



March/April 2018

Family newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families and hope that you are settling in well to Mitchell Street! To all families I trust 2018 has started well for you and for many of our families that have had little preppies go off to school I hope its been a smooth transition.

We have certainly been busy with children settling well into their new rooms, as you may have noticed our rooms now have new names which are:

- Playspace 1- Gumnut Grove*
- Playspace 2-Koala Cover*
- Playspace 3- Willow Way*
- Playspace 4- Emu Explorers*
- Playspace 5- Kangaroo Kinder.*

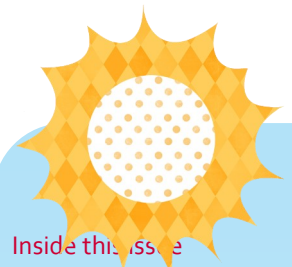
Our children are loving their new upstairs rooms, working on new projects and our 4 year old group learning French twice a week with our French teacher.

Bookings for 2018– as our service is very close to capacity adding additional days and moving children upto the next room may not be able to be accommodated , we do understand families are feeling their child is ready for the next room but if we are full moves cannot be made until a booking changes, we certainly try to accommodate your needs the best we can..

Feedback and input at Mitchell street we value your ideas and encourage family participation, if any families would like to be involved in our policy update or our quality improvement plan please don't hesitate to see me at reception, I am happy to meet face to face or I can email you some more information.

Date to be announced: We will be holding an information session regarding the changes to the new Childcare Care Scheme that will be coming into effect as of July 2nd 2018, please find a link to the online calculator and information regarding this topic on page 7

Kerry Lenoble– Centre manager

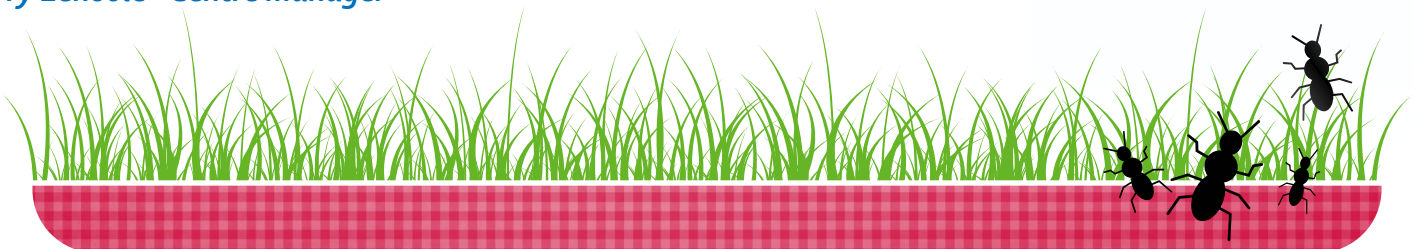


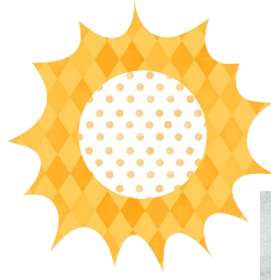
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Important Dates

- March 21st– Hot Cross Buns will be delivered
- March 29th– PJ DAY! supporting the Good Friday Appeal
- March 30th— GOOD FRIDAY
CENTRE CLOSED
- April 2nd— EASTER MONDAY
CENTRE CLOSED
- April 25th– ANZAC DAY
CENTRE CLOSED





WALK FOR JOHNO

We would like to thank all of our families and staff that participated in our 'Walk for Johnno' we have raised much needed funds for the Heart Foundation.

This event gives us the opportunity to link with key curriculum outcomes such as Personal, Social and Community Health by investigating the role of preventative health in promoting and maintaining health, safety and wellbeing for individuals and families. THE WALK FOR Johnno campaign and the Heart foundation are very close to Cathy's heart, being that 'Johnno' was Cathy's father's best friend. It has meant so much to Cathy that so many of you have gotten on board and participated in our fundraising day.

If you haven't donate and would still like to you can continue to do so with the below link or at reception.

<https://walkforjohnno2018.everydayhero.com/au/mitchell-st-elc>



Reminders

Holiday's

please give at least 2 weeks notice of any holidays you would like to take, you have up to 4 weeks per year holidays to take at a discounted rate to your fee's. all holiday absences should be given notice in writing either by using the forms provided or via email.

