
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

August 2008

Please read this newsletter to find out more about:

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- ◆ Become an eco-driver
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Parent Evening Wednesday 17 September 7-9 pm

This is your opportunity to get together with Centre staff and parents to learn more about the children's learning and development programs and to view your child's portfolio.

The staff have been implementing some innovative and exciting programs. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the unique opportunities provided to children attending Waite Campus Childrens Centre and to view several presentations including a presentation on our Practitioner Research on health eating and physical activity, and growing skills for sustainable living.

You will also have the opportunity to win one of our lucky door prizes.

Please add your name to the attendance sheet on the Parent Notice Board.

10 tips to becoming an eco-driver

With fuel prices rising all the time, eco-driving could save you even more in the future. Once you've mastered being an eco-driver, not only will you start to make real savings, you'll also be doing your bit for the environment.

Eco-driving means driving your car more efficiently. Doing this means your car will produce less carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main gas contributing to global warming. Simply follow the steps below and you'll soon be saving money and reducing your car's impact on the environment at the same time

1. Check your revs — change up before the needle hits 2500rpm in a petrol car or 2000rpm if you drive a diesel.
2. Anticipate road conditions and drive smoothly, avoiding sharp acceleration and heavy braking. This saves fuel and reduces accident rates.
3. Use air conditioning sparingly as it significantly increases fuel consumption.
4. The most efficient speed depends upon the car in question, but faster speed will greatly increase fuel consumption.
5. Drive away immediately when starting from cold — idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.
6. Accessories such as roof racks, bike carriers and roof boxes significantly affect your car's aerodynamics and reduce fuel efficiency, so remember to remove them when not in use.
7. Avoid short journeys — a cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel and catalytic converters can take eight kilometres to become effective.
8. Plan your journeys to avoid congestion, roadworks and getting lost.
9. Check your tyre pressure regularly: under-inflated tyres are dangerous and can increase fuel consumption by up to three percent
10. If you're stuck in a traffic jam, switch the engine off if you expect to be there for more than a minute or two. Cutting the engine will save fuel and reduce emissions.

Courtesy of [Energy Saving Trust 2007](#)

New babes

Congratulations to:

Pat, Kelvin and Tahlia (R 2) on the birth of Alize 1/7/08

Vanessa, Simon and Ivy (R 2) on the birth of Erin and Piper 4/7/08 and to

Sarsha, Lachlan and Elsie (R2) on the birth of Kent 8/8/08

Fuel Your Mind with Books

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, siblings, Urrbrae High students and other visitors who read books during our reading challenge. The children in Room 3 enjoyed Lindsay McWha reading the Very Hungry Caterpillar and our very own book The Very Hungry Caterpillar at Waite Campus.

We succeeded in reading 948 books– a fantastic achievement.

Administration matters

Bookings and enrolments 2009

Our forward planning into 2009 shows that we will continue to have difficulties transitioning children from Room 2 to Room 3 and from Room 1 to Room 2 on some days. The most difficult day in 2009 is expected to be Wednesday. Please remember to provide us with timely information with respect to any booking changes.

Waiting Lists

With a growing number of new additions to families at our Centre our waiting list is requiring greater management. It is important that parents who are currently on maternity leave ensure they complete a waiting list form, once their child is born, in order for us to consider their priority of access.

Changes to benefits and rebates

To get current information on entitlements and payment methods for Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate please go to: www.ocecc.gov.au or www.familyassist.gov.au

We are still waiting for many families to provide us with the birthdates of the Child Care Benefit (CCB) recipient. This information is required for the new Child Care Management System (CCMS) which is now being introduced by the Federal Government. If you have not provided the Centre with the birthdate of the CCB recipient you will not be able to claim CCB once we transition to CCMS

Board and PAG Matters 2008

Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS) Board has changed its meeting times to the last Monday of the month. The next meeting Monday 29 September.

The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG)** meets on the **third** Friday of the month. The next PAG meeting will be Friday 20 September.

Diary Dates 2008

Parent Evening - Wednesday September 17

Family Picnic– Sunday 19 October- celebrating Children's Week

End of Year Celebration -Wednesday December 17

Centre Closure -1pm Wednesday 24

December to 8am Monday 12 January 2009

Staff matters

We have had a few staffing changes in the past month. We farewelled Bec and Emma D who have each taken up new and different work challenges.

We welcome back Yvett who has also been appointed as the permanent part-time CSA in Room 2 replacing Emma.

We are currently receiving applications for the CSP position in Room 2, however, we do not expect this position to be filled until at least mid September. We are fortunate to have Jacqui and Penny available for relief work and Zhou Wei will also do some casual work with us in coming weeks.

Emma (R1) is on annual leave 25/8-8/9/08 and Kathy will return Monday 8/9/08

Centre closure – limited care?

The dates for the Centre closure are currently set at 1pm Wednesday 24 December until 8 am Monday 12 January.

A limited care session will be available in the week 5-9 January, if we have an average of 12-15 children requiring childcare for this week.

Only one room of the Centre will be open so children will be in a mixed-age group.

Expressions of interest in this limited care week must be submitted by the end of October by emailing childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au.

We will then determine if there is a need for this service.