



February/March 2017

Family Newsletter

Welcome to all our new and existing families. Finally we are getting some beautiful sunshine—lets hope it lasts....

We have had a busy start to the year with children settling in well to their new rooms as well as the new 3 and 4 year old Kinder Rooms upstairs. The children are really enjoying their new spaces.

Mitchell Street also has some special announcements to make..... Well, not 1, not 2, not 3 but **4** expectant mothers are amongst our team!

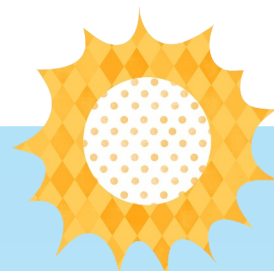
Firstly Krystle who is 24 weeks, Krystle is already on parental leave on bed rest at the Monash Hospital, hopefully her baby will hold on a little longer.

We have Miss Olivia at 23 weeks and at a gender reveal party it was announced that Olivia is expecting a boy. Whilst Olivia was overwhelmed with excitement at the news, Olivia's partner got on one knee and proposed! It was just beautiful.

Our Georgia is 17 weeks and due in August, which is right around the time Georgia and her husband will move into their new home, this will be a busy and exciting time!

Finally Tiffany is 15 weeks and going well. As Tiff is our Kinder Teacher, Tiff will finish full time teaching at the end of Term 2 and will become a Speciality Teacher part time until her parental leave starts and will return next year to continue some Speciality Classes.

Over the coming months we will begin to advertise for these parental leave roles and wish all our expecting mums all the best for this exciting chapter in their lives.

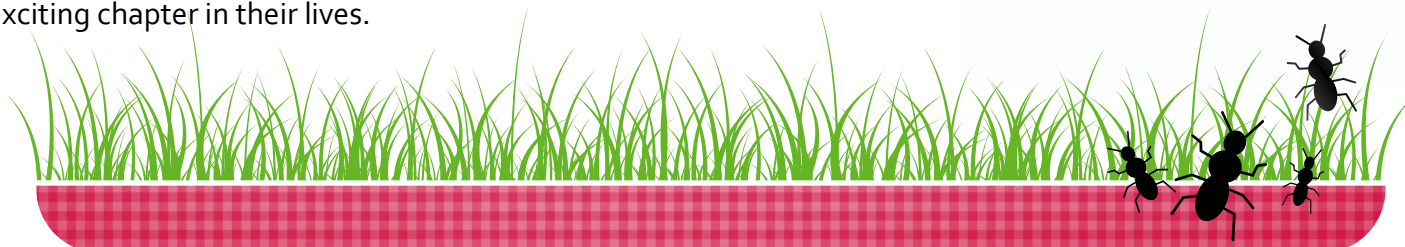


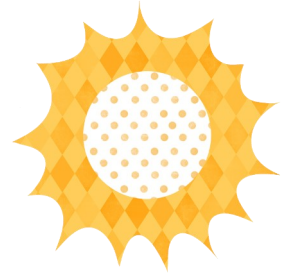
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Important Dates

- 10th March—Chocolate fundraising money due back
- 13th March—Labour Day Public Holiday
- 16-19th March—Wacky Hair Day Gold Coin donation
- 21st March—/Harmony Day Wear Orange
- 13th April—Easter Bonnet Parade
- 14th April—Good Friday Public Holiday
- 17th April—Easter Monday Public Holiday

