

Gumnuts Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011

Letter From The Director

Its great to be back at Gumnuts! I have spent over two years on leave from the Centre and thanks to Brendon for doing a great job filling in for me while I was away. There are many new faces in the Centre and I will hopefully get to meet you all over the next few weeks.

Please feel free to call past the office and say hello anytime, my door is always open. ☺Michelle

Children's Christmas Party and Emu's Graduation:

Will be held on Wednesday the 7th of December at Fauna Park from 6pm. Please BYO drinks and dinner. Santa will be arriving at 6.45pm. This year Santa's helpers will be handing out

the children's presents, Santa will be sitting down and be available for photos with children. Hopefully this will be much quicker than previous years. If it is raining on the night, we will hold the Christmas Party at the O.A. Ruff Stadium in Palmerston Street, Sale.

Please bring a 'small' present (no bigger than a tissue box) to the office (for your child to be given on the night with their name clearly marked on the wrapping paper (tags can fall off). By Tuesday 6th of December.

End Of Year Fees -

You will now find your end of year fees in your child's pockets. You must have your fees paid by Friday

9th of December to ensure your place for 2012. Casual days from now until end of year must be paid on the day. There may also be an adjustment to your fees if your Child Care Benefit details change.

GUMNUTS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE -

Please sell as many raffle tickets as you can! All money raised will be going towards children's resources. Please place sold tickets and money into the fees box by Tuesday the 20th of December. Extra raffle books available from office if needed.

FAMILY SURVEY -

Please complete the yellow survey in your pocket to help us improve on our policies and practices, all feedback is greatly appreciated!

NEWS FROM THE WOMBATS ROOM (0-18MTHS)

Hello Everyone

Congratulations Evie who is now qualified. Well done on all your hard studying and good luck with your future studies at Uni. The Wombats have 2 fully qualified carers now.

Evie has a new blog you may be interested in. Its all about food ideas. Please have a look as it has some fantastic ideas that you may be interested in: www.bubsgrub.com

It was sad to see Chaz leave our room but she is now a busy mum with her new addition to her family. Congratulations on the arrival of Lexi, born on the 26th of October. We wish her well and big congratulations to

Amali for becoming a big sister. We now welcome Ashlea to our room.

The weather is definitely heating up and its fantastic to get outside and explore the yard. We have even had water play! Remember to apply sunscreen on your precious child before leaving and we will re apply in the afternoon. We have been enjoying watching a few children walk lately and even some little ones learning to crawl and sit. Well done Wombats, you're all growing so fast! We have also had some children transition up to the next room, good luck to all.

The year is winding up and we would like to remind all parents that if you have done anything

interesting on weekends or been on a holiday throughout the year, to fill out the forms located in the foyer so that we can place them in your child's portfolio. We have been working hard on them, collecting art work and writing learning stories on your child's progress, development and interesting play that we have captured on film while in our care. This is very precious information and a lovely keepsake of their year spent at Gumnuts. And its very special that you get to keep them at the end of the year, so come on Mum's, Dad's and Carer's! Bring them in!

Davina, Evie, Ashlea and Chaz

IMPORTANT DATES:

WED 6TH DEC 6PM-

Christmas Party and Graduation

FRI 16TH DEC -

2011 Fees must be paid by this date

WED 21st DEC-

Christmas Raffle drawn

THURS 22nd DEC-

Last Day of Care for 2011

TUES 10Th JAN 2012-

Gumnuts opens for 2012 all fees charged from this date

2012 ENROLMENT FORM -

If your child is enrolled next year, you must complete a 2012 Enrolment Form available from the front counter in the foyer. Please complete the form and return it to the fees box by Friday the 16th of December

DRIVEWAY SAFETY

Please be cautious in the Centre driveway. **SLOW DOWN KIDS AROUND!** Arrangements are being made to reseal the driveway and new caution signs to help improve safety.

NEWS FROM THE KOALA'S ROOM (18MTHS - 2.5 YRS)

Hello to all in the Koala's room,
What a busy and fun past month we have had. With the weather mostly in our favour we have enjoyed lots of outdoor play which has consisted of balls and the rebound net, water play with rocks, bubbles, and a big hit were the new ride on front loaders in the sandpit.

As you can see we have brought the cubby house inside for something different. All of the children have enjoyed having tea parties and cooking with the equipment inside the cubby. Dramatic play experiences are important in a child's development as it enables them to role play situations and use their ever growing imagination. We have also had a baby area set up in the room as we have had lots of new baby siblings being born.

Children are able to wrap the babies, bath them and carry them around in carriers. We also had Lucas's baby sister come in for a bath demonstration to extend on the area.

As spring is now in full force all the children made spring butterfly paintings. The children blobbed the paint on the paper and with help folded the paper over and smoothed out then reopened to see what patterns had appeared. These paintings were a big hit and look displayed around the room. To extend on this experience some children helped carers make a caterpillar to display by using their handprints as the caterpillars feet. Kim also taught us a new song called little Arabella Miller which is about caterpillars. The songs words are available in the room to take

home if you wish.

For a cooking experience we made orange and poppy seed muffins with Kaye to celebrate Halloween. They were very yummy.

