



ALBERT WATERWAYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE 2020

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

From Tash

Hello and a warm welcome to all our new families at Albert Waterways. If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, we hope you enjoy reading about what's going on at your child's Early Childhood Centre. For our fabulous old families we are really back in the swing of things now!

I would love to thank all of the families that attended our "Getting to know you" morning tea at the Centre. It was lovely to have a yarn with you! We have had lots of positive feedback, especially by parents who enjoyed Hills and Yoko's band. We are fortunate to have such passionate musicians in our midst. Many parents enjoying the staff's mini talks about themselves and while some of the staff were a little nervous about this, I think they all did wonderfully and you were able to get a sense of who they are and how they fit into our Albert Waterways Community.

I would like to let you know about a couple of changes to the staffing while Tamara is on her maternity leave (we are awaiting the baby patiently!) Taking on the role of Acting Assistant Director will be Nikki (whom you all know from the office) and as she has recently completed her Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care she will be taking on Mondays in the Junior Kindy room and learning lots from our very experienced team!! Ethelene who is one of our favourites will take on the position of Educator in the Junior Kindy room from Tuesday through to Friday. We are thrilled to have both of them during Tamara's absence. The room leaders are now Karen and Haley and they are happy to support you and your child 😊

A huge thank you to the families who have offered to be part of our "Container's for change" deliveries to the refund station and an extra big THANKS to Julie (Amelie's mum) for taking so many bottles and containers to the refund centre this year! We really appreciate it. Please don't forget to bring in your refundable bottles and containers – making sure they have the 10c refund written on them. All the money the centre receives will go back into the Centre, so it really is a worthwhile project to be involved in.

This month we placed a Parent's Evaluation of Development Status (PEDS) form in each child's pocket. We ask that parents fill these out and return them to the teachers in your individual room. By completing it you are able to highlight any developmental concerns that you have in regards to your child. The teachers will then be able to observe and work with both you and your child in these areas.

Both rooms are super keen to remind you to **send in or email a family picture!** Our family tree walls are looking a little bare – we need our beautiful families faces upon them 😊

Another way you may wish to be involved in the rooms is if you would like to be a guest parent reader who can take a storytime with the children. We find the children love it when their parent is involved in an activity in their room and it would be a great opportunity to share you and your child's favourite story! If you are keen to read to the children, please let me know and I can arrange it. Stories in languages other than English would also be very welcomed 😊

Our daily power point displays are available not just to watch what your child got up to each day, but to see them grow, learn, explore, discover and laugh! You can also see what the children are interested in and look at the wonderful ways the educators extend their play to further enhance their learning.

Your child has their own digital portfolio where the educators document meaningful and relevant information regarding your child. You do receive a copy of this at the end of the year, however if you wish to see it anytime throughout the year, please just ask your child's educator. They will be only too happy to share it with you.

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A big thank you to all the parents who attended our AGM. We have now elected new office bearers and members. Please see the details in the Committee news! I will endeavour to get each member's picture on the wall as quickly as possible.

A reminder that my door is always open. If you have a query please come and see me and I will do my best to address it.

IMPORTANT note from Nikki:

Is your child is enrolled in the Kindergarten program (Kindergarten Room and attending school next year) and any of the following applies to you:

- **Hold a Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Card or Australian Government Pension Concession card with automatic Health Care Card entitlements; or**
- **Identifies as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; or**
- **Multiple birth or 3 or more children**

If so, please provide this information to the office. You will be entitled to a weekly rebate from the government, but you can only receive it if we have your details and any cards you hold are current.

We also request families keep us updated with current contact details. We particularly need to know if your phone numbers change as in the case of an emergency we need to be able to contact you immediately.

If you are on Facebook we would love you to LIKE US on Facebook so we can keep you up to date on what is going on at the Centre as well as in the community.

If your child attended last year, then we require you to return your USB stick to the Centre office so that we are able to put your child's 2020 information onto it. Please note, if they are not returned to the Centre by the end of February, Nikki will invoice you for an additional one on your first March invoice.

A last reminder that if you are going to be on holidays or just a couple of days away, please let Nikki or Tash in the office know as soon as you can. A huge thankyou in advance!

Torres Strait Islander Culture Show

Wednesday 4th March

10am

All Welcome

Our Friday Free Choice charity for March is

National Breast Cancer Foundation

This is Lesley's charity of choice. Thank you so much for your donation in advance 😊

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Delicious recipes...
From...
AWCC Kitchen



This month's recipe is a delicious one that is fairly versatile and can be changed easily to be vegetarian or vegan 😊

CHICKEN FRIED RICE

500g long grain or basmati rice, cooked.

250gm diced bacon or ham (use 1x 440gm can of chickpeas to make vegetarian)

1kg chicken thigh or breast, diced (use 500g firm tofu to make vegetarian)

6 eggs (leave out eggs to make vegan)

1/2 bunch shallots

1 x 440gm cans baby corn, or corn kernels

1 cup peas

500g diced carrots

Salt and pepper to taste

Soy Sauce or Tamari if Gluten free

METHOD:

Beat eggs lightly with fork. Heat a small quantity of oil in pan, pour in enough egg mixture to make on 'omelette', turn cook other side. Repeat until all egg is used. Dice egg. Put aside. Finely chop shallots and carrots. Fry diced bacon and chicken until well cooked and add vegetables. Add rice and soy sauce and heat through.

