



ALBERT WATERWAYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE 2020

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Hello Albert Waterways families,

What a lovely month we have had in August 😊 The centre has been full of happy smiling faces, and there has been much to enjoy throughout the day in each of our rooms. When I work in our Kindergarten room – I always feel so blessed to be working with such wonderful children and families. Many good hearty laughs are had throughout the day as we share such fun and exciting times!

Normally around this time of year, I would be telling you about our Disco and our Father's Day BBQ, but alas COVID19 has thrown a spanner in many a thing this year. So instead, I will say keep on dancing (it keeps you young!) and practice your grove moves for next year's DISCO. For all our dads and granddads, I am sending you the biggest Father's Day wishes ever!! I hope you get spoilt rotten on the 6th September 😊 by your little treasure/s. We hope you enjoy your gifts made by the children. Do not forget to tune into our family space Facebook page to see some Father's Day related fun this week.

I would like to again thank all of our families for doing the "right thing" for our Centre and the community by keeping sick children at home to re-cooperate. By doing this we have been able to keep the staff and children in the Centre as healthy as possible. Keep up the great work!

I would love to take a moment to recognise the great team of educators that we have at Albert Waterways. On Wednesday 2nd September (tomorrow!!!!) it is Early Childhood Educators day – a day to recognise the great work that Educators of young children do and in particular the work that Albert Waterways Educators do 😊

A huge thanks to everyone for returning your enrolment forms for next year. Nikki and I will now start the process of class enrolments for next year. A reminder, that if you have any changes to let Nikki know as soon as possible.

Thank you all for reading. Don't forget my door is always open if you want to chat 😊

RAINBOW STORIES FOR CHILDREN

Junior Kindy 10 am
Kindergarten 10.30am
Monday 7th Sept
All welcome 😊

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Happy and healthy hints...

From...
AWCC Kitchen



This month's recipe has been requested by one of our mums. It tastes fabulous and can be altered to be vegetarian by using lentils, chickpeas, paneer or tofu and some yummy veges. **This month's recipe is...**

BUTTER CHICKEN

- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 onions, chopped
- 2 tsp garlic
- 2 tsp garam masala
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp paprika
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 3 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 x 400ml cans coconut cream
- 750g chicken thigh or breast fillets, diced (or use vegetarian alternative)

Fry off onions, garlic and spices until fragrant. Add tomato paste and then coconut cream. Bring to the boil and add chicken pieces. simmer until tender, and transfer to oven dishes to hot hold. Serve with basmati rice and selected vegetables.

Keep your child's immunisations up to date

Immunisation is a vital public health strategy and it impacts on the burden of both acute and chronic disease. Some vaccine preventable childhood diseases such as poliomyelitis and diphtheria, once common, are now rare in developed countries. The NHMRC states, "It is vital that health care professionals take every opportunity to vaccinate children and adults. It is also important that the public be made aware of the proven effectiveness of immunisation to save lives and prevent serious illness" (Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Ed. p1).

For the most recent up to date table of immunisations please

Go to <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-throughout-life/national-immunisation-program-schedule#what-is-the-nip-schedule>

It is important to also notify us when your child's immunisations are updated

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Kindergarten Report

This term the Kindergarten children have been learning more about their name, what their name looks like, how to write it, how each letter sounds and where to place each letter. There are many ways to support children as they learn how to write their name such as, displaying their name on posters and labels, having fun experimenting with letter formation, encouraging a correct pencil grip, tracing over dotted lines and cheering your child on for trying and being persistent. When children learn new things, we know it needs to be fun and something they are interested in doing, which is why at such a young age there is no pressure. We have added a sign-in table near the lockers, where we encourage your child to find their name and if comfortable to write in the space available.

Along with looking at our names we have been learning more about each letter of the alphabet, especially each sound they make. The children have enjoyed the fun play-based activities we have been doing, from cutting out objects from magazines and gluing them onto the board to painting fruits and vegetables to make amazing fruit and vegetable people. (Aa is for avocado, Bb is for banana and so on). Incidentally, this week is the letter G – for GROOVY GREEN!!!

Spike is out of hibernation and is back visiting our homes. For those who don't know who Spike is, he is our Superhero Echidna! Spike joined our Centre early last year and is on a quest to save our environment with the help from the kindergarten children. He likes doing wonderful things for our planet, like picking up rubbish from our beaches, recycling rubbish or planting trees. Our aim is to have each child take Spike home for a few days and find some small way to help look after our environment. In Spike's bag is a cape and mask along with a book filled with everything he has done so far. If we can ask that you take the time to fill in the book by adding photos and little messages about what he has done this would be great as your child will have the opportunity to speak at Group time to their friends about their time with Spike.

