



Term 3 - Newsletter

Last Day for 2016 and Opening Day for 2017

S.O.C.C.S. last day of operation will be Friday 23rd December 2016.

S.O.C.C.S. will re-open, for the children, on Wednesday 11th January 2017. The Wombats room will re-open on Monday 30th January 2017.

If you would like care, in the Wombats, from 11th January, please let the office know in December and we can book you in during this time.

Children's Christmas Party

9th December 2016. This will be held at SOCCS and is a fun afternoon for the children and the families. More information will follow shortly.

Government Grant for refurbishment of veranda area

We applied for a Government Grant, late last year, and we were successful in being granted \$16,000. We were excited in being successful for this grant! We plan to re-furbish the veranda areas across all rooms. This will consist of stencilling the concrete, laying artificial lawn on the nursery veranda and creating a pathway, developing fixed sensory boards and instrument stands and enhancing the sand pit areas by building mini kitchen sinks for children's further exploration and role play. We will let you know when we are ready to start with the work!





SOCCS Committee

We have recently had some changes to the committee members. They are as follows:

President – Vincent Wong (Zoe's dad in the Koalas)

Vice President – Jacquie McLean (Jasmine's mum in the nursery)

Staff Liaison Officer – Rani Prentice (Rohan in the Koalas and Kiana in the Nursery)

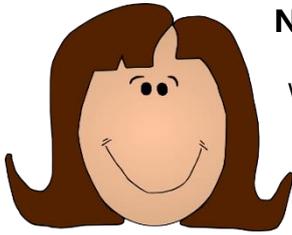
Secretary – Amy Greenshields (Emily's mum in the Kookaburras)

Committee Member - Nidhi Singh (Myra's mum in the nursery)

We are always in need of parents joining the Committee. The Directors and Committee Members meet once a month (a planner of the dates is given to members for the year) to discuss finances of SOCCS, goals for the year and other business issues. The Parent Committee take part in the overall decision making for the centre. Along with the Directors they help recruit staff and decide where profits can be spent. We also communicate via email. Besides from the business side of things we also organise dinners out as they are great times to socialise with one another as well as with the team of staff. if you are interested in joining the committee please speak to Mandy or Mirna.

We really are in need of a Treasurer for the Parent Committee. You do not have to be an accountant however we do think that someone with a little knowledge in numbers would be an advantage in the position. The treasurer does not have to do large amounts of work like a typical treasurer on a school P & F, they are there monitoring the income and expenses, alongside the Director.





New Staff Member

We have a new staff member who works each day from 2-6pm. Her name is Preeti. She is a lovely person. Please make her feel welcome. When she is here, she works the majority of time in the 3-5's room, however you may sometimes see her in the mornings if she is replacing staff.

Facebook

Please follow our Facebook page. Just look up Strathfield One Stop Child Care Service on your Facebook account and you should be sent to our page. We have very exciting posts, detailing different things that occur in the centre.





News from the Joey's

What a busy time we're having in the Joey's room!

Our Joey's are all about the sandpit, play dough, construction and animals! While they engage in these parts of the program they are indeed learning so much! In the sandpit for example, they are not only refining their fine motor skills with the spades and scoops, but also engaging in rich imaginary play together, creating picnics and cooking adventures and roaring away with dinosaurs and animals. While at the play dough table they are using their hands to create their own story and product, learning how to manipulate tools and role playing birthday parties and adventures. We are watching our Joey's master many different construction materials. While it was originally all about the wooden blocks, our Joey's have progressed to more complex 'Pop-Onz' and "Duplo". By having open ended construction materials available, we are watching the structures being built become more detailed and the emergence of patterns and systems in the children's building!

Our group times have been all about dancing with actions and the book 'Noisy Farm'. Our Joey's have very proudly mastered 'Rock-a-bye your bear' by the Wiggles with everyone having the actions down pat and most of them knowing the words! Reading 'Noisy Farm' with Robbie has not only shown us that our Joey's know their animals and the noises they make but has also been extended by bringing animals into the sandpit, onto the play dough table and into the construction they play with. Our Joey's are barking, mooing and baaing away and having rich and important interactions while they're at it!



