

ALBERT WATERWAYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE 2020

# JUNE NEWSLETTER

## DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Hello Albert Waterways families☺ This newsletter is going to be a bit bigger than usual as it is packed full of important information that I ask you read and digest. I thank you in advance!

Firstly, I would like to say a HUGE THANKYOU to all the families who have been doing the right thing when it comes to illness and keeping their child at home during this time. We are endeavoring to keep the Centre a safe place for all who enter the building. **We especially ask that if your child is displaying any cold/cough/flu-like symptoms such as a temperature, cough, running nose, sore throat, aches and pains that you keep them at home with you until they are fully recovered. If you are in doubt about your child's health, then play it safe and keep them at home.** Young children are not able to contain their germs effectively and they are not able to socially distance thus the reason for only healthy children in our space. All the staff are being just as vigilant with health and they are not working if unwell to protect the children and each other. LETS ALL KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK☺ I would also like to remind families that **it is your responsibility to inform the centre if your child is unwell so that we can monitor illness within the AWCC community and keep other families informed.**

Winter has arrived and with it some more changes to the way everything will work here at the Centre. As a community we are getting pretty good at dealing with change and I hope the new changes will be adapted easily and safely here at AWCC.

**End of Free Child Care.** The Federal Govt has made the decision to extend free childcare until 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (this is an additional two weeks). **From Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July we will revert to the old system of payment which comprises of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and parent payments.** The Govt has announced that there may be some additional support for families via a relaxation of the activity testing portion of the CCS. We suggest you go into your MY GOV account, to see if you may be eligible and to also make sure your details are up-to-date, so that things will run smoothly when the transition to the new payments occurs.

A couple of weeks ago we sent a text with a form asking you to confirm your child's enrollment when the new payment system comes into place. Most families have returned this form; however, we are still awaiting some. If you have not sent this in (it is easily done on your phone☺) then we would ask that you do it asap. A reminder that the Centre has a minimum two day enrollment for all children and that if you want to make changes to your enrollment for example dropping days etc. you need to give two weeks written notice to the Centre as per our policy.

## **Gradual easing of Entry into the Centre.**

Our staff and parent committee met this week and we are excited to announce our plan for a gradual ease back of entry into the Centre. After much discussion, research and planning we have decided that the following will be implemented:

### ***Immediately:***

The Centre will welcome our regular visitors back into the Centre. These include Uncle Allan our favourite Aboriginal Elder, Nathan our resident Yogi and Maureen our weekly volunteer and

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former staff member. We are very much looking forward to seeing them back in the Centre 😊  
Please be advised strict health and sanitization entry requirements will be in place.

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020:**

- **Families will be able to enter the building to PICK UP their child up from the Centre in the AFTERNOON ONLY.**
- **Entry will be restricted to one healthy adult only.** We ask that if you have other children with you on pick up, you have them sit and wait in the gated entry area.
- **You will be temperature tested** and must be under 37.5 degrees Celsius. If office staff are not present to test temperature, then we ask the adult to ring the front doorbell and someone will come and test temperature on entry.
- **Entry to the building is a strict 5 minutes only.** If you would like to discuss anything with staff for longer than this, we ask that you make an appointment with them for a phone discussion. Educators will be able to let you know when they will be available.
- **All people entering must sanitize their hands** with sanitizer found before the first gate.
- **All people signing their child out on the IPAD must sanitize their hands before** doing so with the sanitizer found beside IPAD.
- Adults entering the building must **maintain the 1.5m social distancing rule** enforced within our community.
- **Exemptions for this pick up:** If the adult picking up the child has health risks, lowered immunity or they are unwell and/or showing/feeling any cold or flulike symptoms, then they must not enter the building. These people can call the Centre landline phone number 07 55727333 and the child will be brought out to the gate for collection.

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020:**

- **Families will be able to enter the building to DROP OFF and PICK UP their child up from the Centre.**
- **All of the same strict conditions as found above (under drop off) must be followed.**

We are quite excited about moving forward with these changes. Please help us to implement them in the safest way possible.

**AWCC family Space:** We have had such positive feedback from parents regarding the daily program that has been posted to the "AWCC family Space" Facebook page. We have decided to continue this for the time being as our entry will still be restricted for a little while longer. If you are not in the group, you need to be accepted by Nikki as it is only open to Albert Waterways Families. Don't hesitate to ask her about it and get yourself connected.

**Containers for Change:** Don't forget that the Centre is still collecting the cans, glass and plastic bottles that have the 10c on them. We are doing pretty well this year – so please keep up the donations 😊

Thanks Tash

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## Staff member of the month is the fabulous Yoko



**For her astronomical work in delivering SPACE to the Centre. Thank you for all your inspirational work. We are glad you are part of our team😊**

This month's recipe isn't food, but our very own playdough recipe. Did you know since COVID 19 we have not had it in the Centre and I thought that your child might be missing it😊 This is the playdough that my mother made with me as a child and it is the best recipe ever! It is super easy, and it can be made with your child/ren.