Birthday cake's

forms are available from your child's room and at reception to order birthday cakes - 48 hours notice is required when ordering

GUMNUT GROVE

Team: Beck, Tania.H, Rachel and Tania.C

We have started off the year by welcoming so many new faces to our Gumnut Grove room, we have really enjoyed getting to know all of our new children and their families, we have been focusing on building trusting and caring relationships with the children over the past 2 months and getting to know their likes, dislikes and individual needs.

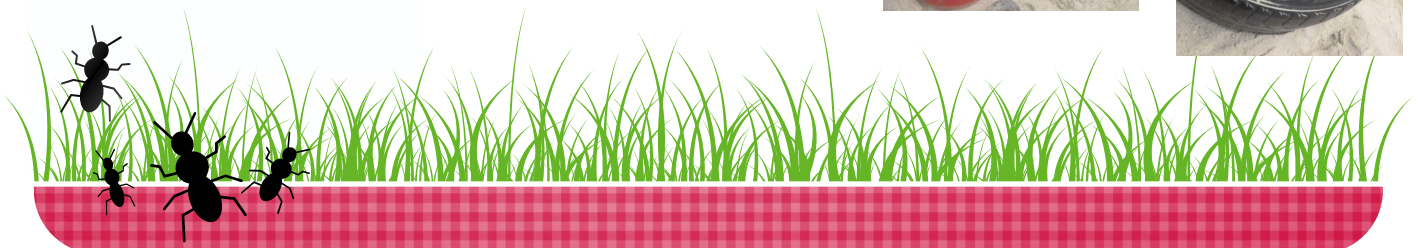
We have enjoyed getting the children involved in some messy art and craft play, this has been such a great way to watch the children explore their senses and have some control over their art, we have been pasting with natural materials, group painting with large hand held stamps, and we have now started some Easter art and craft that will be sent home over the coming weeks.

You may have noticed some family information sheets in the room, if you have already, we encourage you to fill these out so that we can be more familiar with your family backgrounds and individual celebrations.

Over the coming months we wish to focus on the different abilities of each child and enhance and nurture their fine and gross motor development while encouraging independent and self-help skills during meals and play,

We welcome your feedback in the room and encourage ideas from our families.

It has been a great start to the year getting to know you all, as all being Mums ourselves, it is a beautiful feeling being apart of the Gumnut grove family in our 'Home away from home'



KOALA COVE

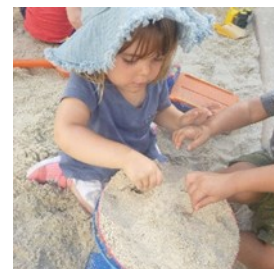


Team: Courtney, Bec, Natalia, Brooke and Jade

We have started the year off with a big room change, welcoming many new children from Gumnut Grove and, new staff to Koala Cove but also saying goodbye to our friends moving to Willow Way. We have enjoyed this busy time getting to know one another. With many new children starting the educators are working hard to settle all and learn each child's routines.

The children have enjoyed many different activities so far, from sensory play with playdough, moon sand, jelly bath and lots more, to imaginative and dramatic play through outdoors, home corner with baby dolls, construction area just to name a couple. As always, the children of Koala Cove are still loving music and movement time and we have added using flash cards to our many group times during the day to begin to recognise and remember our colours and shapes, animals and letters. We have been exploring many different art mediums from painting and pasting to drawing with crayons, chalk and textas, this is a big favourite within Koala Cove.

We look forward to lots more fun in Koala Cove.



WILLOW WAY

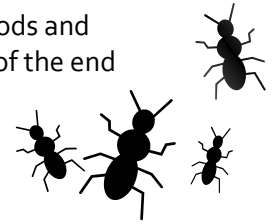
Team: Jasmine, Beth, Sam, Mirella and Kirstie

As the year begun we welcomed two new staff members, Jasmine and Kirstie to our Willow Way team. Both have settled in well and are forming wonderful relationships with the children.

We would also like to welcome our new children, who are finding their feet within the environment and are settling in great. We are observing the children bonding together and friendships are beginning to blossom.

Last month we introduced a variety of different art experiences, using different methods and materials. The children really enjoyed exploring these activities and were very proud of the end results. Art is a great way for children to use their creativity and imagination, and this will be a focus within our program as the year progresses. The children have also been enjoying some cooking experiences seeing us make our own orange juice and lemonade. The children really enjoy this and love having a taste of their creations with afternoon tea. Valentine's Day cookies and Unicorn Dip were also a massive hit. Along with our art experiences, cooking experiences will play a big part within our program, and we will be aiming for at least one cooking experience per month, where time and resources permit we will aim for more. We have created a display wall as you walk into the Willow Way room with some of our themed art and cooking experiences we have been doing.

