

GUMNUT GROVE



Childcare Centre

Volume 10, Issue 6 May/ June 2016

Director's Report

Welcome to our May/June newsletter. I hope everyone is staying nice and warm and dry. Thank you to all our families, children and staff who welcomed me back from my month off, I had a lovely relaxing holiday with my family. I would like to say a big thank you to Ange and all the staff for doing an excellent job in my absence. Thank you!!!

By now most of you should know that Emily and Daniel had a baby girl named Annie Margaret, we congratulate both of them on the birth of their first child. She is gorgeous!!

On a sad note, most of the parents in the Caterpillar Room will have noticed that Debbie Ryan has been away, she unfortunately had an accident falling of a horse. Debbie is thankfully ok, but had to have surgery on her leg, so she is out of action for some time. We are all sending her get well wishes and hope she has a speedy recovery.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all those families who baked or supported our mother's day cake stall down the street last month, we managed to make \$1087.80 which will go straight to our new kitchen kitty for Gumnut Grove.

As everyone would be aware we are once again lucky enough to be having 2 students who are in their final year for speech pathology spend a month at our service. If you would like your child to be assessed or are concerned about your child's speech please return the permission note, as Barbara who is a professor for University of Melbourne who is overseeing the students work, has already begun doing some assessments prior to the students arriving at our centre.

Last week we had the privilege of having an Aboriginal Story teller Larry Brandy come to our centre and give the children an insight into the aboriginal culture, animals and music. A couple of our staff were lucky to meet Larry at a recent Sydney conference and we were able to book Larry in to come to Gumnut to share his culture with the children. The children loved this wonderful performance which was very hands on with the children pretending to be emu's, kangaroos and play instruments. Please have a look at some of the photos of this wonderful performance in the foyer.

Kind Regards

Meghan Pratt



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Clare's Recipe

Belonging, Becoming
and Being- All children
experience learning that
is engaging and builds
success for life.

Caterpillar News

We have been so busy in the Caterpillar Room! With all the wet and cold weather we have had lots of indoor play time. The babies have been popular and so have the puppets. We have been holding puppet shows for the children and these have been very entertaining and fun. Our art and craft this month has included leaf collages and fly swat pictures. We have also completed a booklet which details most of our activities to do with our plant investigation. Please ask the staff to show you this. The children really enjoyed this investigation and we hope your grass heads are all still alive!

The children have loved participating in music. In particular they have enjoyed the 'Hokey Pokey!' and a number of 'The Wiggles' songs. Including Hot Potato, Do the Monkey, and Point Your Fingers and Do The Twist.

We are constantly looking for fun and exciting ideas for the children. Parent input into this is always appreciated. If your children enjoy a certain activity or game at home, let us know and we can program for it at the centre.

Transition group

Transition group has also started. This is a small group time for the children who will be moving up to Butterfly Room next year. The children have a little group session and we sit and focus on colours, counting etc. Please ask staff if you have any questions about this. This month we have read "The Hungry Caterpillar" and have focussed on colours. At meal times, bowls are replaced with plates, water bottles are changed to cups, and name tags are placed at their setting for name recognition.

As earlier mentioned we are coming into the cold months of the year. We still rug the children up and take them outside. Please ensure all your items are labelled with your child's name.

Hand in hand with this, we are also heading into the cold and flu season. If your child has been unwell, please inform the staff.

The Caterpillar Staff

Butterfly News

The butterfly room has been buzzing with excitement this month with the start of "Sea Creatures" investigation. This all started with the children showing a very keen interest in one of our new books, showing real to life pictures of all the different sea creatures.

rather than cartoon images. After we first read the book, the children were full of questions and asked to see videos on the TV of all the different things the animals could do.

We started with whales and have moved onto so many fascinating creatures in the ocean and the children's interest is still ripe so the investigation continues! The children have loved all the different craft activities we have been doing as we make each of the sea creatures we have been learning about. Our room looks fantastic and the children are learning so much each day..... And they are remembering it all!

Ask your children about the huge sea turtle on our floor and I'm sure they will be able to tell you that real sea turtles can get even bigger than these! Ask them about our whales hanging from the ceiling and all the delicious krill they eat, have a look at our spiral shark eggs or our huge octopus on the rafters.

This investigation has brought so much enthusiasm and learning into our room, not only to the children but staff are loving these interactions and learning opportunities as well.

The children have also been loving the beautiful leaves that have been falling in our yard. They have been using the rakes and wheelbarrows to move the leaves around our yard and make huge piles to play with.

School Group has also started and this has been such a joy. This years group is much smaller than last year and the interactions have been so meaningful and enjoyable.

We have started with cutting skills, tracing skills, counting and writing our names. The school group children have started their news roster too and are already showing a huge interest and level of enthusiasm sharing their items from home. We were even lucky enough to have a greyhound visit us last week! A big thankyou to Nic and Georgia Wheeler for that wonderful opportunity. The children were very excited to hear that greyhounds are even fast than a horse and a motorbike out of the gates.

And finally, now that the weather is much colder, please remember your child's coat and beanie so that we can still play outside when the weather permits!

Until next month,

Meghan, Deb, Carlie, Danielle, Jill and Ashley.



Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients:

½- 1 medium Jap Pumpkin

1 Large Potato

1 Large Onion

6 Chicken stock cubes

½ teaspoon nutmeg

Pinch salt

½ cup- 1 cup milk

1 dessertspoon butter

Method:

Peel and cut pumpkin, potato and onion. Place in a pot half filled with water. Bring to the boil, simmer gently until soft. Add stock cubes, nutmeg and salt. Blend. Add milk until right colour/ texture, add butter. Return to heat to keep warm.

Banana Bread

Ingredients:-

130g soft butter

1 Cup brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 eggs

3 bananas (to get 1 ½ Cups)

1 ½ Cups Plain Flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ cup maple syrup

Method:-

Turn oven on to 160°C. Grease the inside of a 32cm long and 7cm wide tin with butter. Stick a large piece of baking paper on the inside. Put the butter, sugar and vanilla into a big bowl. Beat until its pale brown and creamy. Slowly add the eggs and beat until well mixed. Mash the banana with a fork and add to the batter. Sift the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda over the batter. Add the cinnamon and maple syrup and beat until everything is mixed. Spoon the mixture into the tin and bake for 1 hour. Poke the cake with a skewer. If comes out clean, it's ready. If the skewer is sticky, bake for a little longer, let bread cool in the tin. Tip out and slice.

