
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

From the Director

October 2011

Congratulations WCCC

The South Australian Government through KESAB each year presents Sustainable Communities Awards to communities across Australia in a range of categories where community groups are implementing practices that support sustainable living (previously Tidy Towns Awards).

This year these awards incorporated the inaugural SA Water 'Water for Good Excellence Awards' for communities and schools and the inaugural NRM Educations Awards. NRM Education delivers the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative SA.

Waite Campus Childrens Centre received a Commendation Award for 'Water For Good' recognizing our achievements in saving water through a range of strategies (5 other community groups or schools received Commendations and 3 received Excellence Awards including our local Urrbrae Agricultural High School).

Waite Campus Childrens Centre was also awarded the Natural Resource Management Education 'Most Outstanding Site' for Education for Sustainability.

Other outstanding sites were Somerton Park Kindergarten and Immanuel Lutheran School Gawler. (7 other education sites received awards in other categories). Well done to early childhood education for having 2 of the top AUSSI SA sites for Education for Sustainability!

Bookings and enrolments

This is [an important reminder](#) that if you are wanting to either increase or change your child's booking the centre requires a written request (this can be done via email) as soon as possible, preferably by Friday 21st November. These requests may not be available, however, if you want this change in the first 3-6 months of 2012, it is essential that you make this request in writing now. Current bookings will continue unchanged into 2012. Confirmations of 2012 enrolments for newly enrolling families will be sent in December and once these are done the availability of additional days or change of days will be highly unlikely.

Booking policy

Since January 2011 WCCC enrolment policy has required a minimum booking and attendance of two full days for each child. This policy applied to all children enrolled who had current bookings of two days or more, as well as new enrolments, with exemption when parents are on maternity leave.

For four year olds who may attend an off-site preschool the minimum two days must be exclusive of any off-site preschool sessions.

If you require further clarification of this policy please ensure that you make a time to meet with Kaarin. From 2012 WCCC will no longer offer sessions on a regular basis. New enrolments will be for full days only. Families who require a session to attend a special meeting or require emergency care may book these on a one off basis.

Fees 2012

Due to the employment of a teacher in Room 3 there will be a \$1 per day increase in fees for over 2's from 1/1/2012. From this date fees will be the same across all ages and sections of the Centre.

Diary Events: Please put the following dates in your diary:

End of Year Celebration: Monday December 19th 6.30-8 pm, Gum Oval,

Entry 1 Waite Campus, share bar-b-q and guest performers The Amazing Drumming Monkeys

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

MSM messaging

Messaging is now working but we are still learning about time frames for messages etc. We can choose to send messages to the 'primary' parent contact only. This will be the person nominated on the enrolment form as first contact so will only go to one parent. Should we have an emergency such as power or water failure we can message all parent mobiles and home phones numbers so that we ensure it is received. In addition parents can use the return number to text the Centre regarding absences. It is always important for families to keep contact numbers up to date.

Upgrading work

There has been some work in the outdoor area by Tandarnya landscaping with a small bridge and rock banks to manage an area that collect water every time it rains. All kitchen cupboards, and pantry shelving are being replaced. The laminate on the current ones is peeling and no longer meets food safety requirements.

Have things to recycle and don't know where to take them ?

The Zero Waste website may help you:

www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au

You can find the what? 78% where ? and how? to recycle in your suburb

You can also find or list unwanted items for free.

Board and PAG Matters 2011

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

The next AUCS meetings will be on Monday October 31st and November 28th at WCCC. The Board continues to assess the impact of changes under the National Quality Agenda and how best to ensure that AUCS services stay abreast of all new requirements.

The PAG will next meet on Wednesday 16th November to complete the program and service review and the end of year celebration. Discussion of changes to early childhood services continues.

Pilyabilyangga

Thank you to all the families who attended our celebration on Wednesday 19th October and thank you to the Waite PAG and WCCC staff team for their ideas, inspiration and support in making this a wonderful event.

We had beautiful weather, a warm Kaurna welcome from Rodney O'Brien and delightful singing from Room 3 children.

We were able to show case our achievements to many of our service providers and supporters. The work of families and staff in achieving this is commendable with planting weeding and ongoing maintenance being the responsibility of families and staff.

We know we will continue to enjoy this area and delight in watching children from babes to school age connect with nature.

Staff Matters:

Professional Development:

Staff continue to attend professional development sessions that support the implementation of the National Early Years Learning Framework as well as reviewing this at monthly staff meetings.

Leave:

We have several educators taking annual leave in the next few months.

Karen is on leave October 24th to November 14th and

Cassie is on leave October 31st to November 18th.

Kaarin will be on leave November 7-11

Heather is on leave 14-18 November and Helena and Jo will be our cooks this week

Bobbie will be on leave Dec 1 2011– 23 Dec 2011 incl.

Kaarin s having back surgery on November 30th and will be on leave until 9 or 16th January 2012.

Our very capable team with assistant directors Dani and Kathy will manage day to day operations in my absence. Jill is responsible for account matters and is available Monday mornings and Thursdays.

Changes to early childhood services.. what do they mean for children, families and educators at WCCC?

Integrated preschool program

Implementation of the National Quality Standard and the National Regulations for all early childhood services commences on January 1 2012. This new national system requires all childcare and preschool services to have the same standards, regulations, curriculum framework and external assessment. WCCC has been working with drafts of the new standards and regulations for the past year and does not anticipate any major changes to our programs. Our assessment and reporting practices are consistent with what is expected under new guidelines.

