



Welcome to our March Newsletter

Hello to all 260 families in our Family Day Care and our Centre-based Long Day Care centre. Each week we care for and educate 340 children with excursions, engaging environments and professional educators. An important aspect of quality care is safety and this newsletter we focus on Health and Safety issues.

Medical Conditions – If your child is diagnosed with a medical condition, particularly asthma or anaphylaxis, please remember that you have obligations to provide your child's educator/s with the information they require to keep your child safe. Both conditions require medication and a child with anaphylaxis cannot be left in an educator's care without their epi-pen or other prescribed medication. The educator will also complete a Medical Minimisation Plan with you, so that everyone will be aware of the child's triggers and symptoms. If in doubt about your obligations, speak to your child's educators.

At Carinya – please be aware of your children in the centre when you come to collect your child at the end of the day. **It is everyone's responsibility to maintain safe spaces – please ensure your children walk in all shared spaces of the building**

Illness – When your child has a temperature, please keep them home. The temperature is often the forerunner of other symptoms and by keeping your child at home we have a better chance of minimising or stopping the spread of infectious illnesses that can devastate young children and educators too! Always tell your educator if your child has been unwell (even if they are now better) and if your child has had the symptoms of gastro, they must stay home for at least 24 hours from the LAST vomit or episode of diarrhoea.

Footwear and clothing safety – Sometimes accidents occur for children when they are wearing ill-fitting shoes that trip them up or clothing such as dresses or pants that are too long and get caught up as they play. Sometimes children come into care with clothes that are not appropriate for the weather – too hot, too cold, no hat. Please take the time to check what is in your child's bag for the day and that their clothes will not hamper their play or cause them to trip and fall.

Important Dates

Castlemaine Childcare Centre is CLOSED on these upcoming dates:

Good Friday - 19 April 2019

Easter Monday - 22 April 2019

ANZAC Day - 25 April 2019

Queen's Birthday - 10 June 2019

LOOK OUT FOR: Centre Photos Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday April 2, 3 and 4 2019

Please Remember

LDC Centre - Advise of absences through **KidsXap app**.

REMEMBER to SIGN your child IN and OUT each day

KidsXap web portal address:

<https://castlemainechildcarecoop.kidsxap.com.au>

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.

Cleaning positions

We have a position for a cleaner in the long day care centre in Castlemaine. This is a two-hour a night position, working alongside another cleaner. If you or someone you know may be interested in this position please contact Rose or Bec in the office on 5472 3665 or via email at carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au for a position description.

Committee of Management News

It's never too late to put your hand up and announce your interest in being part of the Committee of Management for 2019. We always like to hear from those with specific skill sets, but the overwhelming requirement is the desire to contribute meaningfully to your child's experience of early education and care. Contact Rose at Carinya (our centre-based long day care centre) to be referred to a Committee member for further information. This is a call out to ALL families.

Koala Room with Nat and Cedella

Over the past weeks we have noticed children exploring their senses throughout the program, both indoors and outdoors. The addition of some bubble wrap, water bead pouches, sensory books and a treasure basket to our room have been well received and investigated by all. When the Koala children explore sensory experiences together, they are given the opportunity to interact with one another and to develop a new social-emotional awareness about themselves in a positive and supportive environment. The Koala children are naturally curious about what their peers are doing with the materials and will take time to observe, which helps them to learn about different perspectives and even inspire them to use the materials in a new way. Sensory activities also promote a community of cooperation as the children work together to manipulate materials and share their ideas with each other.



Possum Room with Demi, Maddy, Emily and Ange

Nature play week is coming up fast! On Thursday 18 April we will be heading out on our very own Nature Play week excursion to the Botanical Gardens!

Research suggests that from backyards to streets, parks and gardens, from the beach to the bush, children grow and develop better outside!

Nature play is a term used to describe the creation of simple play opportunities in the natural environment. Nature play encourages children and parents to see the natural environment as a place to enjoy, play, imagine, relax and explore.

Our plan is to leave the centre at around 9am in the morning and set off on our walk to the gardens. When we arrive, we will enjoy our picnic morning tea, before exploring and making our way down to the playground. We will return at around 11am to be ready for lunch and a sleep after our big morning exploring our community.

In the lead up to Nature play week we will begin heading out on shorter excursions around our local community to ensure the children are feeling safe, secure and confident when out and about in our surrounds.



Fundraising:

Thank you to all families for taking home a raffle book and selling them for us - we have had such a great response so far in raising money for outdoor resources.

If you have not yet received a booklet, please speak to one of your child's educators. We will draw the raffle on Thursday 18 April, so please return all tickets and money to the centre by Wednesday 17 April.

Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT.

We are excited to partner with the Castlemaine Toy Library and bring a community book box to Carinya!

You may have noticed the little box at the front door full of lovely books. These books are there for you to take home and enjoy then return for others to enjoy. If you have other books you'd like to donate to the box, feel free too!

The book boxes are a wonderful initiative to encourage literacy and a love of books.

Our Kinder children decorated three of the boxes last week. The other two can be found at the Castlemaine Maternal Health Centre and Castlemaine Toy library.

