



AWCC NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
FOR OUR FAMILIES & COMMUNITY



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Important Dates:

- **Kindergarten Artist Visits - Tues 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March.**
- **'Floral Friday' - Fri 1st March**
- **'Getting to know you' Family Fun Day - Sun 3rd March 9-11am**
- **Yoga with Nathan - Wed 6th and 20th March**
- **Renata's 'All families are special' show - Fri 15th March at 10am**
- **Harmony Week - 19th March**
- **Kindergarten Library Visit - Fri 22nd March**
- **Easter Break - 29th March to 1st April**

Director's News

by Tamara Fallon

Privet AWCC Families,

We are now getting into the swing of things here at AWCC and it is so wonderful to see the children really settling in and displaying ownership and a sense of pride in 'my Kindy!' It has been lovely connecting with all our new families and forming those vital connections between home and Centre. **Don't forget about our Family Fun Day this Sunday 3rd March, 9-11 am at the Mermaid Beach Bowls Club - it's the perfect opportunity to connect with other families and the AWCC team.**

Parents' Evaluation of Development Status (PEDS):

Just a little remind to please check your child's communication pocket in the hallway for their PEDS form. It is very important that parents fill these out and detail any developmental concerns that you may have regarding your child. Educators will then be able to observe and work with both you and your child in these areas. We also have access to a myriad of pathways and can refer your child to necessary departments for additional help if needed. Please hand these to the Educators in your child's room once completed.

We have many initiatives in place at the Centre for families, to support our philosophy of ensuring we are reducing, reusing and recycling. We have a second-hand clothing cupboard that we encourage all families to take and add items. This is the big, grey cupboard just before the entry gate. Please check it out and help yourself. Containers for Change: We have a couple of green wheelie bins just inside the pram/bike storage gate where you can pop your refundable empty cans and bottles. If you would like to donate your funds from cans/bottles to AWCC, our Containers for change number is: C10029686. If you state this number at the recycling Centre, the funds will go to Kindy. All funds received from this are put back into the Centre. We are also a Terracycle collection point for dental materials and writing instruments.

It's great to see all families becoming familiar with our digital platform, OWNA. We highly encourage families to like, comment and provide feedback on our daily programs.

Friendly Reminder:

The Centre will be closed for the Easter Break from Friday 29th March to Monday 1st April

Parent Management Committee News:

Our Parent Management Committee for 2024:

President: Elizabeth Maddock

Vice President: Kate McGregor

Secretary: Sarah-Jayne Lofthouse

Treasurer: Julie Ware

Members: Georgia Byrne, Anna Plenca, Kevin Filo, Maaik Moolenaar, Katie Davies.

Congratulations to our PMC for your ongoing dedication and commitment. The Centre greatly relies on your contributions. We'll be displaying photos of the committee members in the hallway for easy identification. If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to approach any of them; they're eager to assist. If you're unable to meet them in person, you can email them at awcccommittee@hotmail.com or join the next committee meeting on Monday, March 18th, at 7 pm in the Kindergarten room.

SAVE THE DATE:

AWCC EASTER CELEBRATIONS

THURS 28TH MARCH 2024

10 AM

Happy & Healthy Hints from the AWCC Kitchen

Herbed Honey Meatballs

- 1 kg chicken or beef mince
- 2 Tbs flax seed meal (alt 1 egg)
- 1 teaspoon fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon chicken stock powder
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon garlic
- 1 cup fresh breadcrumbs
- Mixed grated vegetables – carrot, zucchini etc.
- 1/2 tin of gravy mix

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Shape mixture into meatballs and gently cook in frying pan. Place in a baking dish and cook in moderate oven for 30 minutes turning once. Serve with gravy.

At AWCC, this dish is served with creamy mash and steamed veggies.



Director's News continued...

Each child has their own individual portfolio on OWNA, where the educators document meaningful and relevant information regarding each child. You can see this by tapping the scrolling arrows symbol at the top of the feed and select 'Children Portfolio'. It will show all the posts your child has been tagged in and also their monthly observations. All observations are locked and only parents/guardians can view.

We also encourage families to share posts on OWNA; whether it be a new sibling, a new skill, holiday, special event, cultural celebration, or weekend activity, please share. Children enjoy sharing their home lives, it helps them to connect with others, encourages complex conversation, and provides a positive sense of self when talking about exciting events that are significant to each child.

Thank you to all families for your donations of money and goods towards our recent Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. We made a clear profit of \$4, 229, with no outlay for goods. A big thank you to our committee and families for your help on the day - a massive effort! Thank you to the families who came down to support us by purchasing a snag! We aim to hold another Bunnings Sausage Sizzle later in the year.

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! We will endeavor to pop each member's picture on the wall in the hallway as quickly as possible.

