
Waite Campus Childrens Centre Parent Newsletter

July 2009

Please read this newsletter to find out more about:

- ◆ Book Week
- ◆ Diary Dates
- ◆ Safety reminders and Emails
- ◆ WCCC goes solar

Book Week 2009

This year book week is August 22 to August 28. The theme of book safari will provide a focus on stories about adventures and animals and extend to stories about our world and the environment. In the past years we have set ourselves a challenge to read as many books as possible in book week. This year we are planning a range of events and experiences to support children's language and literacy learning. Our book week celebrations will include a visit from Zoophoria, face painting, animal games and a day for bedtime stories when everyone, including staff and parents can come to WCCC in their pyjama's.

We will still have visitors coming to share books and stories and we will encourage all parents and other family members to read a few books at the Centre during book week.

Book week is a fun way to extend our language and literacy program:

Language learning happens through talking to children. A child's vocabulary and understanding builds through hearing language when we talk to children about what is happening, the past and present and plan for tomorrow. Language learning is enhanced and extended through reading books and poems, singing, drama and dance, and, as children begin to use words, through conversations with others, word games, jokes and other experiences.

Literacy is the use of symbols to represent the ideas we express in language. Literacy emerges in the context of language and literacy rich environments. Children soon learn about 'book language'. They learn firstly to listen and then to guess and predict what words come next. Books and stories that rhyme encourage children to guess and predict. Whenever we read, tell, create or dramatise a story, we are providing the essential building blocks for literacy and language development.

When we make this 'fun' children learn to enjoy learning.

We will provide you with a calendar of special book week events for coming weeks

Diary Dates:

Please add the following important dates to your diary.

- ◆ **Monday 21st September 7-9pm: Parent Evening - Early Years Learning**
- ◆ **Saturday 17th October 1.30-4pm. Launch and celebration of our water and solar projects.**

Due to the need to have a community celebration of the water and solar projects this event in October will replace our family picnic in this year.

The following dates will be confirmed in the August newsletter:

- ◆ **End of Year Celebration: probably Thursday 17th December**
- ◆ **End of year closure: probably 1pm Thursday 24th December to 8am Monday 11th January 2010**

New Babes

Congratulations to
Edwin (R3), Alireza and Shokoofeh
on the birth of
Tara 22/6/09
and to
Joshua (R2), Lisa and Andrew
on the birth of
Dylan 23/6/09

Board and PAG Matters 2009

Adelaide University Childcare Services Inc (AUCS) Board usually meets on the last Monday of the month. In August and September the Board will be meeting on a Thursday at the Adelaide Campus Childrens Centre. The next meeting will be Thursday 26th August at ACCC. Meetings in October, November and December will be held at WCCC. We are still waiting for the ACCC to confirm our revised philosophy. The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meets on the third** Friday of the month. The next PAG meetings will be Friday 21st August. The PAG has been developing a questionnaire for families for our Practitioner Inquiry project and will be completing our policy review.

Staff Matters

We have several staff taking leave during August. Dani will be on leave for the first two weeks of August 3-14 inclusive; Marta will be on leave 5-11th August inclusive; Heather is having a long weekend and will be on leave 7-10th August and then Cassie will be on leave August 17 to 28 inclusive. Our regular casual/relief staff may work additional hours during this time.

Parent email list:

We are hoping to get email addresses for all parent using the Centre that we will use. On occasion for surveying and getting feedback about Centre programs. While we have an accounts list we would like email addresses for all parents, both mums and dad's. Please email us at: childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au

Safety Reminders

Drive slowly

- ◆ Please remember that the speed limit on the access road to the childcare centre is 15 KM p/hr. Please consider the safety of our children when driving to and from the Centre and in the car park by keeping to this speed limit.

Food safety:

- ◆ We are a nut free centre. This means that we do not have nut products in the Centre and request that all families ensure that they do not bring nuts or nut products into the centre at any time. A child with a nut allergy may suffer an anaphylactic reaction even when just touched by someone who has been in contact with nuts.