The one thing that has been an absolute joy to watch however is the engagement all of our Joey's are having with each other. Our program reflects the group experiences our Joey's are creating themselves. These little people are loving each other, communicating amongst themselves in more complex ways and learning how to negotiate their peers and it's just fabulous!

What busy, clever Joey's you have! Lucky us!





Friendly reminders:

*Please pack hats rather than beanies as its getting warmer

*Please label everything! We have Sharpies (textas) in our kitchen if you need to borrow them (it's really that important!)

*Please ensure there is always spare clothes in your child's bag

*Please don't over dress your Joey

xx Marrianna, Robbie, Thanh, Cherry, Ambiga and Julie xx





News from the Kookaburra's

We have had a busy and eventful couple of months in the Kookaburra room. The children's many interests in different areas have guided us to change and set up different areas in our room accordingly. According to the EYLF, learning environments that are responsive to children's interests and abilities will "promote opportunities for sustained shared thinking and collaborative learning" (DEEWR, 2009, p.16).

As part of our program this year, we have focused on providing the children with different kinds of sensory experiences. The children are experiencing many new things in their first few years of life, so what may seem like a simple everyday occurrence could possibly be a huge learning experience for them. We acknowledge that children at this age learn with their whole bodies; they need to be given opportunities to touch different textures, taste different food, hear different sounds, smell and watch their surroundings (Winderlich, 2012). With this in mind, we often plan experiences that allow the children to do exactly this through art, cooking, outdoor and group time experiences. We were lucky enough to have one of our parents Gayathri come in and tell a story using a book and accompanying animations and objects. What an engaging sensory experience for all! Thank you once again Gayathri. We would love for you to come in and be part of our group times as the children will absolutely love it.



The learning topics we have followed up on according to the children's interests include sea creatures, camping area and use of natural materials, NAIDOC week and reading on different Aboriginal stories (Tiddilick the Frog being their favourite), emotions/feelings, and fire engine play which was followed up by a visit from the fire brigade on the 9th of June. Most recently we have talked about different transports which led into an interest in traffic lights and road safety (eg. crossing the road safely, seat belt safety). We also enjoyed our Olympics day on the 18th of August at the park and would like to once again thank all the families that came to join in this event. It is always nice to have families come together with the centre and feel like one big family in our community. Currently we are focusing on learning about the weather. We have been busy learning about different kinds of weather and making all things clouds, rain, rainbow and sun! We have also found that the children are beginning to show an interest in writing their names.

The most amazing thing about all this learning is that we find the children connecting the different learning across different contexts. For example, the children still pretend they are driving the fire truck going to put out fires, they tell each other to put their seat belts on when they are pretending to be on a bus, they recognise when their friends are feeling sad and can comfort each other, and now they often like to observe the different weather outdoors and tell each other if there are clouds in the sky or if it's a windy or rainy day. The ability to connect and continue learning across different contexts highlights a big part of Outcome 4 in the EYLF.





Each child is so amazing and our Kookaburras never cease to amaze us on how curious and engaged they are in their exploration and learning. We look forward to learning and guiding the children alongside their learning journey here in the Kookaburra room.

We love to hear your feedback and input into your child's learning. This will help to connect your child's home and school environment for the best learning outcome. Don't hesitate to send us a quick message on Kindyhub or chat to one of the teachers in person.

"Listen with all your senses (sight, touch, smell, orientation). To listen to children is not just to listen to what they are saying, but also to listen through observation - what are they interested in.." (Axelsson, 2013)

With love from,
Joyce and Fi.





News from the Koala's

What a busy couple of months it has been in the Koalas room. The children have shown a lot of interest in their newly changed environment and have been very engaged playing in the new areas such as the book area, writing area, home corner and our art/craft area. Thank you to everyone for all your lovely feedback! It is always great to get positive feedback from families as it makes us feel very valued and recognised!