Albert Waterways Children's Centre Parent Management Committee News

This month I'd like to introduce you to the committee members for 2019.

President – Rebecca Molloy, Vice President – Sophie Rosewarne, Secretary – Jenneth Duque, Treasurer – Christie Forbes, Members – Dustin Pepper, Julie Ware, Donna Anderson, Lisa Weinman, Danielle Johnson, Penelope Hyde. Congratulations on your continued time and effort parents, the centre couldn't run without you.

Photos of the committee members will be set up in the hallway, so you can identify who they are. If anyone has any concerns or suggestions please come and see one of them, they are more than happy to help. If you can't find them in person, please email them at awcccommittee@hotmail.com or attend the next committee meeting on Monday 16th March at 7.15 pm in the Kindergarten room.

ALBERT WATERWAYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE 2020

Kindergarten Room Report

What a wonderful "Getting to know you" morning tea this year. We really enjoyed meeting new families and look forward to making many memories with you and your child in 2020. Speaking of families, this month we had Renata perform for us her **All families are Special** show. This was an amazing show where she discussed families and how families differ from one home to the next. Renata talked and sang about separated and single parenting families, step-parenting and extended families and who we may live with. But no matter what and who we live with our families and homes are filled with love.

So far, we only have a couple of family photos on our family tree wall. Ideally, we would love for each child to have their family photo included on the wall. This family space is beneficial for our children to view their family photo and we find it particularly useful when they may feel unsettled. We find that when children see their families on the wall it helps them to feel safe, secure and also a sense of belonging in the room. If you could bring in a family photo or email it to us at director@albertwaterwayscc.org.au we would really appreciate it.

Last week the PEDS forms were placed in your child's pocket. We ask that you fill them in honestly and bring any concerns that you have to Lesley in our room. She will take the time to go over each form and discuss any developmental concerns that you have about your child with you.

This term, as well as settling your child into the Kindergarten room, we will be focused on helping your child to develop their self-help skills. We have noticed a number of children having difficulty dressing themselves and putting their shoes and belongings away. It is important for children to learn to do as much for themselves as possible, so they are developing a sense of achievement. At the age of three, children are able to pack up their toys, help to make their beds, put their own shoes and socks away and pull up their skirts, shorts and undies. These self-help skills are very important as they are needed for toileting. In saying that, if possible, please ensure that children's shorts have a stretchy waist band as these are much easier to learn these skills with. We know that with our busy schedules it can sometimes feel easier to do things for our children, however putting a little extra time and effort in now will pay off in the future. By helping our children to be independent, we are setting them up to be confident learners.

Something else our team is looking at, and wanting to support the children with, is helping them to follow directions. Our goal is starting with one or two directions and working up to three directions at a time. This is something that you are also able to practice at home, for example, "Can you please go to your room and pack up your toys?" or "Go to the toilet, put your pants back on and wash your hands please". If you find that your child is having difficulties following directions, please don't hesitate to come and have a chat with the educators about this.

We thank you for helping us to achieve these goals and know that we are dedicated and invested in developing strong, confident, capable learners. Learners that have a strong sense of who they are and what they are capable of doing.

The Kindergarten Team.

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Junior Kindy Room Report

A big warm welcome to all our new families and we look forward to reconnecting with our families from last year. So far most of the new children have settled in very well. We look forward to getting to know each child individually and learning about their likes and interests. Please remember to bring a family photo for our family wall. The family wall is a place the Children can visit daily and share information about their families with their Educators and peers. It provides a connection to home for each child.

This month we had a show organised with the wonderful Renata called "All Families are special". It is a lovely show about the various family structures that are in our communities. So many different sizes and different rules at different homes! So many types of families! Single parents, stepparents, grandparents at home, foster families, a new baby, not to mention our pets as well! Also different places that we all live in. Renata uses puppets with great music in this important show.

I'm sure by now everyone has met Ethelene. Ethelene has replaced Tamara for her maternity leave and has commenced her role in our Junior Kindy room sharing with Nikki. We wish Tamara and her beautiful family all her best with the safe arrival of her daughter and look forward to her return next year. Please feel free to introduce yourselves and get to know all the Junior Kindy Educators. We are open for any discussion about your child's day at the centre including any challenges you may need some help with, any developmental concerns, or interest your child would like to share with their peers. Please don't forget to share with Educators any relevant information about your children's night or morning, this could be as simple as my child had a rough night and did not sleep well. This information helps Educators understand how to assist a child to settle into their day better, sometimes with just a little extra comfort. Educators are always available to comfort a child on arrival and re-assure them that their parent/caregiver will be back in the afternoon to pick them up. It is very important parents say goodbye to their children when leaving and ensure the child is handed to their Educator.

Our garden needs a bit of TLC at the moment and we will be organising some new plants in the near future. The children are always noticing changes to the garden and love to be involved in planting new seeds. If you have any suggestions or spare plants that you think would be helpful in our garden, please let us know.

If there is anything you would like to share or add to our program, please see Haley or Karen. Some ideas parents have shared in the past have been, cooking experience, favourite story, cultural event.

We look forward to another great year!
The Junior Kindy Team

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Congratulations to Lesley for being our Staff member of the Month!

Don't forget to vote for next month's staff member in the box at the front of Nikki's office or online using the form Nikki shared a link to.

The staff appreciate your positive feedback😊