

2017 / April

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE WOULD LIKE TO
RESPECTFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGE THE JAGERA
AND TURRBAL PEOPLES WHO
ARE THE TRADITIONAL
CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND
ON WHICH KURILPA
CHILDCARE CENTRE
OPERATES, AND THEIR
ELDERS BOTH PAST AND
PRESENT.



OUR VISION

KURILPA IS A COMMUNITY
THAT NURTURES,
SUPPORTS, CHALLENGES
AND CELEBRATES WITH
CHILDREN IN THEIR LIFE
JOURNEY. A COMMUNITY
WITH STRONG ALLIANCES
BETWEEN CHILDREN,
FAMILIES, TEAM AND THE
EARTH.



Dear families,

We hope that our new families are settled into Kurilpa and that the families who returned are settled into their children's new learning environments. We are looking forward to an exciting 2017 with you all!

At the end of last year, the Kurilpa team set ourselves a goal to give back and make more meaningful connections to our community through both external and internal occurrences. We believe a community is more than just a location or group of people who happen to live or work in the same place and when we talk about community at Kurilpa, we are talking about the quality of connections that bring each of us together rather than the fact that we see each other every day.

We want our children to feel part of the wider community that extends far beyond their learning environments within Kurilpa. We want children to grow and develop these connections to their outside world by helping them find their place, be a part of their developing understanding of how society works, and to be able to recognise and understand what underpins our shared values.

This year, we have planned excursions to take the children out on recurring and ongoing excursions to local parks, post offices, corner stores and libraries. However, we want to ensure that our community engagement isn't something we do once and then move on; it needs to become part of our everyday practice. We are aiming to make these excursions regular and consistent. We've recently invited our local book store, Avid Reader and West End Police station out to visit at Kurilpa to provide the children knowledge of how they fit into our community. We are working towards visiting these important parts of our community and having them visit us more regularly.

While early childhood services are, in many ways, perfectly placed to play an important role in the local community, they can easily become inaccessible from the community. The general day to day running of the rooms, the feeling that it may be easier to stay put rather than to venture out, can all limit how we connect with the outside world. If, however, we recognise that we are already part of the community, then our task becomes reasonably easy.

Recognising and building on the connections that already exist within a service is one simple way to start engaging with the community.

So now, we ask for you to help us on this journey – Who do you know? And who else do they know? We are hoping that within our already made community at Kurilpa, you can help us make further connections. Whether that connection be a local gardener, someone who has contact with a local council, a yoga teacher or someone who can simply play an instrument for the children. Making use of all of our existing connections will help us ensure that our engagement is genuine and true. We know that relationships take time to develop and we are hoping that with the support of everyone we can start our journey from here, even the most elaborate examples of community involvement usually started small.

Thanks,

Sophie Jones - Director



2017 Management Committee & AGM:

On Sunday the 26th of March, Kurilpa held its Annual General Meeting and family BBQ. We had a fantastic turn out at both events with over 40 families joining us throughout. For those of you who weren't able to make the AGM and would like to see the Presidents report or Treasurers report, please see a member of office staff.

I'd like to express a huge thank you to the following members from the 2016 committee who have since departed; Yasmin Gunn, Melalie Collie, Trudy H-Bishop and Paolo Marinelli who all played an integral part in the 2016 year. We thank you for your continuous support and dedication to Kurilpa.

Here is our wonderful volunteer Management Committee for 2017:

Jody Hart – **President**

Annie Fonda – **Vice President (Human Resources)**

Anneliese Wickham – **Vice President (Policies & Procedures)**

Laura Reece-Oresjo – **Secretary**

Ian Watts – **Treasurer**

Angela Renshaw – **Ordinary Member**

Gayle McCaul – **Ordinary Member**

Catherine Sinnamon – **Ordinary Member**

Aaron Peters – **Ordinary Member**

We also have a sub-committee who will be focusing on grants for the year, thank you to Sakitha Bandaranaike and Linda Richards for taking this on.

Our Management Committee meets every third Thursday of the month. If there is anything you wish to contribute or bring to the attention of the committee, we ask that you do so in writing or email and it will be forwarded on to the committee.

Thanks,

Sophie Jones

Admin News

With the end of financial year fast approaching, there are just a few things I needed to go over in regards to the Child Care Rebate. Eligible families are entitled to \$7500.00 of Child Care Rebate per child, per financial year. This can either be paid directly to the family or to the child care service as a reduced weekly fee.

