



Grenfell Preschool  
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter July 2021

### Star Room

Over the last few weeks, we have been focusing on handwashing. Looking at appropriate times to wash our hands and how long we should be washing them for. Children have enjoyed singing 'happy birthday' several times to demonstrate the length of time we should be washing them to ensure all the germs are gone.

Children in the star room have been showing a big interest in box construction. Using their creativity and imagination to come up with some amazing creations. Thankyou to all the parents who have brought in boxes and things for us to use. Please keep them coming, food boxes, paper towel holders and egg cartons would all be very much appreciated.

Pig the bear is making his way around to everybody's home. We will be ensuring that he is washed and ready to come to your house on his arrival back to the centre. The children have enjoyed sharing their stories about life at their house. Please continue to take good care of him, as he loves coming to visit.

FUNfriends has been very beneficial for our children in learning about our feelings and appropriate responses, along with what things we can do and say to make other people feel good. This program has been running every Wednesday and next week will be its last. We hope to continue some of these strategies within our program and day to day routines.

### Garden Room

The Garden Room children watched a Play School episode about Reconciliation "Walking Together" – fostering children's early understandings about our shared histories and the role we all play in building relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and futures.

After watching this we focused on walking on Country Walking Together like the episode. With our peers we created our own footprint mural contributing to this very important conversation for your youngest citizens.

### Rainbow Room

The Rainbow room have been enjoying our group times; reading 'the very hungry caterpillar' and 'we're going on a bear hunt'. We have utilised the use of the iPad and the children now watch the stories come to life through animated stories – which we all love!

The older children know almost every word off by heart and have created their own actions.

We have added a 'self-help' table which is going great to encourage children to take responsibility of their own health and wellbeing. Items on the table include their drink bottles, tissues and wet wipes. Our favourite activities this month would definitely be craft and exploring the cooking materials in the sandpit.

Our fundamental movement chart is filling up with ticks this term with many of our children achieving different skills. We are still doing our reward chart, so keep bringing those yummy healthy lunches - we have added these straight to your child's portfolio instead of emailing them out, we are still going through and waiting for all our children to have a reward for both fruit and vegetables, moving onto a new reward. We have noticed some yummy new lunchbox snacks lately as well which is great.

## Sunshine Room

All the new Sunshine Room children that have been transitioning from the Rainbow Room have started to settle in well and have been able to now adapt to our routine and play with ease. The Sunshine Room friends are such a great small group and all help, look out for each other and enjoy each other's company. Building these relationships with peers is priceless.

The past month has been pretty chilly so an extra layer sent into school with your child will make outside play more pleasant.

## Caragabal

Over the last few weeks, the children have been enjoying bushwalking. They continue to excavate a couple of giant holes, which are their homes. They have a specific place for a fire, and this is kept going with sticks, leaves and dirt (which makes the fire "go better"). This year the children have started playing in a hollow between a couple of piles of overgrown dirt and rocks. This is their "special hideout", which has gates (long branches) and a passcode. They have also been collecting leaves, flowers and berries to make cakes and muffins.

Some of the children have been singing quite a bit recently, so on the last Tuesday of term they held their own concert. They made microphones, dressed up, set the chairs up "all around" and then sang and danced for over an hour!

## Quandialla

We welcomed Wyatt and his family to preschool last month. We hope you enjoy your time with us. This month we have been discussing road safety and how important it is to wear our seatbelts while in the car. We also played a bingo game about road safety. This proved challenging at times with everyone wanting to be the winner. We will be playing more group games to further the skill of coping with winners and losers.

Our loose parts shelf is being well used during play with some of the things being used for cooking in home corner and making a campfire. We will have to find some different things to add. If you think you have some things at home, please email us or bring them in. They can include pieces of wood, material or natural materials.

NAIDOC week is 4<sup>th</sup> July till 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 we will be joining with Quandialla school for some activities on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Preschool will resume Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Our email address [quandialla@grenfellpreschool.com.au](mailto:quandialla@grenfellpreschool.com.au). We love seeing photos of what the children have been up to at home.

## Woosh

The WOOSH children have been amazing role models for our Star room children over the past few weeks as they combine with the Star room children in the afternoons. This hasn't limited our enjoyment of engaging with more "grown up" experiences as we had been cooking or preparing food to share.

Our school children have also been teaching our younger children and admittedly our educators a few fun uses for technology within the room such as mathematical games and dancing videos.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again when the school term returns.

## Vacation Care

It has been great having the use of St Joseph's again for the holidays. The children have enjoyed eating pancakes on Monday and ice cream and jelly on Wednesday.

We have attempted to make papier Mache bowls which the children will decorate throughout the holidays.

The scooters have been great fun, as has the climbing equipment and flying fox.

## Service Report

As per NSW Government advice, the front doors to the Service will remain locked until at least Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Masks will be worn by educators when answering the door and interacting with families at drop-off and pick-up, and we ask that families wear masks when interacting with educators. Early Childhood educators are exempt from wearing masks while providing education and Care within a Service setting. We understand that a change of routine can be upsetting for children and families, and invite you to discuss any concerns or updates regarding your children with us. This can be done by phoning the Service, sending an email or by requesting a chat with an educator. Any child showing any cold or flu symptoms will be unable to attend the Service until they are symptom free. Thank you for working with us to ensure the safety of all children, educators and families. We really do appreciate your cooperation and understanding in these uncertain times.

We have received feedback from some families that they would like to become more involved in the Service but are unsure how. We would love to have families involved (when our doors are back open and the current climate allows!). This can be done in many ways. A few ideas are:

- Bring your pet to the Service for a visit
- Come and share a skill or talent with us. Can you sing? Paint? Play an instrument? Speak another language?
- Come and tell us all about your job
- Come and share morning tea or lunch with your child's room.
- Have you been on a holiday recently or done something exciting? We'd love to see some photos and hear all about it
- Come and share with us your cultural background
- Do you have a favourite recipe? Perhaps a cooking lesson!

Maybe you have your own ideas for ways to become involved in the Service. Speak to an educator – we'd love to hear from you.

There are many ways in which we communicate with families, including emails, Facebook posts, daily Pic Collage with photos of your child's day and conversations with educators. Please keep an eye out for emails received, especially in these changing times. We aim to let families know any updates regarding the Services operations as soon as we can.

NAIDOC Week 2021 will be held from Sunday 4 July to Sunday 11 July. The theme for this year is 'Heal Country.' This theme calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction. All rooms within the Service will be recognising and acknowledging NAIDOC week with fun, planned experiences with the children. As always, the children's interests will be the foundation of the program and opportunities for spontaneous experiences will be provided, based on the children's interests and ideas.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June, educators from the Service participated in a team building event held at The Collective. The event was called 'Conversations & Creations', and educators spent the evening painting, chatting and building relationships as a team.

I also would like to say how proud I am of all educators and staff members for working together to provide such a high quality Service. Educators within all rooms and venues of the Service have such beautiful, meaningful relationships with the children that shine through as they interact throughout the day.

**Holly Ryan**  
**Assistant Director**

## **Board Report**

The Board of Directors has undergone a recent change following the resignation of Rachel Conron. Rachel has played a significant role on the Board since September 2018, investing a huge amount of time, energy and expertise to the service. It is difficult to find words to acknowledge her contribution, as it has been so significant and often at a cost to her family and business. So we offer our heartfelt thanks and well wishes for the next exciting development Rachel invests her energy in. The role has been filled, in accordance with the Rules of the Association (2020), by Bonnie Fitzpatrick. Bonnie brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise from her career in human resources. We appreciate Bonnie's willingness to step into this role and encourage anyone who hasn't yet met Bonnie to make contact and introduce yourself. Any questions about this matter need to be directed to Amanda Protheroe or Belinda Mawhinney.

The Annual General Meeting for GPLDCC will be convened Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021. All 3 positions on the Board of Directors will be declared vacant and members of the association will vote to elect the new Board of Directors. In preparation for this event, Community Connections Services Australia (CCSA) have been engaged to deliver a training session on governance and compliance in August. This session can be made available to any stakeholder interested to develop their understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the board. If you are interested in attending, please contact Belinda ([belinda@bmconsultancy.com.au](mailto:belinda@bmconsultancy.com.au)) by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July to ensure your attendance at this session. Volunteering on the Board of Directors is a valuable way in which you can support the operational leadership team to deliver a high-quality early childhood education and care service. This a great opportunity for a skilled professional who is committed to supporting our only early childhood education service. If you are interested in being nominated for election, please contact the Board of Directors.

Finally, the Board of Directors welcomes feedback about the service from any stakeholders. The recent letter written to the Board outlining a range of issues and seeking a response by "Concerned Parents" is one way to highlight issues. Any communication with the service, including to the Board of Directors, requires respect and professionalism. Calling people names and making accusations is an unreasonable form of communication nor is it conducive to resolve the concerns being raised. We are unable to resolve an anonymous complaint as the process requires an opportunity to talk in detail about the issues and ultimately reach a resolution. The service operates in accordance with a grievance policy, attached to guide any further action. The Board has always prioritised being available to any stakeholder to discuss concerns and will continue to so whilst in the role.

Belinda Mawhinney, Amanda Protheroe and Bonnie Fitzpatrick.  
Board of Directors Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre

**Director, Board of Directors  
Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre**