
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

April 2008

Please read this newsletter to find out more about:

- ◆ Promoting Physical activity
- ◆ Board and PAG matters
- ◆ Centre closure 2008-09
- ◆ Sustainable futures

Promoting lifelong physical activity

Thank you to all those families who attended our parent evening on April 7. We all had a very informative evening with Rick Baldock. Some of those attending have been inspired to 'be active' themselves.

One of our key questions was: What can parents do to encourage children to be active both now and lifelong?

Rick's response was:

"Provide a supportive environment for skill learning.

Provide space to play outside – hard play & grass; bats, balls, rebound nets, targets; music to dance and move to; walls to hit and throw against. Get children outside. Model physical activity for your children by being active yourself (both mums and dads). Go for walks with your child(ren). Take the opportunity to go on picnics and play with your children. Don't forget your daughters and physical activity. Always have a balance between play and structured activities such as coaching and lessons."

Please drive safely

Despite reminders in Centre newsletters and our assumption that all parents are aware of the need for safety awareness around young children we continue to have parents driving at speeds well above 15 km on the access road.

You are now being monitored by human speed cameras.

The speed limit on the access road into and out of the Centre is a maximum 15 km/hr.

This is not a main road. This roadway has multiple users including many parents with young children walking to the Centre.

Parent observed to be speeding on the access road can expect to find a notice in their communication pocket reminding them of the correct speed.

Hopefully we will not need to distribute the reminders.

We have been lobbying the University for several years, as yet unsuccessfully, to install an access pathway between the Childrens Centre carpark and the Mulyungerie car park. This would allow us to reduce the number of staff cars as well as allowing Campus parents to park and then walk their child to the centre on the way to their work area. The Centre car park is often very congested in the morning and evenings and there are safety issues with walking along Paratoo Road.

If you would like to add your voice to our desire to improve parking and access to the Childrens Centre or become aware of any safety concerns please email:

maintenace.waite@adelaide.edu.au

New babes

Congratulations to:

Will (R2) Karen ,Nick and brother Miles
on the birth of Grace 13/4/08

Centre Closure 08-09

This year the Centre will close at 1pm on Wednesday 24 December and close until Monday 12th January 2009. Families are not charged fees during this closure period. Due to the timing of Christmas this year we will be operating a limited service during the week of 5-9 January provided we have bookings for a minimum of 15 children per day, for those families who are unable to take leave during this time.

Families requiring care during this week will be required to pre-book this by early November to enable us to give sufficient notice to staff. We will only open sections of the Centre as needed for the number of children booked. We will not be enrolling new families during this time but providing a mixed age service to current families.

Board and PAG Matters 2008

The next **Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS)** Board meeting will be on Wednesday 30 April when the Board will continue to review the report from consultant Andi Sebastian on staff retention and also review draft budgets for 2008-09.

The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** meets on the **third** Friday of the month. The next PAG meeting will be Friday 23 . We welcome Alireza (R1). Planning for centre functions and end of year closure was discussed at our last meeting.
See diary Dates for details.

Diary Dates 2008

Book Week– 16-22 August– family and community event all week *Fuel your mind with books*

Parent Evening - Wednesday September 17

Family Picnic– Sunday 19 October-celebrating Children's Week- (date to be confirmed next month)

End of Year Celebration -Wednesday
December 17

Centre Closure -1pm Wednesday 24 December

Sustainable Futures -

Billie the dolphin, and Mandarin Language Immersion

Embedded in education for sustainability is the development of knowledge about self, others and the world. This includes awareness of the interdependence of our world at both a local and global level. For young children 'thinking globally' can be a big task and issues are not always appropriate. However there are many ways that children can be supported to think beyond their immediate environment.

- One of the ways that we have done this is to become a member of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and adopt a Port River dolphin named Billie.

A picture of Billie is displayed on our 'green board' in the hallway. While we are unable to take the children on an excursion to the Port River to see Billie, Room 3 children receive newsletters and other information about what's happening for Billie. This supports discussion of caring for nature in a child friendly way.

Families might like to consider a trip to Port Adelaide and a cruise to see the dolphins. Please let us know if you see Billie.

- The language immersion program in Room 3 is another way of supporting children's global awareness . Young children involved in bi-lingual programs develop a more positive attitude to non-native languages and foreign cultures.

Children in Room 3 have responded very positively to this program and many now use greetings and sing songs in Mandarin.