



CATH'S CHAT (June 2014)

(www.cathskindy.com.au or email cathskindy1@bigpond.com.au)

Dear Families,

Well Winter has certainly hit, mind you we did get longer warmer weather than in previous years.

Welcome to all of our new Cath's Kindy families.

I couldn't believe it when I walked into the Butterflies Room the other day and looked around at all of those beautiful faces and thinking "you can't be a Butterfly yet, I remember when you were a Snail!"

CATH'S KINDY CELEBRATES OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR: This year, Cath's Kindy will be celebrating our 10 year anniversary. The Centre opened on 4 October 2004 after a huge renovation as well as jumping through all the red tape from all agencies and with an 8 year old, a 5 year old and a 3 year old phew! I am very pleased to say that 10 years owner operated is a milestone in itself, but we have, each year, steadily increased in numbers. Starting with 3 staff which included myself and Miss Sharon to Miss Karen jumping on board in 2005 and then now having a team of 11 and almost 49 children per day. We will be hosting an event to celebrate this milestone. I will keep you posted!

LAWS/REGS/NQS: We have made significant changes this year to align ourselves with the National Law and Regulations in regards to staffing. Miss Karen will commence her Degree shortly via distance education and Miss Pauline (an over 30 year trained Primary School Teacher) has to complete her Cert 3 in Children's Services and has started that with such enthusiasm and is working very well. I would like to welcome a new member to our team commence 23 June 2014 and this is Miss Sandra. Miss Sandra is Cert 3 trained and has worked in the Early Childhood Industry for 6 years. Miss Sandra will be working the Butterflies Room with Miss Katherine and Miss Pauline. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sandra into the Cath's Kindy team.

CCR: For those of you whom have reached the threshold for CCR from this week, your fees will have no CCR allowance available until 1 July 2014. On your statement, once CCR reaches \$7,500 there is no CCR entitlement available. Please be aware of your statement balance and should you have any questions regarding this, please contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150. Your CCR balance is shown on the bottom of your statement each week. For those whose CCR has been allocated, please ensure you adjust your fees payments to allow for this increase. This is one of the reasons that I try to ensure that I keep fees to a minimum so that you get the majority of each financial year with as much fee relief as possible. The Centre has been over for 10 years this year and fees have gone up by \$12 in that 10 year period. For Centres whose fee structure is much higher, families will only get approx. 37 weeks fee relief with CCR and then full fees apply until the end of the financial year.

CLOSING AND REOPENING DATES FOR 2014/15: Due to the amount of maintenance the Centre requires, as this is the only period other than weekends that the Centre is closed, we close for approx. 2.5 weeks (including the public holidays). The Centre closes this year at **3pm** on Wednesday 24 December 2014. We are looking at reopening on Monday 12 January 2015. This is effectively 9 days if you exclude weekends and public holidays. Fees are NOT charged during this period. If this closure period is going to cause a problem for you, please let me know. If there are a large amount of families that this closure causes a problem for, we will investigate changing these timeframes to accommodate.

THE MENU: The new menu is working well, with a few little changes here and there, but overall, very positive. Tuna is not a favourite at the moment so we will be altering that to a vegetarian dish with lots of tomato and garlic to see how the children go with that. You will see the changes on the noticeboard shortly.

KINDRELOOP: Kinderloop is up and running now. Almost every family has filled out the necessary paperwork and some of you have already started commenting on the photos I have loaded. This version of Kinderloop is accessible via tablet, phone and pc. However, you cannot comment via tablet or phone you can only comment via pc. I have advised the owners of the program that this needs to be a function that is fully available to families through all media. They are currently updating the version to allow for this to happen. I would really love families to get involved with Kinderloop. Not only does it cost per month per child, so the more we use it the better, but from a National Quality Standard we are exceeding one of the quality areas in regards to family input. So, if you can, load Kinderloop on your PC and comment back. I have had some lovely comments from overseas families as well as Grandparents, which is just great. The comments from you also allow me to not only see that you can access Kinderloop but that you are enjoying what myself and the team area loading for you. We are still in a teething process in regards to frequency as we do not wish to alter or get rid of our portfolios as some Centres have done, we would like this to be more of a "fun" tool. We are still sorting out frequency as to how many we do over a fortnight as it is a workload added to the team and learning stories, the program and portfolio work is a priority.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Emergency Services Week 16-20 June 2014

PJ Week 23-27 June with Healthy Harold Life Ed on 25 June
and Red Nose Day on Friday 27 June

Combat Day Thursday 3 July

Naidoc Week 7-11 July

Library Storytime Visit 15 July

National Tree Planting Week (Green Week) 21-25 July

Health Week 11-15 August with Little Grinners Dental Health coming out on 14 August and Combat Day on 15 August

Mens Health Week and Blue Week is 1- 5 September

Kindy photos 3 September

Fathers Day Morning Tea 4 September

Crazy Hair and Sock Week is 22-26 September



More information will follow in due course.

DRINK BOTTLES, HATS AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING: Could we please ask that all children have a sun smart hat, even in winter, a drink bottle and changes of clothing for accidents and weather. We find it difficult to change a child if the weather turns hot or cold and there is nothing in their bag to change them into. It is imperative that clothing and sheets get labelled with your child's name please.

