



## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Families

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to our existing families. We have some exciting changes that we will be implementing over the next few months and I look forward to sharing more information about them.

We will be introducing a new software system called KIDS XAP on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of March. The system has fantastic capabilities and it will provide our families with options on how they pay their account. Families will now have options to pay by Direct Debit or with a Credit Card. We do ask that you be patient when the new system is introduced as there will be changes to your invoices.

Our fundraising team was successful in being allocated a Saturday in February for the centre to hold a BBQ at Modbury Bunnings. We have included a summary in the newsletter for your perusal.

We have welcomed a new casual employee to our team, Justine who recently completed her practicum and now holds a Diploma in Children's Services. Justine spent the majority of her time in the Kindy room so we look forward to her spending time in our other rooms.

The Toddler and Kindy room have introduced a progressive morning tea as we wanted to give opportunities for children to have less interruption in their play experiences. Thank you to all families for providing their children with a piece of fruit to eat at morning tea.

We appreciate children like to bring in their own toys however ask that you limit the toys to one toy as we fear these toys will get lost in the centre.

Some families have recently asked us to give their children Panadol or Nurofen when we have called to advise them of a temperature. Please note we do not have any medication on site; please refer to our Medical and Medical Conditions Policy for further information.

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of March our centre will close at 3:00 pm as educators are participating in a walk off action advocating for equal pay as part of the Big Steps Campaign. The date is significant as it is International Women's day.

The office hours have recently changed and either Rachel or myself will be available from 8:00 to 5:00. My working days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Rachel is available on Monday and Wednesday. If you are unable to see either Rachel or myself during those times please let us know and we will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

Please feel free to call, email or make an appointment if you would like to provide feedback or ideas about our centre or if there are any issues or concerns that you may have. My email address is [sharon@modburycce.org.au](mailto:sharon@modburycce.org.au).

Sharon - Director

## REMINDERS

- **When paying your fees please place your child's name as the reference and your name as the payee**
- If you are having financial difficulties please see Sharon or Rachel to discuss further as this may result in a reduction of days if you have not made an arrangement to reduce your debt.
- For Kindy room families please ensure you remember to take your containers and clothes.
- **If your child will be absent from the centre we ask that you call the centre by 10am to advise us they won't be attending that day.**
- Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to suit the weather. We also ask that you check your child's change of clothes in their bag.
- **Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child when they arrive in the morning.**
- If you have any unwanted clothing items at home we would love any donations for children's clothing so we have a supply of spare clothes or adults clothing for children to dress up in.

# BUNNINGS BBQ FUNDRAISER



Our Bunnings BBQ was a great success; we were able to raise over \$1100 for the centre. We couldn't have achieved that result without the help of our amazing volunteers and staff on the day and our families who kindly donated items or money assist with setting up the day. Thank you one and all.





## NEWS FROM OUR ROOMS BABY ROOM



We have had a great start to the year in the Baby room. We have had some new children start and they are all settling in well. We welcome them and their families to our room.

We began the year by making some changes to our sleep rooms. We purchased some new mobiles in more natural, soft colours, which we have hung over each of the cots. You may have noticed we have also placed all of the children's photos in frames which are displayed on the wall. The children have been enjoying lots of outdoor play; including lots of water play on these hot days. We have also provided painting, playdough and drawing experiences. We welcomed Lucy back in to our room, she will be working on Wednesdays.

As you may be aware, we have begun a new programming and planning cycle. We as educators thank you for returning the planning sheets that we sent home. We have begun to write each child's plans and goals, which have been placed in the children's folders. We also have our new term programme displayed in the room. This term our teaching intent is focused around language development; with a variety of planned experiences for the group, which will sit alongside the children's individual plans. As always, we welcome any feedback.



Over the next few months the children will participate in celebrating Easter and Mother's Day. We also hope to purchase a fish tank for our room this year.

A few gentle reminders; please bring spare clothes as the children love engaging in messy play and water play. Please label your child's bottles and clothes etc. While we make every effort to make sure children's items go home, having them labelled will be a big help.

We look forward to another year of fun and learning.

Until next time

Baby Room Educators



## TODDLER ROOM

Dear Families

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017! What a busy start to the year it has been. We have had new children transition from the baby room and also from outside the centre so we welcome them along with their families.



After the New Year, we heard many exciting stories from our toddlers about Santa, holidays and the presents they received from their families over the Christmas break. We have been lucky to have had some beautiful weather so far and have been taking advantage of the outdoors when possible, engaging in water play, continuing to care for our garden and plants, developing gross motor skills on our obstacle courses and bikes, reading in our library area under the veranda, and overall enjoying the outdoors and playing with new friends. On the days where the weather hasn't been as kind, we have made the most of the indoors with lots of hands on activities including messy play with gloop, playdough, water-painting on ice, melting ice 'dinosaur eggs', train ride dramatic play, going on an 'incursion' to visit the kindy room's new fish, dance parties, and have also been opening the doors up between our room and the kindy room allowing the children to move between the two. The children thoroughly enjoy being able to explore the kindy room and get the chance to engage in activities and resources they often don't use.

As educators in the toddler room, we constantly strive to build and develop important relationships with the children in our care. Through these relationships, conversations and observations, we are able to plan our educational program accordingly and tailor experiences that will benefit the children in their learning and development. From the start of the year we noticed many of the children had been showing a strong interest in cars, trains, and planes, and therefore as part of our educational programme we have started to explore the different modes of transport in our community. Some fun learning experiences around this topic so far have included:

- Creating stencil artwork of cars using sponge painting
- Exploring different images of transport which has sparked some great conversations among the children and has also been helping language development regarding the transport types and names. These images have also inspired children to draw their favourite type of transport
- Transport themed puzzles and books
- Using cars and paint to create car-track artwork. Some of the children sat at this experience for over an hour, watching the wheels turn and experimenting with the different types of tracks they could create by rolling the toy cars through the paint

- Train ride dramatic play: the children often ask to play and look at trains. On days where it has been too hot to play outside, we have set up chairs in rows to pretend we are on a train. The children hand out special train tickets in order to ride the train, and especially enjoy listening and watching different types of trains such as steam trains, bullet trains, modern trains, etc.

