



BARRY BECKETT Children's Centre

Coordinator's Report

We have had a great start to the year, all the children are settled and enjoying themselves. Thank you to the families that have joined the committee, I welcome your involvement and hope you enjoy yourselves. We had a lovely family night on Thursday, with the Aboriginal smoking ceremony. Some families said that they did not know about the family night, it was in the Feb newsletter, can families please make sure that you read emails, signs on the door and newsletter also join us on Face book.

The centre now has a lot more recycling bins in it and we are really focusing on the reusing and recycling with the children. Earth hour is on the 23rd of March 2013. We are going to turn all the lights off over the next few weeks for an hour and talk to the children about why.

http://earthhour.org.au/?gclid=COaVm9b9hLYCFQOcpQod_U4A4A

Another useful website is http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/action/LANDING?pc=PC_94282,Text-size=Normal

Sarah

Parent involvement

Thank you to Sip and to Cecelia who have spent time with the children doing different activities.

If you would like to be involved in the garden redesign, you are more than welcome. Please speak to me.

Barry Beckett has a Face book

page as well. Please join to find out the latest information, days that are for sale and any play dates that families are organising.

Staffing

Sarah P left in January and Rajaa has taken over. Rajaa has been really enjoying herself and has fitted in well to the team. Chiara (casual inclusion support) has also moved on, due to us not having enough work for her, we wish her well and hope to see her back when we have the new build.

Outside my office I have an educator profile of most of the casual staff that regularly work at the centre, if you don't know an educator please ask them their name, they are more than willing to talk to you. Also we are starting to get students in now; these are from Kangan, NMIT and Melbourne Uni. Please make them feel welcome and talk to educators or myself if you have any concerns. Sarah B will be on Annual leave over the first week of Easter and Marie will be your first point of call. Poppy has been in hospital after having her gall bladder removed, we expect her back sometime within the next 2 weeks.

Discoverers (Kinder)

We have been very busy enjoying having our new educator, Rajaa in the room.

Some of us went on a small

IMPORTANT DATES

Closed Good Friday 29th March

Closed Easter Monday 1st April

Easter egg hunt Thursday 28th March

Closed Thursday 25th ANZAC day (making biscuits with the children on the Wednesday)

excursion down Sydney road to get an aboriginal flag, Angus asked for it by saying "please can we have an original flag" children are very funny! We have been focusing on the local aboriginal people and discussing bush tucker and this led on to people of different cultures and with different skin colours, then on to holidays around the world. Children also seem to have been building good friendships and have settled into the program well.

Sip, Ollies mum has been helping lots in the room, she showed us how to use the juicer and we made healthy juices, and she also came in to bake bread with us. Sip bakes bread for the local community. We are looking at going to the museum

in 2nd term, we will need



volunteers if you are interested please speak to Jo, Rajaa or Sarah.

Jo & Rajaa

Explorers

We welcome, Andres, Sidney, Hugo to our room and Ryan who has returned to care after being on holiday.

We have introduced a focus topic for our group times linked to children's interest and to basic numeracy and colour and shape recognition which are some areas we would like to teach children about.

The topic around animals has been very strong and we are singing songs and using cd stories around animals such as the Wonkey Donkey, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Going on a Bear Hunt. The children are really enjoying the cd stories and books and using the story board.

We have set up dinosaurs inside the room after children using dinosaurs during family grouping in the adventurer's room and an insect area after noticing children showing interest in insects that were brought into the room (snails and caterpillars).

Thank you to all the families that came to the Welcome back family night we hope you enjoyed it.

This week we are celebrating harmony week and wearing orange, we are also eating food from the cultures of our centre and local community.

Our children have been having great fun exploring paint over the last week and we endeavour to extend this through talking about colours, how they change when mixed and offering children time to do finger painting as sensory play is such a big part of how they develop at this age.

We have welcomed the cooler weather it makes for a much more comfortable environment and the children are enjoying

being outside and not getting so hot.

The children have been enjoying using musical instruments; if you can play a musical instrument and have a spare 20 minutes we would love you to come share this talent with the children.

Marie, Zeina, Joulet, Eva and Marina, Gulcan

Adventurers

The Adventurer's Room children have recently taken an interest in responsibility and participation in the running of both the program and the room in general. You may have noticed educators have implemented a Child Helper System, where children are asked to participate in routines, setting up for meals and offering support to peers during times of distress. This has been a fantastic opportunity for children to continue to form attachments with their peers and display an emergent sense of empathy and understanding, as well exploring social-emotional concepts.

The children have recently created, with staff assistance, a document called a Learning Journal. This document holds evidence, written and visual, of significant experiences the children thoroughly enjoyed and have shown an interest in



exploring. This document has seen the children participate in reflective discussions with staff, which help ascertain what it is exactly that the children would like to explore and investigate.

This provides us with strong child input into the educational program and gives staff an insight to child interests outside of BBCC.

Parent interviews are scheduled for this week and we thank all those who have taken the time for a quick chat. These informal catch up's will give us an opportunity to explore areas of development parents are concerned about and will provide parents with an update as to how we at BBCC are catering to your child's learning acquisition. Just a friendly reminder that any items, including toys, clothing and books from home MUST be labelled clearly with the child's name. We kindly ask that you allow your child to come to childcare in clothes that are able to tolerate mess. Our program has quite a few sensory and visual art activities that may lead to paint spots or mud stains. We do encourage and try to enforce children to wear smocks for painting although sometimes this is difficult with children. We have currently welcomed Beth and Maria, two of our casual staff, into our room. They will be replacing Poppy temporarily until she returns later this month.

Poppy, Daniel, Rita, Vas & Kanchana

Committee Report

It was great to see many of you at the recent family dinner and to meet some new families too. Thanks for getting involved. It is great to be a community centre and to have opportunities throughout the year to come together. Thanks to all the staff who made it possible. The artwork looks great.

The committee has been busy recently. We met with Andrew Macmillan a landscape architect, who we have engaged to prepare a concept design for the yard as part of the development of the centre.

We will shortly be going to tender to engage a builder for the building works. The earliest we expect to see any building taking place is November 2013. We will update as soon as we know more, a final plan should be out within the next 2 weeks.

If you are interested in being involved in the yard works, please talk to one of us, to Scott Burchell or Sarah Beaumont and we will discuss how. It is important that we manage this process well.

We are also reviewing our staff salaries to ensure they are fair, and enable us to attract and retain excellent staff prior to our mid-year review of fees.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in May. All families are required to have a representative attend. This is a really important part of how we operate. We will have a new constitution to endorse following recent legislative changes, so this year is particularly important. We also continually want more parents involved on committee, and currently have a vacancy for the role of Secretary with more roles likely to be vacant prior to the meeting. Please consider participating in the committee of management. Many hands make light work!

Here are some photos from our Welcome back family night on the 14th of March

