
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

From the Director

August 2011

Book Week 2011- One World Many Stories

The 2011 Children's Book Week is August 20-26th with the theme One World Many Stories. We will be holding special events from Monday 22 through to Friday 26th.

We invite all parents to take some extra time during this week to read books to both your own child and small groups of children when you are at the Centre as well as joining in our special events.

In particular we invite all parents, and grandparents who spent their early childhood in another country to share stories from their homeland.

We have again invited students from Urrbrae Agricultural High School to join us in reading 1,000 books across the week.

Special days will be

Monday: Our world, our Centre ; storytelling and reading inside and outside WCCC

Tuesday: Our world, our environment world; storytelling and reading in Pilyabilyangga the butterfly garden and maybe the Rose Garden. Stories about the environment

Wednesday: Our world, Australia; stories from around Australia, including traditional and modern tales of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Thursday: Our world; stories from around the world, how many countries will we travel through? China, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Norway, Japan, Israel, Italy, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Germany,

Friday: Our world at bedtime, pyjama day; wear your pyjamas and we will read bedtime stories all day!

We would especially love people to come and tell stories.

Bookings and enrolments

July transitions to school and

between Rooms at the Centre are now complete. We currently have full bookings in Rooms 2 and 3 everyday except Friday.

Room 1 is awaiting some new enrolments in September and October.

Forward planning shows that we only have a few children moving on to school in October and also only a very small group in January 2012. This will restrict transitions between Rooms 2 and 3. As about 1/3 of the children in Room 2 have passed their third birthday we expect that transition from Room 2 to Room 3 will be closer to 3.5 years for most children.

Diary Events:

Please put the following dates in your diary:

August 22-26th Childrens Book Week

Parent Evening with Talk Speech Pathologist Tuesday September 27th

Official opening of Pilyabilyangga and early closure of centre: Wednesday 19th October,

End of Year Celebration: Monday December 19th

Centre closure 2011: Friday December 23rd at 1pm until Monday January 9th 2012

Welcome

We welcome the following children and their families
Daniel , Winston and Quinn to Room 1
Giovanni, Flynn, Tamhid and Peter to Room 2
And
Guilio to Room 3.

Board and PAG Matters 2011

Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS) meets on the last Monday of the month.

The next AUCS meeting will be on Monday August 29th at North Terrace. Our 2011-2012 audit will be on Wednesday August 18th. The PAG will meet on Wednesday 17th August. We will complete changes to our Sustainable Living policy to align with our Site Environment Management Plan and changes to the Security of Children policy as well as planning for the opening of Pilyabilyangga.

Administration Reminder:

The 2011-2012 fees became effective on July 4. All families will have also had bonds updated to reflect the new fees. Families who pay their childcare fees by EFT should ensure that they updated these payments to meet their current fortnightly/weekly fee, and if necessary do a one off additional payment to update the bond.

Children and the mass media in a changing technological environment:

During the two weeks that I was away in July one of the conferences I attended was the NIFTeY (National Initiative For The early Years) conference in Sydney.

One of the presenters at this conference was Dr Wayne Warburton from Macquarie University.

Dr Warburton is an internationally recognised researcher and lecturer on the media and its impact on children. His presentation was very informative but also rather frightening.

Seventy years ago, the first televisions became commercially available. The first desktop computers were first available 30 years ago, and the first cell phones just 15 years ago. These three technologies have changed the way we live. Some of these changes are good. Television rapidly disseminates vital information. Computers turned that flow of information into a two-way street. Cell phones enable unprecedented connectivity with our fellow human beings.

However there is a big down side. For many, especially children, screens have become the medium by which the greater world is experienced. The average American child now spends over 8 hours in front of a screen each day. Fortunately Australia children spend a little less. However, children are increasingly out of contact with the natural world.

Dr Warburton's core message was based around the saying 'you are what you eat'. Our brains are plastic and rewire according to experience. Children exposed to anti-social behaviour and violence in the media become more wired for aggression. After nearly 60 years of research there is irrefutable evidence of the negative effects of media violence on children. (there are a small number of dissenters who are given most of the publicity by... the Media!) These negative effects are both short term and long term and effects are cumulative. If you learn to be aggressive when young you continue to be aggressive.

Exposure to aggression increases aggressive behaviour.

Why the effects?

The key factor is imitation. Mirror neurons identify and copy aggressive characteristics especially if attached to an attractive heroic figure. It doesn't matter if the aggressive behaviour is real or fantasy it has the same effects on children. This includes many 'children's' cartoons and movies which are often more violent than other children's programs. Aggression must be punished to not be imitated.

Dr Warburton's Tips for Parents:

- ◆ No exposure to media for children under 2 years
- ◆ Set limits for media use and no media 2 hours before bedtime
- ◆ Keep media sources out of bedrooms
- ◆ Know what your child is watching
- ◆ Restrict access to violent and inappropriate media
- ◆ Discuss with children what they have seen
- ◆ Be a good role model

Learn more about children and the media at: www.youngmedia.org.au/mediachildren/02_violence.htm

Waite Campus Childrens Centre Green Page

Official opening of Pilyabilyangga

The development of our outdoor classroom over the past two years will be celebrated with an official opening on Wednesday 19th October from 5-7pm. We will have an early closure at 4.30 pm that day. The event will include a Room 3 children performing a song written about our garden, and an opportunity for families (in small groups) to experience the wonderful world of Pilyabilyangga, the butterfly place.

In the coming weeks we will doing some spring maintenance to keep the weeds in check.

Signage is in progress.

Getting Kids Back Outside

In March 2011, Planet Ark commissioned an independent study, sponsored by Toyota Australia, to investigate childhood interaction with nature and how this interaction is changing.

Following is a brief summary of the key findings from the research report, Climbing Trees: Getting Aussie Kids Back Outside.

The Decline in Outdoor Play in Australia

The research shows that there has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoor play to indoor activity in the space of one generation.

- ◆ 73% of respondents played outdoors more often than indoors when they were young compared to only 13% of their children
- ◆ 72% of respondents played outside every day as kids compared to only 35% of their children
- ◆ 1 in 10 children today play outside once a week or less.

The Nature of Outdoor Play

As well as playing outdoors less often, the research shows that the nature of children's outdoor activity in Australia is also changing.

- ◆ 73% of respondents said they played on the street when they were young compared to only 24% of their kids
- ◆ 64% of respondents said they climbed trees as kids but less than 20% of their children participate in this activity

The Benefits of Outdoor Play

Even in light of this dramatic change in kids' activity, respondents have a clear belief in the benefits of active outdoor play.

- ◆ 92% of respondents agreed that outdoor play allows children to use their imaginations
- ◆ 93% of respondents agreed that outdoor play helps develop physical and motor skills
- ◆ 90% of respondents agreed that outdoor play provides an outlet for reducing everyday stress.

The full report is available at: <http://treeday.planetark.org/about/health-benefits.cfm>

Recycling at WCCC

Newspaper:

Remember that we have newspaper recycling bins located in the service area on the south side of the building. You can bring all newspapers from home and friends and family too and put them in the Money Tree bins. Just remember to remove any glossy flyers or inserts. The money we receive is being saved for special children's projects. To date we have received \$187.

Mobile phones:

Old mobile phones can also be recycled in the 'mobile muster' box located next to the office door. Mobile phones are recycled to save tantalum which is derived from Coltan. The mining of Coltan has been cited as helping to finance serious conflict in the Congo. Uncontrolled mining is also leading to degradation of the environment and has resulted in the gorilla population being on the critically endangered list.

Take another step towards helping the environment and collect old mobile phones from your family and friends and recycle with mobile muster.