

New babes

Congratulations to:
 Mahbub, Kazia, and Fardeen, on the
 birth of
 Faiza 30/9/08,
 Kirsten, Tim and Hugo on the birth of
 Zoe 1/10/08 ;
 Pina, Ben and Tahlia on the birth of
 Liam 2/10/08
 Joan, Heath and Luke on the birth of
 Kieran 24/10/08
 and to Anzu, Takashi and Gen on the
 birth of
 Hikaru 4/11/08

Enrolments 2009

You may have noticed from newsletters this year that 20 new WCCC siblings have been born in the past 12 months. This has the potential to almost fill Room 1 in 2009. Some days are already fully booked. Room 1 families and future Room 1 families will receive more information about this soon.

It is essential that we know of any changes to 2009 child care bookings in all rooms as early as possible.

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 24 November.
 The **Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meets on the third** Friday of the month. The next PAG meeting will be Friday 21 November.

Centre closure

Thank you to those families who informed us of their childcare needs in the week January 5-9. In order to operate a financially viable service during this week we required an average of 12 children per day. As we only had approximately 2/3 of this number we will not be offering any service during this week.

The dates for the centre closure can now be confirmed as

**1pm Wednesday 24 December
 to
 8am Monday 12 January 2009**

End of Year Celebration

Wednesday December 17 6-7.30 pm featuring the
Amazing Drumming Monkeys
 Watch the notice board for more information

Administration matters:

On Wednesday November 4 Jill and I recently attended training in preparation for our changeover to the new CCMS system We now have further important information for families.

Please read the following key points and discuss with Jill or Kaarin if you need to clarify anything or if you need to act on this information:

1. In the new system there will be both an account name and an *account holder*. The *account holder* is the only person who can claim the benefit. Please consider that this should be the parent who will be continually working for the whole of the financial year in which you will be making a claim. We must have the correct CRN number and date of birth for the *account holder* or no benefits will be received and families will be charged full fees.
2. Our account cycle will change. Receipting will still be done on Mondays but accounts will not be printed until Thursday. The Centre will no longer receive any information on CCB entitlements as this will be managed by the government. We will need to submit our childcare usage after the end of the week and CCB will only be applied to accounts after we have submitted this report to DEEWR. This takes at least 24-48 hrs.
3. Parents who salary package are not eligible to receive either CCB or CCTR. Families need to determine the financial benefits or otherwise of paying childcare fees through a salary sacrifice arrangement now that CCTR has increased to 50%.
4. Our daily attendance sheets will list children in order of Surname not Christian name.
5. It is very important that you are aware of you rights and responsibilities with respect to claiming CCB and CCTR especially when talking to Centrelink staff. It is often worth the effort of visiting a Centrelink office if you are having difficulties resolving issues via telephone. Please visit the website at www.ocecc.gov.au or www.familyassist.gov.au

Waite Campus Children Centre will make the transition to the CCMS system on November 24th. Please

Mandarin Immersion Program

At the parent evening we became aware that many families do not know about our Mandarin immersion program in Room 3. In February 2008 WCCC introduced a trial of an additive bilingual (L2) program through language immersion in Mandarin in our 3-5 year age group (Room 3). This is an additive bilingual program because Mandarin is a completely new language to most children. It is an immersion program

because during designated periods (currently 9am-12.30pm) of each day the majority of Eunice and Lucy's

communication with children is in Mandarin. There is always a staff member who speaks English available to children. This program is unique to WCCC. We are quite confident in saying we are the only early

childhood service in Australia to have an additive second language immersion program.

Why language immersion?

- ◆ Every child has the ability to learn additional languages
- ◆ Learning a second language enhances children's reading readiness as it develops their metalinguistic awareness or capacity to use knowledge about language.
- ◆ Young children are intuitive language learners and will learn a second language contextually in the same way that they learn their primary language. That is by hearing it spoken on a regular basis.
- ◆ Bi-lingual children develop a more positive attitude to non-native languages and foreign cultures.

It is important for parents to be aware of this and discuss with their children as second language immersion programs do well when there is support from parents. If you would like more information please speak to myself or one of the Room 3 staff.

Policy Review

Thank you to all the families who responded to our policy review. All policies have now been updated to include relevant changes and editing. This has included some changes to the purpose statement, re wording to either improve clarification or provide a statement about practices that are implemented each day but were not previously included in the relevant policy. Some changes were made to reflect more inclusive language.

A few questions arose during this process that we hope the following clarifies a few of these .

Why shouldn't the PAG exceed 10? There is a wealth of literature about the best size for advisory groups, committees and Boards which shows that when groups are too large they don't work as effectively. As the PAG also includes a staff representative and the Director we have found that a group of 12 people allows for every to participate actively and

If a child bites others frequently it should be reported to the aggressors parent, This is always done and is currently included in our Behaviour Management policy as Procedures for Dealing with Difficult and Challenging Behaviours "If unacceptable behaviour is persistent, staff will work with parents to determine possible causes of the behaviour and encourage positive alternatives."

Some regular staff practices and policies are noted in the Centre Policies and Procedures Handbook and we will continue to review this, especially as we review Staff Policies during October.

Sustainable Futures

Our sustainable future fund is growing. Some of the funds will be used to add to our community water grant. Sustainable Focus is managing this project for us and quotes for the work are due Friday 26 September, with work expected to commence in October. The development of the outdoor classroom and butterfly garden will also be supported by the sustainable futures fund with almost 120 metres of fencing required to enclose the area to the east and south of the centre. We plan to grow some of the plants for this ourselves with seeds sourced from Trees for Life and we are hopeful of receiving a positive response to our application for a small grant to the Grow A Great School program.

Ape it up at Monarto is a Family Fun Day to be held on Sunday October 5th at Monarto Zoo.

Dr Jane Goodall, international conservationist and Chimpanzee expert, and UN Peace envoy will open the new Chimpanzee enclosure on the day. She will talk to children and youth about the Roots and Shoots program she established, which promotes care for animals, the environment and the human community.

For more information go to the Zoos SA website. www.zoossa.com.au

For information about the Roots and Shoots program go to www.rootsandshoots.org