



# GUMNUTS

Early Learning Centre

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011

www.gumnutselc.com.au

### News From The Director

Hi Everyone,

As the days are becoming cooler we encourage parents to pack appropriate head ware for their children ie: beanies, although the suns UV rays are not normally at harmful levels during winter we still expect children to wear a hat or beanie just to keep the children in the habit of wearing protection when they go outside and it keeps their head nice and warm too.

Last week you would have noticed a flyer go out about an information night for parents if you are interested in attending please express your interest by returning the slip to the fees box. If there is a

particular topic you would like to know more about write it on the form and if there is enough interest in the same topic we will talk about it on the night some examples are sleeping, toilet training and our pre primary program. The night will be very informal and only go for about an hour and we would love to see as many parents as possible there.

#### OSHC NEWS

Our After school and Vacation care programs will be relocating from the Scout Hall to the O.A. Ruff stadium at the beginning of term 3. this is due to substantial increases in rent over the last two years and we do not want to have to

burden parents with the extra costs. The new facility will offer a much more welcoming environment for everyone and allow us to provide an even better service to the community.

Until Niagara falls.

Brendon.

#### Shopping Trip Update

Due to the very low numbers, we have had to cancel the shopping trip for this year. Thank you to those who expressed their interest. Hopefully we can run it again next year, it is normally a great fundraiser for the centre plus you get a day out in Melbourne to go shopping.

#### PIE DRIVE

You all would have received your pie drive order form a couple of weeks ago if you are placing an order please return it with the correct money to the fees box **no later than Friday 22nd of July** the pies will be delivered on Wednesday 27th.

### News From The Wombats Room

Hello everyone,

Evie and I have been really enjoying Charmaine in the room as a permanent staff member. It's fantastic for all of us to give a little bit more one on one with the children, fantastic for the parents to receive generally everyday, 2 qualified carers and 1 assistant whose nearly qualified, and the room is generally really peaceful and cruisy! We need to welcome some new families as well and say goodbye to a couple of children who have moved up.

The weather is cold, but when there's an opportunity we rug up and go outside for a play or painting. Please have a look at our fantastic water paintings on our wall

in the room. They are fantastic. Good enough to frame.

3 cheeky monkeys, dress ups, home corner and building blocks are very popular at the moment and when we role play and sing 3 cheeky monkeys, the whole room stops to watch.

Remember parents to add to your child's portfolio by filling out anything interesting that you've done on the weekend!

Evie, Davina and Charmaine.



#### QUOTE THE MONTH:

Children aren't happy without something to ignore, And that's what parents are for.

#### RECIPE BOOKS

We have recipe books for sale for \$10 located in the foyer the book is filled with fantastic recipes for meals any time of the day and even some other special things we make here at gumnuts. Its a fantastic gift idea also so please help support this fund raiser by purchasing a book.

## News From The Koala's Room

Hi everyone,

What a busy month we have had. With the weather so chilly we have had lots of indoor play. Which has been lots of fun.

The Koalas are very musical and love to dance and sing. To extend on this Charmaine brought in her African drum and a conducted music session with all of the children. This was enjoyed by all of the children. We sung our favourite song to music which is 'the wheels on the bus' the children loved doing the actions to the song as well.

Together we made a red bus with doors, wipers, seatbelts and seats. Which we all sat in to sing the song. We even went to places like the zoo, the park and shopping on the bus.

As always art and craft activities have been very busy, the children

have done snow paintings and great crayon drawings.

The home corner has been set up as a kitchen and we have enjoyed cooking gingerbread Koalas. This happened to coincide with red nose day so we put red noses on our Koalas. We also got to dress up too. We will be doing a few more cooking experiences in the coming weeks.

Due to the extra indoor play we brought our foam obstacle course inside which has helped develop our balancing skills.

### Reminders

To look at your child's portfolios Please pack sheets for your child to have at rest time.

Until next time,  
Sarah, Kim, Nicola Richelle and Charmaine

## News From The Possum's Room

Hello again,

We can't believe another month has already passed. This year is going so quickly but that's what happens when you're having so much fun.

This month we have done lots of group projects which encouraged co-operation, communication and provided us with a sense of belonging. To include a winter feel to our room we made a big rain cloud using paint, glue, glitter and cotton balls. We then made snowflakes out of doileys. We hung the cloud from the middle of the room and put snowflakes everywhere.

Together we also made a barn for our newly transformed Farm Block corner. Our final group project was our Possum's Room hand print mural which we tie dyed ourselves and then put our handprints all over it. It looks FANTASTIC.

We have been talking about Healthy Eating Traffic Lights. We

have been discussing what foods our bodies need for energy each day and what foods are treats for sometimes.