As we head into March, we will be working on colour recognition as a group, using different experiences to learn and interact.



We look forward to the rest of the year with lots of fun and learning to



EMU EXPLORERS

Team: Brooke, Shinae, Caitlin and Susie

Our pre-kinder year has started off quite successful. Our planner includes a different theme for each week. During the week the children are involved with many engaging and hands on experiences for all involved. The first of term 1 was 'All about me week' where we got to learn about each child's particular interests, families, hobbies, etc. Other themes have included 'Colours', 'Numbers', 'Fine Motor skills', and 'Letters'. Colours was one of the children's favourite weeks, with many children excited and eager to participate in the activity.

Every morning we have a group time where the children are involved in reading our 'Welcome to Country' book. This book includes fantastic pictures of Aboriginal culture. The educators are doing a fantastic job of being apart of this reading and getting the children involved by getting them to help read some of the book. The children are also involved in our focus board, which involves a different letter, number, colour, shape and a feeling/emotion. The children have been participating well during this time and enjoy having discussions on the topics, especially over the weeks feeling/emotion.

Our daily routine has been working well. The children have been transitioning well in the mornings after group time, when we split for our daily activity as on the planner. The children do the same activity downstairs as they do upstairs and each child gets 1-2 turns up stairs per week. These smaller groups allow the educators to work more one on one with the children. It also gives the children time to play with other children who they normally may not play with and develop further friendships. The following weeks ahead include topics including Autumn, Gross motor skills, Diversity and Science.

We said farewell to Emma recently, who has moved onto another centre to continue gaining new experience for her professional development, and we welcomed Susie into the room. Susie is very excited to get to know the children and become an active member of the Emu Explorer community.

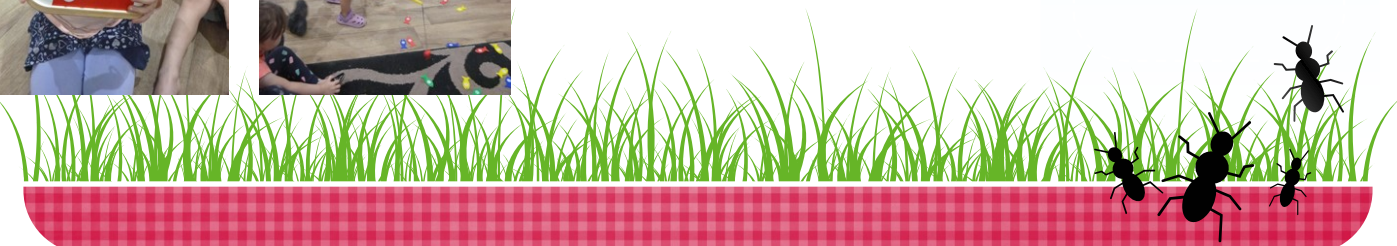
Thanks for a great start to the year!



Medicare and dental information

This website has some helpful information outlining the CDBS with Medicare for any parents that were not aware or would like some information

http://www.kidspot.com.au/health/family-health/real-life/i-will-have-no-choice-but-to-neglect-my-kids-teeth?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=editorial



Useful information

Starting blocks— *how to support your child while in care*

<http://www.startingblocks.gov.au/at-child-care/supporting-your-child/>

New childcare subsidy-

From 2 July 2018, Australia will have a New Child Care Package. Under the new package, the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will replace the existing Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate. CCS will be the main way the Government assists families with their child care fees.

CCS Information-

<https://www.education.gov.au/new-child-care-package-families-2-july-2018>

CCS online estimator-

<https://www.education.gov.au/sites/education/files/chcare/est/index.html>

Information session:

date to be announced

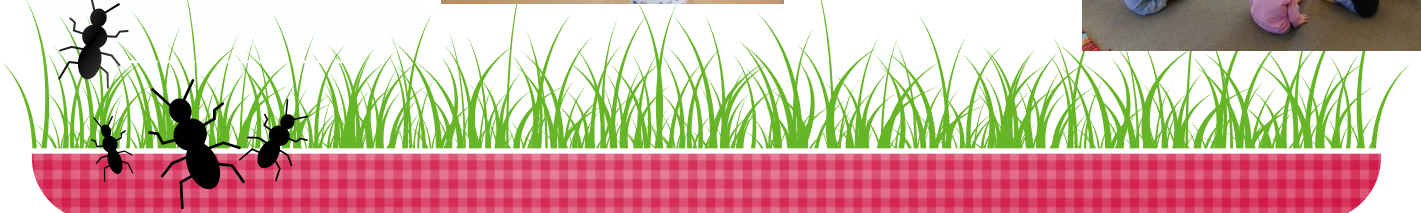
KANGAROO KINDERS

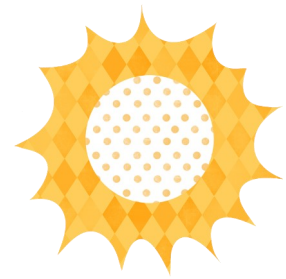
Team: Brooke, Mel, Candice, Jayde and Julie

