



Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre

Dudley St - OOSH and Vacation Care - Cessnock Occasional Care – Nulkaba Preschool

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF CARING AND EDUCATING CHILDREN!

May 2018

CAN YOU HELP?

New Board members needed

If you can spare one evening a month to attend a management meeting and assist with decisions that shape the future of our Centre, please contact one of our friendly Admin Team. Current Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month 6pm. If you are a parent, grandparent or carer of a child attending any Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre Service or an interested community member, we need you! If you can attend regular Board meetings to discuss and offer an opinion on current agenda topics to work collaboratively with us!



Special events this month

Pacific smiles dental

Nulkaba Preschool on Wednesday 2nd & Friday 4th May to provide hands on education about dental care



Author visit – Not to be missed!

Jess Black will be at Dudley Street on Monday 4th June 10.30am in OOSH Room



This show is suitable for children aged 3-6 years attending Waratah Preschool and Blue Gum Preschool. There is a cost of \$11.00 and this will be charged to the accounts. If your child attends on a different day, you are welcome to bring them to the show, please book and pay in the office prior to the day. To maintain staff ratios, additional children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the performance. Keep an eye out for Permission Slips....

Jess Black is the author of over 30 books. Jess's visit will look at themes of friendship, family, Australian history and Australian Wildlife in relation to her books 'Moon Dance' and 'The Bold Australian Girl'.



Gumnut Nursery

Dramatic Play!

The children in the Gumnut room are enjoying their new home corner which consists of a washing machine, microwave, stove, sink and a variety of pretend food and utensils. The children have been exploring their dramatic play skills as they mirror and repeat actions that they have observed from home and within care. The small dramatic play experiences have encouraged the Gumnut children to further develop and explore concepts such as sharing, respect and empathy. The children have used these concepts and skills through a range of other activities such as ball games, reading corner and group painting activities.



Cool Weather

The cool weather is fast approach but that won't stop the children in the Gumnut room from going outside as they have plenty to do and learn throughout the day! Please ensure plenty of long sleeves, long pants, jumpers, socks and shoes are provided for your child.

The OOSH bus

The children in the Gumnut room have demonstrated their growing interest in the world around them as they observe the OOSH bus that drives past our window of an afternoon. The children stand at the window and wave to the bus driver as he flashes his lights and waves to the children. The children in the Gumnut room have been highly engaged in the DIY buses.



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and enthusiasm when communicating with the Gumnut educators. We greatly appreciate feedback and we are more than happy to discuss your child's current routine and interests. As educators we strive for a smooth and comforting transition for each and every child as they move between home and care. We welcome and encourage daily communications between parents and educators through drop offs, pickups, phone calls and the provided parent feedback section on the daily program.

Thank you from the Gumnut expert educators
Jasmine, Meigan, Tammy, Sue, Kathy and Dianne

Waratah Preschool

Another month has flown by in the Waratah room. As we're getting closer to winter, the weather is changing. Even though the days can start off cool, by mid-morning it can still get quite warm. With this in mind, we would like to ask if parents/carers could pack the children's bags with a jumper and long pants, but also shorts and short sleeved T-shirts.

Hat storage

We have introduced our new hat storage this month and it has been a success. Children have responded very positively to this change and we have had a lot of great comments from parents/carers. Thanks Deb for all the work you have put into realising this project.



Learning program and feedback

As April has been a month of changes for the Waratah room, we would like to inform that we have started a new way of documenting our learning program. Reflecting on our previous program, we have decided to try it a different way to make it clear and easy to follow for everyone. We have also added a parent feedback sheet to the wall for parents/carers to provide us with feedback and comments about the program. So please feel free to add to the form anytime you want. Adding to that, the children have also made a suggestions box in which parents/carers can leave feedback forms with comments, suggestions and feedback.



Speaking and Listening

The children and teachers are very excited to let you know that 'Speaking in Listening' for Term 2 will commence this week.

