



ALBERT WATERWAYS CHILDREN'S CENTRE 2019

# October Newsletter

## DIRECTOR'S NEWS

From Tash

Hello and welcome to October's newsletter. It is packed full of news, so please have fun reading!

**Survey:** I would like to thank all the families who took part in the annual online survey. There is still one more day for those of you who have not completed it yet!!! So hop online to do this.



Don't forget our Containers for change. If you bring in your old cans as well as your plastic and glass bottles (that state on the side there is a refund) and put them into our bins at the front entrance, one of our volunteer parents (you guys rock!) will take them to the refund station and the refund amount will be donated to Albert Waterways. This year we have raised over \$160 which goes back to the centre to buy resources for the children. So, a HUGE thanks and keep up the good work 😊

**Rolls for 2020:** Nikki is very busy organizing the rolls for 2020 and they are almost complete. They will be placed in the hallway for viewing within the next couple of weeks. If you have not let us know about any changes in days you would like or finishing date changes etc please let us know asap.

**Christmas party:** The last part of the year is always busy, and I know that many events are scheduled for all our families. One to put in your diary is the Centre's Christmas performance and party. It will be Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the daytime at the Centre (details below).

Our Christmas performance and party takes quite a bit of preparation, so I would like to give you this information now and possibly again next month just so you will be able to get a head start.

### **Food for Christmas Concert**

For our Christmas concert we ask that you bring along a plate of food to share for lunch. **PLEASE REMEMBER IT MUST BE NUT FREE.** In November a list of foods will be placed in the hallway in front of Kindy room as suggestions for our Christmas Concert shared lunch. Please place your name down next to an item or feel free to bring something else (maybe your specialty). All food will come into Tracy in the kitchen and will be sent out at the appropriate time.

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Please note you are able to bring things that need to be heated or reheated as we have the facilities to do so in our main kitchen. If you have items such as these it is wise to bring them in the prior day or in the morning at drop off so they will be definitely ready for lunch.

### **Raffle Tickets**

In a couple of weeks we will send a book of 5 raffle tickets home with each family. Please sell these and bring back the stubs (with names and phone numbers clearly written on them) and the cash. Each ticket is \$2 and you could win a fantastic prize. All monies will go back into the centre.

### **Donations for Raffles**

We are now asking for donations for our Christmas hampers. Your donations can be placed in the white clothes baskets that you see in the foyer from the first week in November. We would also love any restaurant vouchers, movie tickets etc that we can also give as prizes. Bottles of wine, 6 packs, also make good prizes. Thank you in advance for these items.

**Reminders about signing in/out** – We have noticed lately a lot of people signing in/out and forgetting to press the final “OK” button on the screen. Sometimes this means that your time and signature does not register in the system and then you are prompted to do it again when you come in again. Please complete this final button as it will save you time in the long run.

**Reminder from Nikki** - Could all families also to phone and let the staff at the Centre know if your child is going to be absent. Quite often we have families who are looking for extra days for their children and your child's position could be utilized by them for that particular day. Thanks for this in advance 😊

## **Calendar Dates**

**Wild Rangers Show**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Junior Kindy 10am**  
**Kindergarten 10.30am**  
**All Welcome.**

**The Centre's last operating day will be Tuesday 24th December 2019.**

**The Centre will then close for a short break.**  
**The Centre will reopen on Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.45am**

# Christmas Performance and Party

**When: Thursday 5<sup>h</sup> December 2019**

**Where: Albert Waterways Children's Centre**

**Time: 10.30 for Jnr Kindy families and  
11am for Kindergarten families**

Happy and healthy hints...

From...  
AWCC Kitchen

This month's recipe tastes fabulous. For something different we have given you the recipe to one of our favourite desserts. **This month's recipe is...**

## JAM DROPS

250gm butter  
1 cup raw sugar  
6 tablespoons milk  
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla  
3 cups self raising flour  
1 cup custard powder  
Jam

Preheat oven to 180 deg. Grease oven trays.

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 handle of wooden spoon make an indentation on top of each ball. Place small amount of jam in each indentation.

Allow room for spreading.

Bake for 15 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

## Halloween

### Thursday 31st October is Dress up day

If your child comes on Thursday, please encourage them to come along in their favourite costume - It doesn't have to be scary!

We will have stories, arts and crafts, games and a little trick or treat.



### Kindergarten Room Report

We really love the last term of Kindergarten each year 😊 As the children grow and mature our conversations are full of wonder and excitement and there is lots of sharing of information between children their peers and the educators. As we watch the children grow (some of them from babies in our Junior Kindy room) we are always amazed by how far they have come and also feel a little sad as we will soon lose them to school!

As you are probably aware, the biggest change for this term is the introduction of lunch boxes for our morning tea. The children delight in practicing being "big school kids" opening their containers, unwrapping snacks and peeling fruit. These are all challenges they must face in school and we are very keen for them to be prepared. It is such a great social occasion as the children gather in a circle on the grass and we all chat about the foods that we brought, our likes, dislikes and invariably talk always turns to sometimes and everyday foods. We would love to suggest you consider "nude" lunch boxes. This means putting all foods in small containers as opposed to wrapping in plastic cling wrap and foil. Also making choices for your child's lunch box that means you don't need to include individually packaged portions. Try buying items in bulk and then putting them into a container. Yoghurt for example is cheaper bought in bulk and is easy to put into a small container and a spoon supplied. Squeezy yoghurts (while they may be handy) do not help young children to develop muscles in the mouth required for eating and speaking and leave the environment with non-recyclable rubbish. I know it is a bit more work, but in the long run the EARTH and your child will thank you!

