



# Ulverstone Child Care Centre

## Newsletter- June 2021



"Together we care, nurture and learn."

**Centre news ....** Winter has well and truly arrived! The months are going by very quickly as we approach the end of the financial year. Our services have all been a hive of activity, as we continue to welcome new families and children. We would like to thank Stuart and the team from Carpet Central in Ulverstone, Brett Gleeson Plumbing, Peter Butcher Electrical and Ben Van Neutegem from the Central Coast Council Depot for the installation of the new carpet tiles, floor and wall vinyl, bathroom toilets, mirrors and dividers.

At the end of March the General Manager, Sandra Ayton and Central Coast Councillors visited the centre one evening to look at the administration area and to discuss a proposed upgrade. We have definitely outgrown some of the space and with our staff numbers continuing to grow, restrictions with COVID practices and the changes in child care, this is essential to our operational needs. Heath Clayton, the director of Design Intent Architecture, is currently drawing up plans for the redevelopment, which we are eagerly awaiting. Plans will be available for viewing in 6-8 weeks time.

On Thursday the 24th June we will be assessed and rated for Quality area 2 'Health and Safety' and Quality area 7 'Governance and Leadership' by the Education and Care Unit. Attached is a link with updated information for families on safe sleeping practices. (see [Red Nose](https://rednose.org.au/article/soft-toys-in-the-cot)) <https://rednose.org.au/article/soft-toys-in-the-cot>

### Staffing...

We recently welcomed Shaye Last to our Centre, Shaye is studying her Certificate III of Early Childhood Education and Care and is working at our Long Day Care and East Ulverstone OSHC. Emma Meaney has also commenced her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and is working casual hours at the Centre. Congratulations to the following staff who have commenced traineeships studying their Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, Ally Batten, Nicqueta Richards and Monique Wells.



### Xplor/Office 365

As we prepared to make the move to the full office suite by Xplor (as mentioned in previous newsletters), we have been made aware that in order to switch over to the full package it would require setting up new database details for our services, and therefore removing our existing database details.

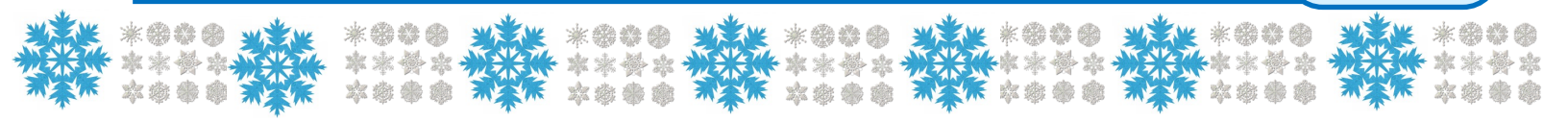
This would mean that all parent accounts would need to be removed, requiring you all to set up new Xplor accounts, as well as all the past child observations of your children would no longer be attached to their profile as they too would have a new account.

As a service we have decided that this is not the way we want to progress, so until Xplor can find a solution, to simply 'turn on the extra features' that we currently are not subscribed to, we will continue with our current administration package within Qikkids.

### Dates to Remember



- **Monday 14th June closed Public Holiday**
- **Friday 2nd July end of term 2.**
- **Vac care Monday July 5th- Friday July 16th**
- **Pupil free day 19th July.**
- **Term 3 commences Tuesday 20th July.**
- **Thursday August 26th Cultural Performance**





## Community events

The Ulverstone Secondary College community service students, invited our children and educators to their playgroup 'Miles of Smiles'. The Toddler and Baby Room children visited on Tuesday the 25th May. The students walked over to the centre and helped the children to walk over to their school where they had organised and facilitated a wonderful morning of age appropriate activities.

The children quickly made their way around the environment, exploring and investigating the various play areas. They connected with the students, participating and playing alongside them and engaging in reciprocal play. They demonstrated that they could respond in a playful manner and respond positively in the company of others.

The Young Endeavour and the Big Room children and educators will be visiting on Thursday 17th June from 1.30-2.45pm.



## Baby News....

Over the past weeks the children in the Baby Room have been provided with a variety of activities that invite them to explore and investigate using their senses. On each occasion a tub has been placed in the outside environment and filled with materials and resources. Autumn leaves, pasta, rice and oats have all provided the opportunity for children to manipulate while engaged in sensory play. They used their sensory capabilities to make meaning, by tasting, touching and looking.



### Covid update:

- In accordance with the Council's Pandemic Plan we are continuing with **'Stop, Drop and Go'** when delivering and collecting children.
- Please use the hand sanitiser on entry and prior to touching the iPad or any surfaces
- Proceed to your room gate/s, and please wait here for an educator to greet you, you will make your separation/collection at this point.
- Parents needing to enter rooms, we ask that you hand sanitise and stay only for the time required.

We appreciate your co-operation.

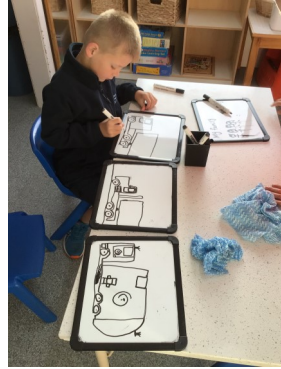
### Big Room News

In the Big Room the children have been busy exploring role play in a variety of contexts. It was exciting to bring the pallet car indoors which the children enjoyed 'fixing' with the tools. This provoked interesting conversations about where the children were travelling in their cars. This relates to our yearly focus of transport, which is based on the children's interests. We have recently set up a supermarket which has been a popular space for many children as they explore their imaginations and share their play space with their peers.





