

November/December Newsletter



News from Tash

Hello and a big HO HO HO for the Holiday season!

Well this year is almost at an end and this will be our final newsletter of the year. Please read it all the way to the end, as it has lots of information to impart 😊

A reminder for you to check your child's enrolment days for 2021. They will be displayed shortly in the hall at the entrance. Please note there will be two rolls. One is from our first day of the year, which is Tuesday 5th January and the other is from the week beginning 25th January. Please look at both and make sure you are clear on when and if any changes in your child's attendance will occur. If you have any questions relating to the rolls, Nikki or I would be happy to help you out 😊

In the newsletter you will see that a daily fee increase will occur from 5th January 2021. This year's Parent Management Committee has decided to increase the fees \$5 each day for each room. This is our annual increase to account for rising expenses.

Surveys

I would like to thank all families who participated in our annual Survey. The results have been positive, and we are touched by the beautiful comments made by many. I would like to remind you that my door is always open and I am happy to receive feedback (positive or negative) personally throughout the year.

End of Year Concerts

Our End of Year concerts are running over two days at the Centre in the Kindergarten yard. Kindergarten's is Thursday 26th November at 9.30am (this week!) and Junior Kindy's is Thursday 3rd December at 9.30am (next week). Please note, we still need some families to RSVP asap. Each child is allowed two family members only and each person will need to scan/sign in on entry, so that we have a COVID register for the event. If your child's day is not Thursday – we still would love for you to attend. 😊

The children have been practicing very hard and the concerts are going to be fantastic. So, if you can make it, we will look forward to seeing you.

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BYO Drink bottle and hat

This year we will not be having a feast to end the festivities☺ With this in mind, we ask that you provide your own water bottle and bring a hat as the days are really heating up lately.



Parking for Christmas Concert

Please be aware that the parking in front of the Centre is only 15 minutes so we ask that you park in Pacific Fair on the day and walk over the road.

Please also remember to add some additional time for this. For those of you who might use the Library to park, please be advised that this parking is 2 hours only.

Our old fella in red

This year our Santa has had to take a leave of absence!! If you know anyone who might like to be Santa this year – we are looking!!! They would need to be able to attend the Centre on Thursday 3rd December from 9.30- 10.30am. If this is you, or someone you know, please let me know ASAP.

Maureen

This year we have been fortunate to have Maureen (one of our previous employees, now retired) volunteer with us most weeks. She is a wonderful person and is so helpful and caring to both children and staff. A HUGE thank-you goes out to Maureen for all that she does for the Centre. We look forward to welcoming her back next☺ You're a STAR Maureen!

Thankyou's

Some great big thankyou's go out to Uncle Allan our favourite Aboriginal elder and Nathan our favourite Yogi. We have had a ball learning and playing with you both throughout the year. We look forward to lots more fun in 2021.

Good byes☺

Shortly we will be saying some sad goodbyes to families that have been with us for a long time now. We will also be sending off our big Kindergarten children to Prep as they continue their educational journey. We thank all our families for being a part of our community and we hope that you and your children will look back on your time here at Albert Waterways with fond memories.

For those families who are returning in the New Year please have a safe happy holiday and we will see you nice and refreshed in January. We wish everybody a Merry Christmas and lovely holidays.

For me it has been a different, but still fabulous year working with the wonderful children, families, committee, and staff here at the Centre! I am truly blessed to be in such a great Children's Centre. Lots of gratitude to you all 😊 Tash

You are invited to Albert Waterways Children's
Centre

End of Year Celebration Concert

Kindergarten: Thursday 26th November
At 9.30am

This will include a small Graduation
ceremony 😊

Junior Kindy: Thursday 3rd December
At 9.30am

Venue: Kindergarten Yard

Limited numbers: Each child can have 2 adult
guests only

All guests will be asked to be to complete the
event register and COVID 19 questions on
entry.

All guests will be required to hand sanitise and
are reminded social distancing will be in place.

RSVP: ASAP

director@albertwaterwayscc.org.au

Renata's Christmas show

Date Friday 18 December 2020

Time 10am

ALL WELCOME

Centre Closure

Closing Wednesday 23rd December at 5.45pm
Re-opening Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7.45am.

Enjoy your break!!!!