Taking care:

- ◆ Please ensure that children walk throughout the childcare centre. While the hall way may look like a great race track, running in the centre is very unsafe.
- ◆ We request that all adults, and older children practice good health and safety and remember that they are role models to young children whenever they are in the centre. Please do not sit on tables or benches and do not place your child on tables or benches. Enter rooms through doors only (ie do not step over low barriers even if you do have extra long legs) and please ensure that you close doors securely each time you enter and leave a room.

Be active– join us in walking the city to bay Sunday 20th September?

Although our project on healthy eating and physical activity was completed in 2008 these areas continue to focus in our program for children. The staff continue to implement new ideas for being active with children and healthy eating is always 'on the menu'. Some of the staff at WCCC have also been looking at ways to be more active outside of work and are taking up the challenge of walking the city to bay.

We are extending an invitation to families to join us in this walk. We could be the biggest community group walking?

If you are interested please speak to Dani or Emma to register with our team.

WCCC Green Page

WCCC goes solar!

On Saturday 17th July solar panels were installed on the roof of the Centre.

The 1.92 KW system is grid connected so as well as generating power for the Centre we will be feeding power back into the grid. Unfortunately the display box that shows power generation has been located in a rather elevated position. We are in the process of having this relocated so that it will be at eye level and we can then co-locate information on how to read the display.

This project has been funded by a \$12,000 rebate from the Federal Government and through the Centre's sustainable futures fund. 2% of all childcare fees paid to the Centre go to projects which help create a more sustainable future for everyone at WCCC.

Congratulations to the WCCC families:

We are reducing our paper usage thanks to your support. All Waite Campus families now receiving their invoices for childcare fees via email, helping us achieve our goal well in advance of 2010.

Room 3 families also receive their program feedback forms by email and we are hoping to extend this to Room 2 and Room 1.

We have an accounts email group and a Room 3 email group. We would also like to have a 'parents' emails group so we can, on occasion (as with our PI project) email all parents.

We would like to email the questionnaires for our Practitioner Inquiry project in the next week or so and it will be great to have feedback from all parents.

If you have an email address to add to this group please email to: waite.childcare@adelaide.edu.au

Newsletters are currently printed as we have had mixed feedback about preference for email or hard copies. Newsletters are also available from the website: childcare.waite@adelaide.edu.au for a 2 year period.

Pilyabilyangga– the butterfly place

The landscapers have commenced their preparation for the butterfly garden with yellow markings now showing the garden area and pathways. Unfortunately this area to the south of the centre is quite boggy and needs to dry a bit more before work can commence on bringing in the sandstone border for the gardens. We hope to have a planting day before the end of August. Remember to have a look at the plans on the Parent Notice Board. Pilyabilyangga is the name for our garden and means butterfly place in Kurna. This name was given to us by the Kurna Warra Pintyandi Group (Kurna elders).

No plastic bags!

As a response to the plastic bag ban in SA and a step towards achieving a plastic bag free Centre we have purchased compostable cornstarch bags to use for children's wet clothes.

These are biodegradable and compostable bags developed to conform to Australian standard AS4736-2006 and fully tested by Swinburne university. The bags will break down within weeks in a compostable environment.

We are very happy for parents to provide an alternative, of their own, such as reusable wet-bag, especially when their child is toilet training and likely to have wet clothes to take home at the end of the day.

Food Waste Recycling

Ensuring recycling of food waste from the Centre has been a goal of our sustainable futures strategic plan. To date we have managed this by sending food scraps home with families who have chooks and with our Bokashi in Room 3 which is then transferred to the front nature area.

From mid August we will also have a pink food waste recycling bin which will recycle all our paper towel and tissues as well as food. Bins in the rooms for collecting paper towels and tissues will be clearly labelled.