



July 2010

Boondall Early Learning Centre
2345 Sandgate Road, Boondall 4034
Ph: 07 3865 3323
Email: boondallelc@gcaweb.com.au

Boondall Early Learning Centre

From the Director's Desk

Where on earth did the first half of the year go?

Just a quick reminder that to celebrate our 1st Birthday, Boondall Early Learning Centre will be holding a Fete on Sunday 1st August from 9am - 12pm. This date is quickly approaching and we are looking for people who would be interested in holding a stall or booking a spot for our car boot sale. A note went out a few weeks ago asking for families support and input. Please see me ASAP if you are interested in contributing to the day or know of someone who may.

Please **SAVE THIS DATE and COME ALONG** as we are hoping that the day will be a huge success. **INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS**. There will be plenty of activities and fun for children and adults alike. We will be advertising this in the following weeks and welcome any suggestions or offers of help.

There are many changes happening across the Child Care industry over the next few years; the implementation of a *recognised* educational year before school (although many centres already provide excellent learning opportunities before these reforms), strict requirements to employ qualified staff, changes to staff: child ratios, etc. Perhaps the most positive and significant change will be the implementation of a national early learning framework. Outwardly, you may see little change from the child care experience your child is already being provided at Boondall Early Learning Centre. From a carer/educators perspective though, the ideals and beliefs about what quality care looks like are now clearly defined in this document: the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

The Early Years Learning Framework describes the principles, practice and outcomes essential to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school. The Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning as play is the best vehicle for young children's learning providing the most appropriate stimulus for brain development. The Framework also recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

In each forthcoming newsletter I will be outlining one aspect of the EYLF document so that families are better informed about the level of care and learning that your child is receiving. If you are interested in finding out more about the Early Years Learning Framework please see me for information or visit www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood.

Warm regards,

Meg Bell – Director

P.S. Thanks to everyone who attended our Disco last month. I heard it was a BRILLIANT NIGHT! Let's hope our Fete is as successful.



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Centre Availability

We have days available in most of the rooms throughout the centre. If you would like to pick up an extra permanent day these days are available now.

Room/ Days	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Toddlers	*	*	*	*	*
Junior Kindy	*				*
Senior Kindy	*	*	*	*	*
Preschool	*	*	*	*	*

* Indicates availability on that day
Please Note: These vacancies may change daily.



Philosophy, Broad Goals and Policy Reviews

Check notice board at reception

Your input is valuable to us!

- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Programming
- ◆ Food and Nutrition

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As the weather is getting cooler please ensure your child is rugged up and has plenty of spare warm clothes. The centre does not provide jumpers, singlets and shoes for your children should the weather turn very cool and we have very limited supplies of spare clothes.



NOTES TO PARENTS

As many of you have noticed, Jodie has updated our staff board with all staff photos, positions and qualifications. We have included the staff roster so that you are aware of any changes or absences of staff.

Please utilise the morning and afternoon tea baskets in and above the fridge in your child's room. There is NOT enough room for every child's lunch box to fit into the fridge. It is essential that you unpack your child's lunch box into the designated areas EVERY day.

Our vegetable garden is coming along very well. We have dozens of seedlings that have shot and we are looking forward to our harvest of carrots, beans, watermelon, herbs, passionfruit, etc for our Christmas in July feast. If anyone has any Styrofoam boxes (in reasonable condition) that they do not use anymore, we would love to take them off your hands. The children will paint them up and use them as pots for creepers and climbers such as zucchini, pumpkin, watermelon and beans.

We are looking into purchasing children's gloves and tools in our next order. We will eventually get a compost heap and a worm farm, but all in good time. I recently looked into participating in the McCain's Vege Patch program, but unfortunately they are not offering it to child care centres at this stage. If anyone comes across any other similar program, please let us know.

We have applied to become a Sun Safe centre as we meet all of the requirements to obtain this. I will let you know as soon as our application is processed.