Annual Fee Increase

Our annual Centre **fees will increase to:**

\$109.00 per day for children enrolled in an under 2 years placement

\$102.00 per day for children enrolled in an above 2 years placement

This will commence on Tuesday 5th January 2021

Thanks - The Parent Committee

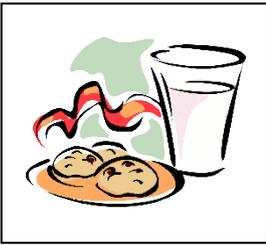
Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

This month's free choice Friday charity is the Salvation Army. This is Wendy's charity of choice.

Please give generously.

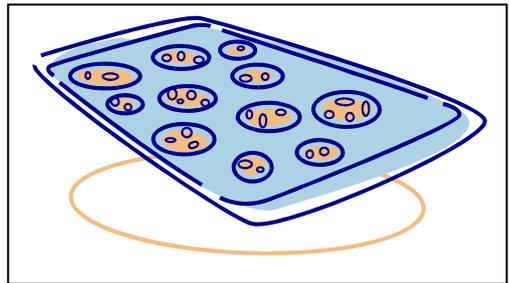
Parent Management Committee

The Parent Management Committee is looking for new members in 2021! Some of our Committee member's children are leaving the Centre and heading off to school, therefore leaving us with roles to fill. Please consider joining the Committee in 2021.



Happy and healthy hints...

From...
Tracy's Kitchen



This month's recipe is very easy and quick to prepare they also tastes fabulous and look quite Christmassy. My children love them! **This month's recipe is...**

Jam Drops

250gms butter
1 cup raw sugar
6 tablespoons of milk
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
3 cups of self raising flour
1 cup custard powder
Jam

Preheat oven to 180 deg. Grease oven trays or use baking paper to line. Cream butter and sugar. Add milk and vanilla essence. Add flour and custard powder. Combine all ingredients except jam. Roll 1 tablespoon of mixture at a time into balls and place on greased oven trays. Using the handle of a wooden spoon make an indentation of top of each ball. Place small amount of jam in each indentation. Allow room for spreading. Bake for 12-15 mins. Cool on wire racks.



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Junior Kindy Report

This month we celebrated NAIDOC week. The NAIDOC 2020 theme - *Always Was, Always Will Be*, recognises that first nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. There are many ways we can extend on the children's knowledge of these important cultures. Firstly, we have our wonderful bush tucker garden that has an array of beautiful plants to access. In Junior Kindy we have already used the lemon myrtle leaves to make tea. The children are also encouraged to be involved in taking care of the gardens to nurture these wonderful plants. Let us see what other cooking experiences we can create with these plants. Educators also provided a range of Aboriginal inspired art and craft during this special week. We are also extremely excited to be taking some of our older children on a walk to Kombumerri park on the 20th of November to provide an insight on how the Aboriginal culture survived living off the land and its natural resources. Uncle Allan will be joining us as our guide. The children will learn about the significance of the land, the trees and what they were used for as well as the burial ground and the passing of the Aboriginal people. Along the way we will talk about road safety and caring for our waterways as we pass the canal.

Please remember your **Kindergarten activity booklet**. Spending time getting to know your children's Educators for next year is a positive step towards the transition process. Your child already spends time visiting Kindergarten and would love to show you around and also collect a stamp for their activity booklet.

November has been a remarkably busy month. On the 11th we got to enjoy the wonderful wild rangers show. The children were provided with the opportunity to explore a range of native animals such as reptiles, mammals and birds to touch and see up close. This included Bubble Gum the blue tongue lizard, Shelley a Turtle, Zena the snake, Banjo a Possum, Shrek the Crocodile, and a beautiful Tawny frogmouth named Dorothy. The children enjoyed touching the animals and being involved in the experience. We all love connecting with our wildlife in a controlled safe environment. Being up close to these amazing animals and interacting with them was so cool. Even Zena the exceptionally large snake!!!

Events to remember our Christmas concert on Thursday 3rd December at 9.30am. Please see Nikki or Tash to confirm your RSVP. We look forward to sharing this event with our families.

2020 has gone by so fast and has proven a bit more challenging due to Covid. We have gone through this process so well with minimal impact to our centre. We thank everyone for your understanding and patience during this time and look forward to a bright future together. Thank you so much for reading and bring on 2021.

Kindergarten Room Report

Our End of year concert is fast approaching, and the Kindergarten children have been practicing very hard with our new songs that we will be performing. We hope that you are able to make it to the Concert (Thursday 26th November at 9.30am). Don't forget the Kindergarten children who are going off to school will be receiving their Graduation Certificate and it is a wonderful opportunity to get together with other families before the children head off to different schools and in different directions. If you haven't already RSVPed then please do ASAP to Tash or Nikki in the office.

