



GUMNUTS

Early Learning Centre

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

News from the Director

Can you believe we are at the end on May already. A big thank you to all that attended our working bee earlier in the month where we tidied up our yard with new bark, filled our veggie gardens with soil and relocated some plant. We received some very kind donations from MJR garden supplies and Courtney, which were very appreciated. On Wednesday 31st we held our Annual General Meeting this is where reports are given on how the centre has been tracking since the last AGM, with reports from the President, centre accountant and myself are given. A new Committee of Management was also appointed. We thank all previous Committee members for giving up their time and welcome our new Committee members Courtney, Melissa, Annie, Pauline, Hanneltjie, Jess and Tammy.

We are looking at updating our centre signage to include an appreciation and recognition of our local indigenous community the Gunai Kurnai people. We are asking for family involvement in this project where we will be placing on the easel in the foyer a suggestion page, where we welcome all ideas whether it be the wording or art work or anything else you can think of for the new sign.

A reminder of our fee policy is for all families to be 1 week in advance, we understand that circumstances arise where it is sometimes difficult to have fees up to date but in doing so we are able to purchase new resources and equipment which enhance the educational experience for all of the children attending the centre. If you are experiencing any difficulties please speak with me to make alternate arrangements.

As we are now into winter please remember to provide appropriate clothing for your child including a change of clothes.

Take care,
Brendon

Educational Leader- Imagery Friends

Some three and four year olds have imaginary friends. This is a creative way for children to practise being with others. You might see a child who has been in trouble scold their imaginary friend, or tell their imaginary friend about what has happened. With the imaginary friend they can try out different ways of relating to others. Imaginary friends will gradually disappear as the child gets older.

News From The WOMBATS ROOM

May has seen us welcome some new children into the room and seen Audrey move up to the Possums room. The children made gifts for Mother's Day and Gumnuts held a working bee which allowed us to tidy up our garden and plant some new plants.

May also saw the cold weather arrive along with coughs, colds and other childhood illnesses. We have had another couple of cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth, diagnosed over the weekend. It is really important that children are able to go outside (when suitable) and that fresh air is entering the room to help disperse these germs. Please make sure that your child has a coat, hat and a change of warm clothes— don't forget to name them.

Thank-you to the parents who have been naming all their children's things—especially in their lunchboxes, as it makes our job so much easier. We are able to heat food so if you want to pack leftovers, soups etc. you are more than welcome. We would appreciate if you would list the ingredients as it helps us when heating.

We will have a student in our room during June. Rachel (relieves Shirley's RDO) will be doing her final placement for her Diploma of Early Childhood Development and Care. This requires her to observe a number of children, plan and run the room for a period of time.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything please speak to Shirley or Wendy.

News from the POSSUMS ROOM

Dear Possums Families,

We have had a busy May in the Possums room, participating in many different sensory activities including sand, rice and soup mix as well as cooking experiences and art and craft. From these sensory experiences we extended through a cooking activity making fried rice together.

The children were very interested in this experience and have been asking to do more cooking activities since then. We have made various things including chocolate cakes, oat slice, ANZAC biscuits and cookies.

A reminder to please pack spare clothes as the weather is getting colder and wetter outside. Named beanies, coats and gumboots are a good idea as we still go outside throughout the day even as the weather gets colder.

Our focus for the next month in the Possums room is healthy eating. We are asking all parents to please bring in 1 to 2 pieces of fruit so we can make fruit platters to share for morning tea. These pieces of fruit can be placed in the morning tea basket. This will help promote healthy eating habits amongst us. We will be taking part in healthy eating cooking experiences over the next month; if any families have any ideas/recipes they would like to share with us please feel free!

Thanks Possums Educators

News from the WALLABIES ROOM

Dear Families and Friends

I would like to give a big welcome to the new children that have started in the Wallabies room this month, some have transitioned up from the Possums room and others have just started attending Gumnuts. Everyone is settling in well and are having lots of fun.

This month we have had several Teddy Bear Picnics. In the mornings the children have decorated biscuits with icing and sprinkles, read books and sang songs about teddy bears and at lunch time we gave our teddy bears a big cuddle while enjoying our biscuits that we made.

Thank you to the families that brought in boxes for our craft activities, we have received lots of boxes. The children have been creative and have enjoyed decorating them, we also extended their interest in using craft by decorating a large piece of brown paper with craft items. (It is hanging in our room) and adding craft items to our paintings.

Also thank you to the families that sent in family photos, they are all displayed in our book area and the children love looking at them. Please feel free to bring in a photo or e-mail me a photo and we can add it to the display.

It is getting colder but we will still go outside most days, please pack a nice warm jumper or jacket for your child to wear.

Next month we will continue having teddy bear picnics. We will celebrate Red Nose day. If your child is having a birthday you are welcome to bring in a cake and we can celebrate their birthday at Gumnuts.

From the Wallabies team.

Tegan, Georgie, Kim, Deb, Amy, Kelly and Calliope.