Again we are thanking the Chamberlain family for their VERY generous donation of a 4 burner BBQ! I'm sure this will be a lot more effective than my camping BBQ which has been used for previous functions☺. It was so thoughtful of you to consider us.

Thank you to all of our families who have donated seeds, seedlings, plants, pots, soil, potting mix, compost, etc.

A huge THANK YOU to Marguerite McNaught who has sewn our Toddler communication pockets. We really appreciate your time and skills. They look fabulous and it is a far more efficient way to share information with families!

Recent Staff Training Opportunities: I have included this section as staff have been attending many workshops and training opportunities in their own time to advance the level of care we provide. I am so impressed at how motivated and eager to learn they all are, giving up so much of their personal time to benefit the centre and provide the best possible care to our children and their families.

Sam attended a seminar on 'Young Children with hearing loss in an inclusive setting' at the Hear and Say Centre on Tuesday the 22nd June.

Jodie and Sarah both attended Tracy's Potty training workshop on Thursday the 10th June. This gave them lots of relevant tips and ideas to help support those families whose children are ready to toilet train.

Many of us attended an interactive workshop 'Putting the Early Years Learning Framework into Practice' which helped us gain a broader understanding of the EYLF.

SHINE for ELYF was a Saturday workshop which ran from 9am-3.30pm and covered many topics including: Sun safety, Healthy bodies/Healthy minds (Physical activity, theory and practice, Food and Behaviour), and the Early Years Learning Framework.

All staff will be receiving Spanish lessons from Alphatykes on 6th July in preparation for incorporating this into the program.

In & around the Centre

- Please remember to name all belongings (i.e. lunch containers, clothes, underwear, bags, drink bottles, etc)
- Please see Meg at reception if you are interested in booking any extra days for your child



Helpers, cooks, bakers and stall holders for our Fete that is coming up on the 1st of August 2010. We are hoping to make this day a fun community event so would love any input families have. Please invite all of your friends, relatives and workmates.

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I was fortunate enough to attend a 3 day industry conference in early June which covered a huge variety of relevant topics and had a multitude of informative presenters and industry representatives. The purpose of this conference was to enable centres to provide the best possible care for children and their families and perform to the highest professional standard. I learnt so much and look forward to sharing this information with the rest of the team and putting it all into practice.

Important events coming up: July & August 2010

July 21 st	Christmas in July
August 1 st	Our 1 st Birthday Fete!
August 11 th	Show holiday – Centre closed
August 16 th	RSPCA Cupcake day (<i>this one is for you Marie</i>)
August 27 th	Daffodil Day

More information on all of these events will be displayed on notice boards in rooms, on statements and in the foyer closer to the dates.

Toddler Talk

July is here already and boy is the weather feeling cooler by the day! The toddlers have been keeping warm inside and out by keeping very active through music and movement. You may have seen in the daily program book recently how much the Toddlers loved performing when they let loose on the little stage they helped create. It was so funny to watch them move and groove around and they really seemed to have a good time dancing to the beat of the music. As this interest develops, we will introduce new materials into this dramatic performance. One idea we have had already was to give them some musical instruments, and they could make a little Toddler band. Look out for some funky photos of this in the near future.



Have you checked out all the beautiful artwork around the room? The Toddlers have been very busy creating lots of wonderful pictures to hang around the room and make it nice and colourful. They have been choosing to use a wide variety of materials to paint with as well, like their hands, sponges and different sized brushes. Stay tuned for more awesome artwork to come.

You may have noticed in the Toddler room we now have individual pockets for the children. A very BIG thank you to Marguerite McNaught (Tyler and Evans mum) for making these for us in her own time,

they look amazing! In these pockets is where you will now find any forms, notes, etc. for your child.

A BIG Happy 2nd Birthday to

the following children in the Toddler room for the month of July:

Madeline – 16th

Decklin – 21st

We hope you have a super fun day!