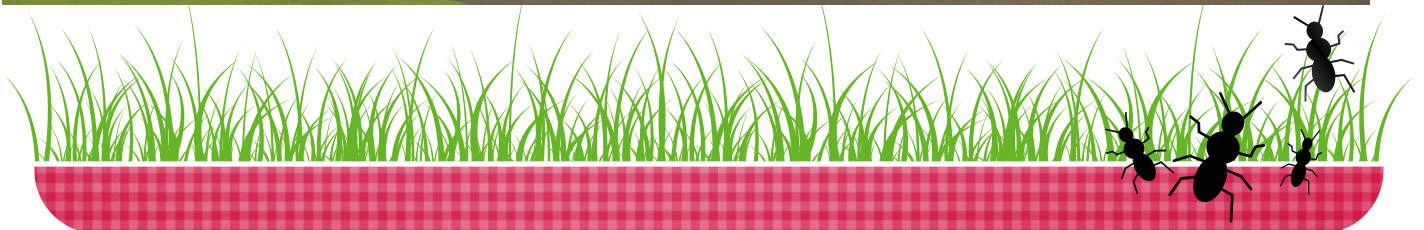


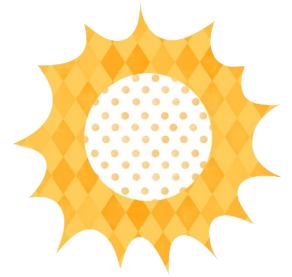


Thanks to all the families and staff who have participated in our Chocolate Drive, our Charity "Give Where You Live" are very excited about our contribution—check their Facebook and twitter pages.

www.givewhereyoulive.com.au

Please remember to bring back money (and any unsold chocolate—hopefully none!) ASAP, but by 10th March latest. Again, thank you so much for your support!





You will notice our new chalk board on the wall as you enter the building it displays any up coming events for the month.

Please note displays around the building - our noticeboards always contain useful information regarding community events or any illness we may have in the centre - communication about illness will also be emailed to you if we have more than a couple of cases.

Childcare rebates - please check the back page of your weekly statement to see if it is still applying - with bigger bookings it is beginning to stop until the new financial year.

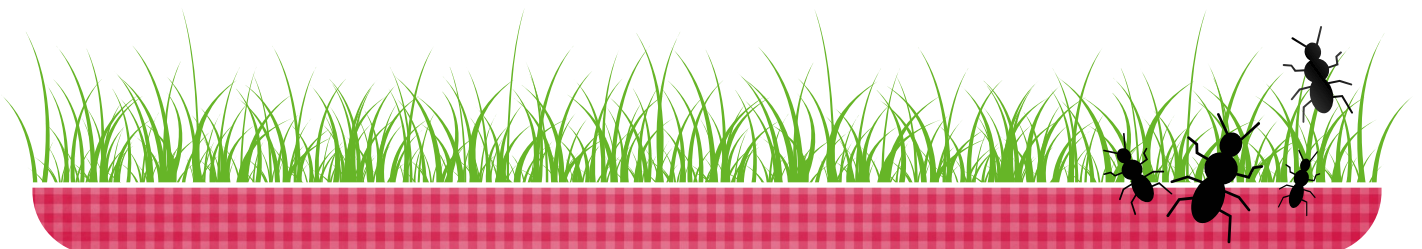
Immunisation - please note if your child isn't up to date with their immunisations all government benefits are cancelled - the immunisation register allows 4 weeks grace before your subsidies are stopped.

Centre clothes - we know children have toileting accidents or get wet with messy play, please provide a few sets of clothes for your child. If you have any centre clothes at home can you please return them as we don't have any left at the moment.

Finally, family members are always welcome here at Mitchell Street, but can I please request that you supervise children in particular when going into our younger rooms to ensure the safety of all our children—this includes opening and closing doors.

Have a wonderful Autumn (yes it's here!)

Kerry Lenoble – Centre Manager



Playspace 1

Reminders

Holiday's

Please give at least 2 weeks notice of any holidays you would like to take, you have up to 4 weeks holiday per financial year, to take at a 50% discounted rate on your weekly fee. All holiday absences should be given in writing either by using the forms provided or email.

Birthday Cake

Forms are available from your child's room and at reception to order Birthday Cakes - 48 hours notice is required when ordering.

Additional days care

Please note if additional days are required for your child it is important that you communicate and check availability of this with Kerry, note the educators in your room do not have up to date information regarding availability.

