



Grenfell Preschool
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter April 2021

Star Room

Hello Star Room Families.

Just a little reminder to those who have not yet emailed or brought in a family photo. We would really appreciate if you could please bring one in for our belonging tree.

Starting this Easter long weekend, we will be introducing our travelling teddy. The children gave him the name 'pig the bear'. He will get the chance to visit everybody's house. We are encouraging families to send in a picture/story (this can be done via email) about what 'pig the bear' got up to at their house.

Our educators have been promoting positive social interactions as well as positive, respectful behaviours in the room and playground. We encourage our families to participate in these discussions at home.

Garden Room

The Garden Room children have been having great adventures with Bob Bilby, with wonderful feedback coming in. Our registration with the Kindness Curriculum has been filling the Garden Room with joy, and we would like to thank Chris Cartman for giving the Garden Room outdoor play space a beautiful makeover.

We have been cooking and last week made Rainy Day Anzac Slice in the slow cooker. It was a great success. The recipe is below if you would like to try it at home.

Rainy Day Anzac Slice

1 cup rolled oats
1 cup plain flour
2/3 cup brown sugar
2/3 cup desiccated coconut
125 butter chopped
2 tbs golden syrup
2 tbs water
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

Mix all ingredients together and place in a lined slow cooker. Cook for 2 hours on high with a tea towel under the lid. Enjoy!

Sunshine Room

How quick has this past month gone? We have enjoyed discovering many new opportunities in the room. We have enjoyed Pet Week and we thank all the families who were able to bring in photos of their pets and for the few that were able to come in for a visit. A big highlight was Harriet the Horse brought in by Willa and family and Alfalfa Turtle which Miss Janine brought along too. Grace the dog was an active participant in the room too and even joined in with some hand (paw) printing.

We have been working on fruit, yogurt and cheese items for morning tea and encouraging the children to leave chips, cakes, and biscuits for afternoon tea. It is a concept which is starting to work well, and the children are often recalling this and asking what meal it is. Having a vast selection of food to eat is often overwhelming for the children, so we have been working on the scheduled mealtime type (morning tea, afternoon tea, lunch etc.).

The children have also started exploring the farm animals too and this has been great as we have dived into more sensory activities. Shaving cream and playdough are two big favorites at the moment.

Thinking of extra days? Our days are filling up quickly and we have vacancies on Tuesdays and Fridays at this stage. If you would like an extra day, please see Lorraine in the office so you can secure your spot.

Rainbow Room

The older Rainbow Room children have been working on our fundamental movement's skills throughout this term; so far, we have practiced our jumping, throwing and are about to start kicking. We are all so awesome at this! We will continue to explore these skills for the rest of the year.

Next term we are going to start our Munch & Move rewards again – We will be using emails to send this information to you –we will be focusing on one reward per month and will send out examples of how you can get these rewards at the beginning of each month. 😊

Thank you to everyone who has donated some of the discovery plants – so far, we have had no luck in growing anything, but we will keep trying! The children have enjoyed being able to explore growing these with us, we have been out in our garden picking our mint that we have grown as well, everyone was really excited, some tasted, some smelt, and others went and shown other educators with a big smile on their face. So far, we have used the mint in cooking. We are excited to start growing different vegetables and using it with our cooking experiences.

As some of you aware we have started our family/ belonging tree, its looking great so far with our different families being added to the tree, please ensure you email or bring a photo in to be added as well.

Please also remember to label **ALL** children's belongings to avoid losing them – thank you.

Caragabal

On Tuesday 9th March, the children, and educators at WMPS – Caragabal Venue participated in Crazy Hair Day. We talked to the children about why we were colouring our hair and why they had brought in a gold coin donation. We set up the hairdressers outside and most of the children wanted their hair coloured. They waited patiently for their turn and then it was Belinda and Kimi's turn! By learning that we were raising money to help find a cure for leukemia they broadened their understanding of the world in which they live. We raised \$40 for the Leukemia Foundation! We also turned our lights out for Earth Hour last Friday and talked about ways to look after the world. Some ideas were: don't throw rubbish in the sea, the animals might choke; water the trees so they don't die, feed the animals, and don't waste paper. The children have a good awareness of the impact of human activity on environments and the interdependence of living things.