However, from January 30th 2012 Waite Campus Childrens Centre will be employing a teacher in Room 3 and implementing an integrated preschool childcare program. WCCC currently has five qualified and registered early childhood teachers employed across the Centre. However no-one is paid as a teacher. The position of teacher in Room 3 has been offered internally as an early childhood teacher/assistant director position and will be paid under the Education Services Award 2010. (assistant director positions are only available to educators who have worked at the Centre as a room coordinator for at least 12 months, with only one per room). Should no current employee be interested or suitable the position will be advertised as an early childhood teacher.

So what is an integrated program?

The Australian Macquarie dictionary defines integration as 'bringing together and combining into a whole'. An integrated program is one where the curriculum, program, experiences, and routines for pre-school children are seamlessly incorporated with the program for all children in the group. Our current focus on the interests and strengths of each child will continue and parents may observe few differences on a day to day basis. WCCC will co-ordinate transitions visits with relevant schools in the term before children commence school and ensure that all children are provided a developmental summary that covers all learning areas during this transition. There will be a minor increase in fees for over 2's so that the daily fee is the same for all age groups.

The Australian Childrens Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), the body that will oversee the National Quality Framework has been established and the website has been launched. Parents should have a look at the website at www.acecqa.gov.au for information on the new regulations and standards. There is a families information section on this website. Keep checking for updates.

Media and Young Children

In a world dominated by commercialism with companies aiming to get us to consume more and more have you noticed the use of well known children's characters such as Bob the Builder, Thomas the Tank Engine, Disney and movie characters like Batman etc to direct buying?

It works like this. Parents and family members purchase gifts/items for children such as back packs, lunch boxes, and drink bottles with the children's favourite characters. This gives the children the message that items with these characters are valued by the parents and family.

Some of these characters come from movies, cartoon and videos that are not appropriate for young children, particularly children below school age.

The food companies produce snacks and drinks, usually not the healthy ones, and clothing companies produce children's clothing also with these characters. Children see these products, know that mum and dad have already approved this by previous purchases and want the food items and the clothing because they must also be good! This creates potential conflicts between parents and children when parents do not approve of the child's choices. It creates further issues when children only want to wear certain clothing. Having heroes and role models is important, however, parents can have a strong influence over who these role models are? Consider what a young child might be learning from this role model? Are they learning to resolve conflict by fighting or that to be beautiful you have to dress like a princess?

For more information at the Australian Council for Children and the Media at: www.youngmedia.org.au This website also provides movie reviews so you can check the suitability of a movie or video before your child sees it.

For detailed information on making healthy choices for children's snack when on the go or for packing with school lunches visit the Choice website at: www.choice.com.au

Waite Campus Childrens Centre Green Page

November 7-11 is National Recycling Week– think globally

This year we are taking a 'global' perspective to recycling and asking families to bring gently worn shoes or even shoes you've bought and never wore and donate them.

Adults and children in developing countries are exposed to a myriad of difficult to control and treat infections which can be caused by cuts and scratches. In Australia, with access to clean water and good medications, these wouldn't pose a major threat. However, in countries like Kenya and Tanzania, an infected cut on someone's foot could be lethal. A local Adelaide women is hoping to collect 10,000 pairs of shoes to send to Africa by the end of December. We will have several bins at the Centre for you to bring suitable shoes which will be given to soles4souls.

If you wish to know more have a look at the website at: www.donateshoes.org.au

Recycling Quiz

The first 3 parents to email the correct answers to the following 5 questions will receive a 'green goodies' pack:

1. Recycling doesn't just save resources it saves all of the following a) b) c)
2. Which Australian State leads the country in drink container recycling?
3. What is the total estimated number of articles of junk mail produced in Australia? (answer to nearest billion)
4. Name 6 things that are recycled at WCCC?
5. Which country leads the world in the recycling of newspapers and magazines?

And a bonus question for an additional prize:

What is the % of magazines and newspapers recycled in the country in Q5?

Saving time, paper and precious resources– No Junk and No Spam

Junk mail, email spam, and unsolicited phone calls and faxed promotional material waste both time and money.

- ◆ You can stop junk mail hitting your letter box by getting a 'No Junk Mail' sticker or sign for your letter box (available from your local hardware store). If you continue to receive junk mail despite the 'No Junk Mail' sign or sticker, contact and complain to the Distribution Standards Board by visiting The Australian Catalogue Association site or call them on 1800 676 136.
- ◆ Put your home phone number on the Federal Government managed
- ◆ Call Australian Direct Marketing Authority on (02) 9288 54000 and ask to be put on their 'Do not Call' and 'Do not Mail' list. This stops calls and faxes and other promotional material. It will take up to 6 weeks for unsolicited addressed junk mail to stop being delivered.

There are several layers of response to spam.

- ◆ Email and virus programs have spam-filtering functionality, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) often offer additional spam-fighting services.
- ◆ Sign up to get the Federal Government's anti-spam software SpamMATTERS to report illegal Australian spam. The government is actively pursuing Australian spammers with severe penalties.
- ◆ The Coalition Against Unsolicited Bulk Email has a good guide that helps you track spammers and get ISPs to blacklist (block) spam email

Why do this?

In order to reduce our impact on the environment we must identify and stop those practices that use resources (natural, human and financial) in an unsustainable manner. Unsolicited and intrusive advertising is bad for the environment and should be avoided.