A last reminder that if you are going to be on holidays or if your child is sick, please let Nikki or Tamara in the office know as soon as you can. A huge thank you in advance!

Junior Kindy Update

Hello Families,

The Junior Kindy children have exhibited a keen fascination with dinosaurs lately, sparking the attention of educators who have actively nurtured this interest through a variety of engaging activities. From simulated fossil finding like paleontologists, to the task of chiseling dinosaurs out of ice cubes, and even delving into the realm of dinosaur exploration within our playdough creations. Each activity has provided a richly immersive experience for the children. By integrating learning with play, these interactive endeavors have proven to be highly effective in facilitating the children's understanding and appreciation of dinosaurs.

At the beginning of February, we had the return of our amazing yoga instructor, Nathan. Nathan joins us at AWCC every second Wednesday to lead our children in the practice of yoga. With years of experience teaching at AWCC, Nathan excels in encouraging active participation among the children. For our first session of 2024 Nathan had many of the old and new children excited to participate. During our yoga sessions, we don't just focus on mastering yoga poses, we also immerse ourselves in the art of chanting. One of our cherished chants is "Go Pala." Yoga serves as a holistic practice beneficial for both the physical and mental well-being of children, fostering a harmonious connection between body and mind.

This month we had a visit from a wonderful local musician, Mattie Barker. Mattie brings his guitar and harmonica and has most of the children up singing and dancing. Mattie's music show has a strong emphasis on the key components of musical harmony (beat, melody & rhythm) and its association to our individual happiness and overall wellbeing.

As you may have seen in the Jr Kindy program many of our once younger children have now moved up to big group time. In Jr Kindy, group time is split up into two separate groups. Mostly the groups are (under 2's) (over 2s"). Group times are a great opportunity to support and further children's learning. Group time is a safe space for children to engage, share in learning experiences, talk together, and collaborate. Group time is also a way to create a sense of belonging and togetherness within the group.

In Jr Kindy we value and appreciate any feedback/ family input you might have towards our program. We love to hear about your children's new interests or if there is something exciting, they might want to share with the group. Sharing these things always is a great way to support your child's sense of belonging in Jr Kindy.

Last reminder – please remember to label clothes, shoes, sheets, and comforters.

Thank you for reading,

Jr Kindy team



**RENATA JAYNE'S
'ALL FAMILIES ARE SPECIAL' SHOW
FRIDAY 15TH MARCH
10AM**

Kindergarten Update

Welcoming New Families and Children

We're excited to welcome new children and families to our vibrant community! At AWCC, the centre's philosophy delivers an emergent curriculum, which is a child-focused approach to learning that emphasises responding to children's interests and needs. Educators create meaningful and engaging activities based on what interests the children, building on their strengths and sparking new ideas. This flexible approach ensures that each child's learning is supported and progresses towards important educational goals.

In the first few months at AWCC, we emphasise on building relationships which is not just a fundamental aspect of the QKLG/EYLF; it is at the heart of creating nurturing and inclusive environments where children thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. As we support transitions and focus on building relationships and connections, we're committed to ensuring every child feels valued and supported in expressing their unique identity.

Introducing Ms. Cherie - We're thrilled to announce the onboarding of Ms. Cherie as AWCC's second Early Childhood Teacher. With her wealth of experience, passion for teaching music, being an enthusiast for Japanese and New Zealand cultures, and forging meaningful connections, fostering mutual respect, and contributing to a more inclusive and interconnected Kindergarten room. Ms. Cherie brings a dynamic energy to our team. She's dedicated to fostering a nurturing and enriching environment for all our children.

Exploring Cultural Identity - In the coming weeks, we'll continue our journey of exploring our classroom's cultural identity. We warmly invite parents to share, family photos, home language such as greetings (welcome, please, thank you), numbers, colours, traditions, or festivals. Your contributions will enrich our learning environment and help celebrate diversity.

Call for Assistance on Sustainable Practices:

1. We're committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship. We kindly request assistance from parents who work in offices to share any used paper that we can repurpose for our art and writing practice. Let's work together to reduce waste and promote eco-conscious habits.
2. **Collecting Materials for Junk Modelling** - Our creativity knows no bounds! We're currently collecting materials for junk modelling, including yogurt pots, cereal boxes, small tubes, and cleaned-out containers. These items will be transformed into imaginative creations as we explore the endless possibilities of recycled materials.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration in creating a nurturing and enriching environment for our children.



**CHECK OUT OUR NEW BOOKS
WE CREATED A UNIQUE BOOK THAT SHOWS
OUR MURAL JOURNEY CALLED 'YUGAMBEH
COUNTRY'.**

**WE ALSO CREATED A BOOK FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN SHOWING OUR CURRENT
RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP) GOALS
AND LOTS OF IMAGES OF OUR RAP JOURNEY.**