



# GUMNUTS

*Early Learning Centre*

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011

### News From The Director

Hi Everyone,

A big thanks to everyone who helped support our Easter raffle we had enough gifts to have over 40 prizes, congratulations to the lucky winners.

Thanks also to the parents that nominated for our committee it was a fantastic response and we are lucky to have so many families keen to volunteer their time to help the centre. Information on our committee meetings can be found on the notice board near the Kolas room. Our committee members are as follows:

President: Kristy March

Vice President: Shelley Young

Secretary: Amy Bennetts

Ordinary Members: Shae Wilson, Kathryn Kappenberger, Sarah Skehan and Jessica Silvester.

#### WORKING BEE:

We are having a working bee on Sunday 15th May from 10:00am if you are able to attend please let staff know. Also if you have any ideas for improving our outdoor play space feel free to let us know.

Please note that we have changed some of our policies these changes can be found in our General policy Handbook which is located in the parents room and also on our

web site:

[www.gumnutselc.com.au](http://www.gumnutselc.com.au)

For the families that use our Vacation care program we recommend booking your spots early this term to avoid missing a place as we were fully booked over the term1 holidays and had a waiting list on most days, to make your booking please tell a staff member.

Please fill out the family survey at the end of the newsletter and return it by email or place in the fees box by the 27th May. Your opinions are valuable to us and assist us in improving our practices.

Until Niagara falls.

Brendon.

### News From The Wombats Room

Hi Everyone,

Well it has been a very exciting month. Evie ran the room for three weeks and did a fantastic job. Following on from Evies program we have looked into healthy lunchbox ideas and have a recipe of the week, these and many other great food ideas can be found in our recipe books that are for sale in the foyer they only cost \$10 so please support this fundraiser.

The children have been very interested in story time lately and are beginning to initiate reading with the educators. Some children have been bringing their favourite books from

home to read too. We have also been singing songs with finger puppets.

#### Reminders:

A plastic bag for soiled/wet clothes

don't forget to contribute anything you have done ie: weekend trips or holidays there is a sheet in the foyer to take and fill out , we can then place pictures up in the room and place the stories in your child's port folios.

Until next time

Davina and Evie

#### QUOTE THE MONTH:

I love to play hide and seek with my kids, but some days my goal is to find a hiding place where they can't find me until after high school.

#### 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

Hello to everyone,

What a busy month we have had in the Koala's room with all children enjoying a variety of different experiences. As some children are older we have seen a lot of our children move up to the possum's room, whom will be sadly missed.

As a result of the children moving up we welcome children from the baby's room and new families also to fill the spaces. We all look forward to building relationships with all the new children and welcome them into our fun and games.

Easter celebrations have been in full force in the room with all children making Easter chicken pictures to take home. These pictures turned out great and we have had a lot of feedback about them. Some children used pasting materials to paste on a cardboard Easter egg also.

With lots of families expecting new arrivals or have new babies we have incorporated babies to our home

corner for children to use their imagination and role play what they see at home we have seen the babies been wrapped, patted, even carried around in handbags to different destinations in the room. Dress ups have also been added to the area to enhance the whole role play scenario among the children.

Music and movement is a big hit in the koala's room with most children enjoying a boggy to music throughout the day. We have been singing lots of finger play songs as a group such as twinkle twinkle and open shut them. To extend on this we have started to learn Old Mac Donald's farm using makoton signs for the animals.

The children are doing really well with the signs and think its great fun.

To promote healthy eating among our children and to offer lunch box ideas we made ABC muffins (Apple, Banana, Carrot). These were really yummy and each child helped Sarah mix all the ingredients in the bowl. If you have any healthy recipe ideas

that we could cook please feel free to bring them in

Well done to all the parents who help raise money for our room buy buying some bulbs from our fundraiser. Together we rose over \$600 to help us buy some much needed resources for our room. Thanks again.

Reminders:

-Please pack a hat for your child. Beanies are now appropriate for the cooler weather.

-Please pack 5 nappies for your child every day they are in care. Some families are packing 3 and it's not quite enough.

Thanks

Until next time

Sarah, Nicola, Kim and Richelle



## News From The Possum's Room

The Possum's have been challenging their imaginations with puppets, finger puppets and felt stories. We are still loving the 3 Little Pigs story and are now enjoying the Old MacDonald felt story too.

Our Home Corner has been a very busy workshop with building tools, hard hats, pipes and big wooden blocks. The children worked together to bang and crash their creations together.



Tyler brought his horse Thyme in for a visit. It was pretty crazy to have a horse at Gumnuts, some of us were

brave enough to have a pat. We now have a photo book in our room with pictures from the special visit. The children love seeing and pointing out the people they know in the photos. If you have a special pet you would like to bring in for a visit let us know!

We have also been looking at the Portfolios with the children which has proved to be very popular. They are naming friends and places and remembering things we have done so far this year.

Thank you to all of the special people that were able to come and visit for Grandparents and Special Person's Week. The children loved showing you the fun place they come to play and learn.