If you are receiving the Child Care Rebate directly to the centre, you may have noticed recently that it is not being applied to your fees on the weekly statement. This could be due to a few different reasons:

- a) You may have reached your limit of \$7500.00. Please check your usage at the bottom of the weekly statement.
- b) Our fee program stops estimating the Child Care Rebate once 85% (\$6375.00) of usage has been reached. You will still receive the remainder of your rebate however it won't appear on your statement until the following week, once the attendances have been confirmed by Centrelink.
- c) If you are receiving the Child Care Benefit at a rate greater than zero as well as the Child Care Rebate, Centrelink will withhold 15% of your Child Care Rebate entitlement. This means you may not receive the annual limit payable for your child directly to the centre. If you have any outstanding entitlements, you'll be paid after the end of the financial year when Centrelink balances your family payments.

If you have any questions about your account, please feel free to call or come and see me in the office. I'm at the centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday. Or alternatively, send me an email to mail@kurilpaccc.org.au. If it is a matter concerning your CCB or CCR, it is best to phone the Department of Human Services as well on 13 61 50.

Thank you!

Catherine





From The Kurilpa Kitchen

Nut Update

Toward the end of last year, the Kurilpa team decided to initiate a discussion about re-introducing nuts to the menu. This was because of the nutritional value nuts have in a vegetarian diet. The team was positive and confident of managing the inclusion of nuts at the centre in the same way we manage all of the foods which are known allergens to attending children; with policy and risk management procedure to reduce the possibility of accidental exposure. We researched from the allergy authority in Australia, the ASCIA.

When we asked for feedback from families, the response was positive in a nutritional sense, but families were concerned for attending children with known nut allergies. Since this time, two more children have enrolled with nut allergies, one with a high risk of anaphylaxis. Because of this fact along with staff and parental concern, we have decided to put on hold any further discussion about the re-introduction of nuts, and re-assess at a later date. Of course our priority is to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback about this issue. The Kurilpa menu remains nutritionally sound, providing half of the recommended dietary requirements the children

Along with nuts, attending children have many known food allergies. We currently have four children who carry adrenalin auto injectors. There is signage throughout the centre advising every one of these food allergy triggers. Our risk management to keep these children safe extends responsibility to you, the families. We appreciate your adherence to the following;

-Do not bring food into the centre unless it is for a special occasion and is left with me in the kitchen. Please provide an ingredient listing, along with the ingredients of any decorations used eg sprinkles.

-Never leave food or medication in your child's bag. Medication includes Epipens and asthma inhalers.

-If your child arrives still eating breakfast, please remain seated in the foyer or front garden until finished, being mindful of cleaning up crumbs.

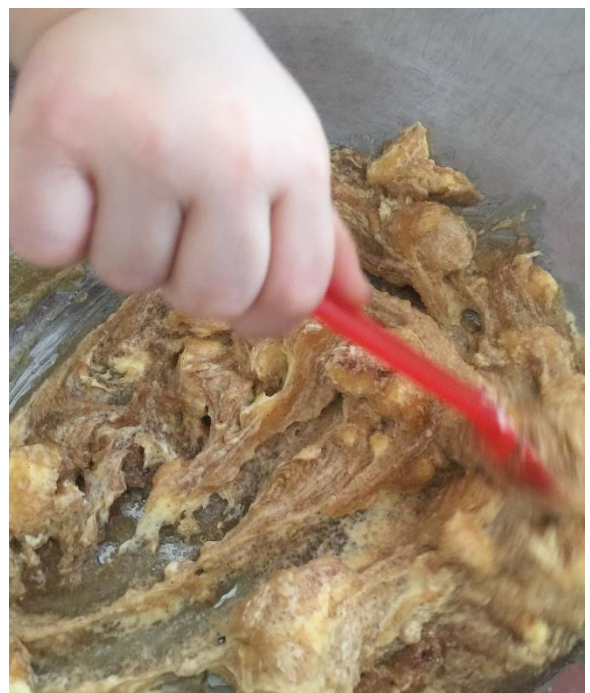
-Best practice includes wiping faces after eating, and washing hands on arrival and departure of the centre.

Thank you for your help in managing this risk; it is everyone's responsibility.

Another outcome of the nut discussion and research has been the purchase of a general-use adrenalin auto injector for Kurilpa. There is always the possibility of an allergic reaction occurring for the first time while at the centre. While we hope this never happens, all staff hold current first-aid certificates which includes anaphylactic training. There has also been a product recall of auto injectors recently; we have signage on the kitchen bench, which includes the batch numbers of the possible faulty ones.

Finally, if there is anything you ever need to discuss with me I am always available and up for a chat. If you have a favourite family recipe you think could work at Kurilpa, we'd love to include it on our menu.

Cheers for now, Lizzie



KINDY

We have had a wonderful start to the 2017 Kurilpa Kindy Program. During our first term, we have enjoyed establishing our routine and focusing on some key learning areas to help support the children's sense of identity, connectedness and wellbeing. Our overall focus has been to:

Build a sense of security and trust

Act with increasing independence and perseverance

Build positive relationships with others

Show increasing respect for diversity and to...

