



Balmain Cove Children's Centre
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Balmain Newsletter – April 2009

Balmain Cove Centre update

We have now all settled into the year and it is flying by! Our Seals and Dolphins have been busy getting into our literacy program, Letterland! They are really enjoying being involved and have shown a good understanding! Ask you child today about a letter in the alphabet and the sound it makes...you may be surprised to see how much they have learnt already!

As always the Seals and Dolphins have been showing their skills in the cooking department each week and have been making some VERY yummy foods! Each class has a cooking experience each week which helps them to gain knowledge and hands on experience with maths and measurements, following a recipe, sharing and turn taking and much more!- please have a look at the class cooking displays.

We sadly are saying goodbye to Suzanne the assistant in the Seahorse room. Suzanne will have her last day on 9th of April, she has decided to work on a casual basis so we will still see her at the centre every now and again!- We wish her the best. With saying goodbye to Suzanne we welcome a few new faces to the centre- Jaimee will be replacing Suzanne in the Seahorse room. She has had experience with children with additional needs and does a lot of volunteer work in the industry - We are very excited to have her on our team!

Just a reminder to parents that the centre is closed on public holidays.

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More News

We are excited to see the great interest the Seals children have in our new Yoga program. Yoga is run by the Seals teacher Sally, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3pm.

The children are learning different poses like the Crab! They are responding well and we thank Sally for her innovative idea! We do ask for Seal children to please bring a yoga mat or towel to join in.

Thank you to all the patient parents during the centre's transition to CCMS. Thankfully, it was a smooth change over and so far we have no hiccups to report!

We are hoping to have a parent day in June. If you would like to get involved in sharing something with your child's class please speak to the class teacher. This can be an interest, talent or just a general join in! If you are a parent who is involved in the community services, such as police, fire, ambulance etc, we would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved in a talk with the children about your career!

We are adding to our already fabulous team! We are welcoming to our nursery team Amanda, who has had extensive experience with under 2 year olds. Amanda will be joining us on the 14/4!

Philosophy, Broad Goals and Policy Reviews/Procedures

Please remember to check your parent pockets located in each room on the back of the door. Often there are feedback forms, surveys, and important items for parents left in these pockets. Please check these each week. This is a great communication point. Please also take the time to spend a few minutes in your child's room having a look at what they are doing. The daily diary in each room is another great point of communication and gives parent's conversation points with your child about the day's events. We rely on the input and feedback of our families regarding all areas of the centre. Please feel free to voice your suggestions to your child's teachers, through the communication boxes in each room and in the foyer or directly to Alex.

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

- Menu development
- Room routines

We would love to get your feedback on these policies and any recommendations you think would be appropriate.

Important dates to remember:

- *Easter Egg hunt- 9/4*
- *Easter hat parade -14/4*
- *Public holiday Good Friday 10/4*
- *Public holiday Easter Monday 13/4*
- *Anzac cookie making day- 24/4*
- *May day in Ireland – Garland making 1/5*
- *Danish liberation day- wear red and white Danish afternoon tea-5/5*

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Reminders to Parents

We ask parents to please think of others with regards to sick children. We understand the importance of working but we need to put not only your child's best interest first, but the best interest of all children in the centre. If we send your child home, we require a minimum of 24 hour exclusion period and a clearance from a Doctor giving your child a health clearance to attend school.

We ask parent to please let us know if someone new will be picking up your child on an afternoon. This makes it a smoother transition for your child and the person picking them up. We kindly ask parents to please fold down your pram if you are leaving it at the centre. The prams are kept in the staffroom which is a place in which staff have their breaks, so we would appreciate parents helping us make room by ensuring their pram is folded down.

We are trying very hard to build up our role play items for the children. Children love demonstrating what they see. We are asking parents if they have any spare clothes, bags, shoes for dress up we would love a donation! Any office equipment like phones, phone books, keyboards etc would be appreciated. Magazines and newspapers are also popular. If you have any of these lying around please feel free to donate them to the centre ☺

Important event coming up:

Easter hat parade

Who -EVERYONE

When -14/4/2009

Where- At the centre 10am

Why -To show our creative side and celebrate Easter!!

Other - we are encouraging parents to get involved in making a hat for their child for the hat parade. We will have a special HAT SHOW to show off all our creative talents!!

Book Club

Kristy in the Dolphins room will be taking over the book club. Please check your parent pocket for the order form and hand back before the due date for some GREAT books and deals!!

Starfish News

We have had a beautiful last month! The little starfish have done a lot of growing over the month! We have seen steps and walking, few words and great development from everyone! We have all settled in so well.