### **Cooked Playdough**

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 1 cup of cooking salt
- 4 heaped teaspoons of cream of tartar
- 4 tablespoons of cooking oil (canola or sunflower is fine)
- Food dye or paint (here at the centre we use powder paint or acrylic paint also works)
- 2 cups of boiling water

Put all the dry ingredients in a bowl and then add the boiling water. Stir well. Tip out onto a hard surface and kneed together.

**PLAY!!!!** Try using it when it is warm, is lots of fun and different experience!

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### Kindergarten Room Report

Welcome back to everyone who has recently returned to the kindergarten room. It is so good to see you all. Please be assured that each child has settled back in well and enjoying spending time playing and learning alongside their friends. We have also seen some new friendships form over the last month which has been lovely to see.

As you may have seen on our Albert Waterways Family Space Facebook page, we have added the daily PowerPoint program. This is usually found on our computer each afternoon, but as you are not entering the building at the moment (hopefully soon!) we have made it available for you to watch each day. We can see that most people are viewing it – so a big thankyou!

During the week beginning the 27th May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June we celebrated Reconciliation week. For those of you who don't know why it begins and ends of these dates, the reasons are this. The first date, 27<sup>th</sup> May marks the day of the 1967 referendum that was held in Australia giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the right to be counted on the census thus citizens of Australia. This is seen as the one of the major starting points of reconciliation within Australia. The later date, the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1992 marks the Mabo decision that ruled that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have rights to the land.

Each year Reconciliation week has a theme for everyone to explore, with this year's being "In this together". This theme is resonating now in ways we could not have foreseen, and it reminds us whether in a crisis or in reconciliation, we are all in this together. Throughout Reconciliation week we had lots of yarns about the importance of coming together as a community and country and supporting each other and all cultures. We have also had discussions with the children about fairness and being kind, thoughtful and caring to everyone they encounter. The kindergarten children have a reasonable understanding of fairness and are able to empathise with those who have been treated unfairly. It is by instilling these values at a young age that we will hopefully see a more positive and respectful community and country in the future.

This month we were excited to watch the Space X launch of a Falcon 9 Rocket blast off into space and have a real look into what it is actually like flying in space. For many of the children this sparked lots of questions and also a little confusion when it didn't land on the moon or another planet, but it docked and connected to the "International Space Station" and the astronauts were able to come out of their rocket and meet the other three astronauts who are at the moment living and working there. There are lots of great YouTube clips that you can watch with your child at home showing the highlights. Our children particularly liked it when the first part of the rocket was released and then caught on a naval ship! Wow, how is that for accuracy.

The kindergarten room has been particularly interested in cutting and developing their scissor skills. This has been great to observe. We love to see children's interests and skills develop throughout the year. For those whose children are heading of to Prep next year this is a skill that is often required as there is lots of cutting and gluing activities involved in workbooks. If you can get your hands on a pair of children's scissors and practice this skill at home this will help your little ones immensely.

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Counting and numbers have also been extended this month with lots of counting activities throughout the day. Remember the more you count with your child, the better understanding they will get of quantity and what a number actually represents. Counting should always be done using one to one correspondence i.e saying a number each time your child touches the object that is being counted. You may need to role model this for quite some time as children have a tendency to skip their finger quickly over the objects and count at a different rate. Practise, practise, practise! There is never a shortage of things to count 😊

Reminders- Please remember to put warm tops, pants and shoes in your child's bag. We have had some very chilly days, and if your children's clothes can be labelled this will help us out too.

### **Junior Kindy Room Report**

Recently at Junior Kindy we celebrated National Reconciliation Week (from 27<sup>th</sup> of May to 3<sup>rd</sup> of June). The theme this year was 'In this Together' which focuses on reminding people that whether in a crisis or in reconciliation we are all in this together. We planned a number of art and music activities and we encouraged the children to participate in painting a large Australia to display on our wall. Through National Reconciliation Week we planned our group times around teaching the children more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, history, and culture. We strive to teach the young children about diversity and respecting and embracing differences and similarities in our community.

Yoko has been exploring space with the children these last few weeks, learning about the solar system and all the things you might see in space. Many of the children have seemed quite fascinated in this topic and eager to learn more. The children made their own space collage, using planets, moons, rockets, and astronaut pictures. The children especially loved their NASA astronaut selfie photo that is displayed at the front of the centre. We have followed on from this interest by learning more about our planet Earth and talking about simple ways we can help our planet such as: reuse shopping bags, recycling and turning off lights etc.

Toilet training – we have quite a few children who are toilet training presently, which is great! Please make sure that you pack at least 3 full sets of clothing each day (and a nappy for rest time if they need). Please keep in mind that if your child is currently over 3 years, they will more than likely be moving up to Kindergarten at the beginning of next year, for this to happen, they need to be toilet trained as Kindergarten doesn't have the facilities to cater for nappy changes. If you would like more information or tips on toileting, please do not hesitate to ask. Many of the Educators have many years' experience in this area.

Thanks for reading. 😊

**July's Free Choice Friday Charity is**

**Epilepsy Australia**

**This is Karen's charity of choice  
Please give generously!!!**