Build a sense of autonomy and wellbeing.

To foster positive relationships, we have been talking about ways to be kind to ourselves, others and our environment and we have been encouraging self-help skills through our daily tasks. Throughout the year we will explore several projects that can help to allow the children to develop a real appreciation for the process of learning through play as we follow interests and create projects and experience working together towards various outcomes. Our project might be over a few days to several weeks or even the whole term. This first term our projects which expanded on children's interests, skills and development have been:

Watching the tadpoles grow, thanks to Felix and his dad Simon for setting up the tank with the kindy children and teaching us more about frogs.



Planning, designing, making and playing with the Cat Bus.



Practicing ways to look after our books with letters from The Book Hospital. This was the first of our imaginative Drama based provocations, whereby teachers used drama techniques to enrol and engage children in a playful learning task and respect for our environment.



Exploring drawing and art materials as we draw what we see. The children have been enjoying drawing plants and insects and landscapes that they have seen or found in the playground or online, and fruit and veggies that we eat at kindy.



We have enjoyed marking the end of term 1 with a two-week reflection time, which has allowed for children and staff to collectively consolidate and appreciate their learning and achievements so far. During this school holiday period, children have also enjoyed some time away with parents, older siblings, and other family members and we are starting to hear the stories of their trips away as they share their experiences during our kindy circle times. We look forward to kicking off our next term, as we continue to explore new projects and themes together with children and their families. Thanks for a positive start to the year everyone!



JUNIOR KINDY

I can't believe it's already April. How time flies when you have such active and involved families and children. We started the year getting familiar with our new JK environment both indoors and out. Our transition was smooth sailing after already forming close bonds educators and spending time in the big playground on their many visits. We have found this group to be very energetic, always brimming with enthusiasm when it comes to sharing ideas, following

interests and contributing to how we structure our day.



Harmony day provided us with a platform to share, talk and learn about cultural diversity. We read stories, sang songs and researched architecture from different places around the world.



We incorporated all this newly gained knowledge into our daily activities.

Construction has been a strong interest for many of our JK over the past couple of months. Building towers, roads, dwellings and walls with both our small and large construction sets and working as a team. These projects end up sprawling over our indoor and outdoor spaces. The children work collaboratively and we hear these amazing conversations as together they share their

thought, vision and experiences as their project develops. We have been sourcing pictures using our lap top of different buildings from around the world. Their most recent venture was creating the Great Wall of China.

We read the story Silly Billy about the Guatemalan worry dolls. Annie wanted to make a worry doll for under her pillow. We had just been given all these beautiful fabrics from Zi Zi's mum so we decided to use pegs and got busy designing our very own dolls. They looked fantastic.

We read 'Handa's Surprise,' the story is set in Africa. The JK discussed the idea of balancing a basket with fruit on our heads. They thought it would be tricky but they were up for the challenge. They helped me make a list of the fruit and sourced a basket from our cupboard. It took lots of concentration but I was impressed how many of our JK's were able to take a step with the fruit basket on their heads. Afterwards we used our fruit basket as a still life study and produced some wonderful pastels artworks.

Each group-time building, up to Harmony day we practiced our 'Good morning to the sun' song and 'Let's wave and say hello' which continues to

evolve as we learn add new languages to many ways to say hello.



In the afternoon Kurilpa came together as a whole center to celebrate Harmony day and how embracing cultural diversity adds to the wonderful lifestyle we have in Australia. Thank-you to all the families who were able to come along and share in our celebrations.

This month we have some exciting excursions planned including starting our visits to Paradise Park again and an adventure to South Bank to celebrate Buddha's birthday!

Your Junior Kindy team.

Nikki, Nat and Catie.

TODDLERS



What a great start to the year we've had in the Toddler Community!

We had such a great turn up at the Parent Information which really helped us start our year strengthening the connection between our home and Kurilpa life. We've created goals for our year ahead and have become ever so busy in the first Project of the year "CONNECTIONS".

We've explored connecting as FAMILY - We're learning more and more about what makes us who we are and how similar and different our lives can be. Something as seemingly simple as knowing every parent's name within our Toddler

Community and having those little discussions about home life strengthens that sense of BELONGING to Kurilpa. We've had great feedback from our Parent Information evening and our room blog also provides a great link between home and Kurilpa life for families to share with their Toddlers at the end of the day. Our video screen in the Toddler room also allows us to share our Toddlers learning journey with the rest of our Kurilpa Community.



We've explored connecting to NATURE - our dirt pit and sand pit have become hives of activity as we get dirty, mucky and muddy. There's so much to gain from getting into the thick of things, mixing and pouring with water and dirt, seeing the differences between pushing a truck through dry sand or wet mud, how it feels beneath our feet and in between our fingers! Our Toddlers have already started to make those first crucial steps into understanding where food comes from. Our first bumper crop of seeds have sprouted in the vege patch and the waiting game is on for the freesia bulbs we've planted in our butterfly garden that we should see in spring! A big thank you to the Leonardi family for their donations of flowers from Bunnings! The Toddlers have loved tending to their blooms and watching for new buds to sprout!