On Friday the **11th of November** we will be having a Dress up day in the Koala's room just for fun. All children are encouraged to come dressed in their favourite costume.

Reminders:

-please pack a wide brimmed summer hat or legionaries hat for your child now it is warmer and ensure you place sunscreen on your child before you leave the centre.

Thankyou

Sarah, Kim, Nicola, Richelle and Ash

GUMNUTS VACATION CARE PROGRAM

Operating from O.A Ruff Stadium in Palmerston Street Sale
From Tuesday the 10th of January 2012

NEWS FROM THE POSSUM'S ROOM (2-3 YRS)

Howdy All,

We have been very busy little Possum's this last month.

We have been exploring different ways of painting by painting on the mirror and then making a print of our painting onto paper. We have also been doing string paintings which is a bit tricky but looks great!

Taj has been right into our nature tray and has brought in a wide variety of items from his Nan and Pop's farm, including beans, leeks, horse feed, hay and even a yabbie! We decided that the best name for the yabbie was...yabbie! He was interesting to watch and we kept very quiet when he needed a sleep.

You might have seen our pet rocks

on display in the foyer and in our room. We were very proud of them and had a lot of fun making them. We all chose interesting hair for our rocks and discussed the different sizes of the rocks. We hope your pet rocks have found a nice home at your place!

Cooking this month has included a banana cake and veggie sausage rolls which were both delicious. We love to cook!

We have been focusing on self help skills recently and with Big Ted's help we have been trying to put our clothes on with the tags at the back, sometimes we forget but we're getting better at it.

During Group Times we have been

reading 'I'm Sorry' by Sue McBratney and talking about how we need to treat each other. We have talked about nice words and how the things we do make people feel. This topic will continue to be discussed.

Thanks to Willow who shared her pet dog Dusty with us on the 5th of October, she was very friendly!

Just a quick reminder to put sunscreen on your child on arrival and now that the weather is warming up we ask you to leave big blankets and beanies at home, thanks!

Catch ya next time,

Raquel, Noeleen and Jaime

NEWS FROM THE WALLABIES ROOM (4-5 years)

Wallabies Newsletter October/
November 2011

Hi everyone,

The Wallabies have had a nice relaxing month and have been exploring in our room.

The Wallabies have been role playing in the home corner with the dolls, feeding, changing, cuddling and putting them to sleep. There has been some very gentle and thoughtful play happening with lots of sharing and turn taking which has been lovely to see.

We have also had a construction zone with the children using the pipes, Tonka trucks and blocks in their play and the revisiting of the signs which were so popular earlier on in the year. Lots of roads, pipe laying and building happened with some architectural marvels happening too.

This month we cooked cupcakes and apricot and sultana biscuits. The children were rather excited about shaping the biscuits in their hands and putting them onto the

trays. Some of them tried the apricots before they went into the biscuit which was good to see and they are learning that sometimes things look yuck but they taste good.

The pink cupcakes were enjoyed by the Monday children who were very clever in mixing and then spooning the batter into the cupcake trays themselves. I heard later that they tasted quite yummy too.

We have used the play dough with rollers and cutters and have moved now to wood pieces, insects and small stones. The children have been using their imaginations and making up characters and stories to fit the insects.

We have spent time looking at who sank the boat and there was an old lady who swallowed a fly. We have used the books, puppets and a made up boat to help tell the stories. The children have been really involved in the books and have been able to help retell the story during story time and then later on in their own play.

Recently we went to the Sale Catholic College ovals to see their mini farm. We were shown around by Drury's mum Rosie and her year nine students. We got to feed and pat some chickens and ducks as well as Patrick the calf. Some of the children were really excited about having a dig in the worm farm and looking at the vegetable gardens there. The weather was a bit yucky but that didn't stop us for enjoying our excursion. Thankyou Rosie for letting us visit.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Joel's dog Bonnie who was a New Zealand border collie. Joel was very proud to show her off and we were happy to see a type of dog that we hadn't seen before. Thanks to Ellie for bringing her to visit us at Gumnuts.

Well another month has passed us by, I wonder what we will be doing next!

See you next time,

Tracey and Kelly

NEWS FROM THE EMU'S ROOM (4-5 YRS)

We have had lots of over the past few weeks making pumpkin dip with our Halloween pumpkins. The children really enjoyed the Halloween corner with brooms, wigs, spiders, witches pot, witches fingers and other dress ups. Halloween was a hot topic and we have been looking at all things related to Halloween; Bats, Witches, Spiders etc. We read a story about 'Stella Loona' and made spider cakes to eat. We even drank spider blood (ice cream and lime soft drink)

We have read the story of Goldilocks

And The Three Bears. We made some porridge just like the bears. After reading the story we went for a walk and when we came back our porridge was gone and goldilocks was asleep in the corner. (Brendon we all laughed!!) We also made Bears which we put into groups- sizes/ clothes or no clothes. We made Muma, Papa and Baby Bear. We also drew our own families.

I can't believe how close Christmas is, our Emu's Room is very busy!

Congratulations to Hayden Wrigglesworth for winning first prize at

the Maffra Show for his painting WELL DONE!!

Halina, Mandy, Maddy and Richelle

