that we still get to see you out in the yard every day.



## Preschool

Wow November has literally jumped on Santa's sleigh and flown by like Rudolf on steroids! We have had a hectic month and November has earned its name as the SILLY SEASON!! Remind me to take 2 months off beginning at the start of November next year!! Haha

We are really slowing down with our house and home interest with ideas sparking to turn our recycled cubby house into a gingerbread house...we will keep you updated on this!

It is heating up and as a result we are engaging in a lot of water play!!! We have been playing under the sprinkler and making lots of cool things in the sand pit using water. December has arrived so we are winding down on the amount of documentation to prepare for a month of Christmas craft and fun. We welcome any ideas that you may have. We will also be having lots and lots of water play, so please ensure your child has a change of clothes EVERY DAY. We'd also be really grateful if you could bring in some plastic bags for wet clothes.



We have also been doing a few science experiments lately, experimenting with cause and effect. We made Naked eggs which was really awesome. All you need to do is fill a jar with vinegar and gently add an egg. We waited a really long time for the vinegar to dissolve the egg but when it did, we were amazed at our very naked egg with only the outer membrane remaining. It's so much fun to watch and feel as the vinegar dissolves the shell.



**Merry Christmas  
to all our  
families!**

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

Happy Birthday to Irae and Kaitlyn!

And finally, some of our Preschoolers will be leaving us at the end of this month and we will be VERY SAD to see them go. We wish them and their families all the best ☺ xxx