A big THANK YOU to [Kiwanis Club of Bendigo](#) for the boxes, [Castlemaine Paint right](#) for the paint, and [MAAW OP SHOP](#) for the books!!

What a wonderful local partnership ♡♡
Linda McNeill, Castlemaine Toy Library.



Kangaroo Room with Sue Felicity Lisa Gemma and Mel

Hello Parents,

We feel all children are now well settled into our routine and are taking advantage of the many experiences on offer. We have had 7 new children join the Kangaroo Room over recent weeks, encouraging children to develop new social skills and be exposed to important concepts such as empathy, respect for others, accepting diversity and supporting peers. The children have welcomed their new peers and are now beginning to build new relationships.

Many children enjoy and are very engaged in dramatic play and currently, making a cubby with the use of various props is a daily occurrence. This is providing the children agency to lead their own play and we are noticing a lot of role play as children co-operate and collaborate in shared ideas and play experiences.

We have embraced opportunities for excursions this month, taking many groups of children to the Steiner Art display at the Market building. Your children have impressed us with their abilities and focus on our walks to and from our places of destination. We discuss expectations such as crossing roads, holding hands and listening when we are out and about. An interest in seeing many dogs and puppies on our walks has led us to introduce our “safety with dogs” program which will teach children safe strategies on how to engage with unfamiliar dogs when we are out and about in future.

We have also visited the hub garden, the oval, and quite recently the station, now that the steam train is again operational. At this stage we usually only take half the group of a Wednesday to the train whilst educating children about station visits. This concept is a bit difficult at this stage but as the year progresses children understand that if they don't go one week, it will be their turn the following week.

Our main goal currently is for children to try and recognise their feelings and emotions especially if they are feeling frustrated with a situation. We encourage children to try and tell us what the problem is using their words. This is difficult at times but with patience and support we are beginning to see children succeed with this and feel empowered that they have been understood and a solution reached.

We encourage you to chat to an educator if you have any goals that you are working on at home so that we can support you while your child is in our care, such as toileting, expressing themselves etc.

We value your input into our programme so that we may best support each and every child.

Sue, Felicity, Gemma, Lisa, Mel.



Pre-kinder Wombat Room with Heather, Carolyn, Josie and Tarryn

During term one, we focus on establishing some comfortable routines and formulate group objectives and individual goals for each child. These are based on the knowledge we have gained through interactions and observations. In many cases these objectives are being met and further goals are being established.

I have sent through (via email), a template for you to complete about your child, family and possible expectations you may have for your child's year in our Pre-Kinder program. This information will be included in your child's portfolio and assists in setting individual goals for each child throughout the year. If you would like a hard copy to complete, we have them available. Please ask the educators.

A snippet from our program:

Many of our experiences involve the creative arts and both the visual arts and construction, has led us into discovering different patterns. We have been exploring the concepts related to pattern through our print making, patterns created in our play dough, shape and geometric patterns in our puzzle sets, as well as creating repeated patterns using the coloured peg boards.

During our group discussion times we have been listening to stories related to kindness and friendships. We have been identifying aspects of kindness and the concept that friends are people we enjoy spending time with. The discussion around having a variety of people to play with at different times throughout the day, can assist the children in making a connection with a larger number of their peers, rather than one or two particular people.

The Wombat Team;

Heather, Carolyn, Ray, Josie and Tarryn.



Reminders for all - Please:

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

Podcast of the month: Check out, Respectful Parenting: Janet Lansbury Unruffled. Help our child keeps interrupting and demanding our attention.

Echidna Room – Kristy, Sally and Ray

March has been a busy month in the community for the Kinder room....

Castlemaine State Festival:

Saturday 16 March was the pre-launch of Eliza-Janes “I wonder what is in there” cardboard sculpting project. We will plan excursions with the Friday and Tuesday group beginning Friday 22 and Tuesday 26 March for the children to have the opportunity to see their ideas and drawings take pride of place in the Castlemaine Art Gallery.

We were lucky enough to take part in another State Festival project called the **Nesting Project** at the Mill on Thursday 14 March, with a surprise visit and interview with the WIN news team. A huge thank you to Shu for recommending this to us, a great interview was given by Patrick and a big thank you to Meri and Jenny (Mother / daughter creative team) who welcomed the children in with open arms!



Victory Park:

What a great excursion! The children collaborated to be organised (even putting sunscreen on each other!) and worked extremely well as a team for the entire trip! We even managed to visit the Market Place to see the Steiner School exhibition, showcasing some of their creative pieces across the year levels... it was very inspiring!

Sprout Bakery:



Sally is working on a visit to Sprout Bakery at the Mill, and Kristy will follow up with Hot Cross Bun making just in time for Easter! We will let you know both the excursion and baking dates. If any families are in town and fancy a Hot Cross Bun for afternoon tea with your child... it would be lovely to see you.

All About Me booklets:

Initially emailed to families on 4 March, I will re-send these as a PDF as I understand the formatting didn't come through when the document was emailed as Word. Sorry for any confusion and Thank you for your patience!

Thank you from the Kinder Team.