



LONG DAY CARE NEWSLETTER

Yarra Junction

October 2019

From the Office

As you are aware Emily has commenced parental leave as she and Jack await the birth of their first baby. We will let you know when their little one arrives.

Melissa (Mel) Saaghy-Walsh will be the acting Director during Emily's absence supporting Taylor who has come out of the Toddler Room to take a more active role in the office.

Melissa has been assisting in another role but is now available to take a more active role at our Yarra Junction Service.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Hannah into our service. Hannah has joined us in a full time role as centre support. Hannah will be supporting educators across all rooms.

Toula is currently on leave and should return soon. During Toula's absence Hannah will be working in the Pre-Kinder room.

Service Policy Reviews

We are currently reviewing our Safe Sleep and Relaxation Policy and Procedure. We would love your feedback and any suggestions. The policy is on display at the Service. We would also be more than happy to email you a copy of the policy and procedure if you would like.

Parent Committee

We are looking for parents to be involved in our parent committee. If you would like to be a part of the committee please let Mel or Taylor know.

Signing in and out

Please remember to sign in and out on the iPad each day. This is linked to the CCS portal so it is extremely important as it is Centrelink's way of seeing your sessions and assigning your CCS. We are audited on attendances and it is not recommended that educators sign in and out on behalf of families. This is only to be done in exceptional circumstances.

Our Playground

The final piece of equipment has finally been installed in our playground and it all looks absolutely fantastic. The children have really enjoyed all the new equipment and have been engaging in lots of play in the dry creek bed, with the outdoor musical



instruments, access spinner and now the shadow spinner.



Landcare and Biodiversity Grant

Last year we were lucky enough to receive a grant to support sustainability and land care at the Service.

The grant included veggie boxes, fruit trees, gardening gloves and tools for both the children and adults. It also included bush tucker plants and educational sessions. Colin, an indigenous consultant will be attending the Service on Thursday morning to plant our bush tucker plants and to also teach the children about bush tucker and caring for our plants. We would like to say a big thank you to Kristen, one of our parents from our Mount Evelyn Service for organising this for us. If you would like to come along and be a part of this experience please let us know. Also a big thank you Riki from our maintenance team for getting all the items ready for planting day. We look forward to seeing the improvements to our outdoor space.

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER

Monday 11th November -

Remembrance Day - one minute silence. RSL member visiting



Monday 11th to 17th November - National Recycling Week – recycling activities and crafts

Nursery

This past month, water play has been a big hit in the Nursery Room. Several of the older children are now familiar with where the tap is, and have started going up to it and pointing, asking for water. It is great to see how much this experience is being enjoyed by the children. Sensory play enhances neural pathways within the brain. In this way, sensory play actually helps foster language development, cognitive



growth, problem-solving skills, and social skills-- all of this from something as simple as splashing in water.

October saw us mark Children's Week, which we celebrated in a variety of fun ways, from sharing special books with each other, to having a Teddy



Bear's Picnic. We finished off the week with a disco in the Kinder Room, which was an exciting little trip for our babies.

Toddler Room

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Michelle. After completing my Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, I began working at Cire on a casual basis three years ago. I now feel ready to step up and made the conscious decision to take on the Room Leader role of the Toddler Room. I commenced this position on the 28th October and I couldn't be more delighted to be able to work with your children on a consistent and permanent basis.

I have two children, Aashka who is five and Indie who is three. They both also attend Cire and are enjoying being back in familiar surroundings and with trusted and adored educators. In my 'spare time' I am studying my Bachelor of Early Childhood Education which I am hoping to complete by 2021. I also love spending time with my children and our new puppy, Bentley, who is a seven-month old Border Collie which keeps us very busy. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children and building those relationships that children need to grow and develop and to nurture them through their time with us in the Toddler Room. I am also greatly appreciative to be able to work alongside

Chelsea. We have both worked very well together in the past and looking forward to what the future has in store for us. Currently we are doing lots of outdoor play in the morning when the weather is at its nicest and this is something we will continue to do. We have

added water play to our program which the children seem to enjoy in addition to other sensory activities such as shaving cream and sand, mess free art sensory bags and playdough. Some of the children have been heavily invested in nature, seeking out worms, snails and butchy boys. We are hoping to increase the learning outcomes of this experience by bringing it indoors with a 'nature tank'.