Our visit from Uncle Allan (our favourite Aboriginal local elder) was super exciting this month! We were all went to the park area behind the centre and we all had a turn of throwing boomerangs. Uncle Allan was pretty good at it, he nearly got one to return! (I think he might be brushing up on his throwing for his next visit though....) We all had lots of tries too. It was pretty tricky! We now have lots of boomerangs that we are able to practice with when we go to the park again. Uncle Allan explained the significance and

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nuances of boomerangs for the local Aboriginal mobs. We are thankful to have him share his knowledge with both the children and the educators.

We also had Hills and Yoko's band (that included lots of friends) come into the centre for a concert. The children were able to join in with lots of their favourite tunes and have a great boogie. They bought many instruments and we learnt the names and sounds of each of them. It was lots of fun. Thanks to Hills and Yoko for putting all the extra time and effort into this special occasion for us.

The children who will be leaving our Centre and moving to Prep next year will be soon issued with a Kindergarten Transition Statement. A copy of this will be given to families and a copy will be given to your child's school with your permission (form to be sent out soon). This is information that captures your child and will be beneficial to your child and their new teacher as they will have some knowledge about your child before they start school. This year we also require some parent input to complete this. If your child is going to school next year you will have been emailed a couple of questions to answer. If you have not replied to this email could you please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions in regard to this please see Lesley or Tash to further explain.

The staff are busy planning the end of year performance on Thursday 5th December. If you know that your child **will not** be here on this day or you are unable to come in for the concert, could you please let the Kindergarten staff know. We do hope that you are all able to come along and see the performance. For the children that are heading off to school next year this will be their time receive your Kindergarten graduation certificates. A very special occasion!

As the warmer weather approaches, I would like to remind families to apply sunscreen in the morning to their child. Also remembering sun protective clothing is important, so that children are not being over exposed to sun. We begin again to use lots and lots and lots of water from our tank, in the mud and sandpit so extra clothes during this time of year are essential.

Thanks so much for reading 😊

## Junior Kindy Room Report

We had our very first mini excursion outside the perimeter of Kindy and, by golly, it was pretty exciting!! We met our wonderful Uncle Allan at the field next to kindy. He showed us an array of different sized boomerangs and demonstrated how to throw a boomerang. We all had a few turns at throwing...turns out its quite tricky to get it to come back! This

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was a great space to experiment with boomerang throwing and we all thoroughly enjoyed exiting our 4 walls for a little while. We also took the opportunity to have some running races and exert some energy whilst on the big field. The children listened to their Educators, followed the simple rules to stay safe and showed that they were capable of future excursions. We plan to use the field more, taking over balls, hoops and frisbees and enjoying the vast space that is literally at our doorstep. We even thought it might be a lovely change up to our routine to enjoy a picnic lunch under the shady trees one day.

We were super lucky to have a visit from Hills and Yoko's band today. They brought along so many instruments; including guitar, clarinet, harp, keyboard, drums, bass guitar, saxophone and violin. It was such a wonderful performance! The children were very engaged and participated well. We are very fortunate to have such passionate, energetic, enthusiastic and talented Educators who plan these extra little events for the children. Thanks so much for organising a fun morning girls!

It's Water play season! From this point onwards, we will be planning lots of water play activities. Please ensure your child has at least 3 full changes of clothes in their bag. No singlets please, shoulders need to be covered. You can also pack swimmers (shoulders covered or rashy) if you wish. The days are warming up and we need to be Sun smart. It is parent's responsibility to ensure your child has had sunscreen applied on arrival, there is always sunscreen in the basket on top of the lockers for everyone's use. Educators apply sunscreen and bug spray each and every day before afternoon outside play.

A note about self-help skills. Educators use routines as opportunities for the children to become more independent, grow in confidence and exert their capabilities. Every day we gently guide, encourage and support the children to do things for themselves, such as putting underwear and shorts back on after toilet use, feeding themselves and taking responsibility of their belongings. If you can guide and encourage your child to do these tasks at home, it will help them to develop the skills they need to be independent. These skills are needed when they move up to Kindergarten, as the expectations are a little higher. They need to complete tasks such as making and packing away their own beds, toileting themselves, washing hands effectively, washing their own bowl after fruit and a few other tasks throughout their day. Promoting these skills at Kindy and at home will help them to be well on their way to being independent, confident and capable learners.

It is that time of the year where, as Educators, we become a bit sad at the thought of farewelling our older children up to Kindergarten. Some of the children have been with us since 6 months old☺. But we know that they are capable, confident and ready for new and exciting challenges. In November and December, we will be transitioning the children into their new space. The children need to build up a relationship with the Kindergarten Educators and spend time playing and exploring the space. Many of the children are very familiar already, but it's important to give each child plenty of time to feel safe, secure and supported with the change.