To encourage and support all children in the development of their 'Speaking and Listening' skills, the Educators have identified a speaking topic for each week. **Toys and items from home are requested to be left at home**, as they can often disrupt and distract your child and others during 'Speaking and Listening'.

Please find the time to help your child prepare for this experience:

- discussing the topic together
- tell your child your response to the topic. Encourage other family members to do this as well.
- help your child to extend their answer by asking why?

Term One	Week commencing	Speaking and Listening Topic:
Week 1	30 April	My favourite animal is a Because....
Week 2	07 May	Last weekend I
Week 3	14 May	My favourite thing to do with my family is
Week 4	21 May	Something quiet that I like to do at home is
Week 5	28 May	My friends areI like to play with these children because
Week 6	4 June	What do you like most about school? Why? What do you like least about school? Why?
Week 7	11 June	Where do you live? Who lives in your house?
Week 8	18 June	My favourite sport is ...? Why?
Week 9	25 June	What is your favourite food? Why? Can you describe what the food looks like?
Week 10	02 July	When I grow up I want to be a Because

What are the benefits of Speaking and Listening?

- The children are given the opportunity to speak in front of others
- Each child gets to be the centre of attention
- Children share information from home with their friends and the teacher
- Children learn to respect each other's turn to talk
- Children practice the skill of listening to and answering simple questions
- Children practice the skill of asking simple questions

All children are encouraged to take part in the weekly speaking and listening experience, however it is not compulsory



Creative writing

As the year is progressing, our Waratah children are showing more and more interest in writing their own name and other words. To help the children with this learning process the locker tags now have the children's first and last name and at the drawing table the children have been introduced to picture/word cards so they can learn and practice new words.



Is your child going to school in 2019? Local schools are now taking enrolments. Transition to school statements will be completed over the coming months, ready for collection and will be returned to all families at the end of October.

Welcome Lana

At the end of March, the Waratah room said goodbye to Lorraine. After 25 years at CMPCC, we would like to wish Lorraine a wonderful and well-deserved retirement. With Lorraine leaving, we got to welcome Lana to the Waratah team. Lana has a Certificate III in early childhood education and care. We are very excited to have Lana join us and look forward to the rest of the year with our new team.



Thank you from the Waratah Preschool expert educators
Arwen, Deb, Gen, Jeck and Lana



Dew Drops Room

A special Warm Welcome to our New Families that have started during the past month

New soft blocks

This month the Dew Drops received a present the present was two sets of soft blocks. The children helped expert educator Brooke unwrap the blocks out of the bubble wrap and set them up for them to climb on and explore to help further their Gross Motor Skills. A group of children went with expert educators, Brooke and Bess, to the office to say thank you for our blocks!



Commonwealth Games

Dew Drops did their own Commonwealth Games to help show support to one of our families in our room who won a Gold Medal. Asha stood up in front of everyone with her newspaper article that has a picture of her dad in it and show everyone. We then did an opening lap a walk around the yard which then led to running races, Obstacle course, colourful shooting water colours at a dart with spray bottles, Bike races and then making their own Gold Medals.



Group times

We are all really enjoying joining in with Group times: listening to stories, singing, dancing, puzzles and much more. A group of children joined Educator Brooke to help build an Alphabet Puzzle A-Z and a number puzzle 1-10. This helping extends on sharing and taking turns with our peers.

Reminders

Just some friendly reminders for this month. Due to the weather getting cooler please pack your children's bags with a variety of messy play clothes winter and summer clothes. Please remember to please apply your child with sunscreen before arrival or on arrival. Please remember children need to wear wide brimmed hats while playing outside, the centre has some for sale with the centre logo on the front of it.



