
Waite Campus Childrens Centre

Parent News

November 2011

Please read this newsletter to find out more about:

- ◆ End of Year Celebration
- ◆ Pilyabilyangga wins Gold
- ◆ Service review 2011
- ◆ Bookings and enrolments, New babes and more

End of Year Celebration

Join WCCC families and staff in celebrating a great 2011 on Monday 19th December.
6.30-8.00pm on the Gum Oval, Entry 1 of the Waite Campus

We will have a bar-b-q with the Centre providing sausages, bread, sauces and cutlery.

We request families bring a salad or fruit platter to share

We have several children with nut allergies and we request that you do not bring food containing nuts or food that has been in contact with nuts.

As weather is unpredictable at this time of year please remember to follow food safety guidelines and ensure food remains properly chilled during transport and until service.

There is information on food safety guidelines on the reception hob.

Entertainment will be from the Amazing Drumming Monkeys.

**Please register your attendance on the parent notice board registration form in the coming week so we have some idea of numbers to help with catering.

Pilyabilyangga wins Gold

Congratulations again to Waite Campus Childrens Centre parents, children, educators and staff on winning the Gold category in the Native Gardens Award for Schools and Communities in 2011.

This great achievement has been the work of several years from ideas to planning to grant applications and on the ground work, planting weeding and mulching. Many, many families have contributed to this project from inspiration in 2007 to the first plantings in 2009 to our wonderful celebration in October 2011. Our thanks also go to our design and landscape consultants Viesturs Cielens, Fred Camalero and Gary Stone.

This is a great example of a small not for profit organisation working together with its community of parents to create an inspiring garden.

Our deepest thanks to everyone who has given even a few hours of their time and volunteered to help grow Pilyabilyangga. A special thanks to our Sustainable Futures for Children Committee and all its members since 2007 and to all our Parent Advisory Group members

Service Review 2011

Our annual service review is now available at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/WCCC2011

Your feedback on our 2011 key objectives will help us plan for 2012 and provide valuable information for our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) which is due in April 2012 to meet the requirements of the new National Quality Standard. We are in a period of extensive National and State change with respect to education and care across all ages. We are also seeking you ideas on the best way to communicate to you important information about both the Centre and National reforms.

Completion of the review can be anonymous, however providing your name will put you in the draw for one of two of great prize packages which include a super Tonka truck, a copy of the Start Kids Right cookbook and more.....names are only used for the prize draw. Collation of responses is completed by the survey monkey program without reference to names.

New Babes

Congratulations to

Mango, Simon, Alice and Elani on the birth of Annabel 26/10/11
 To Lauri, Louise and Logan on the birth of Owen 10/11/11
 and to
 Anzu Takashi, Gen and Hikaru on the birth of Akira 18/11/11

Board and PAG Matters 2011

The Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCCS) Board will meet next on Monday 28th November. A new draft EB for staff and Universal Access to preschool at WCCC will be discussed. The final meeting for 2012 will be Friday December 12th.

The WCCC **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** met for the last time in 2011 on Wednesday 16th November. The group celebrated our awards, reviewed the fees policy and finalised the 2011 service review which is now available to all families to complete.

Soles4souls

Thank you to everyone who donated shoes. This was a great project for recycling week. The Room 3 children had a great time sorting the shoes into pairs and totalled a total of 97 pairs of shoes on first count. This equalled a pair of shoes for every child enrolled at WCCC at the time. We have since had additional shoes donated and will continue to collect shoes until Wednesday 30th at 4pm.

Giving Box

The spirit of the coming season is strong at WCCC. While there are no trees and tinsel, there is, as our guiding principles for sustainability say, a focus on the beauty and wonder of life, growing and learning, celebrating friendships and being grateful for the world around us and all that it provides. In this age of consumerism this time of year is an opportunity for us to value what we have and to consider the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. From Thursday 1st December until Wednesday 21st December we are collecting food and other items in our **Giving Box** to donate to the Salvation Army appeal.

Giving gives love, hope and comfort to others.