Thanks to all families for making sure that your child has a named drink bottle every day they attend the centre. It is great for helping the Toddlers with their self help skills, as they can identify which drink bottle is theirs and help themselves when they are thirsty.



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Also thanks for separating your child's food into the correct baskets and leaving their lunch on the right shelves of the fridge (top shelf for heat ups and second shelf for cold lunches). It is really minimizing the time it takes to feed lots of hungry mouths.

What can you do for us? Parents often approach us asking how they can contribute, here are a couple of ideas that we have come up with. We would like to give the Toddler room a more homely feel for the children and make it an area they can be really creative in, as many of them spend a lot of their week with us. We are looking for any donations of items not being used around the house anymore including, but not limited to the following ideas: Cushions, curtains, books of all kinds, kitchenware, crafts, recycled goods like bottles and old food boxes, old clothes and shoes for dress ups, scarves, sheets, blankets, shoe boxes, photo frames – really just about anything that is still in fairly decent condition and safe for the Toddlers to use. Any items can be given to Jodie or Dacia or left in the Toddler room.

On a final note we are still finding unnamed items in the room. We have had a few students in the room lately and also staff coming in for lunch relief, it helps to minimize lost property if everything is named. Please put your child's name on ALL of their belongings that they bring to the centre (clothes, shoes, socks, food, lids – we mean everything). Also if anything ends up in your child's bag by mistake that isn't theirs please just hand it in at the office or give it to Dacia or Jodie on your child's next day at the centre. We appreciate your help with these matters.

Well that's all til next time. If you have got any questions or queries we are happy to answer them so stop by for a chat.

Jodie, Dacia and the Toddlers



Junior Kindy Chatter

Ola family and friends, its already time for another edition of Junior Kindy chatter. We have been practising saying hello in a different language each week at group times. Recently we have been practising saying hello in Spanish which some of us recognise from the programme Dora and Diego. We will be able to further develop our skills in speaking Spanish when we become a bilingual centre which we are all very excited about! Our little brains are like sponges and absorb new languages very easily at our age; it will be a great opportunity for our kids.

Well what have we been doing this past month.....? We have been finishing all of our projects on our focus "all about me". We completed our feet painting artwork, the children loved dipping their feet into the cold paint and walking on the long white paper, it was very slippery so Esther helped them walk along it. Using the primary colours red, blue and yellow and having some of the colours mix, the end result was nothing short of a masterpiece. This allowed the children to explore different textures and colour mixing.



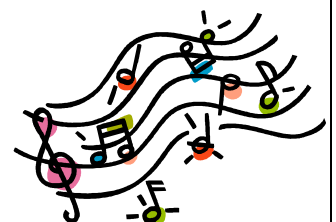
We have completed our play dough hand moulds which allowed us to explore different textures through our hands; they will be hung around the room this week. As a finishing touch to our focus we also completed clothing our body outlines. Firstly we planned out what piece of clothing we were going to make e.g. dress, pants, and shirt. We then used scissors to cut clothing out of material we had, then glue to stick them to our outlines. This activity was great for our cognitive development and fine motor skills.



We are finishing up on our focus "all about me" as we have shown a keen interest in something completely different, and it's an Australian icon, the "Kookaburra". We have a hand puppet in Junior Kindy that gets requested to come out at group times a lot, and with the hand puppet we sing the song

"Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Merry, Merry king of the bush is he,
Laugh! Kookaburra Laugh! Kookaburra
Gay your life must be".

The children really get into this song and we practise laughing like the Kookaburra which usually has me laughing in fits...it's very entertaining.



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We introduced a new resource to expand the children's interest on the Kookaburra. It is a colour poster with a big picture of the bird on it and some basic facts about the bird such as what they like to eat. We used role play to act out the Kookaburra's meals. We slithered like a snake, swam like a fish, ran like a mouse and climbed like a spider. This was a fun way to engage the children and help them remember some facts on the Kookaburra. Keep an eye out for where our focus will head next.