FAMILY INPUT BOOK: We really appreciate you using the family input book located near the sign in sheets. This information is invaluable to us as Educators. Under the EYLF it is an essential part of the Quality Outcomes. Please continue using this book. For more information go to <http://deewr.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework>

RE-ENROLMENTS FOR 2015: We will be sending out re-enrolment information to all of our existing families in July. We do this prior to opening up our waiting list for 2015, and we have quite a few now on our waiting list. So just a thought to think about what you may require for next year so that when we send this information out you might have an idea of what you need. If your child is going to school next year and you require care from when we open in January until school starts, please put it down on the form we send out, as sometimes we cannot guarantee placements and your child is considered long day care not vacation care until they actually commence school in Term 1. If you require before and after school care for 2015, again, fill out the form that we send out also. If you have any questions, please ask. We still have limited vacancies if you are looking at increasing a day for the remainder of the year, if you are considering that, please see Miss Karen.

IMMUNISATION DETAILS: As previously mentioned, blue books are not sufficient anymore. Only a recent print out of your child's immunisation register is. If you haven't already provided a recent copy, can you do so urgently. Once your child has an immunisation, please provide us with an updated copy as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEWS: If you have anything you would like to share with our families in regards to Our Community, please let me know and I will share it via our newsletters. One of our Dad's advised me of the following: "I actually wanted to share some info that may be useful for local families. I was looking for a GP home visiting service for quite a while and not so long ago one of this services came to Wollondilly. They are called Sydney Medical Service (SMS): <http://www.sydmed.com.au/>. The coverage map has been extended earlier this year and when I had no other option I called them and had an after hours GP visit. Got a prescription and was generally happy with the doctor. They bulk bill (at least for kids). Here is their brochure:
<http://sydmed.com.au/downloads/patient-brochure.pdf>

Thought it may be a useful info to share in my opinion as according to their survey only 10% are aware that there is an after hours GP home visits service available". Thanks Vitaliy, I'm sure there are some families that can benefit from this information.

Parent Resources: Feel free to take any of the brochures located in the foyer. These are from local community based, private based businesses as well as any Government information that you may find useful. This gets updated regularly.

Notice Boards: Please see the notice boards for regular updates. You will see a lot of things that are happening in and around our centre as well as the local community. If you require anything to be advertised please let us know. The notice boards will also advise you of any upcoming events, illnesses and general information.

Policy Review: The centre has policies based on the National Law and Regulations. These are updated annually. The folder is located in the foyer and we would like families to be given an opportunity to read our policies and provide feedback.

SNAILS SPOT: Welcome to all of my new Snails! Everybody has settled in very well. Welcome Lucy, Samuel and Hudson! Just a reminder to pack bibs everyday (3 or more would be great) and a least 6 nappies per day. A blanket with their bedding for the winter too please. This term we are focusing on animals. Our themes have been from the ocean to the farm from the farm to the zoo and then to the animals we have at home. So if you have any pets at home could you please send in a photo. If you have any books that are appropriate for the Snails age group too, please don't hesitate to bring them in for me to read to them during the day and extend on their literacy through family input. Thanks, Miss Shaz

CATERPILLARS CORNER: The Caterpillars have been a flurry of busyness. They are learning the phonics song *Ants In The Apple* with the use of flash cards and focussing on hand strength by manipulating dough as well as using scissors. They are also learning opposites. The Caterpillars are also engaging in science through measuring and sensory experiments with making dough as well as colour recognition as we add colours to our dough. We have been doing a lot of reading, so feel free to bring in one of your child's books and we will read it for group time and then extend on that literacy through our intentional teaching. We are also learning different sounds through a Sound Music Track that we have. It's quite funny to watch them listen for the sounds, particularly the telephone!

Just a reminder to bring in warmer clothes and for our toilet training children a spare set of socks and shoes as they seem to catch a lot of our little accidents and they won't dry in this weather. A top sheet as well as a bottom sheet for rest time and a blanket. Please label everything.

Just a reminder for pet photos for our pet wall and any family photos you wish to share would be great. Miss Jess and Miss Emma

BUTTERFLIES BUZZ: It has been very busy in the Butterfly room!

The children have been working well in their school readiness groups. They have been working on name recognition, writing their names, rote counting to 20, the concept of addition and subtraction all whilst being able to sit at a table and concentrate on an activity for an appropriate length of time.

We have also been singing "Ants in the Apple" as the children learn the letters and the sounds that each letter makes. The children show great pride in being able to stand in front of their peers as they each hold up one of the individual letters. As well as learning the letters and the order in which they appear in the alphabet, they also learn patience as they wait for their turn.

Our literacy group had been very busy if you look around our room. The children have become very interested in the different activities that we complete each day. The Butterflies have made a few scenes from the book 'Who sank the Boat?' They have also made some 'crazy hats,' like we saw in the book 'Green Eggs and Ham.' We also look at books that are relevant to the lives of the children. One week we looked at a book called 'Mum goes to work.' We then asked the children what they thought their Mother's did for work. Then we asked the Mother's what they actually did. It was great to see that most of the children knew what their Mothers did for work. This can also be seen underneath the Birthday chart in the Butterflies room if you would like to take a close look at it.

As some of you might already know Bella, the traveling Butterfly, has taken up residence in some of your houses. She visits for a week and we encourage you all to take photographs with her and make up a small page about your special visit with Bella. Her special photo album lives on top of the lockers should you need some ideas. If you have not seen her yet, watch out for the bright big orange pillow pet called Bella as she might be heading to your place soon!

I would also like to say that the Queen's Birthday High Tea was a great success. The children worked hard throughout the week to make brownies, mandarin cake and pinwheel sandwiches. The children then also learnt about castles and we read books relating to this. They all had a great time and I hope to repeat something like this again later on this year.

Lastly I would like to say watch out for all of the amazing things that we will be making and doing for Emergency Services Week! Miss Katherine

I look forward, as always, to your input, ideas, comments and suggestions and thank you once again for allowing us to be part of your family.

Kind regards,

Cath