**Before School Care .....** During term 2 the Before School children have engaged in all the fundamental areas of the curriculum. These have included creative arts, construction, dramatic, cognitive and sensory play. Providing the children with open ended activities of choice, allows them opportunities to scaffold their own learning through play, thus supporting dispositions such as confidence, persistence, positivity and curiosity. As the children continue to engage in the above learning experiences throughout Term 3 we do hope their time at Before School Care remains a fun and meaningful experience .



*All children want to learn  
And in a good learning space,  
they can take control of their  
own learning  
Maria Montessori*



Congratulations to our Easter raffle winners and thankyou to all of the parents and families that supported our raffle this year. With the money raised (\$600) we have purchased some new book sets for the centre, titles include 'Families', 'Community', 'Emotions', 'Recycling', 'Dinosaurs' and 'Big Machines'.

1st Prize  
**Bourke  
Family**

2nd Prize  
**Jimi  
Saunders**

3rd Prize  
**Noah  
Hampton**





### Young Endeavours news... .

A long term focus in our room this year is colour recognition. Every few weeks we have been focusing on a specific colour, with the children participating in a variety of songs and activities revolving around the colour of the week.



Over the last month we have been discussing the importance of brushing our teeth. After reading a story about visiting the dentist, each child excitedly practiced brushing their teeth on our interactive tooth model. During group discussions the children talked about what can happen if we eat too much sweet food and do not brush our teeth. The children commented, “our teeth can rot”, “you can get cavities”, “your teeth could fall out.” We are scaffolding this activity to incorporate healthy eating and inspiration from the ‘Move Well Eat Well’ program.



We have also been discussing our new friendship stories, these books inform children about making new friends and what a good friend does for others. The children identified that a good friend is kind and caring, asks others to join them in play and is excited for others when they achieve something challenging. Demonstrating awareness of the stories, the children have noticed how they help others and invite them to play, informing educators when they observe a friendly interaction.



A letter will be emailed to all families at the end of June with a proposed fee increase. Our fees are traditionally increased annually. Due to COVID-19 there was no increase during 2020. We would appreciate any overdue accounts to be cleared by the end of the financial year.



A reminder to pack warm clothing for outdoor play during the colder months, beanies coats and gumboots.





### Toddler Room News.....

The Toddler Room children have been engaging in painting with cars, dolly bathing and developing relationships in their play environments. During these activities the children demonstrated spatial awareness in orientating their way around play spaces and being respectful of their peers. The children are provided with opportunities to role play, explore their sensory capabilities and develop relationships with peers through play-based experiences.



We congratulate the following staff, Elizabeth Breaden and Maria Carter who recently received their certificate for 10 years service. Tracy Clarke, 15 years service and Andie Lutwyche 20 years service, with the Central Coast Council.

Well done to all.





## Policies reviewed for March, April & May.....

Lois has been busy updating and re-formatting our centre policies. These policies are available for families to review in the front foyer. Reviewed policies are:

Animal and Pet Care, Anti-Bias, Inclusion and Diversity, Behaviour Guidance – UCCC, Child Safe Environment, Clothing Policy, Confidentiality and Storage of Records Archives—Safe Storage and Transfer, Confidentiality, Continuous Quality Improvement, Educational Program Policy, Emergency situations-Including Evacuation and Lockdown Procedures, Excursion Policy, First Aid Policy, Governance and Management, Head Lice , Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy, Immunisation Policy, Infectious Diseases, Interactions with Children & Families, Medical Conditions Policy, Nutrition & Food Safety Policy – OSHC, Nutrition & Food Safety Policy – UCCC, OSHC - Administration Policy, OSHC – Managing younger children in care, OSHC- Opening and closing and preparing for the day, OSHC Technology Policy, OSHC Staffing Policy, Parental Access and Involvement, Personal Hygiene, Philosophy (currently under review), Physical Activity and Screen Time Policy, Responsible Person – Offer and Acceptance, Responsible Person, Staff Policy, Supervision – UCCC, Telephone and communication Equipment, Workplace Health & Safety – Fit for Work, Water Safety.

## Philosophy Review.....

On May 25th we held a philosophy meeting for all staff to have input, collaborate and gather information. Discussion included how we feel the current philosophy underpins our practice

- ◆ is it easy to follow and remember?
- ◆ What would we change?
- ◆ How would we change?
- ◆ What do we want to see represented in our philosophy?
- ◆ How can we incorporate our motto of ‘together we care, nurture and learn’?

Once we collate the information we will be seeking feedback from all stakeholders. Our next meeting will be held mid-July.



**Connecting with Children and Families**  
Supportive relationships are fostered through open communication and working partnerships with children and families.

**Community**  
We work collaboratively to build connections with the wider community through thoughtful, relevant and meaningful experiences. We build on the child's sense of belonging and connectedness.



**A Curriculum Influenced by Children, Families and Educators**  
Children's interests and strengths are scaffolded through intentional and spontaneous experiences, taking on a holistic approach. Our curriculums are play based and encourage children to interact socially with others.



**Play and Fun**  
Our environments encourage children to explore and investigate, fostering children's imagination and creativity.

**Care and Nurture**  
We value warm, friendly interactions that display respect and trust in a safe and welcoming environment, where children can develop a sense of belonging. We support all children's wellbeing, diversity and agency.