We were soooo lucky to have Ellis' mum, Dayna come in to Junior Kindy on her holidays to do a cooking experience with the children. Dayna brought in all the ingredients to make Falafels. The children each had a turn at mashing chick peas, herbs and onions. Dayna then helped the children add flour and then roll the falafel mix into small balls. From here we glazed the falafels and Dayna put them into the fry pan. While the falafels were cooking Sarah toasted some Turkish bread. When the falafels were cooked Dayna placed them inside a piece of Turkish bread and garnished them with avocado. Everybody loved their falafels and loved having Dayna come in to cook with them. Thanks again Dayna, all donated time

is greatly appreciated.

Some of the children in Junior Kindy have shown a keen interest in using the toilet recently. Please feel free to pop a few spare pairs of underwear in your child's bag and speak to either Esther or myself about starting toilet training if you feel your child is ready.

I attended the toilet training workshop this month and found the information very valuable and would have no hesitations in answering any questions or concerns you have about toilet training your child. One of the ideas to get your child excited about starting toilet training, was to take them shopping with you to purchase new undies. Let your child choose their own underwear and even hand the money over to the shop assistant. This is a lot more exciting than being handed a pair of underwear. This is just one of the many ideas to get your child started!

We said farewell to Syarra and Tremaine who took the long walk next door to Senior Kindy. Syarra we will miss your beautiful smile and bubbly personality! Tremaine we will miss your beautiful big brown eyes and cheeky laugh in the Junior Kindy room. We wish you both happy times as you take another step on your learning journey.

I think we have covered everything for another month, just a few reminders. Please dress your child weather appropriately; it has been very cold these past few weeks. Please ensure your child has socks, shoes, and a jumper. Don't forget to pack a spare pair in case your child gets wet during the day.

We have a strict nutrition policy so please **do not send juice**, milk or water are the only substitutes. Also **chocolate products are not to be brought to Kindy**; this includes chocolate flavoured yoghurt and milk. Families have been doing a great job of providing fresh fruit for the children's meals which is great to see, and the children love their fruit.

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest edition of Junior Kindy Chatter and we look forward to chit chatting soon.

Sarah, Esther and the kids x



Senior Kindy News

Welcome to another exciting edition of the Senior Kindy newsletter.

What we have been doing:

As you may recall from last time we spoke the children were very interested in families and how each family is different, to that end we made a family tree and have been collecting photos of our families to put on it, thank you to all those families who have already given us photos to put on the tree but we are still waiting for a few more to make our tree complete.

Our interest in painting has continued to grow, we have started using different tools to create beautiful artwork, we have used pipe cleaners, feathers and our fingers to explore different textures and patterns in our art work while continuing to explore the colours that we can create using blue, red, yellow, black and white. We have made different shades of blue, green and purple as well as dark oranges and grey, our colour recognition is growing as a result of all of these fun colour

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experiments. Chloe and Jayda made a "Swirl of colour" with red and blue that had purple lines where the colours mixed together.

We have continued learning about our bodies, in particular the bones and muscles that we use to move around and pick things up. Ella asked if I could open her hand so that she could see the muscles, I explained that we cannot open our skin but if she pressed her finger over the muscle she could feel it move under her skin, this was really exciting and soon we were all holding onto our arms and hands feeling the muscles move as we wiggled our fingers and waved our hands.

In the last week the children have started showing a real interest in transport and the different ways that people can get around. Thomas and Jack built us a very large and detailed train track with lots of loops and bridges one day and all of the children took turns driving the train over the track.

We have also done some work with trucks, cars and boats to extend on the transport interest. Just the other day the children made a bus out of the chairs from the tables and everyone got on to go on a trip to the "big shops in the city" Ajay said.

Fete preparations are in full swing we are all getting very excited creating our art works for the silent auction and hearing about all the fun stalls and visitors that will be coming to the centre; we hope to see all of you there Sunday August 1st from 9am – 12pm.