The start of our kinder year has been filled with many engaging and hands on experiences for all involved. Each week, a different theme/topic is looked at throughout the program. To start the program the theme was 'All About Me' where we got to learn about each child's particular interests, families, hobbies, etc. Other themes have included 'Our Multicultural World', 'Healthy Eating' and 'Science'. Science week, in particular was a huge hit, with many children excited and eager to participate in the experiments. Children have also been involved in a variety of art experiences, and the end results are something they should be really proud of.

Each day, children are involved in our focus board, which involves a different letter, number, colour, shape and French word each week. Children are really grasping these concepts, and it is wonderful to see the enthusiasm and participation throughout these group times. In addition, our French class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings have been very successful. Children are beginning to have a solid understanding of different French words and using them throughout the day.

The following weeks ahead include topics including Numeracy, Cultural Diversity and Fine Motor Skills.





A word from our chef....Cale

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018, for those of you that haven't met me yet, my name is Cale and I have been the new chef at Mitchell street since October, in the kitchen with me we have also welcomed Ciannon as our new Kitchen assistant 5 days.

Over the coming weeks kangaroo kinders and emu explorers will be helping me create a cultural herb garden that will be enjoyed by the whole centre. The aim of this project is to get the children involved and interested in healthy food options through a hands on approach.

We are always eager to receive feedback from our families here at Mitchell street and we encourage you to do so via the suggestion box.

Looking forward to the rest of the year and engaging the children in some hands on cooking experiences.

March 19th-23rd Menu

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKFAST	WHEATBIX AND TOAST	WHEATBIX AND TOAST	WHEATBIX AND TOAST	WHEATBIX AND TOAST	WHEATBIX AND TOAST
MORNING TEA	FRESH SEASONAL FRUIT WITH MILK	FRESH SEASONAL FRUIT WITH MILK	FRUIT SALAD AND QUINOA WITH CUSTARD	FRESH SEASONAL FRUIT WITH MILK	FRESH SEASONAL FRUIT WITH MILK
INGREDIENTS			EGG, CREAM, QUINOA, FRUIT		
LUNCH	LENTIL AND VEGETABLE TAGINE WITH ROTI BREAD	LAMB RISSOLES WITH MASH POTATO, VEGETABLES, GRAVY	CHICKEN LASAGNE	CHILLI CON CARNE WITH SWEET POTATO MASH	CHICKEN AND PENNE PASTA BAKE
INGREDIENTS	RED LENTILS, TOMATO, STOCK, SPICES, VEGETABLES	LAMB MINCE, POTATO, VEGETABLE MIX	CHICKEN MINCE, PASTA SHEETS, TOMATO, MILK, FLOUR	MINCE, KIDNEY BEANS, TOMATO, SWEET POTATO	PASTA, MILK, FLOUR, VEGETABLE, CHICKEN BREAST, VEGETABLES
AFTER LUNCH	APPLES TO CLEAN TEETH	APPLES TO CLEAN TEETH	APPLES TO CLEAN TEETH	APPLES TO CLEAN TEETH	APPLES TO CLEAN TEETH
AFTERNOON TEA	CHEESE AND SPINACH OMELETTE BITES	DATE SCONES	SEASONAL FRESH FRUIT WITH MILK	APPLE PARFAIT	APRICOT AND GINGER CAKE
INGREDIENTS	CHEESE, SPINACH, EGG, MILK	FLOUR, MARGARINE, DATES		APPLE, YOGHURT, MUSELI MIX	APRICOT, GINGER, FLOUR, EGG, SOY MILK
LATE SNACK	DAILY SELECTION	DAILY SELECTION	DAILY SELECTION	DAILY SELECTION	DAILY SELECTION

Warm regards,
Cale

Menu's

All menus are available on our website
www.mitchellstreetelc.com.au

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Mitchell Street
Early Learning Centre