

WAITE CAMPUS CHILDRENS CENTRE

FAMILY NEWS

MARCH/APRIL 2021



Yoga is back!

Yvett has completed Level 1 and 2 Kids Yoga teacher training with Yoga Kids Training Academy, and is now providing yoga sessions for children in all three rooms. For terms 1 and 2 this will be on a Monday morning.



Inspirational women of WCCC

Lingling: Room One educator and PAG representative

My name is Lingling.

Ten years ago, I moved to Australia with my young family. Different language and culture has made me struggle, but I did not let them get me down.

In the past ten years until now, and it will still be continued, I kept on my study – an early childhood teaching degree and English. Also, through the last 8 years, I have immersed myself in working with the younger generation. Learning to understand those young human beings is one of my strengths. I feel valued and satisfied each time when those non-speakers change their sad faces into smiley faces. Therefore, everything is positive and meaningful, to them and to me.

I deeply believe that the educational methods we are using at our centre will support the young children to become decent citizens in the future, which is my motivation to come in to work every day.



Clean Up Australia Day Walk

On Thursday 4th March Room 3 children and educators went for a walk around campus for Clean Up Australia Day. Please see the Room 3 report for more information.



Congratulations to Pei, Chen and Finley (R2) on the arrival of Riley.

Congratulations to Christoph, Elbesth, Eliseo and Gabriel (R1) on the arrival of Levi.



Staff matters:

Kathy (R2) has taken some long term leave whilst she recovers from some health problems. She will be on leave from now until the end of June.

We wish her a speedy recovery!

Grace has had some leave during April but will be back to work soon!

The dentist is coming.....

The Australian Dental Foundation (ADF) is a charity, dedicated to improving oral health and expanding access to quality dental care for children and teens (2 to 17 years of age) across Australia. They deliver the 'My School Dentist' program, a no out of pocket expense mobile dental program that delivers onsite oral health care and education for students at Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Kindergartens, Child Care Centres and Out of Hours School Care. Since the beginning in 2012 the 'My School Dentist' program has provided services at hundreds of sites, improving the oral health of thousands of children and making our program the largest mobile dental service in Australia. Check-ups and treatment performed at registered schools, pre-schools, OHSC and kindergartens at no out of pocket expense to children (or the school/site). During the appointment, the dentist will perform a general examination of your child's oral health, and where relevant, recommend treatment tailored to their needs, which may not be able to be performed in a mobile setting. Most treatments recommended can be performed at a Australian Dental Foundation partner clinic by a dental professional with minimal out of pocket expense. We are more than happy for parents to attend their child's appointment.



Please see Eleanor for more information and to collect a registration pack.

Friday June 4th

Room One Report to families
March 10th 2021

We have welcomed Allison and her family to Room One and we look forward to sharing many learning highlights during her time with us.

The new children are continuing to demonstrate how capable they are as they settle well into Room One, creating new trusting relationships with both educators and their peers in their own unique way and at their own pace.

Sean, Mary and Tomas are in the process of making the move to Room Two to join old friends awaiting them. They all appear ready for wider horizons and further challenges awaiting them in Room Two once they are more familiar with educators and routines. It will not be too long before another group move on too in April, to make room for more babies to start with us in the coming months.

We have warmly welcomed back Centre "adopted Grandma" Sue after a long absence sharing her time, patience and care with the children in all rooms. We know it will be a positive reciprocal relationship for all!

With a new academic year underway we have also welcomed our first student to the room - Erin. She is a 2nd year Flinders University Early Childhood student and will be with us every Wed. for 5 weeks with a longer block placement later in the year.

We have all been enjoying the perfect weather of late playing in the outdoors in the sand and water, pushing trolleys, discovering games with balls and gaining climbing skills on various equipment. Some children have helped to water the veggie garden and many have enjoyed eating the tasty tomatoes and watermelon from the garden. One afternoon we managed a visit to Pilybilyangga which saw the children engage with the natural space freely and with great interest as they discovered the delights of where little paths and bridges go, the sounds of the birds and stones, carrying sticks and checking out the activity of the worms in the 'worm farm/bath'. We hope to continue to be able to regularly visit the Butterfly Garden when the opportunities present.

Yoga has started again on Monday mornings with Yvett setting a cracking pace which I am sure will bring many benefits to all children (and educators!)

With a few furniture changes to the room we have now have space to have the children's learning portfolios available for parents and families to access more easily should they wish. The portfolios can be still taken home for a few days for sharing with the wider family and we just ask that these be returned again so that educators can continue to add learning stories and group learning to your child's portfolio.

Warm regards,

Room One team - Gayle, Cherry, Karen, Lingling, Tamala, Chao

Room One Report to families

April 2021

Room One has been a somewhat busy place of late as enrolments increase. We continue to focus on supporting children as they become familiar with new surrounds, and as they make the transition from their home environment (and sometimes other childcare settings) to the Room One community. A warm welcome to our latest group of children and their families - Allison, Jimmy, Asher, James, Jay, Freja and Florence who are in the early stages of developing secure attachments with their primary educator. Then building connections with other educators, and ultimately with their peers. Happily all seems to be going well so far :)

We continue as a team to be responsive to the individual children's cues, needs and preferences, and aim to recognise/value each child's "voice" (more often focusing on the non-verbal language of gesture and facial expression) and their strengths, whilst documenting our observations and the information shared from families to guide planning and learning experiences - all makes for a very full and rewarding day in Room One!