Also, we send all of our best wishes to Trisha who is at home unwell. We are all missing her and hope "the doctors can make her all better for us to see her soon" –Ella. She and the baby in her tummy are fine, she is just having some R'n'R.

Where to next?

We are going to continue to learn about the different types of families that there are in our community. We have talked about the families of our classmates and teachers and how sometimes we have more than one family. We are going to make collages of our families to put up in our room.

There is still so much to learn about our bodies too so we are going to continue our exercise and x-ray exploration to see what other things we can learn.

To develop our transport interest further we are planning to make a big road map on some paper on the floor that we can drive our cars on. We are also talking about traffic lights and road rules so that we can be safe on the road, both in play and in life.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please feel free to approach either of us.

Until next time Trisha and Sam

Preschool Gossip

We have had another busy few weeks in Preschool. We have started to feel the cold so are taking real care to be looking after our own health, and helping to take care of our peers.



We have had a few new faces joining us and we are so happy to see more smiling faces in our room. Our latest recruits are Kiara and Mathew. We are really glad to have you with us. We would also like to welcome Mya's new little brother, Owen to the world. We have been looking forward to meeting you!

We have been enjoying our garden so much, and love watching our little seedlings grow and change with each day. Making sure we water them every day our preschoolers have been measuring them to check on how much taller our plants have become. We had a little

fluffy visitor munching away on one of the bean plants, and that got us interested in caterpillars, butterflies and insects in general. We have been contributing loads of great ideas into our garden, and have planned a lot of interesting additions to make. Thanks once again for those who donated seeds, seedling and their time into our garden, we really appreciate it.

We have also been very interested in exploring our bodies. We started off fascinated with babies, and how they fitted into their Mum's tummies, which led to exploring the size of our bodies, and what filled them up. We traced around some of our bodies, and drew bones, muscles, and blood veins in



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them. It was interesting to think that there were a lot of things going on inside us that we couldn't see or feel.

Our favourite part of exploring our bodies would have to be testing out tastes and our tongues. We experienced sweet, sour, bitter and salty, after looking at a diagram of our tongues, and talking about where we could taste these different sensations. The faces we pulled for sour and bitter made us giggle, and most of us weren't sure if we liked it or not. With salty (water) we just tasted it and spat it back into our tasting cup, and that face was pretty funny too. We got really good at pin pointing exactly where on our tongues we could taste each thing.

Lily and her Mum bought in their two turtles who we loved meeting. We are investigating sea life now as a result. Awesome!

It must be the right time for a holiday as there are a few people away at the moment. With all our knowledge of the world, we are interested in looking at the map again to see where everyone is going. Jetta's Mum and Dad are away in Italy and Amy and her family are heading off to England, so we love finding and talking about these countries on the map. I'm off on holiday too, yay, but not quite as far away. I'm going to Sydney for a week then back home to frosty New Zealand. I'll be away from June 28th till July 14th. The lovely Nell and Kim will be joined by Jen and Laura while I'm away. Callie's family are also heading off to New Zealand for a holiday. We hope you all have a great time, and bring back lots of stories and wonderful memories.

Well that's about all for this time around. Take extra special care of yourselves on those cold days and rug up nice and warm.

Thanks for your time, Carly, Nell and Kim.



RESOURCES

Please take time to look around the Centre foyer as we have a large range of resources available for you to look at.



- Ezidebit forms
- Fact sheets
- Brochures
- Copies of the current newsletter
- Lunch box ideas
- Centre Events
- Holiday Forms



Group Fitness classes – Wednesday @ 6.30pm

Group fitness classes are held here at the centre every Wednesday night 6.30-7.30pm at a cost of \$15 for the hour. Please speak to Jodie or Meg if you are interested in joining.

Steve also offers individual, pairs and group personal training as well as running groups. Please phone him directly if you would like any further information

STEVE HOHN

Personal Trainer

m. 0421 383 947

e. steve@formfitness.com.au

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AIM TO CLIMB HIGH!

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