

---

---

# Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

---

---

January 2012

**Welcome to 2012 at WCCC**  
**A happy new year to everyone and**  
**Gong xi fa cai in the year of the Water Dragon**

**Please read this newsletter to find out more about:**

- ◆ Service survey 2011
- ◆ Room 3 parent meeting
- ◆ Educators and staffing 2012
- ◆ Early closure in March

## Service survey 2011

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey at the end of last year. We had a fantastic response with 60% of families completing the on line questions and providing lots of comments and feedback and respondents almost equally representative of each Room.

We trust that with this high response rate we are getting a good picture of what the majority of families feel about our service.

The survey monkey is a very useful way to do this as it collates and analyses responses for us. What the survey tells us is that our key objectives were rated as being achieved or achieved at a high level by at least 80% of respondents with 5/7 of the objectives at 90% or more.

Key objective 1 'Each child's sense of belonging has been supported through the development of secure relationships with educators'

and key objective 2 'educators implement a play-based curriculum that provides engaging experiences that build on children's interests and strengths' were both rated as achieved or achieved at a high level by 94% of respondents.

Communication and information sharing is the key to building relationships at all levels and this needs to be reciprocal. The 2011 survey had a focus on communication. Management, PAG and staff felt that, despite extensive information via newsletters and on the web, centre displays, three parent evenings and other centre events in 2011 many families are unsure of important aspects of our service such as centre governance, curriculum and national changes in early childhood policy.

Enhancing communication and collaborative partnerships with families will be one of our 2012 goals and objectives. More information will be provided after our first PAG meeting in February.

As 90% of respondents rated email as the best way for them to receive newsletters we will continue this practice as well as leaving some hard copies on the reception desk and in 2012 in each room. Please also share any further ideas you have for improving communication by emailing the Centre or discussing with one of the educators in your child's room.

## Room 3 parent meeting

*'Meeting the needs of children, parents, educators and government in the implementation of an integrated preschool/childcare program'*

On Wednesday **22 February** we will be holding a meeting for Room 3 parents to explore the implementation of the National Quality Standard, an integrated preschool/childcare program and Universal Access.

We will have a panel of early childhood experts to work with us and provide information for families, and a facilitator

*At least one parent of each Room 3 child is expected to attend.*

This meeting will be held from 7-9 pm at Lirra Lirra

## New Babes

### Congratulations to

Carolin, Luke, and Leena (R1) on the birth of Tia 3/12/11

To Marisa, Ben and Molly (R1) on the birth of Charlie 2/01/12

and to

Jeanne, Jason and Conor (R3) on the birth of Aidan 20/01/12

## Safety at WCCC

Safety around children and particularly around young children is the responsibility of all adults. It is also important to be an example of the behavior we expect of children.

There are five particular behavior guidelines for all parents and other visitors to follow and to reinforce with all their children, including school age siblings.

1. Walk Inside—no running
2. Use furniture appropriately - no sitting on tables
3. No stepping over or lifting of children over low doors/walls
4. Close all doors properly when you enter or leave a room
5. Keep to the speed limit **15km** on the access road to and from the Centre and drive safely at all times

## Staff Matters:

Pina will be back on Thursday 8th February  
Helen G is on annual leave from 6th– 5th March.

Dani has her last day before commencing maternity leave on Friday 24th February.

## Board and PAG Matters 2011

### Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc

(AUCS) usually meets on the last Monday of the month. However the next AUCS meeting will be on Monday February 20th the at WCCC. The Board continues to assess the impact of changes under the National Quality Agenda and implementing Universal Access and how best to ensure that AUCS services stay abreast of all new requirements. The PAG will next meet on Wednesday 15th February to discuss key outcomes for 2012-14. There will also be discussion of changes to early childhood services.

## Governance of WCCC

While WCCC is a not for profit service it has a slightly different management structure to community based services where one parent group has both a governance, and advisory role. At WCCC this is separated into two different groups.

The Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc Board (AUCS) is legally responsible for the ensuring the Centre meets the required regulations and legislation. This group has members from key stakeholder groups, parents, staff, the University of Adelaide and an independent chair. Maintaining the fiscal integrity of the Centre requires decisions with respect to fees, enrolments and centre development which are the legal responsibility of the Board. The Parent Advisory Group is a group of parents who volunteer to provide advice and support with respect to the day to day management (not governance); for example staffing, communication, parent participation, centre events.

Please have a look at the website for more information, including AUCS policies on our website: [www.adelaide.edu.au/childcare/waite/governance/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/childcare/waite/governance/)

## Early Childhood Teacher

Dani has commenced her position as early childhood teacher in Room 3 from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January. This is a year of much change with the commencement of the new National Quality Standard, the beginning of Universal Access and new statutory authorities for early childhood services at both Federal and State level.

There are several requirements of the Universal Access agreement with the State Government which impact on how we implement our integrated preschool childcare program and during term 1 we will be exploring how best to meet these. WCCC will be implementing Universal Access from term 2.

Dani will be commencing maternity leave at the end of February. Her position has been advertised and interviews will be conducted on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Merrilyn Larusson, Board and PAG member will be the panel chair. Other panel members will be Greg Naglis PAG member, Vikki Heaney, educator Room 3 and Lindsay Healy, Director of the Underdale Campus of the Gowrie Childcare Centre.

