



Grenfell Preschool
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter June 2021

Star Room

This past month, the Star room children have been busy engaging in our Fun with Friends program with Alli on a Wednesday.

Our investigations into space after simultaneous story time at St Joseph's where we read the story "Give me some Space" have had us engaging in some space discussions and research into our solar system. We have consolidated this with art experiences. There was lots of talk about the recent lunar eclipse with the children sharing stories of watching the moon with their families at home.

We have followed on with our learning of Nutrition with discussions about dental hygiene. The children have been keen to demonstrate how they brush using the set of big teeth.

May 27th - June 3rd marks reconciliation week, while we are regularly engaging and celebrating Aboriginal culture within our room, we have been enjoying engaging in some of the specially released resources and media online. If you would like to find out more please feel free to talk to staff or have a look at some of the following links.

- [National Reconciliation Week 2021 | Australian Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Home - National Reconciliation Week 2021](#)
- [Play School: Walking Together - Play School - ABC Kids](#) this is the link to the fantastic and age-appropriate episode 'Walking together' from Play School, we watched this with the Garden & Sunshine rooms on Thursday 27th May.

Just a little reminder, please ensure children are coming with a clearly labelled hat, drink bottle and now that it is getting colder, a jumper/jacket. With the colder weather in mind, it may be an idea to pack a little extra in their lunch boxes. The children seem to be quite hungry lately and a lot are running out of food before afternoon tea. Also please ensure you pack spare clothes for your child; our stock is very low. The children may need a change of clothes for several reasons such as toileting accidents, getting wet/dirty from play, even knocking over a cup of water on themselves.

Garden Room

Grown-ups and children alike seem to be fascinated by the major of metamorphosis of our tadpoles. Has your child shared we now have two separate tanks to allow a home for ones with legs?

Soon we will be focusing on road safety. We would love it if you could send a photo of your child in their car seat.

We have pulled out our tomato plant and have planted snow peas. If you have any excess seedlings you would like to share that would be fantastic.

Rainbow Room

It's June already and the Rainbow Room is filling fast, with availability limited to Monday's and Fridays.

Please speak to Lorraine if you would like to add to your child's schedule.

Sunshine Room

We have explored transport and we took a journey up to space. We used a face app to transform the children into astronauts, which they found hilarious. Our interest in space is now expanding. We are making funny aliens and all kinds of space rockets, ships and space "junk".

Our name recognition has had a great response with most of us recognising not only our own names, but that of our friends.

We have seen 4 Rainbow Room children transition down to join us and they are settling so well, like they have been here all year. We have also seen some of our friends pick up extra days and we are mostly full every day which is super exciting.

Caragabal

On the 21st May the children came in their pyjamas and had a wonderful time making their own meals. Before preparing morning tea we talked about hand hygiene and why and when we needed to wash our hands. The children took turns at cutting fruit, picking grapes, and peeling and dividing mandarins. Before filling an ice cream cone with the fruit of their choice. They finished the leftover fruit on the plates and then had some cheese and Jatz. Before going outside, we mixed the icing for cupcakes and each of them iced a cake.

We made fried rice for our lunch. While Kimi was frying bacon, the children stayed at the table but once the egg and rice went in, they went over to watch and help cook.

As part of World Oceans Day and Environment Day we'll focusing on recycling and caring for the environment over the next couple of weeks. If you have anything we could use for construction of loose parts play, we'd love some donations.

Quandialla

We hope everyone enjoyed their morning teas and ice cream sundae boxes during family's week. Thank you also to those that were able to join us for afternoon tea.

The children have been really interested in the monkey bars. Even though the children all have different capabilities, they all keep having a turn most days they are in. We are sure they will be able to do it by the end of the year.

On May 19th we joined with the school for National Simultaneous Story Time. As the book was about space we made a spaceship from a big box. This was a great source of enjoyment with the children saying as they got in, "I'm going to space".

We have been looking at composting and made a compost in a bottle. This allows the children to see the food, paper and grass break down through the glass jar we are using.

As the weather cools down, we will still go outside so please pack a jacket.

Woosh

The WOOSH children have been enjoying spending their afternoons in the big yard when the weather is nice. The dramatic play and home corner area have been popular with some delicious 'dirt pies' and 'leaf porridges' bring dished up. It is so lovely to sit and listen to the conversations between the children as they play.