We have had some special visitors this month including Cheyenne's dog Turbo and Zach's pop who came to play his guitar and ukelele. We love having special people come to visit; do you have a talent you could share with us?

Other exciting things on the program have included 'The Possums Pizza Parlour', Pasting pizzas, Muffin pizzas, 'The Hungry Caterpillar' book, and Red Nose Day on the 24<sup>th</sup> when we had face painting and did red foot print paintings.

Thank you to Ava and Hamish for the books and toys you gave to the room.

See ya round like a rissolle.  
Raquel, Noeleen and Jaime.

## KINDER AND PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAM

The 'Emu's Room' is a fully equipped children's room that includes children's bathroom, separate adult/ disabled bathroom, kitchen and a resource and observation room.

*Children are able to attend the Emu's room instead of kindergarten (parents still receive child care benefit).*

*Parents also have the option of accessing the room from 6:30am - 6:00pm.*

The Emu's room coordinator, Halina Price, has many years experience in early childhood education and offers a child centered developmental program with structured activities included.

*Children are able to gain the essential skills needed for school. Gumnuts is also involved in the 'Best Start Program' along with other local Primary Schools and Kindergartens. Our staff attend meetings with the Best Start group so we are up to date with new information and expectations of preschool teaching.*

*The children attend many excursions throughout the year learning about the people in their community, they also enjoy a gymnastics program each term hosted by Maffra Gymnastics Group.*

We also have special visitors each year such as; The Melbourne Museum, Responsible Pet Ownership Program, Library sessions, Dance and Drama Teacher and many more.

**Pandaol Policy:** If the child requires Panadol or any other form of paracetamol throughout the day, they will be considered to be of ill health and will not be able to attend.

## News From The Wallabies Room

Hi everyone we are halfway through the year already. Where has the time gone?

The Wallabies have been really busy this month; it's been hard to keep up with their expanding ideas and knowledge, they are growing and learning so fast.

This month we enjoyed a trip to the post office to see where our letters go after they have been posted. We wrote some lovely letter to our mums and dads then Belinda showed us where and how to post, sort and stamp them at the mail centre. We looked at the post boxes and our bus driver peeked at us from the other side. We also got to see where the mail gets weighed and we all got on and got weighed too. When Owen jumped the numbers on the scale changed so we all had a jump to see what would happen. Helen showed us the different things the letters get delivered in like the cart that looks like a pram and the special bike with the bags on it. Then Eddie the postie came and showed us his motorcycle! Lachie was so excited he said "I haven't seen a motorbike before, Wow!" When we went back inside Belinda gave us all a big red post office bag with some goodies in it to take back to Gumnuts. We had a fantastic time at the post office and would like to thank everyone involved in helping make the day a wonderful one.

We have also been exploring our senses using sand, water, threading materials and clay. The children have been really excited about the clay and have described it as 'Yucky', 'Stinky' and 'Like Mud'. It has been a wonderful messy experience for the children and they have really become engrossed when using it in the room.

The Wallabies have been doing a bit of cooking this month including sultana scones and spaghetti bolognese and enjoyed tomato soup and bread for red nose day.

A reminder to parents to please support our fundraiser, the gumnuts cook book. Proceeds from the book are helping us to get new equipment for our room. If you haven't already purchased it please do. It only costs 10 dollars and can be found on display near the front door, help us to help your kids. that's all for now,

Tracey, Kelly and Ashlea



## News From The Emu's Room

Hi everyone,  
We have had a very busy month!  
We painted our own faces, this was inspired by our Aboriginal puzzles and we sang a song using our tapping sticks, just like the Aboriginal clapping sticks (that's what Ruby says they are!)  
We also looked at our own uniqueness and saw the most special person in the world in a mirrored gift bag (ourselves) and explored all the individual qualities that make us unique.

We discussed healthy foods and 'sometimes' foods and how some foods have symbolic meanings in different cultures. We are all enjoying trying new tastes and textures at morning tea, we have soft and hard cheese, sultanas, sweet potato and beetroot chips, and snowballs made of cream cheese, sultanas, and veg., along with a variety of fruit.

On Red Nose Day we made clown faces with rice crackers, cream cheese and dried fruit and used sprouts for hair!  
We also used icecream and glaze' fruit on another day.

We had our faces painted as clowns and had clown suits in the dressups where we had fun playing in the Puppet theatre and circus.

We made our own fossils! And looked at some really BIG bones and wondered

what dinosaur they came from (cows and sheep)

The children are having fun learning as they explore our new equipment. Thank you to Jess Sylvester, for organising the purchase and delivery of our Toadstools.

Bye for now Halina, Mandy and Maddy.



Snowballs



Getting married!



Polyhedrons



Dress ups



Puppet Show