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Welcome to our *December* newsletter!

TOP NEWS!

Account payments – Remember accounts and payments are to be finalised before the end of our operational year. Last day is Thursday 20 December before the centre closes for 3 weeks. This is NEXT THURSDAY!

Gender Equity Workshop - Organised by Communities for Children Bendigo, Educators from both long day care and family day care (and myself) attended this very interesting night. Resources have been developed to assist centres and others working with young children to raise awareness and reflect on practices that may limit children's ideas of who they are and who they might become. After sharing my experience of a gender equity presentation at a conference earlier this year, Felicity (long day care) took on the task of systematically reading through the centre books to examine ALL OF the messages contained within the stories. We will continue to critically examine books before they are purchased or included in our program whether intentionally or incidentally.

A huge thank you to you all for your ongoing commitment to a healthy and happy atmosphere in our long day care centre and our family day care scheme. The organisation is made up of many people with Committee, leadership team and Educators and the families who make up the largest numbers of all. It is a pleasure to have reaffirmed through all 300 or so of you of the general health and wellbeing of the communities in which Carinya has a part. We remember too our role in small communities in which a family day care Educator makes a big contribution. Wishing you a restful, peaceful, wonderful festive season and all the best for a great start to 2019.

Rose, Bec, Lisa, Sarah and Chris from the leadership team at Carinya

FAMILY DAY CARE Scheme

We venture into 2019 with a family day care scheme that has doubled in size in 2018 and to which we have welcomed new educators and families across the region and a little beyond. It has been an enormous undertaking in a year that saw the introduction of the new CCMS and all that it has entailed. We look forward to 2019 with great relish!

Long Day Care and Committee of Management news to follow

Important Dates

**Centre closes for 2018
on
20 December @6.00pm**

**Tuesday 15 January
Centre
re-opens for 2019**

**Family Day Care will be
provided on the dates
advised by your child's
family day care
Educator.**



Please Remember

LDC - To advise of absences, use
the KidsXap app

LDC IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**KidsXap – Please use the app to check
bookings, confirm bookings, update
your address, bank details etc etc**

**Make sure you have an active MyGov
account. Only you can confirm
enrolments and changes and view
subsidies via this app.**

2019 Enrolments – Enrolment packs emailed today! Make sure there is an answer in every box and you will then have FULLY completed your child's enrolment form. Enrolment forms must be completed and returned ASAP and **before your child can start care in 2019**. Please attach your child's Immunisation Status Certificate – the new requirement is for this to be supplied every 6 months. If you require a new **Medical Action Plan** for your child, please email carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au and forms will be sent to you. If you already have an **Action Plan** in place, as these must be updated every 12 months a new action plan will be required if it has not been updated in this previous 12 months. The updated **Risk Minimisation Plan for the Blanket Excursion Consent** form will also be emailed. Please read these documents and sign as required.

In the Kitchen – Welcome Emily our new Centre Cook while Becc Wade is on maternity leave. We also congratulate Becc and Thom on the safe arrival of Gordy. To those who have cooked in the interim, a big thank you! Sue and Cedella – centre educators, our Ed Leader Sarah Hart, Emily who juggled two shifts a week while managing her other job and to Alex Perry late of *The Good Table* who came and covered two shifts. Thank you for your delicious contributions.



Take home meals are available and ready to go before we shut down and defrost! \$6 for all meals.



KIDSXAP - The mobile phone is no longer used for absences for children in long day care. All absences are to be reported through KidsXap. For extra days, you can advise us through the Parent Communication tab of KidsXap. Bec will be emailing a procedure document to all families in the use of KidsXap.

STAFF CHANGES - Becc has taken 12 months maternity leave from the Kitchen and Emily is now firmly in position for 2019. Sharon leaves Carinya after many years as both a volunteer and a paid employee. We wish Sharon all the best for the future and thank her for her contribution to Carinya children and colleagues.

Committee of Management News

Christmas Party! Another fantastic children's Christmas Party. The presence of Santa is always a big hit and it is wonderful to have the children singing with Sally. Families were generous with their food contributions and there was plenty for all. A wonderful celebration of the year with the Carinya community.

Big Steps Campaign

Earlier this year, United Voice (the union for Educators) in conjunction with Jobs Australia, drew up the new Professional Childcare Standard Agreement for Educators to which Carinya has been a signatory for some years now. Committee agreed to continue to be a signatory and to pay Educators under this Agreement. Educators voted in November and the process is now closed. One of the best and most significantly different aspects of the Agreement – as opposed to the Children's Services Award - are the realistic hours allocated to Educators for the planning and implementation of the children's program. Of course, it is also significant for Educators to be paid better (though not yet in line with other work with similar educational levels) and valued properly through this Agreement. Thank you for your support of the actions this year.



6 December 2018

Dear Carinya Families,

We are writing to you to inform you of an increase in the Long Day Care daily fee for next year. A new daily fee will be in place from start of the new year, Tuesday 15 January 2019. The Committee has set the annual fee increase to occur each January in the order of 4-5% each year.

Please be aware that if your child's days are changing from this year to next, you may need to confirm a new Complying Written Arrangement (**through KidsXap**) in January to ensure that your Child Care Subsidy is paid.

This increased daily fee together with the continued savings that we have implemented in the budget, will see our financial standing improve over this next 6 months and deliver a more robust financial position to the long day care service.

Carinya's education and care service is rated ***Exceeding National Quality Standards***. The Educator and Staff cohort hold qualifications above what is required by regulations and the experience of all Staff and Educators combined spans many, many years in the sector.