There are also plans to add to our garden by creating a space for Indigenous Bush tucker and further embedding Indigenous Culture in our program. And with Christmas being 5 weeks away

Chelsea is super excited to start our Christmas crafts and gifts for the end of the year. I look forward to meeting you all and working together to achieve the best outcomes for each and every



child in our Room. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at any stage. Look forward to working with you.

Michelle and Chelsea

Pre Kinder

It has been another busy month. We would like to welcome Lyla, Angelica and Sanne, who have joined us from the

toddler's room. The children are settling into their daily routines and exploring their new

environment happily

engaging with their educators and

peers. We have been making our own pretend

food for our home corner using recycled



materials and our imagination. The children have made spaghetti and meatballs, sausages, spiral pasta and pizza and painted the finished products. These resources have encouraged a lot of imaginary play in the home corner. The hair dressing salon is still extremely popular, and we thank Pat for bringing in a new collection of resources such as hair dryers, rollers and clips to add to this experience.

The children have also shown interest in collecting natural and processed items of interest that they find outdoors. We have been spreading all of the collected items on the art table, encouraging the children to share their findings and discuss what pieces could be used for their art experiences.

This month we celebrated children's week. Our activities included book day, water play day, dress up day, tea party and disco. The children enjoyed sharing their books and dress up with their peers and Laura brought in a special pop-up book about dragons. On Thursday the children had a tea party where they brought along their special teddy bears to share their afternoon tea with. The Mad Hatter joined us during our party and the children squealed with excitement. He stayed for quite a



while spending time with the children. On Friday we ended our celebrations with disco dancing in the afternoon which was enjoyed by all, including the educators.

Thank you for your support,
Karen, Laura, Pat and Hannah.

Kinder Room

Another busy month has been had in the Kinder Room as we work ever closer to the fast approaching end of year.

Our biggest highlighters Children's Week, where we focused on celebrating the special little people in our care. We danced our day away with a disco, dressed up as what we want to be when we grow up, had a teddy bear tea party and read some of our favourite books.

Some of us were even lucky enough to on an excursion to the Teddy Bear's Picnic down at Yarra Junction Reserve.

As well as the special events we have been very busy building, exploring, reading, singing, dancing, creating, co-operating, problem solving and learning our way through each day. We are really enjoying board games - turn taking, counting, helping, patience, resilience, construction, problem solving, balancing resilience, cooperation, early engineering principles at the moment. Our favourite past time is anything where we can work with our friends and challenge our brains and bodies. As we continue our search for a permanent kinder teacher, Alison has been working alongside us, challenging us to work harder, think outside the box and make great choices each day. She is a wonderful influence in the room. Please remember, as the hot weather has reached us early, to ensure your children wear closed toed shoes and tops that protect their shoulders from the UV rays.

We are looking forward to another exciting month ahead!

shoulders. As the weather warms up children may also be involved in more outdoor messy/water play. We ask that you please ensure that you pack extra clothes and appropriate footwear for your child's day

Healthy Choc Date Balls (Gluten, dairy, nut and egg free)



INGREDIENTS

- 250 grams pitted dates
- 100 grams desiccated coconut
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 20 grams Cocoa Unsweetened

METHOD

Place all ingredients into blender and blitz 2-3 minutes. You'll know when it's ready because the mixture will get quite hot and sticky. Roll balls into a round shape and place into a bowl of desiccated coconut or cocoa to cover. When you have finished rolling them out, place into fridge to set.



Just a friendly reminder to everyone that we are now well into Sun Smart time.

Children and

educators will be required to wear hats and sunscreen during this period, please ensure that your child doesn't come in a singlet or strappy dress as Sun Smart requires sleeves to cover

“How you
speak to
your children
becomes
their *inner* voice....”

Anonymous
Wednesday - Aug 22, 2012 9:09 am