

COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



February 2017

Dates to Remember:

- 8 February** - Parent Information sessions
- 8 February** - Library day for Kangaroos 11:00am
- 9 February** - Library day for Joeys 11:00am
- 10 February** - Opening School Mass 8.50am- Cathedral
- 14 February** - Mandarin Lesson begins for Kangaroos
- 16 February** - School Board meeting 5:00pm
- 21 February** - P&F meeting 5.30pm Library

Reminders

- Families you must remember in accordance with school rules, preschool children **MUST** wear shoes that have a closed in back (ie: no thongs please) as they are on school grounds.
- All children **MUST** wear Sun smart clothing
- Please bring a spare set of clothes
- Library day for Kangaroos is Wednesday 11:00
Joey's 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

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Community of Learners for 2017 and hello to all our new families. We are so happy to have you joining our lovely centre. If you have any questions or queries during your time with us, please don't hesitate to ask or simply drop me an email.

As I'm sure you are aware by now, we have Miss Ayesha back from maternity leave. She will be a familiar face for all of you as she is on a permanent early shift. This is a wonderful thing for the children as they have that consistent educator to greet them every morning. Our new Preschool Team Leader, Miss Margaret McCarthy starts February 8 and comes to us from Stuart Park. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in day care and she will also be undertaking her Bachelor of Education in Early Learning. We are so excited to have her and can't wait to see what wonderful things she will bring to our service.

Miss Anna-lea, Miss MJ, Miss Maria and Miss Sophia are all back with us this year. We then have Miss Sharon on a Monday and Miss Linda as a casual staff member as well.

Kangaroos will initially all go up together to the Preschool room with Miss Margaret until further notice. The group maybe separated at a later date depending on numbers. Groupings will depend on dynamics, needs, preferences and the way children work with each other. Kangaroo class starts at 8:30am so please ensure that your child is dropped off ready to go to the Kangaroo room by 8:30am.

Our service is guided by the document called the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) which promotes learning through play.

Children are encouraged to engage in all manner of activities in a fun, safe, supportive environment where they are free to explore what they want, in their time and according to their interests.

The EYLF does allow for intentional teaching activities but these are still play based and guided by what the children are interested in. My favourite example is as follows: If a child is not interested in writing or learning about numbers but really enjoy play dough, we use the dough to help them shape and mould the letters and numbers. This way they learn about these things in a manner in which they delight in! Learning is fun this way and children are much more likely to enjoy it and absorb it.

We structure a weekly plan for the children and adjust and alter as needed depending on where the children's interests take us. All children are observed and planned for so an element of our plan is individually tailored to suit each child over the course of a month. Their artwork, photos and learning stories are kept in a learning journal and handed out at the end of the year so you can see the progression they have made while in our care.

We attended a professional development seminar last year on managing behaviours and our strategies are based on the 1, 2, 3 Magic system. To give you a brief overview of our procedure a child will be warned by saying 'Johnny that's a 1'. If it continues it will then go to 'that's a 2' if it keeps going after that, it's a 3 and they have some thinking time for 3 minutes.

Learning in Faith & Love

Thinking time is sitting on a special chair next to an educator. It provides children with an opportunity to reflect, learn to self-regulate and avoid any further conflict. After the 3 minutes the entire situation is forgotten, the day is reset and we do not revisit the behaviour.

The behaviour is not revisited because the child has reflected already. The thinking time is for them to calm down and manage their emotions. By revisiting the issue it can lead to further problems. The only exception to this is if the child has hurt someone or broken /damaged something. In that case it is then a calm review of what has happened and an alternative offered as to what they could have done instead.

Our approach is always calm and controlled. It is not about punishment but is all about teaching the children how to regulate and manage their emotions.

Coming up next month we will have a parent information night where all this will be discussed. We will also further explain the EYLF and the new NT Preschool Curriculum. The date is yet to be confirmed but we will give you plenty of notice.

On behalf of all the staff, myself and Mrs Langdon, we welcome you all and look forward to a wonderful year with you and your children.

Warmest regards,

Miss Kirsten ☺

So far, at Community of Learners...



Haru and Aidan doing collage

Reading time with Miss Ayesha



PUZZLE TIME at Joeys



Painting on the concrete



We love art



Miss MJ tells the best stories



Babies are the best

Making monsters
With Miss Mary



Balloon Volley
ball fun