Carinya celebrates 40 years of continuous service to this community in 2019 and responsibly positions itself financially to provide service for many years to come with quality programs that families value.

We are always looking for members of our community who can provide skills, services and volunteer time to supplement our costs or add value to the facilities and services we already offer. Please contact a member of the Committee of Management if you are interested in assisting in any way.

Please note from 15 January 2019, the LDC daily fee will increase to \$111.50

Yours Sincerely,

Carinya Committee of Management

December 2018



Koala Room with Nat, Melody and Emily



Hello Koala families,

It's hard to believe we find ourselves preparing for the end of 2018 and reflecting on our wonderful year together. We have been delighted to watch each child grow, develop and blossom into capable and engaged learners. We have enjoyed documenting the milestones and learning of each child. The communication books have presented an accurate and beautiful account of the learning and fun we have enjoyed. The end of this month will see our final entries into the communication books. Please note; we will begin finalising documentation and preparing for the end of the year. We trust you have thoroughly enjoyed seeing your child's learning captured in the pages of the communication books; we truly consider ourselves honoured to have played a part in each child's journey. We are confident all our children are prepared for the transition to the Possum Room and it is with much joy that we release them into a new chapter of learning, discovery, wonder and fun.

Natalie, Emily & Melody.



Possum Room with Demi, Maddie, Dell and Ange

Over the last month we have become more familiar with the Kangaroo Room. The children have loved visiting for group time and for lunch with them too. The children have all had two or more visits each.

We also have some fun things organised for the children as a celebration of their time with us, as a small thank you to them for being so awesome. We have sent a note home with parents, so you can see what fun things are coming up.





Kangaroo Room



Hello to all,

This last month has been an exciting time studying our fertile eggs daily for signs of life and watching the precious little chickens hatch out of that tiny egg. The children have been fascinated by the independence of the chickens, how quickly they grow and learn to take care of themselves without a mother to help!

We have had daily reminders from the children to feed and water and 'check' the chickens are doing well. This process has educated many children to the responsibility and duty of caring for a 'living creature'.

It has been a pleasure to see the children's independence, confidence and knowledge develop through the process of this egg-chicken process.

We have four chickens needing a home very soon! If you have suitable housing and would like one or more, please come and see any of the Kangaroo staff.

Another major focus of our program has been daily transition visits to the Wombat yard and room to familiarise the children with the staff, other children, play equipment and bathroom facilities they will encounter when promoted to the Wombat Room after the Christmas break. We now know the children's Educators will be Carolyn and Heather for next year, so we have been introducing the children to their new educators to promote the best possible smooth transition for your child to the Wombat Room.

A conversation with your child relevant to what is happening for them at Carinya strengthens your child's connection and belonging. This will also help develop your child's confidence in language, conversation and communication skills. Please share with us any relevant feedback from these conversations so we can be more helpful with this transition process.

We also welcome at any time information about your child's new interest or current learning focus, so we can help explore or extend their understanding of a favourite topic while with us.

Just for the fun of it and to join in on all the pre-Christmas excitement, we will be getting busy and messy creating Christmas decorations too! Apart from the fun, creating decorations allow children to further develop fine motor skills, learn new skills and explore creativity and imagination and enjoy the satisfaction of crafting a masterpiece!



Pre-kinder Wombat Room News from Heather, Sally and Carolyn

We have had a busy month attending a variety of different performances and celebrating Children's Week, where something exciting happened each day.

We made chocolate cake, milk shakes, enjoyed an ice-cream at Ice Cream Social, visited the "Clocktober" exhibition and enjoyed a clown performance called "A Clown in A Suitcase." He was very funny.

During the month we also attended a performance at the Phee Broadway theatre presented by St Mary's Primary School called Safari. This stage performance focused on sustainability and environmental conservation. The fabulous singing, costumes, music and vibrant colours were engaging and exciting to watch.

We participated in a Coliban Water presentation at the Library where we met a character called "Drip". We learned where water comes from and how we can conserve this precious resource.

Joining our team over the next two weeks is Leanne, a student from Bendigo TAFE. If you haven't met her yet, please introduce yourself. She will be observing and participating in activities, gaining knowledge and experience along the way.

With Christmas fast approaching we have begun some exciting Christmas activities. We have even begun singing our favourite tunes.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. Strong connections and a strong community help to shape our young children.

Cheers Heather, Carolyn and Sally.





School Transition Time

Those children moving on to school in 2019 have begun or are beginning their transition activities with their respective schools. We will participate in a School Crossing Education session with our local crossing supervisor outside the North School on Monday 10 December at 9:30am. If you would like your child to be a part of this and they don't typically attend on a Monday, please feel free to meet us at the crossing and join in. After this we will be joining Josie's class for morning munch and crunch and a Q&A session with her Prep/1 children!



Kinder group of 2017



Bush Kinder

Sadly, we have one more day in 2018 which will be Monday 26 November at Kalimna Park. We are planning a small celebration that morning for the children and educators with a little cake (allergy free!). We recently spent time with Alice, collaborating to make a **Sticky Beast** at the Creek site. Alice is interested in establishing Christmas traditions better suited to our landscape and climate and has developed the idea of creating a snow man shape using a local weed

and other native foliage! More of her work can be found on Facebook.

Reminders for all:

- ❖ Please send an appropriate change of clothes with your child.
- ❖ Please bring a piece or two of fruit daily.
- ❖ Please remember to sign in and out on arrival and departure.
CCS will not apply if you do not sign in and out digitally from 2019
- ❖ Make sure you have KidsXap on your phone
- ❖ Ensure you check and confirm bookings on MyGov.