This month we had two shows. Our first was Dionne from Wild Rangers who brought in some of her amazing animals and reptiles. The children learnt some interesting facts about these animals, their living conditions, the dangers they face, what they eat and how they survive in the wild. Dionne brought in a tawny frog mouth named Dorothy, a baby crocodile called Shrek, a ring-tailed possum called Banjo (also Tash's sons name), Shelly the Turtle and a couple of her friendly lizards named Pineapple (a bearded dragon) and Bubble-gum (a blue tongue). Our final surprise was Zena a black headed python. This is one of our favourites shows that come into the centre each and every year. How lucky are our children to have this opportunity to experience such close up encounters with such exquisite Australian creatures☺

Our other show was Bravehearts. Ditto Bear talks to the children about how to keep themselves safe, what to do if we have a 'no' feeling (if we are in a position that makes us feel unsafe or not sure) and what this feels like. This often feels like a racing heart, a sore tummy or shaky knees. Ditto bear talked about keeping private parts to ourselves, unless we feel comfortable around a parent or familiar adult/doctor etc, and if we are unsure about something or someone to 'run and tell somebody'. This show is performed in a fun and interactive way with music and dance and with our wonderful friendly bear Ditto. It is also super important as we want the children to be informed and have actions that they can take if they are ever in this situation.

COVID disruptions saw the celebration of NAIDOC week moved to November in 2020. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee and it is a celebration of these two wonderful first nation's cultures. This year's theme was "Always was, always will be" - remember we made our Miban (sea eagle) picture with the same title earlier this year! During this week we acknowledged the Aboriginal culture, the land, people, and their stories. We also made some 'dotted art' and we did this onto paper bark from our own trees in the garden. We face painted with traditional colours of the earth and we also tuned into a special group learning online, to listen to some dreaming stories and Aboriginal songs and music.

We have come to the end of the alphabet and learning a letter of the week. The children have enjoyed discussing the name of the letter and the sound it makes. They have also delighted in coming up with new words that begin with that sound. There is no need for your child to be reading at this stage – but they will be starting to recognise familiar letters and words that they

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see in their everyday environment. Please encourage them when they do this and have a little chat about the sounds each letter makes if they are showing an interest.

The children who are leaving us and going onto school next year, have been excitedly talking about this next stage in their lives. We have been using our home corner, with uniforms and school classroom set up to help them role play this big change. This year in particular it has been difficult with COVID rules in place in schools, for the children to have school visits or enough of them. Some tips for helping prepare your child are driving and walking by your school. Spotting children in the same uniform as your child will have and preparing them for wearing it every day (along with closed in shoes – all the time!!!!). Talking with your child about the similarities and differences between Kindergarten and school, for example there are set times to be at school and set times to have lunches and to play in the playgrounds. They will be hearing school bells, lining up and doing lots of writing, cutting, and gluing. Toileting will also be in much bigger toilets with doors like a public toilet, so preparing for that is important also. If you have any queries or concerns about school and your child, please let Lesley, Wendy or Tash know and we will be glad to help you out wherever we can.

Kindergarten transition statements have all been sent to you by email. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to read the statement and then sign the consent form (it can be done on your computer – it is a word document) and send it back to Tash. Once completed, the school will be able to access your child's statement.

In December, we will send home your child's digital portfolio on their USB stick and an art portfolio. Your children have had such a great year and it is so wonderful to have a look back over the year. Seeing how they have changed, grown, and learnt.

As this will be the final newsletter for the year, we would like to thank each and every one of your children for attending our Kindergarten and for having fun with us this year. It has been a year of many first, while COVID has thrown many obstacles in our way – it has also been a cause for us to learn to adapt and learn in a variety of ways, which I think we have done very well. Thank you all for being wonderful families, your participation and for being such great first teachers to your children. For those of you who are returning in 2021, we look forward to another fun filled year.

Thanks for reading,

The Kindergarten team





A massive shout out to Tracy for being our November staff member of the month. Tracy does such a good job feeding us delicious and nutritious meals each day and deserves to be recognised for all of her effort and commitment to the Centre. We are especially spoilt at staff meetings, when Tracy whips us up something yummy to eat as a treat 😊

