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National Families Week
15—21 May 2016
Stronger Families
Stronger Communities

Dear Families,

St Anne's is quite a big children's centre with a lot of children, from babies to preschoolers.

There is a lot going on in every room every day from the Pebbles Room (for 0-1 yr olds) to the Seabirds Room (for 4-5 yr olds). This Newsletter is going to bring you up to date with the "goings on" throughout the Centre!

Yours as we care for and educate your children together,
Narelle Dewhurst. CENTRE DIRECTOR

Pebbles and Pippies Rooms (known as "the Nursery")

'Building relationships' with educators and other children in their room, is probably the most important part of the programme for the children in these rooms. The children's independent inquisitive exploration (supported by the educators) of the spaces, places, and equipment and materials is the next most important part of the programme—allowing the children to learn about what is around them through their senses and their curiosity....what is that? How does that work? Can I make that move/open/shut? The early stages of intentional communication and language development is also crucial at this stage and is purposefully supported by the educators.

Engaging in art and craft is probably the least important part of the programme although for the older children in the Pippies Room (heading toward 2 years old), their interest and ability to engage with such materials independently opens a new world to them. For very little ones to engage in such activities, (unless exploration of paint with fingers has been a planned experience), needs adults to intervene and direct which we would rather not do—independent exploration is much more valuable than trying to keep a little one on task with an activity they will take to more independently when a little older.

Gardening, playing with water, crawling, climbing, mixing and filling containers in the sandpit, and exploring musical instruments, board books and puppets have been a priority for the Pebbles and Pippies children.

FORWARD NOTICE

Shells Room (Toddlers—2-3 yr olds)

The 2-3 year olds are really ready to engage with a huge variety of sensory materials and experiences. They have gained more control over their physical movements (fine and gross motor control), they are curious and whilst may need some guidance can engage independently using implements and tools that they are learning, have a specific purpose. The PROCESS of making something is still far more important to these children than the end PRODUCT.

So what has kept the Shells children busy?

Printing with paint, stamping with shapes and paint, making carrot and apple juice with an educator, practising 'fundamental movement skills' as part of the Munch and Move programme (jumping, side sliding, galloping), building "volcanoes" in the sandpit, threading very large beads, engaging in a variety of pretend play (fire fighters, hairdressers, ice cream shops, hospitals), baking gingerbread, exploring emotions through songs and stories, practising turn-taking with card games. And most recently, making invitations for their parents to invite them to afternoon tea during National Families Week.

As the children become more interested in being social with their peers with their developing language and associative play, more group experiences and planned play occurs.

Rockpools Room (Preschool Room for 3-4 yr olds)

3-4 year olds are becoming a lot more interested in the world around them and learning about it. Their language is increasing rapidly and they are ready to engage in conversation, listen and learn about the community and beyond. Their emotions are BIG and they need help to regulate them. They need to learn about them as well to try to understand them and to understand how their emotions are making them feel. Their developing fine motor skills and cognition lends itself to focused attention on whatever they are choosing to do—a painting full of pattern, shapes and some with recognisable features, a craft project as they select carefully different materials to use.

What have the Rockpools children been up to?

Learning, learning and more learning as they play with each other, independently explore, talk about "things" together and with their teachers, listen to carefully chosen stories with their teachers, use the



"Little Blue Tulip Photography"

With Ben Lynch

will be at St Anne's from Monday 20—Friday 24 June taking "school photos". More information to come!

listening post with a small group of peers listening to a recorded story together, cooking, starting to learn about life cycles, representing ideas using blocks, clay, craft materials, working toward becoming more co-operative with each other, working with educators to create play environments and to clean up and pack them away, AND, joining the Seabirds Preschool Class next door for a variety of experiences and interactions.

Seabirds Room (Preschool Room for 4-5 yr olds)

The Seabirds Preschool Class of children are (generally) in their year before school (Kindergarten). Their ability to connect with others, create play together, purposefully plan their own approach to art and craft experiences, engage in extensive episodes of co-operative play and interactions, their interest in their own community, other communities and the world, is growing and developing significantly.

This is the year for children to further develop and consolidate their early literacy and numeracy understandings, their self-regulation of their behaviours that are reactive rather than responsive, a deeper understanding of their own emotions and the effect they can have on others, extend their interests and ideas in lots of different directions, start to understand and respond to "rules" and why they are imposed, and become much more purposeful in everything they do supported by their extensive and competent use of language.

What have the Seabirds children been busy doing?

Learning:

- how to work together as a community of learners.
- and gaining an understanding of 'reciprocal rights' necessary for community living
- how to have shared discussions and conversations
- more about their emotions, what they mean, how to manage them and how they affect others.
- what does sustainability mean and how can they contribute as they engage with natural elements within their community
- more about life and growth cycles
- how to play board games with peers
- the value of physical involvement and play
- about Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and traditions
- to build their oral language capacity—an important aspect of literacy and communication
- about the connection between their own home and their St Anne's community

AND.....lots and lots of building, creating, painting, cutting, craft making, taping, printing etc. Etc.

AND.... Making connections (through walks and visits) with the Holy Family School community next door as part of the Seabirds Preschool Class Transition to School programme.

AND.... Making a visit to Crowley Village connecting with older folk within our community.

There are so many learning opportunities provided for all of the young children enrolled at St Anne's. Their educators work with and alongside them honouring who they are, what their interests are, who their families are, and also understanding the importance of supporting their development-socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Thankyou for allowing us that privilege!

Congratulations



to Kaylene Nuttall and Jess Quinnell who have just completed their studies to attain their Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. They are both an asset to our team of educators.



Well done Kaylene and Jess!!

ST ANNE'S CARPARK SAFETY



- **Drive VERY slowly**
- **Hold your child's (children's) hands as you walk into and out of St Anne's**
- **DO NOT let your child OPEN the gate-it should be a job for adults**
- **DO NOT leave your car running when you get out of it**
- **DO NOT leave any young child in your car while you come into St Anne's**
- **USE appropriate child safety seats**
- **Buckle up!**

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

15-21ST MAY

Australia has one of the highest reported incidences of food allergies in the world, and the numbers are growing at an alarming rate. In fact, one in 10 babies born in Australia today will develop a food allergy. An allergic reaction can quickly become life threatening and people can die from food allergy. While the risk cannot be removed, it can be managed.

Find out more at www.foodallergyaware.com.au

Book Review

This and That

By Mem Fox

The brilliant team that brought you the best selling - *Where is the Green Sheep?* Have a new story to tell. A story of THIS, and a story of THAT is an utterly delightful bedtime story.

