



Balmain Cove Children's Centre  
 35 Terry st Rozelle  
 PH: 981861992 Fax: 02 98186213  
 balmaincove@gcaweb.com.au

**Balmain Cove Children's Centre**

**Welcome to February 2011!**

Hello Parents & Caregivers,  
 What a fast month! The centre had been busily setting up each room ready for the exciting year ahead! You would have noticed the rooms getting more and more inviting with some great artwork on display. This month has seen us say goodbye to the last of the big school kids who have gone off to the big wide world. We wish them all the very best!  
 Some exciting news is the arrival of a few new pieces of equipment that arrived in January. The staff and children have been enjoying exploring the new toys and we look forward to implementing these into our program.  
 We are also excited to welcome Aisling who is an ECT working fulltime in the Seals room. Aisling has been with us since January and has been implementing some fabulous ideas. another addition to our team is Roxanne in the Starfish room. Roxanne too has been with us since January and has already begun to leave her mark on the centre. We welcome both girls on board!

**ENROLMENT POLICY**

**Objective**

For children to settle into the centre with minimal distress.

**Explanation**

From time to time new children enrolled in the centre may become distressed with separation anxiety. Staff members need to be aware of how to handle such a situation with care and sensitivity, taking into account and respecting individual children and families needs and requests.

**Implementation**

The Centre Manager and staff are able to plan ahead to try and minimise the distress of children enrolled in

care by ensuring the following steps are in place:

1. Involve families in enrolment at the centre through the New Family Orientation Procedure.
2. Staff are to be informed of the child's needs prior to the child commencing care.
3. Encourage families to share up to date information with staff to identify special needs. For example, separation of parents, parent working away, death in the family etc.

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**Important Dates to Remember for February**

- Chinese New Year 1-4<sup>th</sup>

# Valentines Day afternoon tea made by your children 14<sup>th</sup>

# Pancake day the children are making yummy pancakes 22<sup>nd</sup> for Shrove tuesday

Upon enrolment, families are to be encouraged to:

1. Visit the centre regularly.
2. Bring the child in for visits prior to commencing at the centre.
3. Talk to staff regarding the child's day.
4. Update child information on a regular basis (at least every six months) by encouraging

families to complete the centre enrolment form to enable staff to access current information.

If a child is very distressed to the point of making themselves ill, staff are to evaluate the situation and choose from the following options:

1. Encourage siblings or friends to visit from other rooms.
2. Offer one-on-one care if possible.
3. Contact the family for ideas on settling if no current information is available.
4. Contact the family regarding possible collection of child.

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### **Starfish Room News**

Welcome to the hot weather!

The little starfishes' have been busily exploring their new room! We have spent a bit of time working at presenting our starfish room in an inviting and aesthetically pleasing way for our babies to explore and develop. You would have noticed a more defined space with designated learning areas now being promoted in the room. The children have shown great interest in the new way the room is set up. We have seen children spending more time in the set areas and children engaging in the equipment with more curiosity which is great!

What we are looking at focusing on this month is more sensory exploration through out the day. this may mean that children might as much as we try to avoid it, come home a little messier than usual. we encourage you not to dress your child in anything that has sentimental value, clothes that your child can be free to explore in would be great on a daily basis. We have also been taking the older children for separate group times during the day, focusing on a more in depth age appropriate learning experience. this we have noticed as been received positively by the older children.

Some of you may have noticed that sometimes in the morning we have been utilising the Seahorses verandah space. This helps when it looks like a hot day to ensure we have some outdoor time, as well as helping to settle some of the children in the morning period by letting them

## Reminders

### Update Information

Please remember to dress your child for hot days. Your child's clothes **MUST** have sleeves in them to avoid sunburn!

Also please let us know if your child is sick or has been sick with a contagious disease, so we can inform other parents in the centre.

### Sunhats

Please remember labelled sun hats even in winter, as we are training the children to be sunsafe at all times.