We have also been participating in lots of sensory play experiences with resources such as play dough, coloured foam and slime. The children used the slime to write their names and create images for each other to guess what they were and had races to see whose slime would stretch to the floor the quickest.

On Wednesday we enjoyed some fairy bread as a treat. The WOOSH children have so many ideas of different foods we can make and enjoy together. We have some shallots growing along the front fence which we are going to use to make cob loaf next. Yum!

Directors Report

National Families Week is held every year between 15 and 21 May. Over a hundred thousand people get involved in hundreds of events during the Week in Australia's biggest celebration of families in all their diversity. We are proud to have been involved and show you all how much we appreciate you and your family by providing little opportunities to make your week more relaxed. We hope that you also had opportunities to spend time with your immediate and extended family and celebrate the importance of family.

The Weddin Mobile Preschool was visited by a Department of Education Authorised Officer. Her role was to visit both Caragabal and Quandialla and assess and support the Service to go on the register for assessment and rating. Up until now Mobiles have been "Out of Scope", which means we have been under supplementary regulations as well as not been eligible for assessment and rating. Our visit was very positive, with much praise given about the governance, leadership, and operation of the Service. The team are looking forward to the challenge of assessment and rating in the future, it is a great opportunity to be validated for the good work we do in Caragabal and Quandialla.

HOW SICK IS TOO SICK? Like adults, children sometimes wake in the morning wishing they could have a day off from usual routine. After (again like adults) by the time breakfast is over, they are feeling better and are ready to face the day ahead. On occasion, however, children should stay at home, in their own interest and the interest of other children and educators. You should keep your child at home if he/ she is:

- ❖ unable to participate in the day without medication
- ❖ has a high temperature in the morning, and feels feverish
- ❖ has a runny nose and a cough
- ❖ has signs of conjunctivitis – red and/or inflamed eyes with discharge
- ❖ has any rash or skin irritation you cannot identify
- ❖ has impetigo "school sores"
- ❖ has diarrhea
- ❖ has been vomiting during the night
- ❖ is unusually tired, pale, irritable, or lethargic
- ❖ has an eye, ear or throat infection and is on antibiotics. Your child should stay at home until he/she has had the medication for at least 24 hours

We are doing our best to ensure your child's safety and wellbeing in our environment. Our policies and practices mean educators are always cleaning surfaces, provisions and practising good hygiene, and so are the children who attend. Please speak with an educator at the Service, during work hours, if you have any concerns about your child's health and safety.

We participated in the National Workforce Census. The Census is an opportunity to identify our highly skilled and capable workforce, which is essential in fostering high-quality services and achieving the best outcomes for children.

Finally, in the six months that I have been in the Director role, I have been subjected to a level of negativity and criticism that has been promoted by an anonymous group of community members that have made this position untenable. As a result, I have resigned from my position as Director, and as such, Thursday 3rd June was my last day at the Service.

For further information, please refer to the email from the Board of Directors.

Board Report

The Board of Directors are saddened to accept the resignation of our Director, Natalie Rush. The Board works very closely with the operational leadership team, thus feel well placed to provide some context around her time at the service and this decision. For the past six months, Nat has worked tirelessly to strive for excellence in early childhood education and care. She inspired educators, had difficult conversations with educators to address performance issues, made difficult decisions in the best interest of the service, and achieved a higher level of quality care and compliance that the service has ever experienced. All early childhood education services are required to comply with regulation and legislation. Therefore, Nat prioritised this in her first six months. Without compliance, the service cannot operate and would be closed.

The circumstances of Nat's resignation have been addressed in the Director's report and more detailed communication has been sent directly to our stakeholders via email. Any questions about this matter need to be directed to any of the Board of Directors: Rachel Conron, Amanda Protheroe or Belinda Mawhinney.

At the AGM in September, all 3 positions on the Board of Directors will be available. This is an opportunity for 3 stakeholders to be elected by members of the association. Over the past three years, the Board have made decisions to significantly reduced the demands on families' need to volunteer. We believe this will make the operations of the service more sustainable into the future. If you possess professional skills that would be valuable to the ongoing operations of the service, then volunteering your time and expertise is a valuable way in which you can support the leadership team to deliver a high quality early childhood education and care service. This a great opportunity for a skilled professional who is committed to supporting our only early childhood education service. If you are interested in being nominated for election, please contact the Board of Directors.

Rachel Conron, Amanda Protheroe and Belinda Mawhinney

Board of Directors

Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre