



Grenfell Preschool
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter May 2021

Star Room

For the last month we have been focusing on nutrition and Munch and Move Key messages. We looked closely at

1. Eating more fruit and vegetables – each week we have different fruit or vegetable. The children are encouraged to try a piece, especially if they do not know what it tastes like.
2. Choose water as a drink – we used ice, straws and other fruity to have with our water, such as lemons, limes, oranges, and cucumber.
3. Choose healthier snacks – we are looking closely at the sugar content in foods and how much we should have each day. The results of our investigation into this will be displayed on the wall outside of the Star Room for families to see. Stay tuned.

Garden Room

The Garden Room children have been responding so well to our kindness curriculum! This fortnight we are working on Gratitude. If you have something you are grateful for, please let us know and we will add it to our Gratitude Tree.

We are still waiting on some responses from the letter we have sent out. We look forward to hearing from you all.

Please keep an eye out for pre school resources/dress-ups and toys at home as some have gone for sleep overs.

Sunshine Room

We have had a busy month. We have been exploring transport and the children have really enjoyed the big blue ute in the room. Sometimes the ute converts into a bus, train and an airplane.

Playdough has been a massive interest also. The children have enjoyed the cars and trucks getting stuck in the mud. They also have been using it to make rocks and rubbish for the dump trucks to make and move.

As an extension from one of our little mates being interested in writing their name and showing where their name in throughout the room we have introduced name cards as an extension of this. The children have been responding to this extremely well and have enjoyed guessing which one is their names, or names of their mates. This is a fun activity which the children can engage with if they feel confident enough to do so and as of yet all of us are keen to have a go.

Thankyou for the mums and grandmas' selfies, please drop in to see our awesome display.

We still have time for you to send in your car seat photo as this will be discussed in coming weeks as we explore transport more.

The educators extend an invitation for all the families to make an appointment or drop in for a casual chat to discuss how your child is going so far this year. This is only if you would like to. Pop us an email or give us a call and we can organise for you.

Have a safe month.

Rainbow Room

The Rainbow room have been enjoying all the leaves in our yard, with the children throwing them around and watching them fall. As the weather is getting cooler, please remember to pack warm clothes for your child/ children to rug up in 😊

We encourage more families to send in their families photos to be added to our belonging tree – thank you!

We are sadly saying goodbye to one of our families, we wish them all the best on their new venture down the coast – enjoy the beach! We will miss seeing you each week.

We would also like to wish our mothers and grandmothers a very happy Mother's Day this Sunday, we hope you all get spoilt.

Caragabal

Over the last three weeks the preschool children have been involved in the Story Poles project at the school. They enjoyed having their hands painted blue, red, yellow or black and putting their handprints on the poles, we also had our faces painted in ochre (dots for girls and lines for boys) and listened to the school children sing Heads and Shoulders in Wiradjuri while they played the tapping sticks. The children had a great time as they joined in some Aboriginal dancing, dancing as an emu, kangaroo and goanna, then playing Rob the Nest with the school children (with real eggs!!!!) Two of the school children helped them make their Johnny Cakes, which Mr Gorman cooked for us. They ate them with honey and butter.

The children broadened their understanding of the world in which they live while they participated in these activities. They are developing a knowledge of culture, heritage, background and tradition.

Quandialla

Wow here we are in May already, the year is getting away from us. The children enjoyed joining with the big school children to make our Bee Hotels. Did you hang yours up in the yard? If so, please take a photo to send into us. In following on with this we have set up a bee hotel loose parts play area in the room. We also made a bee hotel in a tin made into a bee in our yard. We have not noticed any bugs yet.

This month on the 19th May is Simultaneous Story Time. The book is Give Me Some Space and is going to be read by an Astronaut from space, which hopefully we will be able to watch on the smart board. The 17th to 21st May is Families week. On the Wednesday 19th you are invited for afternoon tea from 2pm the Director and Board of Directors will be attending as well. A note will go out shortly.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mum's and Grandmothers this Sunday this is our emailaddressquandialla@grenfellpreschool.com.au if you have any questions or if you have been on holidays or have something to share. We love seeing photos of what the children have been up to at home.

Woosh

The WOOSH children were so grateful and excited to be able to cook and eat Johnny Cakes. What a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us. So many of our experiences have us researching our own questions. Why are they called Johnny Cakes? Was Johnny the first person to eat one? Some of the children even asked to cook Johnny Cakes at home with their families. They were so delicious and cooking Johnny Cakes with the WOOSH Children has been my favourite cooking experience so far.

I was so proud of the WOOSH children and their interest in ANZAC Day and ways to commemorate. We spent our afternoons in the lead up to ANZAC Day watching YouTube videos, researching the children's questions and creating our own drawings of what we thought life as a soldier was like. The children were so respectful in their conversations with me and their peers about ANZAC Day.

Please remember to pack enough food to last your child the afternoon at WOOSH and to pack a hat for outdoor play. I am more than happy to keep your child's hat at the service.



Centre Feedback

Thank you so much for the feedback we received from last month's question. This month we are focusing on ensuring our families are kept up to date with relevant and important information surrounding parenting and support services that our centre and the community can offer.

Please pop your pebble in the yes or no basket, we look forward to getting your feedback.



Directors Report

In December 2020, when I first met some families at the Annual General Meeting, we discussed parent collaboration and communication. From this, it was evident that this was a National Quality Area that we could improve on and strive for better outcomes. Since then, we have implemented the Parent Communication Board located out the front of the Centre, emails, newsletters, parents interviews, lunch box notes, our Facebook Page, morning and afternoon chats and more recently the Pebble Poll. It is our goal to ensure all families feel heard and valued so please if you ever feel you are not, contact us, speak with an educator, and communicate with us.

'Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children's learning.'
(Early Years Learning Framework, p.9)

We live by our Philosophy when we say *"Parents and families are the most important people in children's lives. They know their child better than anyone else and have the biggest influence upon their learning. We will establish a partnership of mutual respect, trust and empathy with parents and families to promote the child's wellbeing. This partnership with families will be built on open, honest, communication. Parents and families are always welcome at the Service and their involvement is greatly encouraged"*.

There are a number of ways you can get involved in the Service, you may wish to join the Board of Directors and/ or attend monthly meetings, you may wish to share your culture, way of life, favourite story book, cuisine or skills with the children, or you may wish to participate in a way or idea that you have. We encourage you to be part of the Service and welcome your attendance.

Have you seen the Story Poles? Please feel free to come through to the outdoor area to see the new addition to the play space. The Story Poles are now complete and take pride of place in the area. We are proud of the partnership with Aunty Julie and HomeStart Cowra, we have valued their collaboration and look forward to future projects.

A thorough audit of our Policies and Procedures has taken place with the implementation of improved practices ensuring we meet compliance and regulatory requirements. All new policies are now in use and we welcome parents to be part of the ongoing review process. Policies that are being reviewed will be communicated through the monthly newsletter. If you have a particular interest in a policy, please contact us to discuss and make suggestions for improved practices. You might be more interested in the First Aid policies as you have a medical background for example? In any case you are always invited to be part of the process. Our Governance is an important part of providing a high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care Service and our goal to be exceeding the National Quality Standards Area 7, Governance and Leadership.

And finally, I have great news to share with you all. It is with great excitement that we announce Holly Ryan as the Assistant Director of the Service. Holly brings much knowledge across all facets of the Services we offer and with her emotional intelligence and ability to relate to all children, families and educators, we are thrilled she is joining the leadership team.

Board Report

Payment of fees

In order to decrease the stress around fee payments for families and office staff, we would like to communicate to families that our preferred payment method of accounts is via a weekly electronic payment.

We find the simplest and most convenient method for all involved is a weekly periodic payment set up in your online banking to pay the normal weekly out of pocket costs.

The advantage is that there is a reduced fee liability for families which would need to be covered at some point in the future and reduces the time the office spends on following up overdue accounts.

Like most organisations, we have a Fee Policy which includes a debt recovery process for overdue and unpaid accounts, and really prefer not to have to enact it.

We would appreciate families putting arrangements in place to have a regular payment occurring, whether it be weekly or fortnightly, whichever best suits you.

As always, please speak to Lorraine if you have any queries about the best payment options for your account.



National Families Week
15 - 21 May



We appreciate
Your Family

During National Families Week we want to make your days a little easier. For the entire week we will be offering...



Hot Coffee/Tea/Chocolate on Morning Drop Off
Put your order in at the Drink Station, drop your children off and come back and collect your order.
Bring along your own refillable cup if you have one.
Drink Station will close at 9.30am

Morning and Afternoon Teas for the children
We will supply a variety of nutritious and yummy snacks for morning and afternoon teas for the children, all you have to do is pack lunch for them each day.



Plus Children can wear their Pyjamas
ALL WEEK
Have an easy week of bring your children in their PJS and we can dress them here or wear them all day. We will be having movie and popcorn on a few of the days.



Life is better in pyjamas

National Families Week
MONDAY 17TH – FRIDAY 21ST MAY