



ALBERT WATERWAYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE 2021

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Jingeri 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. I know it can be tricky for parents to communicate with Educators with gate drop offs and pickups in place, but please call, email or text if you need a chat. We have our 'yarning walls' up in both rooms, if your child or family have something to share, please email me through some photos. (director@albertwaterwayscc.org.au). It can be learning to ride a bike, a holiday or special outing, a celebration or anything for us to have a yarn about and share some connections with home.

Normally around this time of year, I would be telling you about our annual Disco and our Father's Day BBQ, but alas Covid 19 has thrown a spanner in many a thing, yet again ☹. So instead, I will say keep on dancing (it keeps you young!) and practice your signature moves for next year's DISCO. For all our dads and poppy's, I am sending you the biggest Father's Day wishes ever!! I hope you are spoilt rotten on Sunday the 5th of September by your little treasure/s. We are working on something special here at the centre, don't forget to tune into our Family Space Facebook page to see some Father's Day related fun.

I would like to thank all our families for doing the "right thing" for our Centre during the recent lockdown. This lockdown had stricter Government Health Directives and a very clear line on families' access to childcare. We hope there are no future lockdowns, but the world is so very unpredictable at the moment. We need to be prepared as a centre, especially when there seems to be more 'snap lockdowns' giving us limited time to follow the health directives and communicate with all our families. We now have a lockdown plan in place; when I receive information, directives and advice from the Queensland Government, Queensland Health, and the Education Department, I will then email families and ask for your care access according to the health directive at the current time. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these uncertain times, hopefully it's a road we do not have to travel for too much longer!

On Monday the 1st of September it is Early Childhood Educator's Day!! And what a fantastic team of Educators we have here at AWCC! Every Educator who steps in the front door has each and every child's best interest at heart. They put endless amounts of time into planning, gathering resources and making sure all children have access to a wide variety of educational activities and experiences each day at Kindy. Our Educators have such a wide skill set that they share with the children, from sharing their home languages to musical talents. Please take a moment to recognise the great dedicated team of Educators that we have at Albert Waterways.

Nikki extends a big thank you for filling out your 2022 enrolment advice. 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, I'm always on the other end of the phone if you would like a chat, or holler at my office window and I can chat with you in person out the front ☺

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Happy and healthy hints...

From...
Tracy's Kitchen



This month's recipe is one of our favourites and is allergy friendly. The sauce has such a beautiful flavour and can be altered to be vegetarian by using lentils, chickpeas, paneer or tofu and some yummy veggies. **This month's recipe is...**

BUTTER CHICKEN

- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 onion, 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.

Gold Coast Show Public Holiday

Friday 27th August 2021

The centre will be closed with no fees charged for the day

Early Childhood Educators' Day

Wednesday 1st September 2021

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Kindergarten Report

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff of AWCC for being amazing since I started the kindergarten teacher role a couple of weeks ago!

I had the opportunity to introduce myself to some families and we are all looking forward to being involved with your child's learning and development throughout the year. One of our priorities over the next few months is building strong relationships with the children in the kindergarten room. We are re organising the room and routines to allow the children to feel welcome, supported and connected to all the educators in the room, their peers, and their learning environment.

As we love to celebrate multiculturalism, languages, and different nationalities, we have made a display of a world map with greetings in different languages and flags according to each children's background. We all live in Australia, and we love our country, but we believe in the importance of recognising each child's history, background, and languages. We love to learn new languages and greet children in different languages!

We had such a great time exploring the 2020 Olympics with many activities and experiences planned over the two-week stint. Saori prompted the children's interest in sailing, as we had a past parent, Mat Belcher, compete and win the gold medal in this event! We made a poster of support, watched a race, and took it to the sandpit to make our very own boat race. Educators set up many fun physical events, such as rhythmic gymnastics, soccer and running races and together we watched some snippets of the Olympics on the team board.

A new area for the children has been created to encourage them to practice writing their name every day. Upon their arrival, we invite children to find their written name, grab a marker and 'sign in'. Hopefully, very soon (when Covid restrictions allow) you can be part of this wonderful experience, so you can support this learning alongside your child.

In this term, children will be exposed to a variety of learning activities about their names, what their name looks like, how to write it, how each letter sounds, "how many letters are in my name". There are different techniques and approaches to support this learning, such as tracing over lines, name recognition (displaying their name on posters and labels) "hands on" having fun experimenting with letter formation, activities to practice a correct pencil grip, cutting and gluing, etc. The most important part of this process is praising all attempts at writing!

Apart from learning 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 coloured construction paper to make a caterpillar, ("C" is for caterpillar, e.g.), or making our own version of dinosaur ("D" is for dinosaur) our aim is to develop the children's love for literacy, to make those connections between objects and text. By providing fun songs, sharing stories in our group time and creating stimulating experiences about that letters' sounds and formation, we are encouraging the children to explore and learn letters in a fun, engaging way.

The majority of the children in the classroom are eligible to start Prep next year, therefore we are focusing on the social, emotional and cognitive skills that the children need to be ready for their new exciting chapter. One of the social skills we have been focusing on as a whole group, is greeting our friends and educators in a positive way. We have been encouraging firstly eye contact, saying hello, positive body language and inviting or asking to play.

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We are continually supporting each child's needs and extending on their interests in all our planned experiences and intentional teaching. If there is any information you would especially like us to know about your child, please feel free to come and talk to anyone of our lovely staff. We are all very approachable and supportive of your child's needs.

Written by Miss Nati ☺

Junior Kindy Report

Firstly, Junior Kindy Educators would like to welcome all our families and relief educators back after the recent lock down. We understand that these snap lockdowns can be very frustrating, but hopefully we won't have too many repeats. We also understand that drop offs and pick-ups are busy and frustrating and don't provide much opportunity to relay information about your child. Please remember you can phone us at any time during the day, we are always happy to chat.

The Tokyo Olympics has now ended and how well did our Australian Olympians do winning so many medals? We are so proud of them. In Junior Kindy, we also celebrated with our Junior Mini Olympics. The Children engaged in so many fun events including discus throw, weightlifting, long jump, golf, running races, equestrian racing and much more. At the end of our games, the children displayed some understanding of the importance of teamwork and were proud to stand on the podium and receive their gold medals for their participation. We had so much fun celebrating this wonderful event. We can't wait for the next one, so bring it on!!!

We are super excited to welcome Haley as the assistant director alongside Tamara. Haley is a passionate Educator and valued team member along with Karen, Hills, Yoko, and Ethelene. Congratulations to Haley, we are very proud of her.

Our recent show was the fabulous Recycle Man show. A fun, age-appropriate show suitable for all children. Mr Recycle Man invited the children to dress up like him in a cape and mask and become recycling superheroes! The recycling show educates young children on the importance of recycling and ongoing sustainability. Children gain environmental awareness and learn how our recycling bin system works and what they can do every day to help.

One way we can all help is to save any empty boxes or empty pantry items from home instead of putting them in the bin, we can reuse these at Kindy for art and craft. Also, we have our Terra cycle tubs in the hallway next to the kitchen, if you have something you would like to add. Do you know that your old toothbrush and empty toothpaste tubes can also be recycled? Your child can drop any item into the recycling tubs on the way into their room.

We strive at Albert Waterways to help our environment with the children engaging daily in sustainability practices. Along with the chickens, we have a worm farm, productive veggie garden, compost bin and recycling bins in the room for the children to use. The children are also encouraged to minimise water and electricity use as Educators embed sustainability in daily routines, practices, and learning experiences.

Thank you for reading. The Junior Kindy team, Haley, Karen, Hills, Yoko, Ethelene and Tamara.