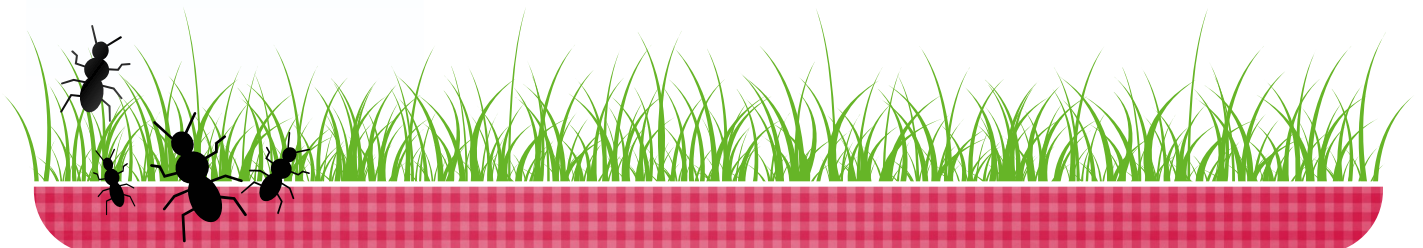
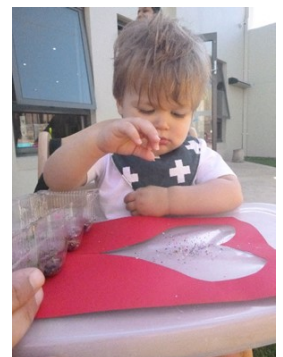
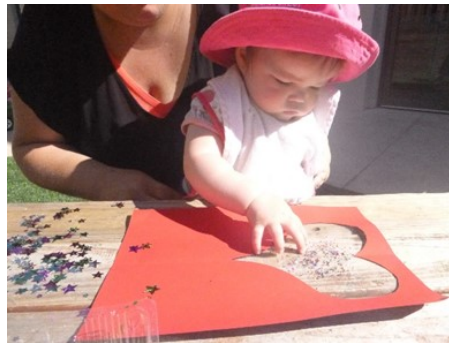
Team: April, Payal, Lily and Rachel

It has been a great start to the New Year. We have had a lot of new children joining us. We are glad to see that they are settling in and enjoying being part of our room.

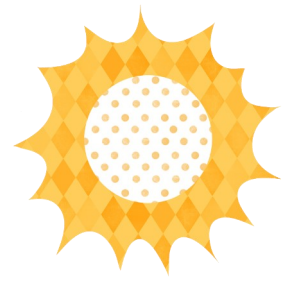
Many of our children have been meeting some very exciting milestones, such as celebrating first birthdays, beginning to crawl or beginning to walk. We love sharing in their achievements and the pride you see on their faces is priceless.

We have been getting very arty and crafty in the last couple of months. Some of our activities have included experimenting with finger painting, making our heart sun catchers (You have probably seen them looking amazing along our windows) and having lots of fun with playdough. We look forward to doing more in the coming months.

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome autumn, we are looking forward to continuing with a lot of time outdoors. The children love the freedom of choice with the door open and being able to come and go from inside to outside as they please and exploring all around our yard. Let's hope winter doesn't sneak up on us too quickly!



Playspace 2



Team: : Beth, Beck, Natalia and Sonya.

Well what a wonderful start to the New Year we have had, with a hand full of new family's starting in the room and also the very eager group of children from play space 1 who are ready to explore and learn in their new environment. We have started the New Year with some wonderful art work which has mostly taken place out doors in the wonderful sun shine we have had.

What we have been doing the past 2 months:



Our days have been spent, filled with lots of fun and enjoyment, particularly with the sensory experiences being set up. Educators have focused a lot in this area and have noticed a massive change



in the room dynamics. Research shows that **sensory** play builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways, which lead to the child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks.



Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interaction. Having the sensory in the room has been full of fun for the children allowing them to get messy and explore all their senses. Some of the children have even used their own imagination to extend on their play

to begin to use their wet brush to paint the concrete and trace their dinosaurs.

We have had a wide range of items in the tub such as Jelly, Frozen bugs, baby bath and also dinosaur land.

What's coming up in play space 2?

In the coming months we are going to be focusing on our self-help skills in play space 2 encouraging the children to practice these skills more in their day to day activities whilst in care. We will be encouraging more children to wash their hands, feed themselves and prepare them self on their beds for sleep as a start. We have had an experience in the room that we will continue to have out that is the "hair dressers" this has been a wonderful first step for the children to practice brushing hair.

We welcome the beautiful new children who have recently joined our family, as well as educator, Sonya, who was previously in the nursery. We look forward to what the next few months have in place.



Playspace 3

Team: Olivia, Bec, Caitlin, Tania, and Tania.

Oh how time flies when you are having fun! Over the past couple of months, educators in Playspace 3 have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the new faces in our room. We have all formed strong relationships and special bonds, enabling us to well and truly feel like a family in Playspace 3. Speaking of new faces, we welcome Tania into our room! Yes, that's two Tania's in our room, just pronounced slightly differently. Tania was previously working in before and after school care. She has extensive knowledge and experience in our industry and we are very grateful to be able to learn from Tania! Tania is looking forward to establishing relationships with all the children, families and staff.

What have we been learning?

The children gather on the mat for our morning group time as their morning tea is being prepared and served. We begin by saying "1, 2, 3, good morning!!!" in unison, and clap our hands afterwards.



Then we begin our daily chart. We learn the days of the week, our numbers, and the seasons. The children then determine what the weather is like outside. Being the month of February and following our calendar of learning (displayed in the hallway) we have focused on learning our numbers this month. The children can successfully count to 15 with little prompting, which is a great achievement! Well done Playspace 3!



Australia Day at Mitchell Street:

Playspace 3 had a ripper day celebrating Australia Day. We gathered together in the big yard which is shared between Playspace 5 and the kinder room, and all enjoyed a snag or three for lunch. The children were all covered in tomato sauce but that was all part of the fun! It gets better – for afternoon tea the children ate a very chocolatey and very delicious piece of lamington cake! The children wore lots of coconut and chocolate all over their faces, as well as a

super big smile. It was a fun day had by all!



We are looking forward to the many adventures to be had this year.



Playspace 5 - 3 year old Kinder Room - upstairs

Team: Brooke, Shinae, Sam, Jayde and Julie

Firstly, we would like to welcome everyone into our new kindergarten program. We have been very excited to open our upstairs room and the children are thriving throughout the program. A large amount of intentional teaching takes place throughout this program and this helps to give us an idea of the development of each individual child and how we can further their learning. This month we have been focusing on small group reading, number & letter recognition.



Children were also involved in making their own pizzas for lunch which was lots of fun. In addition, the children have taken on more independence upstairs as they serve their lunch each day. Each child is adapting to this well and seems to thoroughly enjoy involving themselves in this. Our afternoons usually involve some free time or art & craft which we change on a daily basis. The children love expressing themselves through art, and their creativity can be quite impressive. Science class is back for the year on a Friday morning and the chil-



dren have been very excited about this. The topics covered so far have included looking at



different substances and melting/freezing. These classes will continue for the year. We anticipate

the months coming up will be quite busy, with more cooking, science, physical fitness, group games and healthy eating to be looked at. We endeavor to make it as hands-on, engaging and fun as possible for all involved.

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



Playspace 5 - downstairs

Team: Mel, Shinae, Sam, Jayde and Julie

Play Space 5 has had a very busy start to the New Year! We have welcomed new faces into the room, both staff and children. We've had a lot of children move up from Play Space 3 and it's great to see them fitting in well, learning their new routines and loving their huge outside play space. The new 3 year old kinder program has allowed for smaller numbers during the peak of the day, utilising this time with the children, we are able to make the most out of one on one interactions and meaningful play.

