

COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2017

Dates to Remember:

- 2-5 May Life Education Van
- 5 May Assembly Room 6—8.40 am
- 9 May P&F meeting 5.30 pm Library
- 12 May Mother's Day Liturgy and Stall
- 30 May School Photos
- 16 June Dance-a-thon/Fair



Dear Families,

As you know we've had some changes to our staffing recently. We said goodbye to Margaret and we welcome Miss Anita to our team.

Anita has over 5 years' experience in child care ranging from babies right through to preschool and is diploma qualified. The children already love her and we are very happy to welcome her to Community of Learners.

The common interest for both Joeys and Kangaroos at the moment is sensory play.

Learning experiences for the children have included buckets filled with coloured water so that the children can pour, measure, mix and stir. They use kitchen tools to play with the water and this helps to develop their early numeracy as well as their knowledge of cause and effect. Next week we will incorporate cooked spaghetti, slime, and goop into the program to extend their learning further!

Sensory experiences are a way to facilitate exploration and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they create, investigate and explore. It excites the senses, allowing them to gain a better understanding of taste, sight, smell, touch and even hearing.

Below are 5 reasons why, sensory play is so beneficial for children:

1. Research shows that sensory play builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways, which lead to the child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks.
2. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interaction.
3. This type of play aids in developing and enhancing memory.
4. Sensory play is great for calming an anxious or frustrated child.
5. Children learn sensory attributes and extend their vocabulary as they learn words like; hot, cold, sticky, dry, tacky, wet, and more.

If you have any questions about sensory play or anything regarding your child and his/her care, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Warm regards,
Miss Kirsten



Reminders

- All children **MUST** wear Sun smart clothing (a hat and covered shoulders please)
- Please bring a spare set of clothes
- Library day for Kangaroos is Wednesday 11:00 Joeys is Thursday 11:00 Children **MUST** bring a bag to be able to borrow a book.
- Please don't forget a water bottle as well

Joeys

Dear families,

My name is Anita Lin and I just moved from Tasmania. I am currently working in the Joey's room with Miss Ayesha.

This week our Joeys have been enjoying water play, constructive play, play dough, and they have continued exploring dinosaur bones.

We used measuring cups, toy syringes and sauce bottles in water play. They used syringes to suck the water and shoot it out. As they were aiming into the water and blackboard, they were experimenting and learning about cause and effect and motion.

On Tuesday we all contributed to the play dough making activity. Ethan, Harutomo, Mitchell and Aiden all helped to count and put in the ingredients. They had a lot of ideas and they were able to make butterflies, a snake, a whale and a teddy bear out of play dough by themselves. It was so much fun and we will explore more sensory play, as they really enjoy it!

Hello Families,

We have been having so much fun in the Joeys group and warmly welcome Miss Anita to our team.

Already well into second term and our interests seem to be tending towards construction, sensory play and role play games. We have been encouraging the children to explore some early literacy activities by asking them to collage the first letter of their name.

We have engaged in some great art projects, including car painting, printing, brush painting and collage. Today we were asked to draw our faces and the results are just BEAUTIFUL –

We are so proud of how well the Joeys can draw!

We will be focusing on their love of sensory play over the next little while and doing varied activities to allow them to explore and investigate their interests further.

If there is anything you'd like to discuss regarding your little Joey, please ask either one of us for assistance.

Miss Anita and Miss Ayesha

This term we have been busy learning about animals, our body and our emotions, and (by student request), pirates. The children have been drawing treasure maps which seem to have them completely fascinated. They are drawing maps of the Community of Learners yard and hiding things in various places. Then the map corresponds to where they've hidden the items and they go hunting for the treasure. They have been hunting for gold pieces – drawing them themselves and cutting them out which has really helped them develop their fine motor and their scissor skills. Children have been making pirate hats as well.

We've been exploring the concepts of sinking and floating using water and boats that float and heavy gems that do not. This has also carried over, not just in the Kangaroo room but also into CoL where children have been pouring, measuring and mixing coloured water and glitter.

We helped sick animals get better in our vet corner using bandages and medical equipment, and also built them places to live with large wooden blocks. Not only does this help children learn about compassion, empathy and responsibility, but it assists the children in understanding animal habitats and their natural environment.

Playdough and painting are always activities we love to do and we've been able to extend on this in Col with the Joeys.

Today was super exciting and we made a skeleton of ourselves using a picture of our face and cotton buds stuck onto black card. Our bodies are amazing and we can't wait to learn more about what they can do!



Diggers and sand...
What more do you need?



Young archaeologists at work,
digging up dinosaur bones and
doing some measurements.



Construction
galore with
Duplo blocks



Wow!! Look at this construction!!
Great team work children



'I just drew a self-portrait!'



Making Skeletons



Puppet Play



We love sensory play at Joeys and
at Kangaroos!