The weather is starting to get cool lately, which means we can take more opportunities to explore our outdoor surroundings. Please remember to bring a labelled hat each day when your child arrives, we do have a special labelled hat rack dedicated to your child's hat.

This month we have been very interested in animals, animal sounds and the song old Macdonald had a farm! We love making the animal noises and laughing at the animal puppets making the sounds!

Again, we encourage parents to please let us know of any changes to your child's diet or routine so we can accommodate this at the centre. We love hearing from you so please feel free to come and have a chat about your child and their day!

Have a safe month

Agi and Mette ☺

Seahorse News

What a fast month that was! We have been so busy exploring and learning new things that the month has flown by!

We have been focusing on self help and independence, as well as peer relationships. We are encouraging children to use their words with their friends instead of their hands.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Suzanne who has decided to work on a casual basis in the centre, but we are extremely excited to welcome our new teacher Jaimee.

Jamiee worked a trial day last week and did an incredible job! The Seahorses really responded well to her and she has some amazing ideas. We look forward to her starting on the 14/4.

A big thank you to the parents who are remembering to bring a labelled sheet each day and for taking them home to wash. Children love being able to help make their beds and this helps to recognise their own items, so we do encourage parents to be consistent with the sheets you bring.

We have been busy with art and craft and are focusing on redecorating our room! If parents have any art ideas we would love to hear them.

Have a great month ☺

Keira and Suzanne ☺

Staff Profile

We welcome Kim to our team!! Kim is working fulltime in the Seals room as Bryce will only be available on a casual basis.

Kim brings with her a great love of children, immense enthusiasm and a calm and gentle nature the children really respond too.

Kim has had experience in all age groups but finds the seals extremely rewarding!!

Previous Events/dates celebrated at the centre last month

We have had so much fun joining in with all our special events this past month!

We laughed at the teachers in their PJ's, we amazed at how high children's hair can stand up for crazy hair day.

Thank you to all the parents who take the time to get involved in our events, it really is something the children love!

Dolphin News

Hello Parents ☺

What a quick year this is! The dolphins are really enjoying the Letterland literacy program. We have some very clever kids! We are so impressed at the way in which the children have picked up the concepts. They are really having fun with the program and are proud of their achievements. So far we have completed A,B,C,D,E and will continue 1 letter each week. We love getting feedback from parents on how the children are going at home with this. We are setting up a tray for parents to help themselves at any worksheets referring to the letters we have been looking at.

We do remind parents the importance of children's home toys staying at home. These items cause a lot of conflict between children and are being lost or misplaced. We like to encourage parents to please NOT bring in toys from home, we have lots of fun equipment here. Comforters and soft toys for rest time are ok as these stay in their bags for sleep time only. If children would like to show other children their toys, we will bring implementing a news roster for designated times for show and tell. We will keep you updated on this.

Thanks for a fun month

Kristy and Gemma ☺

Seal News

The Seals have been enjoying their month.

Children are learning the literacy components very quickly and is amazing to see there progression. Children are engaging in conversations at various times of the day about sounds and letter and what items begin with. Literacy works best when it becomes a normal part of children's everyday. Yoga is a big hit! The children really get into yoga and Sally has been doing an amazing job. Children are experimenting with different positions and the way the body moves, various body parts and what connects to what. Children don't even realise they are learning! They just think they are having fun!

We have noticed children becoming increasingly interested in the world around them and would love to start up a veggie garden. If you have any left over soil, containers, or seeds from your own gardens we would love to incorporate that into our program.

We welcome Kim to our team! Kim has been with us for nearly a month now and is doing a wonderful job. Kim is keen to get involved and the children love her!

We look forward to another exciting month ahead

Sally, Bronwyn, Kim and Bryce

From the Kitchen

Hello everyone!!

Happy Easter!!

The children are enjoying their lunches as usual! I have noticed some great conversations being had in the meals room each day. Its great to hear children naming the vegetables and different types of food and where they come from. We are encouraging children to know if food comes from the ground, trees or animals.

Please take note of the new recipes of the month located near the menu board. We are trying to get the recipes to connect with the literacy program i.e. Donkey drops recipe would correlate with the letter D!! If parents have any great children's recipes we would love to get a copy. This is helpful for the class cooking times each week.

I attended an inservice on cooking for infants. I have some great information if any parents would like a copy please let me know!

Have a great month!

Thanks again!

Rosie ☺

Professional Development

We are very busy off to in services and workshops!

Rosie participated in a development workshop for feeding children under 2. This focuses on nutrition, introduction of solids and certain foods. Rosie will pass on to parents all she learns! Keira, Gemma, Kristy and Bronwyn participated in a behaviour management and redirection inservice on 23/3. they found this to be extremely informative and have shared their knowledge with the rest of the staff!