## PAG, Educator and Staff Profiles:

Several years ago we included in our monthly newsletters, profiles on each of the staff and PAG members. We are reviving this in our 2012 newsletters and trust you will enjoy learning a bit more about us? Our first profile is from the Centre's first employee. Next month we will feature our newest employee and the WCCC parent member on the Board.

### **Kaarin Wilkinson:**

**My Position at WCCC:** I was the founding Director of WCCC and have worked in this position since November 1994. Between 2001 and 2006 I also worked as Executive Director of both WCCC and ACCC.

**Family:** Mother of 3 adult children and grandmother to 2 beautiful granddaughters. I was born in NSW, which is where most of my extended family resides. I also have family in Finland with my maternal grandparents both migrating from Finland after the First World War.

**Work and Education:** I have worked mainly in education with all ages of children, from birth to year 12. I began as a secondary teacher but always had a passion for working with younger children. I also spent time working in Aboriginal Homelands Communities in Central Australia where my focus was on adult learning. I added a degree in Early Childhood to my Degree in History and Education from Sydney University, by completing additional studies at the University of South Australia in 1987. When I began working in long day care in 1988 I felt I had found 'my place to be'. I have since added other qualifications, including a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Management from Flinders University in 2001 to support me in my positions as an early childhood service Director. In 2011 I was awarded an Action Research Scholarship from the University of South Australia. This project entitled Enhancing Educator Practices.... Becoming Culturally Competent will be implemented with the WCCC team between March and November 2012.

**Hobbies:** I am an avid reader of a very wide variety of books and still enjoy a good mystery novel. Gardening, house renovating and walking on the beach are things I can now return to following my recent back operation. I also practice Tai Chi and meditation.

**Short term goals (2012):** To improve my health and fitness following major back surgery in Nov 2011; to successfully complete my Action Research Project; and to celebrate being 60 in June!

**Longer term goals:** to tread more lightly on the earth and to age with peace, happiness and grace.

## Early closure March 7<sup>th</sup>

To support the professional development of educators and staff the centre will be closing at 4.30 pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. This allows us to have an extended block of time for the whole team to be together for training and development. With changes to a new National system of regulation from 1 January 2012 we have some additional team development to do and anticipate that early closures will be held on 3 different days during 2012.

## Bookings and enrolments 2012:

We have just completed one round of transitions between rooms and will commence another in mid February. Tuesday continues to be our most in demand day across all rooms. The majority of families who requested additional days or booking changes have been able to have these, however, vacancies are limited and we continue to have families waiting for a vacancy. Room 3 is expected to be fully booked on all days once transitions are complete. Room 2 will have vacancies on Monday and Friday as will Room 1. However enrolments of new children must be considered with respect to siblings due to commence in a couple of months, transitions in April/May, and requests from current families.

## Diary Events:

- ◆ Happy birthday to Waite Campus Childrens Centre, celebrating 17 years on Monday 30th January 2012
- ◆ Wednesday 22nd February 7-9 pm Lirra Lirra Room 3 parent meeting
- ◆ Wednesday March 7th early closure at 4.30pm

# Waite Campus Childrens Centre Green Page

## Recycling after Christmas

### Cards

All those lovely cards that your friends and family have sent this Christmas don't have to be thrown away, there are lots of ecofriendly alternatives:

- ◆ Look out for Christmas card recycling schemes
- ◆ Put your cards out with your local recycling collection
- ◆ Reuse your cards as gift tags for presents or decorative paper chains.

### Unwanted presents

Every Christmas we all receive at least one awful present or occasionally get the same present twice! But what do you with them? Here are some great ideas for making sure your unwanted gifts find a loving home:

- ◆ Donate to charity shops

Take your gifts to your local charity and not only will they go to a good home, they will raise money for the charity too.

- ◆ Regift

There's always a slight worry with regifting that you will give said unwanted present back to the person who gave it to you in the first place! But what might not be right for you could be perfect for someone else – you just need to rewrap it! Make sure the present is still intact and still has its labels.

- ◆ Sell it

If you're feeling the pinch in January, why not sell or auction presents online? There are lots of sites to choose from.

## Water Saving Ideas:

We all know that saving water is important. When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do.

### Have you considered the following?

- ◆ Teach your children to turn off taps tightly after each use.
- ◆ Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 90 litres a month
- ◆ Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 40 litres a minute.
- ◆ Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 600 litres a month..
- ◆ Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 1200 gallons a month.
- ◆ Consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
- ◆ When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.

## Growing Pilyabilyangga;

As part of our Gold Award the schools and communities category of the Native and Sustainable Gardens Awards 2011 we received a \$500 voucher to purchase plants from State Flora.

The Butterfly conservation Society has provided us with some ideas an additional butterfly attracting plants for our area and we are hoping to be able to purchase these. Of course this will the require a working bee for planting.

Pilyabilyangga will also be due for weeding, pruning and mulching.

The current planned date for the working bee is Saturday March 24th. Future weather predictions are for a milder summer so a planting at this time of year should be successful and the weather suitable for a working bee.

## Too many tomatoes or cucumbers?

Do you have excess veggies that you or a relative or a friend has grown at home?

Rather than see this wasted as it sometimes is have you considered swapping with a neighbor for something that they have grown in abundance?

We are also happy to receive donations of home grown fruit and vegetables to use at the Centre or to share with families. Please discuss this with Heather if you are unsure if what you have is suitable.