Please keep toys at home. If they get bought to preschool they can get lost or broken and this can cause lots of tears!



access their older siblings.

Have a great month! Sharee and Roxanne

### **Seahorse Room News**

Hello From the Seahorse room!

We have had a great first month back in 2011. the children have settled into their new room and routines very happily.

Last month we focused on a lot of sensory activities making our own sensory bottles, which you can see in our new project book in the front window. We will be carrying out tasks like this regularly and displaying photos in our project book for you to have a look at. the children really enjoyed making these bottles and even more so loved playing and learning with them afterwards. Keep your eyes peeled for our next experiment and if you have any ideas please let us know. This month we are going to be highlighting recognition of numbers and colours. We will be using these in our everyday play and relating them to puzzles, flash cards, books and other exciting items.

On another note, sadly we are saying goodbye to Hannah...She will be greatly missed and she will miss the children even more!!

Thanks for a great start to the year....

Hannah and Cassandra

### **Dolphin Room News**

What a super fast start to the new year! We are so proud of how quickly the Dolphins have settled into their new routines and settings. We are very impressed by the transition to sleeping without any dummies! Not one of our Dolphins sleeps with a dummy at school and we are very proud! This is a great positive step forward for the dolphins in preparation for being big kids. We are also focusing on toilet training. If you are interested in beginning the first steps in toilet training please speak to Gemma or Amanda and we can help you and your child to get off to a positive start together!

Please keep us up to date with any changes in your child routine, we strive to keep as consistent as possible. This month we are focusing on numbers and letters at group time and very impressed to see that some

## **Policy Review**

### **Month in review: February**

The enrolment policy will be under review in the month of February.

You are very welcome to have input into this policy.

## February 2011

children already know a few things!

Our cooking experiences have been received well by the children and they have been enjoying making and eating their cooking creations. If you would like to take a copy of the recipes we are cooking please see our back wall display.

Have a great month....Gemma and Amanda

### *Seals Room News*

We said our final farewells to the last remaining school leavers in January. They now start their journey on to big school!!

Last month we also Welcomed our new teacher Aisling.

We are beginning our focus on the program and meeting children's interests and needs by planning activities that will enhance and promote their development. Letterland remains a popular and enjoyable addition to our program. Each letter will have a two week cycle allowing more time for children to lean and expand on basic activities. We have commenced dividing the class into 2 small groups for our group toie sessions the allow the children to benefit from a more in depth approach. We have also commenced the Seals behaviour buddy called "Sheepy". It is small soft sheep that is used to reinforce positive behaviour. All children will get turns at taking Sheepy home at the end of the week based on cooperative and positive behaviour. Sheepy comes with a special diary that is for you and your child to document anyway you wish, the adventures you get up to on the weekend with Sheepy when its your turn. this is then shown by your child to the whole class! the children really enjoy this responsibility. so be prepared for a sheepy sleepover!!

Have an enjoyable month..... Kristy and Aisling

**FROM THE KITCHEN:**

This months recipe:

**Spinach and Ham Gnocchi**

**Serves 4: Prep 10 min: Cook 10min:**

**500g gnocchi**

**2 tps olive oil**

**400g shaved ham, chopped.**

**250 g punnet cherry tomatoes, halved**

**250g packet frozen spinach, thawed**

**1 tsp finely grated lemon rind**

**1 tblsp lemon juice**

**530g béchamel sauce**

**½ cup grated parmesan**

**Salt & pepper, to taste.**

1. Add gnocchi to a large saucepan of boiling, salted water. Boil gently for about 2 minutes, or until gnocchi float to the surface. Drain. Cover to keep warm.
2. Heat oil in same saucepan. Add ham and tomatoes. Cook stirring for about 3 min. or until tomatoes are soft.
3. Squeeze excess moisture from spinach. Add spinach, lemon rind, lemon juice béchamel sauce and parmesan to saucepan. Stir until combined. Return gnocchi to saucepan. Cook , stirring until hot. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Serve spinach and ham gnocchi with a green salad.