We have been fortunate enough to enjoy lots of glorious summer days outside. Here we have implemented lots of water play using our new sensory tubs and wet sand play in the sand pits.

The children have been involved in lots of Arts and Craft, creating beach displays and resourcing their own natural bits and pieces for pasting eg. Bark, Leaves, sand etc.

The children have been very enthusiastic participants in group times our main focus being counting and number recognition. We've also been learning memory games where the children work out what is missing out of 3 items. The children responded well as they work together to problem solve and find what's missing.

We have had a great start to 2017 but now look forward to the coming months, working hard as we begin to look at things such as cooking, alphabet, colours and music.



Playspace 4 - 4 year old Kinder Program

Team: Tiff, Brooke and Emma

What have we been doing in PS4?

We have started the year off wonderfully. We are getting used to our new routines and activities. The children are responding really well to our weekly changing focus board as well as all the new songs we have been learning about the days of the week, months of the year, alphabet and our most recent counting with exercise. We are also very excited to add to this years kinder program the addition of a language. The children are learning French! With the help of a new app called ELLA and incorporating French words into our group times the children are loving being able to say hello, goodbye and even sing a song in another language. We cant wait to learn more. We have also had lots of fun exploring our weekly themes and participating in structured kinder activities. Also we have been enjoying some special day's art and craft as well as a visit from the dentist

What is coming up?

We are excited for the year to progress in PS4 kinder room. We have lots of exciting excursion and incursions coming up throughout the year. In term one we are excited for the Library excursion and for a visit from Wild Action ,who are bringing there Australian Animal exhibit.

We are also looking forward to getting further into our workbook activities and projects for term 1.

What our focus have been?

We have many focuses in PS4 kinder! Firstly we have been focusing on learning what our names look like so the children can put their own bags away with their bag tag, finding their own hat for outside times and being able to identify their own drink bottle for meal times and when they are thirsty.

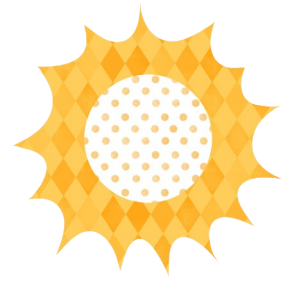
Each week we change our focus board which focuses on a letter, number, colour, letter, shape, site word and a French word.



We also have a different theme for each week of the term which reflects the activities we do in our group.

A word from our chef....Adam Peterson

We had some fun with the 3 year old Kinders this week making individual Pizza. The children were able to top theirs just the way they like it and then enjoyed them for lunch. It always tastes better then when you make it yourself!



I would like to share with you my recipe for **Lamb Kofta Meatballs** that has proven to be very popular at the centre and could be a fun activity for your children at home.

For the Sauce:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pureed Tomatoes | 1 large tin (800 grams) |
| Garlic (chopped) 1 clove | |
| Ginger powder | 1 tsp. |
| Cumin | 1 tsp. |
| Coriander | 1 tsp. |
| Turmeric | .5 tsp. |

Method:

Combine all ingredients

For the Meatballs:

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Lamb Mince | 1 KG |
| Brown Onion | 1 each |
| Carrot | 1 each |
| Egg | 1 each |
| Bread Crumbs | 100 ml |
| Garam Marsala | 1 tsp. |
| Cinnamon | 1 tsp. |

Method:

Wash and finely chop the Carrots and Onions

Combine all ingredients

With your children's help roll into small round balls

In a casserole dish pour the sauce over the meatballs and bake at 200 °C oven till internal temperature is over 75 °C

Serve with a Rice Pilaf or Potatoes and Veggies

Please visit our website to view 4 weeks of upcoming menu's - this may assist your family in menu planning at home.

Adam

Centre Chef