We have been doing some cooking recently. We made pancakes to celebrate Pancake Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, they were very popular, YUM! We also made mini quiches using the tomatoes from our veggie garden. These weren't so popular, although the Staff thought they were pretty good. We had lots of fun making them though.

To practice our Fire Rope we have been visiting the Fairy Garden. There are lots of things to explore and look at, we especially love finding acorns and watching the fountain.

Thank you to Ava and family for the books you donated and Hamish and family for the threading games you donated.

Cheerio,

Raquel, Noeleen and Jaime

**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

It has been a big month in the Wallabies room with lots of things happening.

We have been cooking up a storm and been making apple and cinnamon cupcakes, deep sea slice, corn relish dip and rice crackers and fresh bread, all of which we enjoyed eating!

All of the children were able to enjoy our cooking experiences as we modified the recipes for those with allergies. It was good to see the children feel part of the group at tasting time.

It's fantastic to see our family tree full of photos! If you haven't brought one in yet please do so as it helps the children feel more secure in the room.

The Wallabies have been dressing up and dancing then putting on concerts for each other on our mat area. Without any help, they set up an audience area complete with seating where we sat down and watched the performers doing their acts and puppet shows.

The pink play dough with sparkles has been well loved this month and the children have been making a variety of animals and objects including mice,

birthday cakes and snowmen.

While I was away recovering from my operation the children were busy hammering shapes onto our cork boards, having picnics outside, doing lots of Easter crafts and dressing up as the Easter Bunny (I do hope that he brought you something special).

Thank you for all the boxes you have brought in over the past few months we have lots and are going to be changing our activities again so we won't need so many.

Don't forget to send your child with extra clothes and a jacket as it is getting colder and wetter (the children often get wet while they are playing).

Until next time, Tracey, Kelly and Ashlea.



## News From The Emu's Room

Hi everyone,

Wow i cant get my head around how fast the year has flown. What is happening? Are we all just so much busier? Or is the world spinning faster?

We have been so busy we have had Ruby and her dad teach us about aboriginal culture and loan us some Aboriginal artefacts. They have also donated some dreamtime books which the children have a great interest in. Another family has offered to make thunder rocks with the children.

We also had Tara's mum read the story of the Lorax and gave each child a truffle seed (corn seed) to plant, also a big thanks to Presley, Emily and Ebony for bringing their pet rabbits in to show us.

We have so much fun preparing for Easter our trip to the Maffra Hospital to visit the elderly was great, we sang Easter songs. The elderly loved watching the children's faces as they spotted Easter bunny's footprints and found Easter eggs. (one resident said the eggs were too small.) on the 21st the children found footprints in our room they were everywhere the children couldn't

contain their excitement as they found hidden Easter eggs.

This week the children have been making ANZAC biscuits. Children will get some idea of what a soldiers food might have been like ie: ANZAC biscuits, tinned meat and black tea. We should never forget these brave men and women, their stories of sacrifice and heroism should not be lost but handed down to future generations. We will continue with ANZAC day activities for the next week by learning through hands on, sensory and real life experiences. We will build the children's understanding about traditions, facts and folklore and the significance of this day and its role in building peace in communities today. If anyone would like to share ANZAC stories or artefacts with the children we would be honoured please see a staff member in the room.

All mums should have received their invitation to our Mother's day tea party to be held on the 5th May if you haven't please see staff. The children have been busy making special treats and learning new

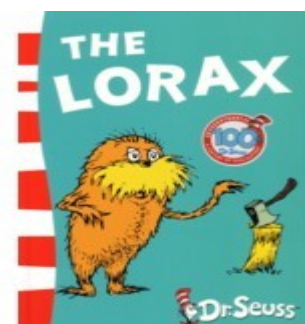
songs. We hope to see you all there. **Sorry no siblings or Dads** 9fathers day tea party is in sept.)

With Easter ANZAC and Mother's day all being so close together this year its been a bit of a rush. Now we are also learning about dinosaurs as the Melbourne Museum will be visiting us on the 6th of May with some dinosaur bones.

Thanks to all of the people that donated baby jars we now have enough for everyone.

Gymnastics starts back for term 2 on the 24th May so permission slips will be out shortly.

Bye for now, Halina, Mandy and Ashlea.



# Gumnuts Family Survey

NOW THAT THE YEAR IS WELL UNDER WAY, WE WOULD LOVE SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR FAMILIES TO HELP US IMPROVE OUR PRACTICES.

**EVERY FAMILY IS ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE FEES BOX OR EMAIL IT TO US BY FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

What is your opinion and feelings of Gumnuts?

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Do you find the staff professional, supportive and approachable?

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Are you aware of the program in your child's room? If so, have you made suggestions or comments? If not would you like more information about the program, and how could we communicate this information to you?

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Do you feel you are involved enough in the program and in what ways would you like to contribute?

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What are your comments on our policies and procedures and do you have any ideas for improvements?

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What future training could you recommend for staff professional development next year?

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