

# MODBURY COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Families,

Welcome to all our new families who have commenced at our centre and we hope your child has settled into their room. Over the next few months we will continue to welcome new families. I'd also like to welcome back our returning families for 2018.

This year the centre will be turning 30 and we are in the initial planning stages. If you are interested in assisting on the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration committee, please come and see me and I will introduce you to our committee members.

Last year we had a display in the foyer with photos of outdoor environments. I'm pleased to advise we are well into the planning stages of re-developing our outdoor play space and I'd like to thank families who have left comments and feedback about our initial design. Our educators have provided their input and we are looking at including a vegetable patch, sensory path, stepping logs, small creek bed, grass, reading nook, decking complemented with native plants. I look forward to sharing a more detailed drawing once we have received it from our landscaper. We hope to be able to start this re-development in June this year however this will depend on the development process.

On behalf of all the Modbury team we would like to wish Rachel and her fiancé Yanni all the best for their upcoming Wedding in April.

In January we welcomed Holly to our team as our Administration assistant. Holly has re-designed internal forms, updated our enrolment form and is writing a procedure manual for the front office. She is also re-designing and updating our brochure to advertise the centre and ensuring our policy folders are up to date with a new contents page for easy reference.

Our educators continue to engage in professional development as individuals and as a team. As a team we have completed fire safety training, SIDS training and we did a team building exercise at adventure rooms in Adelaide. Our team leaders will be attending a critical reflective seminar in May.

The office will be attended by Holly on Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 to 5:00. Rachel will be available on Wednesday. I will be available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. If you are unable to see us 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@modburyccc.org.au](mailto:sharon@modburyccc.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.
- **If your child will be absent from the centre we ask that you either call the centre by 10am or advise us through Kids XAP app.**
- **Please do not bring food into the centre after 7:15 am**
- 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.
- For Kindy room families please ensure you remember to take your containers and clothes.
- 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.

# NEWS FROM OUR ROOMS

## BABY ROOM



Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2018. It has been a busy but fun start to our year so far. We have said farewell to some of our children who have moved through to the Toddler Room, and they are all settling in well.

We have also had some new children begin with us, and we welcome Anthony, Lucy, Aiden, Ezra, Maggie, Jack, Jade and their families to our room.

As always, when new children begin our main focus is on building relationships and settling children into their new environment. This is where using Primary Caregiving and the Circle of Security are key in achieving this outcome for children.

The children have enjoyed lots of sensory/messy play experiences, both inside and outside, already this year, and the children have engaged in lots of play and learning outdoors, making the most of our wonderful space. We have also had many creative play experiences such as, painting, drawing, gluing.

Over the coming cooler months, we hope to establish a bigger vegetable patch, and our aim is to grow some winter vegetables such as potatoes, cauliflower, pumpkin, etc. We also have some very exciting news to share. This year we will be redesigning and upgrading our sandpit area. We hope to incorporate some large rocks and water features, as well as utilising the space behind the sandpit with a new path and tunnel/bridge into the sandpit. We as educators are excited about this as it will be a much more aesthetically pleasing space, and as the children already love sand and water play, it will be much more inviting for them to engage with. We understand the value of nature play and there are so many learning opportunities and outcomes to be found in this area.

As always, when planning for and documenting your child's learning and outcomes, we welcome both your input and feedback. Our Educational Programme is on the wall above the mirror, and you are welcome to read it anytime. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. The children's portfolios are there for you to read, and they will also be sent home during the year.

Just a few gentle reminders; please label all your children's belongings and bottles. While we make every effort to keep track of items, labelling items helps. Please bring one or two changes of clothes, the children enjoy lots of messy play throughout their day. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

*From Gail, Rachel, Victoria, Lucy and Natasha*



# TODDLER ROOM

Hello from all the Toddler Room Educators!

Welcome all of our new and existing families to 2018. We have had a wonderful first few months of the year, settling into new routines, forming new relationships and friendships. We are extremely happy to welcome Rizza back to the Toddler Room on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays after covering Mira in the Kindy room during her time at the Union.

For January and February, our main goal as a room was to help support existing, new and transitioning children develop a sense of belonging and confidence in our room. To achieve this, the toddlers have loved engaging in a range of one-on-one activities with educators to help form those important relationships, as well as lots of group learning experiences, such as creating a handprint for our belonging branch, shared group art and messy play experiences, and group time songs and games. These group experiences have been a great way to promote social interaction, sharing, cooperation and relationships.



As part of our Term 1 programme, we have been focusing on helping the children develop an increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing. Our intended outcome is to support children in building independence skills and competence in self-hygiene, care and safety. To achieve this, each group time we model and reinforce health and hygiene practices such as washing our hands. We have also enjoyed reading books and singing songs about hygiene and cleanliness, such as brushing our teeth. The Toddlers absolutely loved watching a teeth brushing demonstration by Michelle, and enjoyed practicing brushing teeth using a giant toothbrush and model toy mouth.

We have loved celebrating important cultural events that have taken place so far this year such as Chinese New Year and St Patrick's Day. To celebrate, the Toddlers have engaged in cultural dancing, listened to cultural music and engaged in a range of Art Activities to celebrate. As Easter approaches, we have also loved engaging in a range of Easter art activities, including Easter Egg collages, making Easter baskets and painting wooden rabbits. Over the next few days we are excited to decorate Easter biscuits and go on an Easter Hunt!