2011

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families who have been a part of our Centre in 2011 for their support of our service. As I go on leave from Tuesday November 29th I know that the Centre is in the hands of a competent and professional team and trust that all will go well during my absence. I would like to extend my very deep appreciation of the great team we have at WCCC and look forward to returning to work with them all again in 2012, hopefully on Monday January 16th.

Bookings and Enrolments:

Taking Holidays or wanting to reduce your child care booking?

Please remember that you are required to give two weeks operating notice (10 working days) in order to attract a holiday holding fee. Similar notice is also required to reduce or cancel your booking or full fees apply. This means that you have until Friday December 2nd to give notice of holidays in the week before the Centre closure and until Friday 9th December to notify of holidays in the first operating week of January 2012 if you would like a holiday holding fee.

No fees are charged during the Centre closure period.

Enrolments 2012:

Requests to add additional days or change days in 2012 are being reviewed and will be met as much as possible. However, at present highest demand for 2012 in Room 2 is Tuesdays and Wednesdays and in Room 3 Monday and Tuesdays. If you have requested a change to one of these day we may be unable to meet this request. If your child is currently enrolled on one of these days and you have some flexibility to change days please let us know as early as possible. We have a group of children moving on from Room 3 to school in 2012 but we have more children to transition from Room 2.

Please remember there is a fee increase from 9th January 2012 of \$1 per day for children over 2 years.

Educators and Staffing 2012

Dani was the successful applicant for the early childhood teacher position in Room 3. From 30th January 2012 she will be employed under the Education Services (Teachers) Award at Level 12 to implement an integrated preschool/childcare program in Room 3. We will be holding a meeting for all Room 3 families during February that will bring a panel to answer questions about integrating preschool into childcare and provide information for parents on how this will operate at WCCC. As you may be aware Dani will be taking maternity leave in 2012 and will transfer responsibility of this program to a new educator for 12 months from the end of February. Effective from Monday December 5th **Eleanor** will move to a CSP level 3 or assistant director level. This will give us an assistant director in each room and provide increased support for all educators and staff across the Centre. All other staffing remains the same as 2011 at this stage.

Information for families on the web

Working families often have busy hectic lives and do not always have time to visit or phone government and other services. You can view the what, why and how of family assistance, including information on childcare benefit and family tax benefit on the Family Assistance Office website at: www.familyassist.gov.au/

Other useful websites for families include:

www.kidsafe.com.au the Kidsafe website is a directory of State sites which have fact sheets on such topics as nursery equipment, toys, storage and handling of dangerous products in the home and poisoning. General fact sheets on safety concerns for specific age groupings of children are also available. Information on water safety is useful at this time of year.

www.ada.org.au the Australian Dental Association website has information in the Consumer Information section including fact sheets about dental health for babies and preschoolers and answers to frequently asked questions on dental health. .

www.immunise.health.gov.au the Immunise Australia website provides comprehensive information regarding immunisation for both adults and children. It has the most up to date immunisation schedule and also provides a question and answer section of the most commonly asked questions about immunisation.

www.parenting.sa.gov.au provides information fact sheets on parenting and child development topics as well as links to other useful sites.

Complaints Guidelines

Unhappy about something? Not sure what to do?

Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS) has detailed guidelines for managing complaints about its services. A summary of these guidelines is displayed on the parent notice board and a detailed copy of the guidelines is in the Centre's Policies and Procedures Handbook. There is also a flow chart that outlines how complaints are managed. In the first instance issues should preferably be discussed with the Director.

The principles guiding the AUCS procedure for handling complaints are that it should :

- √ Be easily accessible and well publicised
- √ Be simple to understand and use
- √ Allow speedy handling, with established time limits for action and keep people informed of progress
- √ Ensure a full and fair investigation
- √ Respect people's desire for confidentiality
- √ Address all the points at issue and provide an effective response and appropriate redress
- √ Provide information to management so that services can be improved

Complainants will be treated seriously and courteously and given the time they require to be heard. It is important to AUCS that the complainants have confidence in these procedures and know that their cases will be impartially investigated.

For further information please read the detailed copy in the Parent Handbook, speak to Kaarin or contact the Board by email: aucs@adelaide.edu.au