As we worked towards the new plans for our classroom we used the Early Years Learning Framework for guidance and thought from the following fact of the curriculum; "Learning environments are welcoming spaces when they reflect and enrich the lives and identities of children and families participating in the setting and respond to their interests and needs. Environments that support learning are vibrant and flexible spaces that are responsive to the interests and abilities of each child. They cater for different learning capacities and learning styles and invite children and families to contribute ideas, interests and questions." (DEEWR,2009).



A big highlight this month was the *Mini Olympics!* Many of the Koala's enjoyed learning about the Olympics. The children participated in different physical activities related with the Olympics and had a great time taking part. So did we!

'Health and Nutrition' was a big topic that the children learnt about. The children took part in experiences such as making smoothies, Vege faces and fruit salad as well as a talk from a parent, who is a dentist, about dental hygiene. We also had a planned incursion called 'Hula Hoops and Handstands' which was designed to empower young children to pick the right choices to have a healthy and happy body. "Learning about healthy lifestyles, including nutrition, personal hygiene, physical fitness, emotions and social relationships is integral to wellbeing and self-confidence. Physical wellbeing contributes to children's ability to concentrate, cooperate and learn. As children become more independent they can take greater responsibility for their health, hygiene and personal care and become mindful of their own and others' safety. Good nutrition is essential to healthy living and enables children to be active participants in play" (DEEWR,2009). At SOCCS we aim to provide opportunities for children to experience a range of healthy foods and to learn about food choices from their educators and other children.





During the last few months the children have learnt about shapes and colours and the alphabet having uppercase and lowercase letters. We are always getting ready for 'Big School' by getting involved in various experiences and accumulating a wealth of knowledge that is going to help throughout their lives. Like they say....."From Something Small, Big Things Grow" (cultivate the mind and expand its potential and see what happens.....).

"Keep safe, respect each-other, be kind always and keep on learning to be your highest potential".

Friendly Reminders:

- Remember to take your child's drink bottle home and give it a thorough wash every-day and fill it with fresh water.
- Please remember the sun hats for outdoor activities
- Please label all items so that we know whom it belongs to
- Please make sure there are spare clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents.
- Parent feedback is always appreciated (kindy-hub, email, letters)

Love from the Koalas' Room ☺





News from the Wombats

We are nearly at end of term 3. We had a wonderful and meaningful time in Term 3. Children learnt about NAIDOC week, stranger danger, water safety, oral health, a healthy eating program and we had the Mini Olympic Games.

Spring is finally here. Children are noticing the change in the environment like the flowers are blooming; fruit is growing on trees etc. The children will be planting some vegetable seeds and tending to their little garden. Hopefully, we can enjoy beans, peas and cherry tomatoes in summer time.



Our library corner is flourishing and children are regularly borrowing books. This habit of reading will enhance their literacy, numeracy, comprehension and communication skills. Research tells us that children learn about the importance of reading by seeing adults enjoy reading, so please take the time to read different types of stories to your children- eg fiction and non-fiction, discuss key characters in stories and films and ask your child questions to deepen their understanding. Help your child to examine print in books and how it relates to speech. Use names and sounds of letters and show how groups of letters make words. Encourage your children to search all the sight words which will help them with their reading skills.

As you have noticed, children are doing a variety of art work using different types of materials. These art works are for our art exhibition that is going to happen in Term 4. We all are very excited about it and we will inform you of the date of it soon.

In the following weeks, we will focus on self-help skills. Such as looking after their own belongings, dressing themselves, putting their shoes and socks on, applying sunscreen, and washing hands.

Reminders

- . Please put some spare clothes in your child's backpack in case of accidents and changes in weather.
- . Label your all child's belongings.
- . Please make sure that your child brings a suitable sun safe hat and a filled, fresh, clean water bottle every day.
- . Please feel free to volunteer your input to help us program for your child.

Thank You.

Sushila, Kazal, Cheire, Ambiga, Mel, Annmaree and all other staff members who help in our room.

