



GUMNUTS

Early Learning Centre

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

News from the Director

Hi Everyone,

Welcome back for another year and a big welcome to the Gumnuts community to all of our new families , we thank you for giving us the chance to educate and care for your child. It can be extremely hard for parents to drop off their child for the very first time and be confident that our staff will care for your child just as well as you do at home. We welcome our parents to ring as many times throughout the day and we will support you through the settling in process as much as we can.

This Newsletter has been devised so that you can become more familiar with our Centre and staff. You will receive an emailed Newsletter each month which will include some very useful information, so please take the time to read them.

This year we have welcomed Jess and Georgie to our team on a full time basis we trust that they will provide the same professional approach as all of our educators to supporting the development of the children.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to come and see me to discuss. We look forward to another busy year working together again supporting each other through the development of our children. *Brendon*

Educational Leader- At Gumnuts we have some new and exciting plans in place to share with you and your child/children's learning this year. Firstly I would like to introduce myself as the new Educational Leader. A brief sum up of my role is to support all children in their individual developmental learning journey throughout the centre. I will be working alongside educators with teaching strategies to enhance all children's strengths and abilities to learn and develop in their own unique style. You will see me or hear of me once a week in your child's room when I replace the room leader for their planning time.

Michelle Hallett

News From The WOMBATS ROOM

We have had a great start to the year— not all the children started at the beginning of the year but our numbers have slowly increased over the weeks. This has given us a chance to really get to know your children and the children us, enabling us to build strong secure relationships.

We value your input and welcome any ideas, help, suggestions, that you may be able to offer and hope that if you have any questions or concerns you will let us know.

As part of improving the environment and providing opportunities for the children to learn about nature, plants and experience growth, different textures and smells, we want to improve the garden area in our

small yard. We would appreciate any ideas, plants or suggestions you may have.



We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide the best quality care and education for you child.

News from the POSSUMS ROOM

We have had a great start to the year in the Possums room; we have many different educators throughout the week as you may have seen by the photo's on our door. The educators in the Possums room include Kelly, Emily, Amanda, Nicola, Bridget, Sarah and Jess.

We have been spending our time with your children getting to know them and building strong secure relationships with them. The interest sheets you have filled out for us have been very helpful in building our relationships with your children as we have been able to better understand your child and their particular interests.

Thanks to all of your input about what you did on your holidays we have set up a beach themed play space in our sandpit; The children are enjoying imagining and creating with this new play space.

Your input is very important to us and we encourage you to continue to provide us with information about what you have done over the weekend or what new interests your child has shown at home so we are able to incorporate this into our program.

We have a communication book next to our sign in book for you to write any sort of information in that you think we may need to know throughout the day for example: your child may be tired or Mum or Dad is away and they may be unsettled. We encourage you to use this book as information relayed verbally can sometimes get forgotten or jumbled along the way.

Thanks Possums Educators

Families input and contributions to their children's development and education is valued at Gumnuts. Anyway (time) or anything (items) , your contribution is so very appreciated.

News from the WALLABIES ROOM

Dear Families and Friends

The educators in the Wallabies room would like to welcome back all the returning families and welcome all the new families to our room, we have had lots of new children start this year and its been great seeing all the familiar faces again.

The educators in the Wallabies room this year include: Tegan, Kim, Deb, Amy, Kelly and Calliope, we have also had a new educator start full time in our room, her name is Georgie. The children have enjoyed getting to know her.

The educators in the wallabies room have focussed on developing friendships with the children to ensure they feel happy, safe and confident, we have also been encouraging the children to develop friendships with each other. The children have done a great job at learning our routine and participating in the activities.

We celebrated Australia day by searching in our playground for Australian leaves and flowers that had fallen onto the ground. We then used these flowers to paste onto paper. At group time we read Australian books and played with our Australian toys.

We have begun a family photo wall, we would love it if you could bring in some photos for us to display on the wall. The display is located near the book area. The children have loved looking at the photos that we have displayed it also helps children to look at their family photo if they are missing their family, the photo with the Thomas the tank engine train in it has been the favourite so far.

From Tegan

Important Reminders:

Family BBQ Fri-24th Feb 4:30-6:00

Come along and bring your friends to meet the quality educators at Gumnuts. Enjoy a free BBQ while you explore the indoor and outdoor learning areas that Gumnuts has to offer.