Request

If you haven't already and would like to bring in a family photo for our Dew Drop family tree, an ultrasound picture for our ultrasound wall and a baby photo for our little house. Feel free to bring one in or send to our e-mail address admin@cessnockchildrenscentre.com.au

Thank you from the Dew Drops expert educators
Tracey, Ash, Brooke, Jan, Sarah, Katenee, Amelia, Lee & Bess

Blue Gum Preschool

As the rooms have settled since the start of term, educators and children have discovered which areas of the room needed improvement. After some changes made progressively each week over the last month we have found a space that suit the room really well. To top it off we have just added some new resources to these spaces! The easels in the art area, a stove and buffet to home corner (scaled to size) and storage cupboards for educators. The children have enjoyed helping make the changes to the room and very much enjoyed helping educators build the new furniture!



Welcome!

We would like to welcome 2 new children joining our room, Scarlett and Meila. We look forward to spending some time with you both and watching you learn and grow.

Physical movement

During rest time, educators have taken the opportunity to introduce the children to the smart board in the OOSH building. We have been using these opportunities to explore some different dances and yoga. The children have enjoyed listening to different sorts of music and being challenged to complete the dance moves that go with it. They have also enjoyed free dance to familiar music and recreating each other's dance moves.



We have loved introducing the children to Yoga. The Yoga we practice is usually combined with a familiar song or story which encourages the children to engage in the activity. Some of the benefits achieved through yoga include an open mind and imagination, Healthy bodies, build strength and coordination, enhances flexibility and Improves concentration. We will continue to include dance and yoga in our daily programme.

Being, Becoming and Belonging Wall

Please take the time to view our new Being Becoming Belonging Wall. Each of the children chose a sea creature that they wanted to add to the wall and painted at their pleasure. Educators have taken photos of the children and placed on their sea creatures and stuck them to the wall. This allows children to feel a sense of belonging within the centre environment.

Following on from our sea creature wall, Educator Jann introduced the children to some fresh crab and smoked salmon for afternoon tea. Most of the children enjoyed the new flavours they had been introduced too, others said they had already eaten them before and some had never tried it and didn't like it very much.





Project plans

We have recently started an 'Emotions' wall in the Bluegum Preschool. Children have been engaging in conversations to gain an understanding and to show knowledge of different types of feeling and emotions. We have taken photos throughout the day of the children showing us their understanding of an emotion and placed them on the wall. The children enjoy identifying their photos and sharing their knowledge and understanding with their peers. The 'emotions wall' has been put in place to promote self-regulation and the ability to focus, control and manage emotions and behaviour.

Another Project the children have just started is recycling. Keep an eye out for exciting updates!

Please remember to have a look over the weekly programme and project folder to keep up to date with projects in place or completed.

House Keeping

With the cooler weather approaching, please remember to label your child's extra clothing (such as jumpers and jackets) and also pack extra spares into your child's bag.

Please ensure you check lost property (located at front door) for anything your child may have left behind. During the winter month, your child still needs to be wearing a sun safe hat. Please make sure your child's is still at the centre and still fits. If not, please provide them with a new one.

The filing cabinet located next to the front door, is where your child's belongings are stored if left behind and where their artwork is placed for you to collect. Please check this on arrival or pick up to collect your children's things.

Thankyou from the Blue Gum expert educators
Jann, Danielle, Laurel, Nestor, Jane, Apple, Kieran, Kirstin



Nulkaba Preschool

School Visit – Hat Parade

As another month flies by, we have been very busy at Nulkaba Preschool.

We were very lucky to be invited to Nulkaba Public School for their Easter Hat Parade.

During the morning we got busy making our hats to wear at the parade. Thank you to Nulkaba Public School for inviting us and we look forward to being able to visit the school again.



There has been a lot of interest in literacy activities. What started with the children using the various blocks to complete their names has now extended with the children wanting to do the names of people in their families, Educators names and words.



Anzac Day

During the week before Anzac Day, Educators discussed with the children how we remember and honour on Anzac Day. We discussed the local march in Cessnock and practiced our marching around the room. We read books, had various craft activities that related to Anzac Day and watched a march on the iPad. After Anzac Day, some children came in and shared their experiences.