We've explored connecting as COMMUNITY - We're about to start our visits to the Kindy yard once we have all our Carpark Permission letters back. This will be a fantastic time for our Toddlers to learn from the oldest of our Kurilpa children. It will also allow the Toddlers to view their part of our community as more than just the Toddler play spaces. We've already started small trips outside of our Toddler zone, visiting the office to see Catherine, Jane and Sophie to pick up photocopying or to say hello. Picking up and dropping off the food trolley to Lizzie and thanking her for all her hard work creating our amazing meals. We'll also be planning a visit to our greater West End community with an excursion toward the end of April to Lyons Park.



Yet again, our biggest project this year will be redesigning the Under Three's backyard. We really believe this area needs an overhaul from the mostly 1980's design, bringing it into a more challenging, open ended, natural environment. We're hoping to utilise the working bee at the end of April to overhaul our sand pit area and create a lasting mud kitchen between the sand and dirt pit areas. We've booked a landscape designer to help create plans for our yard renovations and hopefully we'll see some of these come into being before the year end is through!

Cass, Felicity and Alex



NURSERY

As the months roll on we are slowly but surely seeing the difference in our room as the children begin to settle. Very strong relationships are forming between us and the new children increasing children's confidence in playing independently throughout the room. We have been setting up activities that children can choose to access as they feel interested, providing us with space to sit and be a constant support to the newer children who need us nearby. We have found the older and more settled children have been engaged in painting, moving objects around the room in baskets, climbing and balls.



We have begun buying new resources for the room. Instead of larger items, this time we have been looking at simpler household items that the babies have been showing interest in, to extend on children's visual and sensory explorations. This is particularly relevant considering the increase in much younger children in the room this year and their interest in heuristic play - exploring known and found objects rather than "toys". We are providing a range of treasure baskets and these will allow the children to investigate the found objects in themes - paper, fabrics, silver, copper etc. Lots of kitchen utensils, spoons, measuring cups, sponges, brushes and natural materials such as shells. Baskets and boxes with lids for storing and sorting these new objects into and other handled baskets are great for our older children to transport, hide and collect these items.



As a lot of our children are crawling and developing their skills in standing and walking, we are in the process of adapting the environment to encourage their movements - attaching a pull-up bar across the wall mirror, setting up climbing outside that encourages standing and cruising and offering a range of experiences on the low padded table that is easier for younger children to reach and access.

We are busy documenting and observing the children's play, however are still awaiting a consensus on whether we are going ahead with Story Park. We feel given our age group that it would benefit them and the families so we have been writing the children's observations on this platform for now and can either invite families once this goes through or adapt those observations to PDF and share with families through google drive.



In collaboration with Sophie, we have been discussing ways they are able to improve the level of communication and consistency for families in the nursery. This room, in particular, needs a high level of information sharing between families and educators as well as other educators that come in and out of the room to cover lunch breaks and programming.



We have outlined several strategies we are putting in place in order to improve the consistency with this. Some of these are the

addition of a communication book, Hannah stepping away from the role of educational leader, prioritising getting the photos and reflections up for families, and adding Catie as our go-to staff member for whenever Hannah or Rachael are not in the room to improve consistency.

It is so exciting for us to come to this time in the year where we see the children becoming confident and engaged and we look forward to really diving into the meaty part of their learning journeys!!

Regards, The Nursery Team.



COMMUNITY BOARD: **WHY IS BREAKFAST SO IMPORTANT?**

It's a big way in which we start our day, and one of the most important parts of kick starting our brains into readiness for a big day of learning at Kurilpa!

As **Alisa Bar-Dayana** is a Registered Dietitian at The Specialty Food Shop located in Sick Kids Hospital, **Toronto** states...

"The point of breakfast is to feed your child's body the protein and energy it needs to start the day and to carry him through to lunch. Of course, children often learn most by example, so it's important for parents to set a good example and have a nutritious breakfast each day too."

It takes no more than one minute to put a slice of cheese between two slices of whole grain bread on and head out the door!

Try these time-saving tips:

Keep convenient foods on hand, such as yogurt, fruit, cheese, instant oatmeal, and whole grain bread. Have your child eat 'breakfast-to-go' on the bus, in the car, or while walking to school."

Who has some great recipes to share for things to make together on the weekend as a grab and go before heading out the door? Email us in your family fav's and we'll create a Kurilpa Community Breakfast File to access online!

Kurilpa Community Childcare Centre

Nurturing children in their life journey.

Sophie Jones – Director

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