## Reminders:

- Please ensure your child comes to Childcare in appropriate footwear e.g. no thongs. This impacts on their ability to climb and play safely outside on the equipment
- Please ensure your child attends with a water bottle and their own piece of fruit for morning tea (can be provided cut up in containers)
- A gentle reminder that Breakfast at the Centre is available up until 7:30am in the baby room. Please **do not** enter the Toddler Room with food after this time, as we do not have the resources or staff available to sit one-on-one with your child while they eat.



We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and filling out the necessary documents which allow us to continue to support and develop your child's interests, strengths and needs. If you have anything you would like to share with us about our Room, your child or our programme, please speak to any of the Toddler Room Educators.

*From Emma, Julia, Michelle, Rizza and Karen*

## KINDY ROOM

We would like to welcome our existing Kindy children and our new Kindy friends and their families to our room. We hope you enjoy your time with us and we look forward to watching you grow, and to share with you a journey of fun, learning and discoveries.

We have sadly said goodbye to Lucy, we would like to thank Lucy for sharing our journey in the past years and we wish her all the best in the baby room. Thank you to Jo for filling in the Team leader role last year and for Rizza for filling in the full-time position in the Kindy room.

The Kindy room team for this year is as follows:

Mira - Educator, team Leader (Full Time)

Gemma - Educator (Mon, Tue, Wed)

Jo - Early Childhood Teacher (Full Time)

Jane - Educator (Thurs, Fri)

What a great start to the year, we have enjoyed a variety of experiences that emerged from the children's interests. We hope that you enjoyed looking at the photos we are sharing with you through KidsXap, we would love to hear your comments.

We are extremely proud of the children for being inclusive and the way they share the space and resources with each other. The Kindy children have been responding positively to our discussions on expressing feelings and responding to frustration during play. We will continue to support children's interactions and attempts to build connections with one another.

We are assisting children in self-help skills. We are encouraging children to take off and put on shoes and socks, apply sunscreen and to put away hats after play. It is great to see the children showing an increasing confidence and skills.

This term we have been focusing on three learning outcomes:

- Social and emotional wellbeing.  
To help children develop a sense of belonging and to help them establish a trusting relationship with other children and educators.
- Cultural awareness  
To enable children to share an aspect of their culture with the other children and educators
- Language and literacy

To enable children to use language and make meanings through drawing, painting, drama, dance, movement, music, we celebrated the Chinese New Year over a week and invited some of our families to share aspects of their culture with the children. We had Soojung presenting Korean dress ups with the children, Edna made origami dogs representing year of the Dog and Amber's mum made dumplings with the children. We have also explored music, dance and Chinese New Year celebrations from different countries and decorated the room with lanterns and made dragons.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to explore literacy, as all children present their books for show and tell. We are in the process of sending out letters, but feel free to check with the educators if you are not sure of the date of your child's show and tell.

If you have any input regarding the room or anything you would like to discuss with us regarding your child's development, please do not hesitate to speak to us. Meetings with primary carers can be arranged for your convenience.

*From Mira, Jo, Gemma and Jane*

### Special Thanks:

Edna (Connie's Aunty) for sharing with the kindy children an origami experience during the Chinese New Year celebrations

Amber's mum for making dumplings with the children

Sue for accommodating our cooking week and making the amendment to her week menu.

Soojung for the dress up experience she shared with us.

### Reminders:

Please make sure your child clothes and belongings are labelled. Please no thongs, they are not safe when children are running.

Please remember to help your child apply sunscreen upon arrival and tick the list.

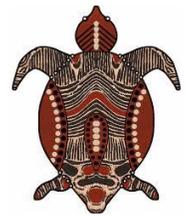
Please write your child's name on the laminated sheet as we use it during emergency drills.

### Upcoming Events:

Harmony day/dress up day  
21/3/18

## RAP NEWS

Welcome to our RAP NEWS! RAP stands for Reconciliation Action Plan. We as a centre are committed to providing an inclusive environment where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, beliefs and traditions are recognised, valued and shared.



Educators formed the RAP committee in order to help our centre embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture into the curriculum and daily practices.

The committee consists of Mira, Lucy, Jo Anne and Natasha. Our RAP is displayed in the foyer for you to read. We welcome any feedback and if you're interested in any information regarding our committee please don't hesitate to ask.

Stay tuned for further upcoming RAP news and events.

*From the RAP committee*

## 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, Holly or myself or to call us to confirm you would like a day.

## 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

The centre will be closed on the following public holidays

- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Easter Monday
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Anzac Day
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Queen's Birthday
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October - Labour Day

## WALK OFF ACTION TO CAMPAIGN

The centre will close at 12:30pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of March as our educators are participating in walk off action to campaign for professional wages and affordable childcare.

Professional wages and being recognized for the role we play in educating children from birth to 6 years is important for Educators and we have great concerns about how the sector is managed and funded.

## STAFF UPDATE

- Victoria will be on leave from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of March returning on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April
- Jo will be on leave from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of April
- Rachel will be on leave from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of April returning on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of May
- Michelle will be on Annual leave on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of April
- Rizza will be on Annual leave on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of April
- Julia will be on Annual leave on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of May



Modbury  
Community  
Children's Centre  
LEARNING TOGETHER, EVERY DAY.

Modbury Community Children's Centre  
118A Smart Road  
Modbury SA 5092  
Ph: 08 8265 0862  
Email: [sharon@modburyccc.org.au](mailto:sharon@modburyccc.org.au)