Quandialla

Our worm farm is going great with lots of worms. We are hoping next term to use some of the castings in our gardens with some plants we are going to grow.

We had our excursion to the park for Clean Up Australia Day. Quandialla is a clean town as we didn't find any rubbish.

Mel Cooper came to the school and did a talk on native bees. She is working with the school next term to make Bee Hotels and the Preschool is joining in.

Over the holidays if you can collect some materials that would be good. Things that might be good to collect include: sticks, paper straws, toilet paper rolls, Hollow stemmed or 'pithy plants (plants with a spongy substrate on the inside). Weeds like thistles make excellent fillers.

Woosh

Throughout the term we have been loving soaking up the sunshine in the front yards, having afternoon tea outside before moving inside or to the big yard for our afternoon activities, though sometimes we do get too caught up in the sun and spend our afternoon out the front.

We have been collaborating with the children to create a program based on the children's needs, interests, and experiences. We have been doing lots of baking, gardening, jewellery making, dancing, tree climbing and craft. We have enjoyed making milkshakes, muffins, quiche, pancakes, and scones and have been busy creating and maintaining our edible garden along the front fence. We are growing basil, parsley, leek, rosemary, oregano, sorrel, lemon balm and lettuce. The WOOSH children have quite the green thumb.

We are now mid-way through the school holidays and are so grateful to Miss Clancy and St. Joseph's Primary School for allowing us to use their school grounds and hall for our Vacation Care days. Our holiday program is jam packed full of fun activities and experiences. So far this week we have spent our days cooking, gardening, playing sports, riding bikes and scooters, creating obstacle courses, feeding the chickens, and enjoying the strawberries and snow peas from the garden.

The WOOSH children are using up so much energy we are often hungry late afternoon and have run out of food, please ensure you are packing enough food for your child to have afternoon tea at the service.

Our next skill for the WOOSH children to tick off our bucket list is learning to sew... wish us luck and stay tuned! Aiden has already mastered this skill as he made his sister Bronte a beautiful scrunchie.

The children really are enjoying their time at the service and I feel so lucky to spend my afternoons with such beautiful, fun children.



Reminders

- ✚ Please be aware that accounts are issued every Monday, due per our 30-day terms. Failure to pay your account will result in your child's booking being cancelled and/or commencement of legal proceedings to recover the debt. If you have any questions regarding your account or payment options, please contact Lorraine as soon as possible to avoid further action being taken.

Directors Report

Hi everyone, can you believe it is April already? We have had a very busy month, and on top of extreme weather events and the pandemic we continue to be a resilient team, meeting the needs of children and families in the Weddin community.

As you may be aware Early Childhood Education and Care Services and Out of School Hours Services are regulated under the National Quality Framework. The NQF is currently under review with some very exciting changes to mandated requirements, ensuring quality improvement, in particular children's safety. Educators have had the opportunity to have their say and parents/ guardians are also encouraged to do so. Your voice means a lot and will help inform government decision making on the regulation of quality education and care in Australia. If you haven't yet, please visit <https://www.nqfreview.com.au/> and have your say.

This past month saw almost every educator across all Services, complete their First Aid qualification and or CPR. We value professional development within the Service and support educators to remain current with their qualifications and best practice in the sector. Other professional development opportunities have included Child Protection, Munch & Move, Kids and Traffic, and Speak Easy.

We would like to acknowledge Aunty Julie and Kirstin Stevenson (HomeStart) for their collaboration with the Centre to help us create meaningful connection to the land and the Wiradjuri culture through the *Story Poles Project*. We are thrilled with this partnership and value Aunty Julie's storytelling, local language, art, cooking and more. Aunty Julie has shared much with us and we are very grateful. We cannot wait for the finished project to take pride of place in our outdoor learning environment, symbolising our commitment to inclusion of all, respect for all, and connection to culture.

Board Report

The Board would like to congratulate the staff and leadership team at the Service for the significant work undertaken in the past few months to ensure that our systems and policies are meeting and exceeding sector best practice.

It is exciting to see the passion, enthusiasm, and commitment the team has toward creating a positive experience for children and families, and we look forward to seeing the exciting developments unfold.

There will be vacancies on the Board later this year, and we encourage interested persons to get in touch with Rachel, Belinda, or Amanda to find out more about the opportunity to be a Board Member in a highly valued community asset.