With the warm start to Autumn we have continued to offer opportunities for water play, bubbles, music and dancing outside, lots of climbing and balancing (wooden boards, large foam shapes, cubby house & slide, and via the strong cardboard tent shape), trucks and ride-on toys remain a keen interest for many children. Chao and Gayle have shared their gardening interest as several children helped plant Asian greens in the garden beds. We enjoy having visits from siblings, students (Erin, Rachel & Natalie) and volunteer 'Centre adopted Grandma' Sue.

Prior to Easter Karen offered the children the opportunity to create Easter craft which many children enthusiastically embraced, glue can be so much fun.

Yoga sessions have been a little sporadic to date but it has been great to see the level of engagement, interest and skills will continue to grow with ongoing practice next term.

Thanks to families who have donated toys and resources for the children's use in Room One, we really appreciate it.

Warm regards,

Room One team - Gayle, Cherry, Karen, Lingling, Tamala & Chao

Room 2 Report to families

March/April 2021

Room 2 children have been enjoying a lot of outdoor experiences and activities this month. We have followed their lead for extra physical expression and activity by providing challenging obstacle courses, balls hoops, large trucks, diggers and cars every day throughout the playground.

The highlight of the month has definitely been our exciting trips to Pilyabilyangga and the Adventure Playground, where the children really appear to unleash and enjoy the freedom to run, jump, and enjoy the natural bush environment. We have observed further confidence and communication with peers and pure wonder in the bush setting that is not so obvious in the room and playground. Our children are obviously nature lovers and thrive looking at , feeling, touching, sharing, and expressing verbally about their individual findings and milestones in the garden and the Adventure Playground. We as a team have aimed to visit either setting at least twice a week and more if possible.

We have also learnt some new chants and songs, which the children are loving, and are experimenting with fast and slow chanting and singing. Fast is definitely the favourite way to go with this. Of particular interest are the songs 'Frog Frog' and the 'Prehistoric Animal Brigade'.

Room 3 Report to families

March 2021

We celebrated Clean up Australia Day with a walk around Waite Campus Ground. Children were very excited wearing their own gloves and picking up rubbish thus looking after Mother Earth. Little pieces of plastic and cigarette butts were mostly what we found. During this walk we had lots of conversations about road safety and we practiced how to cross the road safely.

After arriving back to the Centre children had the opportunity to sort the rubbish in the right bin with Dani's supervision.

To support large muscle development we have been spending time not only in Pilyabilyangga but in the Adventure Playground where children can do more adventurous climbing and at the same time they have been learning about how to play safely. In the Adventure Playground children have also been using large musical instruments where creating different rhythms and sounds were the main interest.

Selling lolly-pops and ice-creams in our pretend shop in Pilyabilyangga, building hideaway houses for snails and bugs with prunings from some plants and bricks and finding dinosaur's bones (fossils) have been of particular interest in the last few weeks. A large group of children worked collaboratively and cooperatively in these play scenarios. Dispositions for learning such as creativity, commitment, negotiation, enthusiasm and imagination were all explored during these moments.

On one of the hot mornings a koala also visited Pilyabilyangga when children were playing there. By providing a calm environment (where children stopped running and stepped back) we made sure that the koala had enough space to climb from one tree to another.

Under the Education for Sustainability program children have been focusing on feeding the worms (worm farm), looking after Mother Earth by keeping our environment clean and taking care of our veggie-patch.

We have been focusing on how we all can be responsible Room 3 children such as helping each other at packing up time, listening to each other's words (**Stop I don't like it! /Can I play too?**) –how does it look and how does it feel. Learning about facial expressions and emotions it is not an easy task for young children but with the help of their photos of different facial expressions and stories about these feelings we hope to foster further understanding on this subject.

Children have been creating family-play scenarios in the home corner and enjoying making kites and building with wooden and foam blocks and magnets.

Room 3 Report to families

April 2021

One term down and another one has just begun. All of the recent transition children, whether from Room 2 or another service have settled in and are making friends, actively engaged in the experiences and developing their sense of belonging in Room 3.

Imaginary play involving cooking in the home corner and the doctors set, creative arts experiences including gluing, pasting, painting and playdough and dancing to a variety of music have all been of interest to the Room 3 children. Construction sets such as Duplo, Mobilo and the new marble run have been well utilised and at the end of the day puzzles have been enjoyed with friends and educators.

Outside, Pilyabilyangga continues to be a place where children connect with nature and have time to explore and investigate the natural world. Many insects have been found with snails being very popular. This term we will commence our fires down in Pilyabilyangga and the children will be helping to determine the menu each week. Chocolate pancakes and spaghetti Bolognese for lunch are the first requests.

The educators spent a very productive staff meeting evaluation the Term 1 focus and setting a new focus for Term 2. We will be extending on children's interest in creative arts and pretend play by setting up the verandah as our home corner area and the art trolley is having a bit of a refresh. We will continue to focus on friendships and roles within play, the constructive expression of emotions and views and exploring good nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Yoga will continue with Yvett on a Monday morning and children will spend some time after fruit on a Friday morning in The Adventure playground.