Important Reminders:

The month of May celebrates 'Education Week' where most of the local schools hold their 'Open Days'. This can be an exciting and nerve racking time for the parents and children, who will be attending their first year of big school and for parents deciding which school will suit their child's learning style. Gumnuts Kindergarten teachers have also attended these open days and are able to pass on information or answer any questions you may have. The kinder room also have brochures available to parents with extra information regarding local schools and school readiness.

Growing Bodies Need Food!

The children have now settled in and are realising they won't miss out on play if they eat. Therefore they are now enjoying the social interactions of meal times and are eating more. Could we please ask that you pack that one extra item in their lunch box just in case they have wanted to eat all their food before afternoon tea.



Gumnuts May Birthdays
A big happy birthday to Dixie, McKennah, Paisley, Mason, Penny, Grace, Ella, Brooklyn, Harriet, Ava, Scarlett, Willow, Matilda, Alfie, Koah, Jack & Gabriel.

Kindergarten 2018

We have exciting ideas for next years kinder program and would love to give our Gumnuts families the opportunity to tell us what suits your child's learning and will work in with your work schedules.

There are 4 options

- 1) Tuesday, Thursday Friday with LDC
- 2) Monday, Wednesday 9am to 4.30pm
- 3) 3 Days with optional LDC
- 4) 3 days of Bush Kindy 9am-2pm

Kindergarten Bike Ed

Our kinder children will hold a bike ED day on 8th June 2017. Children will learn about road safety, recognising road signs & traffic lights. Bring your bike or scooter and don't forget your helmet. We have spare scooters if you don't have access to a bike. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join in.

New Centre Philosophy

We would like to thank the families, children, educators and committee of management in offering your valid input for our centre's new Philosophy. It is now in the centre foyer for your viewing and will also be emailed to Gumnut families.

News from OSHC

As the weather has become cooler and the afternoons have become darker, we have been spending more time indoors participating in games and some cooking experiences! While enjoying these group games in the stadium, the children have worked really hard on exercising their communication, teamwork and leadership skills. Also over the past month we have continued observing our stick insects growth while patiently waiting for their eggs to hatch!

News from BSC

Hi families this month we have been busy attempting making origami creating different style animals and planes
 We have also been challenging ourselves with indoor obstacles which the children have created themselves
 The ipad and ipod are still a massive interest especially listening and watching the music videos.



News from the KOALAS ROOM

Hello :)

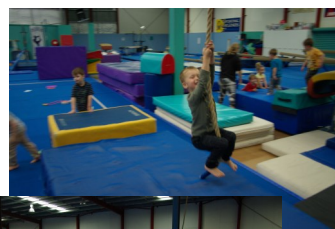
The Koalas have had an extremely fun May. We have begun our gymnastics program on Tuesdays which promotes many skills such as gross and fine motor movement, coordination, balance, turn taking, and sharing. All the children are enjoying it and their skills are developing every visit. Thank you to all the parents who have assisted us so far it has been an extremely big help.

In the Koalas room we have been learning about emotions, our bodies and how we move. We have been doing lots of dancing and the children have been making people using the box and collage craft. We often participate in group projects and some of us made a big person out of boxes, his name was NINJA.

Also this month we :

- Took pride in making the special Mums and carers in our lives a gift and card.
- Worked as a team to create our Autumn art exhibit, and learnt about deciduous trees and the changing seasons.
- Baked cup cakes to accompany our cake shop home corner.
- Experienced many sensory activities, the main one being RAINBOW rice.

It has been an awesome month and we look forward to new and exciting adventures in June.



News From The EMU'S ROOM

Hi Everyone! What a great month it has been having fun learning through excursions/incursions, music and movement, cooking, experiments and friendship.

We had a lovely start to the month with an excursion to the Art Gallery extending on the children's creative interests and amazing arty skills. We were all very interested during our talk and tour of the artwork and sculptures throughout the gallery and had lots of fun in our art lesson 'printing leaves with textas.' Thank-you to Noah's mum and Jack and Ruby's dad for coming along too!

Everyone put in lots of thought into creating cards and gifts for Mother's Day—we hope that everyone had a lovely time with their families.

We have been busy using numeracy, language and turn taking to do some baking and building our fine motor strength. By squeezing oranges into our very own juice and we've now started a new experiment growing our own carrots!



To follow up on the interest of the Archaeologists' in the room we had an incursion from the Dinosaurs and Fossils Museum which we found very interesting and learnt a lot!



The Emu's teachers have also been quite busy this month with Karen attending a 'Let's Count' PD bringing back lots of new ways to introduce numeracy into our program whilst Amy and Megan attended 'Smiles 4 Miles' where they came back able to share the importance of eating well, drinking well and cleaning well. The children all received their own tooth brush and toothpaste courtesy of the program. Karen and Megan have also both been attending the local school Foundation open days. This will help our children see our familiar faces and know

that we have trusting relationships within our community to help make that very important transition to school easier for them.

A big thank you to all of our parents involved in the centre working bee we really appreciate your efforts! Next month we are looking forward to going to the 'Going on a Bear Hunt' performance so please make sure all permission slips are returned. We are excited to be having a bike Ed day on Thursday 8th June here at Gumnuts, check your child's bag for your invitation, we would love for families to join us.

Thanks for a great month Karen, Megan, Amy and Beth