Emails

This year we have introduced a new way of having direct contact with families. All rooms now have their own email address for you to flick emails or receive emails from your children's primary educators. Plus introducing another improvement to sustainability at Gumnuts. However we do also print anything hard copy so please just let your child's -

educator know of your preference. If you haven't supplied your email address please do so.

Membership Nomination Form

There maybe some confusion about this form. This form is to give you voting rights as a member on the decisions made regarding Gumnuts with the committee of Gumnuts. **Its not a committee membership form.**



Please fill out and place in box on fees shelf.

At Gumnuts we have been improving our sustainability practices and introduced an opportunity trolley and share food basket. Feel free to take, share or replace teaching our children empathy and kindness.

Gumnuts February Birthdays

A big happy birthday to Wendy, Emily, Ryan, Evie, Edith, Debbie, Lachlan, Nate, Oliver, Andy, Bella, Nash, Sofia, Felisha, Tamzin, Lachlan, Maddison, Noah and Tyce.



Have you checked out your new parent and breast feeding room. This room is for you to relax, chill out or have a catch up with friends on drop off or pick up. Inside you will find a child friendly play area and information about the service plus information you may need regarding community services.

Anglicare Victoria Parentzone have some amazing **FREE** courses they are offering. These programs are to assist in everyday parenting and family issues we all experience at time to time. Find their newsletter in the parent room.

[Www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au)

News from OSHC

Hello from the **before school** educators. Kelly has been away on her honeymoon and returns on the 21st Feb. We are trialling a new routine in the morning. Breakfast will still be in the Possum's room than at 7.30am the children will go to the Emu's room for quiet activities before going to school.

Hello from the **after school and vacation care** educators.

This year we have some familiar faces as well as some new ones including our new staff members Kristy and Jess. Kristy has joined the Gumnuts team and is working down with us each day from 3-6 while Jess will be down with us on Wednesdays only.

We enjoyed the end of the school holidays with children attending our Vacation care program where children got to participate in a variety of activities and excursions including jewellery making, tie dying, a water fun day, cooking experiences, Australia Day celebrations and a cricket skills clinic. We also travelled to the RAAF Base cinema, Sale Cinema and all the way down to Traralgon for a session at Jump and Climb!

News from the KOALAS ROOM



Hello everyone, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to all families for their support in transitioning their children up into the Koalas room. It's a big change for those who have moved from both the Possums and Wallabies rooms and the transition has gone as well as can be expected. The children are now settling in well and are following the routine like little champions. Thanks again for making the transition for your child smooth and enjoyable.

This month in the Koalas room we have enjoyed meeting our new friends and forming new friendships as well as exploring all the new learning areas. The children have been very busy investigating both the indoor and outdoor spaces. Our camping area has been a big hit with the children taking the babies camping and to the beach.

Water play has been very popular both indoors and outdoors. The children have explored the ways in which water moves through various objects and created some scrumptious mud pies and mud cakes in the sandpit. On the extremely hot days we have enjoyed running under the sprinklers to cool off.



We have a great group of Koalas this year and look forward to what's ahead.

News From The EMU'S ROOM

A big hello from the Emu educators, Karen, Megan, Beth, Amy & Talia.

We are excited to have this opportunity to be educating your children the year prior to starting school. Educators are working closely with the children to form trusting caring relationships and look forward to meeting our families on our open day on Feb 24th.

First term is about children having a sense of belonging and the transition from home to Gumnuts is as smooth as possible. We enjoy having families spend time in our room to impart their knowledge and family culture so please feel free to drop in at any time, even if its to read a picture book.



We are concentrating on offering children endless opportunities to investigate with activities that assist and further develop 'fine motor' skills which enables scissor cutting control, pencil control and general strength in the wrist and fingers.

We have just rolled out our a "literacy words" of the week which is located next to 'sign in' sheet and we encourage you to try to use these words in your everyday language with your child/ren.

Our days are filled with lots of 'messy' constructive type play and of course there is always 'water' and where there is water there is 'mud'

We have a busy February and March with some exciting visitors: Responsible Pet Ownership with Melissa and her dog Dutchess, Worm farms & recycling with Raquel/Wellington Shire, Down the drain with Natalie from Gippsland Water, Gymnastics at Maffra & Georgie from the Wellington Art gallery.