This month we had a visit from Lucas Proudfoot a local Aboriginal man who taught us some fantastic songs and dances and told us "His childhood story" growing up on the Tweed. The children enjoyed dancing like kangaroos, emus and wombats. Some lucky children got to play the clapping sticks and shakers while Lucas played his didgeridoo. We also learnt about the mobs that can be found all over Australia. It was such a great show and we are so pleased that we can have Lucas visit us each year.

We thought we would give you plenty of notice regarding the introduction of our "Morning tea lunch box". At the beginning of Term 4 (6th October) the children can bring a small container or lunch box to the centre with a small morning tea in it. They will eat this instead of the morning tea that is supplied at the Centre. By doing this they will learn some very important skills needed for when they go off to Prep next year. These include unwrapping paper, peeling banana or oranges, taking the top of yoghurts. If your child is not going to School next year we still ask that you bring in a lunchbox as this is something that the children really enjoy and look forward to. We ask that you provide 1 piece of fruit or vegetable and 1 other healthy snack. Please provide the healthy (no nut) snack in a small container, popped straight into the lunch box or wrapped in reusable wax paper. We strongly discourage the use of plastic wrap and plastic bags ☺

We have had a couple of parents come and ask me if I think their child will be ready for school next year. There are a few things that we look at, not just an interest in literacy and numeracy. We look at the child's emotional development, their social skills, their communication, their receptive and expressive language, their comprehension, such as are they able to follow instructions, do they understand what you are asking, do they have those positive dispositions towards learning such as showing an interest, concentration and are they curious? Are they confident individuals, and do they persevere when something becomes tricky? These dispositions are what makes a confident and capable learner. We still have a good 5 months until the beginning of their Prep year and a lot can change between now and then. If you do have any concerns or questions about your child's readiness for school please feel free to come and speak with Lesley or Tash, we are always here to listen and support you in your decisions.

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Junior Kindy Report

Wow!! its already halfway through August with the later months of the year approaching super-fast. We have quite a lot of children moving up to the kindergarten room next year so this would be a good time to start discussing the change with your child. You are also most welcome to visit kindergarten and introduce yourself to the educators and take a look around. This is where you will find the chickens and a much larger playground with some big beautiful natural trees. Moving up can be a big move for the junior kindy children especially for the ones who have been with us long term. Leaving their familiar educators can lead to some anxiety so talking to them positively about this change can help ensure the move is a positive and rewarding experience.

Also, if your child is moving into the Kindergarten room and they are still in nappies, the warmer months ahead is a great time to start toilet training them. There are no nappy changing facilities in Kindergarten. If you have any concerns, please feel free to speak with Haley or Karen about the process or if you want to start your child on the toilet, we are always here to discuss options or provide some toileting information. Please feel free to have a chat with any of the Educators in the room if you are needing further information or support in these areas. We have a lot of information about toilet training and can work with each child to support them in this new routine. If you are unsure if your child is moving up into the kindergarten room, please feel free to check with Haley or Karen. We are always happy to help with any queries or concerns or simply have a chat.

On Thursday the 13th of August we had a visit from Lucas Proudfoot who put on a super performance. He is a local Aboriginal man and a talented musician. He usually brought along 3 key instruments, his guitar, stomp box and didgeridoo and he can play all three at the same time! Lucas also talks about his cultural heritage and background and all the traditions he and his family share growing up in a big family unit. We all had such fun during his visit and we to his visit this week. If you have a child in the kindergarten room, they may have already mentioned that Hills and Yoko are now adding a musical group time one day a week in this room as well. This will include learning some Japanese and also experiencing the wonderful benefits of music, rhythm and beat. They are so talented that we wanted to share this talent with every child. This will be one day a week each week on alternate days to ensure everyone gets a chance to participate. All the children love these active group times and have lots of fun.

Our veggie garden is looking so great! We had another Bunnings donation of seedlings and soil to perk up our garden beds. Thanks to the team at Bunnings Mermaid Waters! We popped a layer of pea straw on all the garden beds to help with keeping the soil moist. Sadly, our passionfruit vine has finished fruiting and now needs to have a big chop back. We can't wait for it to re-grow with more delicious fruit!

Our Free Choice Friday Charities have been going very well, with last month's donation to "Epilepsy QLD" being \$50.

For the month of September, we will be collecting for
"R U Okay day"

It is on Thursday 10th September. Check it out on the link below😊

<https://www.ruok.org.au/join-r-u-ok-day>

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Our wonderful Saori is our staff member of the month! Thank you Saori for all the work that you do, especially this month in collaborating, guiding and organising our Miban picture that we entered the Koori Kids NAIDOC art competition. It is a pleasure to work with you😊