



Balmain Cove
CHILDREN'S CENTRE



OCTOBER 2011 PARENT NEWSLETTER

Sometimes, something happens which gets you thinking!! It is even more magical when a young child is the stimulus. This is what happened to me, just sitting in my office towards the end of a logistically busy day. A child from the Seals' room has, as his constant companion, an advertising booklet for Lego. It is his most treasured possession in the centre. He came in to say good-bye to me. He held out the booklet to me & said: "you can take this." I was flummoxed! All sorts of reasons flew through my head but I asked him why he was giving it to me. I could see his father standing behind him looking quizzical. This boy said: "you can take it so you have a good weekend." Now, I know how much true generosity this took. His father & I raised eyebrows (above wide eyes) at each other, & my skin suddenly developed a monstrous case of goose-bumps. That night I thought a great deal about why this had such an impact on me. This 4 year old child displayed a real sense of philanthropy. He didn't lend me his treasure so that he could gain something from it. He gave it to me for my benefit!

This incident gave me ideas about the vision I have for this centre. When you read Aisling's report you will see that she shares this vision. When we discussed this at this week's staff meeting, we knew that all our educators are excited by the philosophy of altruism and 'paying it forward'. There is a combined notion of the principle that we are all part of the one world and how we can facilitate in your children the desire to better this wonderful world. Each team member has come up with some terrific ideas that we want to implement in the centre. However, we would like input from you. How would you like us to involve your children (no matter what age) in the 'getting of wisdom' about respecting and caring for all living things on our earth (people, creatures and flora)? When your ideas come in, I will put them up in the foyer for you all to see. Please add comments or suggestions to these and let's see what difference we can make to this world!!

Lindy



Staffing.

Unfortunately, for personal reasons, Farzana must leave us. It has been lovely having her here - especially her optimistic and warm nature. Her last day was today, Friday.

Jess (Dolphins) is moving to the Seahorses to work with Mariel.

Two new trainees begin on Tuesday. Their names are Brooke and Salote. They will each spend 2 weeks in the Dolphins' and Seals' rooms to assess compatibility.

Sun protection.

Now that we are moving into Spring and Summer, we need for you to apply sunscreen to your children before they arrive in the morning. We will be assuming that you have done it, so please let us know if you haven't & we'll give you some to put on your child before you leave the centre. Please, please ensure your child has a hat (2 is a good idea) and that it is named.

Seals' children and quietness.

Could you please encourage your children to be quiet when walking through the Starfish room to and from the Seals' room? Loud noise frightens some of the babies. Also, it's important for safety reasons that the bigger children don't play on the babies' equipment.

It would be appreciated if parents from the Seals' room are as quiet as possible when picking up their children. We would like the children to not be disturbed as they listen to stories or play quietly.

Programming.

Please find attached an article about the rationale behind the Early Years Learning Framework – the new national curriculum for early childhood. You can probably see how this rationale fits in with the vision for the centre and the lives of your children.



Wildlife Show – Oct 19, 3pm.

Please find attached information about Bob Turner's Wildlife show. If your child does not normally come on that day, you may bring him/her. Please let us know if you want your child to be involved. The cost per child is \$7.

Statewide Eyesight Preschool Screening for 4/ 5year olds – Nov 2nd & 3rd – 1.30pm.

In your pocket (in the Dolphins' & Seals' rooms) you will find information about free eyesight screening for all 4/5 year olds & for those turning 4 this year. Please fill in the details on the form & return to Lindy before Nov 2 & 3.

Rozelle and Balmain Family Fun Day.

A reminder about the fun day being held for research into Neuroblastoma. Another brochure is attached. Some families from our centre are involved in the organization of the day.

NEWS FROM THE SEALS' ROOM

Two of the children in the Seals' room told us about a UNICEF fundraiser they attended to help the people of Africa. The Seals were extremely interested in discussing why the people of Africa need help and how we can help. They recognized that lots of people in Africa do not have enough food or water and showed a particular interest in helping children. Their ideas were often humorous and unrealistic but always kind and meant with the very best of intentions.

We think it shows wonderful traits in the children of Balmain Cove that they want to help other children. We intend to hold a fund-raising week in October when we sell cakes, buns and pieces of craft made by the children from each room. The project, from start to finish, will be recorded in a book, and we will make a display in the foyer &/or Seals' room.

We would really appreciate your support and any ideas you would like to put forward are always welcome.

Thank you,

Aisling & Hannah



WHAT WE ARE EXPLORING IN THE DOLPHINS' ROOM

We have been investigating our bodies and building our knowledge of what each part is used for. We are developing our self-help skills by practising dressing ourselves. The related song we have learnt is 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' in "Gana Wana" (an Indigenous dialect).

We love story time and participate well in telling our own stories. Our favourite books are 'Spot's Adventures' and the 'Wonkey Donkey'.

We have introduced Maths' classes within the last month. We are building our number awareness plus simple addition and subtraction. The favourite songs used to help us are '5 Cheeky Monkeys' and 'Gorillas at the Zoo'.

We value, and act on, the input received from you. Our program includes 40% parent input, 40% child input and 20% staff input. Please let an educator know of any exciting or meaningful adventures/activities had by your child over a weekend or night. A sense of humour is always appreciated by everyone!!

Thank you for your support

Alex & Maria

SEAHORSES' ROOM

The Seahorse group has welcomed Joseph, Alana & Charlotte into our room.

The children have been busy learning the days of the week. We are also learning about the weather.

We are learning to count to 10 in Spanish.

Colours have been a bit of a challenge, but never mind, we keep trying.

Some children have been developing their own interests: books, cars, puzzles, playdough & painting.

The children are developing their special friendships, like 'the two amigos'!

Our duty so far has been to teach them manners about social awareness (sharing) and helping them out in all the developmental stages of their young lives.

We encourage parents to apply sunscreen before coming to the centre please.



NEWS FROM THE STARFISH

The new members of the Starfish family are settling in well. They are forming trusting relationships with the carers and gaining lots of new friends. The Starfish (children and adults) are welcoming the warmer weather and the start of Spring. The children have been participating in physical play outside, enjoying activities such as digging in the sand pit, climbing on the play equipment and experiencing water play. They have also been doing lots of painting and creative play. They've been painting different bright and colourful flowers and also did some butterfly painting.

The babies are very excited about the arrival of new toys. It was like a mini stampede of baby elephants.

YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED FROM THIS NEWSLETTER THAT WE ENCOURAGE COMMUNICATION FROM YOU. PLEASE SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE GIVEN TO YOUR CHILDREN.