We love how involved our children are in reading and looking at books. At the moment we have two favourite books that the children request to read almost every day; 'Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen, and 'Where is the Green Sheep?' by Mem Fox. This interest inspired our other programming focus for the term, 'Bringing Literature to Life.' The children absolutely love acting out the bear hunt book, and we have started constructing a real life version for our toddler room. The children have been painting and helping recreate each page, and we are excited to see the finished product and watch the children bring their favourite book to life.



This year we have started implementing our new programming cycle. Thank you to those parents who have bought their information forms back. If you have not done so yet please do so as soon as possible, as this information is what gives us an insight into your child's interests, strengths, and what learning areas you would like us to focus on for your child. If you have any questions or feedback about our programming cycle please do not hesitate to ask one of the toddler room educators. We would also like to send a friendly reminder to parents to please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled, to pack a change of clothes as we sometimes engage in hands-on/messy play, and to please leave all toys at home (excluding comforters such as teddies, blankets, etc.) We have often observed that when your child brings toys from home they are easily lost and can cause conflict with other children who might want to have a go at this toy, which overall impacts their social play with others.



Thank you from all the Toddler Room Educators,  
Julia, Emma, Michelle, Rizza and Karen.

***Additional information:***

- Over the next few months Michelle will be off the floor each Thursday as she completes her diploma at TafeSA.
- We are trying to provide many spontaneous experiences for the children and are currently seeking the following resources: Ribbon spools, Dress-ups, Old books for our library and pots, pans and cutlery for home corner play.

## KINDY ROOM

We would like to welcome back all our returning families and extend a warm welcome to all our new children and families. Our main objective for this time of the year is to support our children's social and emotional wellbeing.

The Kindy room educators understand that transitioning time is a time of excitement but also nervousness for many children and parents. Therefore, we endeavour to ensure that all children are receiving the support needed to feel happy, safe and secure in their new environment.

The room goal for the year of 2017 is to build an ongoing relationship with the wider community. We will endeavour to provide the children with opportunities to connect and participate in shared learning experiences with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Some of the events we have celebrated in the past few months are Australia day and Chinese New Year. It is always a great opportunity to promote children's understanding of belonging to a wider community and their culture awareness.

The intended outcome of our January program was for children to settle back, new children to develop a sense of belonging, get to know their environment, their educators and peers. Our Kindy children are showing a great interest in role play, and we will be extending on that through a variety of play experiences. We will also be working on extending children's fine motor skills and continue to support their social interactions and emotional wellbeing.

The Kindy educators have implemented the children learning cycle for term one, we thank you for your input and we encourage you to have a conversation with your child's primary carer about your child's learning goal for the term.

The Kindy room have introduced a fish tank and at this stage we do have two Black Moore called "Fin and Neptune", more fish will be added to the tank in the future. Children have been very involved in the process and love spending quiet time watching, feeding and playing near the fish tank.

This term Jo's group will be exploring literacy concepts such as name writing, letter knowledge, writing letters and numbers, phonics, rhyme and syllables. The numeracy concepts include number knowledge, time, shapes, measurement, patterns and colours. We will also be working on the development of children's confidence, listening, following instructions, speech, pencil control and fine motor skills.

**Friendly reminders:**

Please remember to help your child apply sunscreen in the morning. We will place it next to the sign in sheet for your convenience. Please fill out the column on the sign in sheet to indicate that you have applied the sunscreen.

Please remember to check your child's belongings before leaving such as: sleep comforters, jackets and containers.

We would like you to also encourage your child to return their hats into their pockets at the end of the day.

Kind Regards

Kindy Educators

## PEDAGOGY IN NATURE COMMITTEE

Our Pedagogy in Nature committee have put together an outdoor vision and is seeking your feedback. You will find this vision as you enter the centre on the left hand side wall. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on what changes we can make to our outdoor environment.



## Late Collection Fee

Please remember to be on the premises 5-10 minutes prior to 6:00 pm to collect your child. After 6:00 pm the centre is not covered by our Insurer. Families who arrive after 6:00 pm will be asked to sign a Late Collection of Child Form and a charge of \$5.00 per minute will apply.

## Important Dates

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March - centre closing at 3:00 pm as Educators will be participating in a walk off the job

## Public Holidays

The centre will be closed on the following Public Holiday dates.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Adelaide Cup

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Monday

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Anzac Day

## Sustainability Tip of the month

Did you know that food waste can go into your food waste bin layered between green waste? You can also put egg cartons, newspaper, pizza boxes and paper towel into a green bin.

## Staff Update

Mira will be on secondment to United Voice from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Mira will work with the Union officials in the Early Education and Care Team. Jo will take on the role as Team Leader and Jane will replace Mira in her absence.

Karen will be on Annual Leave from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of March to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Jen will be taking Annual Leave on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Natasha will be on Leave from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of April returning on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of May

## Casual Vacancies

During the course of the year, we occasionally have casual days available. Should you be interested in a casual day this information will now be available on our website.

At the home page move your cursor to "Our centre" and open availability. This will have what days are available for the following week. If you are interested in a casual day please feel free to email Rachel or myself or to call us to confirm you would like the day.



Modbury Community Children's Centre  
118A Smart Road  
Modbury SA 5092  
Ph: 08 8265 0862 Fax: 08 8395 6025  
Email: sharon@modburycce.org.au