Map Reading

We have been looking at various land and world maps. We have looked at the local Cessnock and Nulkaba area maps and with help from the Educators we have explored and found where we live. We have also looked at the map of Australia then extending it to the map of the world which has led to the exploration and discussion of “where are you from?”. The map interest has also led to the children including maps in their play. A recent trip on the boat ended at the zoo, the children then used the maps that they created to find the animals in the zoo.



Is your child going to school in 2019? Local schools are now taking enrolments. Transition to school statements will be completed over the coming months, ready for collection and will be returned to all families at the end of October.

We have introduced a book near the sign in area. During the morning before you arrive at preschool, if you could have a conversation with your child about what they would like to do at Preschool today and write it down with their name then our Educators will use this information to enhance our daily program by adding spontaneous activities and relevant interests the children may have.

As the cooler weather approaches please ensure your child has appropriate changes of clothes in their bag.

Lauren, Casey and Jane



Cessnock Occasional Care

Welcome Peta

We would firstly like to introduce our new full-time educator Peta to the Occasional Care team! Peta is Diploma trained and has over 12 years' experience in the industry. The expert educators and children are so happy you have joined us Peta!



Egg Hunt

During the week of Easter we had an egg hunt in the top yard! The children waited patiently for an educator to hide the eggs and when it was time, they ran around together using their hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, fine and gross motor skills to collect the eggs. Some of the coloured eggs were hiding in trees, bushes and even under the slide.



Dental Visit

Margot from Pacific Smiles came to visit us and educate the children on dental hygiene. Everyone sat together and listened as Margot showed the children cartoon images of how to correctly brush their teeth and to use dental floss to prevent plaque and decay. It was then the children's turn to test out these new skills as, Margot had set out some amazing puppets with beautiful white, shiny teeth for them to clean.



Pirate Treasure

A treasure chest was introduced to the outdoor space to encourage the children's interest in pirates. Educator Brydee, or her new name 'Glitter bomb' extended this interest by making some gold sparkly coins with the children to add to the treasure chest. The children have enjoyed digging for treasure in the sandpit using their own gold coins.



The Tent

There is a beautiful felt Tee pee, horses and Indian family set for dramatic play inside. This engaging set has led to conversations about homes around the world as the children thought that tee pees were just tent for camping. Educators explained that if there is a change in the weather or the family is ready to move on they pack up their tee pee and carry it to another location. Selena showed the children images of different homes in a range of countries. The children communicated that these homes looked different to theirs, but they could also see similarities with their own such as the windows, bricks and a roof. To follow on from this project educators set up a tent outside to resemble a house. The children resourced their own learning by changing the space to a quiet reading area. Well done friends for creating such a comfortable and cosy space to read together.



Is your child going to school in 2019? Local schools are now taking enrolments. Transition to school statements will be completed over the coming months, ready for collection and will be returned to all families at the end of October.

Thank you from the expert educators at Occasional Care
Selena, Peta, Rhe, Ang, Joab, Brydee and Janelle



OOSH and Vacation Care

Vacation Care Swinging in the tree tops

What a great way for the children to finish Vacation Care with a trip to Treetops at Minmi! The weather held and we all had a fabulous day in the tree canopy. The playground was also great in particular the Maze.

Many children were challenged by this activity but all considered the risk involved and their personal capabilities. Managing their fears and choosing the level that suited their abilities.



OOSH Silent Disco

DISCO, DANCE, PIZZA AND EVEN GARLIC BREAD!

Vacation Care has been all about Food and Dance!

Our very clever children conducted a risk assessment prior to engaging in preparation of lunch, Pizza and Garlic Bread. The children were being responsible for their own health and safety supported by the expert Vacation Care educators.

The children all ate the Pizza and Garlic bread with gusto readying themselves for the Silent Disco. Dance then followed...

