


Norwest CCC News– July 2009

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Setting the Standard for High Quality, Affordable Child Care in the Hills District

General Update

We are heading towards an exciting second half of the year, Accreditation will be upon us soon, we have a number of staff expecting babies (!!) and the much anticipated annual Norwest Disco is only weeks away!! We hope that you are all enjoying reviewing your child's portfolio which are currently being distributed. If you would like to organise a one-on-one meeting with your child's Group Leader, please feel free to organise a time with them. We would also really appreciate it if parents could take the time to make a comment on the Parent Comments Sheet in the portfolio, before handing them back for the second half of the year.

Dates for your diary:

	7 th July	Pediatric Nurse Talk (see below for Health for Kids and Carers)
	3 rd , 5 th and 7 th Aug	Children's photos
	7 th August	Jeans for Genes Day
	11 th August	'Sparky' (Parramatta Eels mascot) and some players will be coming out for a visit
	12 th August	Bush Room Sports Day
	14 th August	Norwest DISCO!!
	4 th September	Fathers Day breakfast
	9 th October	Trivia Night (details on following pages)

Accreditation Update - Self study report

Our Accreditation self study report, a reflection of how we think we rate with regards to the quality of care we provide, will be available for comment in the foyer next week. This draft has been put together with the input of staff and families, and we welcome your input - take a moment to have a read and write comments on the sheet provided, we'll then collate all of that, and send it all in for assessment. The next step after that is the validator's visit, and our parent survey. If you're interested in the Quality Accreditation Process, brochures from the NCAC are also available in the foyer, and our team would be happy to discuss with you any aspects of the accreditation process.

The pitter patter of tiny feet



Most of you would know by now that Ashley and Matt have welcomed a new baby boy, Adam, into their lives. Ashley is taking the remainder of the year off for maternity leave, but Matt is already back on board, working hard with very little sleep!!



In other baby news, Lorna and her husband, Phil are expecting their first child in December!



Belinda and partner, Mike, are also expecting their third child in January!!



Finally, Dana and her husband Tony are also expecting their third child in February!!!



CENTRE LIBRARY

We have an ever growing library book collection available for families to borrow from. Our books cater for all age groups, so why not save some money and borrow a new book each week rather than having to buy new ones. Speak with Jayne if you would like to join, or just pop her an email and she will organise things for you.



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Creation of Flying Fox Group

This year we've had a lot of 'older' children in the Rainforest Room. Unfortunately the lack of physical space in the Bush Room meant that we couldn't just 'transition the children up'. So, we've created the Flying Fox Group. Becky, who holds a Masters of Education, has swapped roles with Louise (who is now leading the larger Wallabies group) and will be tailoring an educational program to the needs of this group. They'll be spending more time with the Joeys children and a little more time working on their pre-maths, pre-literacy and pre-science skills.

Staff Movements

Ocean Room



Jules

With Ashley off on maternity leave, the wonderful Jules has stepped into her role as Room Leader, while Sam has taken over Ashley's Penguin Group. Our new trainee, Lauren has also joined the Ocean Team and will be assisting Sam.



Lauren



Sam

Rainforest Room



Becky

Becky has made the move to the Rainforest Room as their Room leader and Group Leader of the newly formed Flying Fox Group. Katherine will continue as the Butterfly Group Leader and Sarah will take over as the Frogs Group Leader. Belinda and Emma will continue to support all groups.

Bush Room

The lovely Louise has moved back into the Bush Room as the Wallaby Group Leader and Second in charge to assist Rachel. Some of the older Joeys children will be moving up to create a bigger Wallaby Group which will be supported by Matt.



Louise

New Accounts System

After months of headaches since the change over of the last accounts system, we've made the decision to switch to a new one. Qikkids is a much better system for both staff and families. The new statements are easier to read and understand and explain CCB much better for parents. We're just getting the last of the data into the system and Jayne should have a new statement in your pocket soon. Please take the time to check your accounts and let us know if there are any issues. Once we've got it working smoothly, we'll start emailing out the statements. We appreciate all of those families who keep their accounts up to date (without having to ask every week how much to pay!). Thanks

Registering for CCB is also the responsibility of families. We let you know in your initial enrolment, and then it's up to you. We've given you a new and updated CCB / CCR handout in your pockets, take a read so that you understand, and are claiming, all that you are entitled to. Call the Family Assistance Office if you have any questions.

Illness and Exclusion

Thank you again to all of those families who are keeping sick children at home during cold and flu season. If you are unsure of our illness and exclusion policies, please speak with any of the team to make sure that you know ahead of time, when to keep your child at home. (we appreciate how inconvenient it is to get here and then be turned away).



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Health and Safety

Accident Report Forms – have undergone a slight format change, aimed at making it easier to understand what happened, and easier for us to follow any trends in accidents and injuries. Each accident report is reviewed by management to pick up any issues that we need to address – any possible maintenance issues or routine changes that need to be changed.

Health for Kids and carers

On Wednesday the 7th July at 6.00pm we will be having a guest speaker talk to us about children's health and staying healthy while working in child care. All parents are welcome to attend as we will cover relevant issues such as immunisation, Hygiene, basic first aid, medications and allergies. Renee Wallace is a paediatric nurse with many years experience and has been our guest speaker for a number of years now.

Staff Training

Ongoing professional development is one of the most important ways that we can ensure high quality care for your children. Trained staff, who are competent and confident in their skills, are able to provide excellence in Early Childhood Education. As such, all of our staff are undergoing ongoing professional development – in whatever format they choose (qualifications, short courses, face-to-face or distance education). If you have any suggestions for training courses for the team, please send an email and we'll look into it.

Here's a peek at what we've been up to:

- Nesha and Amanda return to uni next week to continue their Post Graduate Certificate in Special Education - Inclusive Support.
- Jayne and Sam attended OHS risk management training held onsite at our centre – which we hosted for other centres in the area.
- Louise starts her early childhood degree next week.
- Congratulations to Sarah and Monique have all wrapped up their Certificate III in Children's Services. Both girls are now going on to enrol in the Diploma
- Rebecca and Rachel attended an Emotional Intelligence workshop conducted onsite by Expect A Star
- Most of our staff attended a Questioning workshop

Upcoming training:

Dana - will be doing the Triple P course, - Positive Parenting Program - which will enable her to become a Triple P teacher. We'll be running these programs out of the centre in the months after she's finished.

We are also having 2 training sessions conducted on-site for all staff which will cover 'Yoga Play for 2-5 year olds' and 'Thriving, not just Surviving'



Staff Member – Spotlight ON.....Lauren Border.

Name: Lauren Border

Started at Norwest: June 2009

Working in: the Ocean Room

Family: Lives at home with Mum, 2 Brothers and 1 sister

Favorite thing to do on a weekend: go out clubbing and spend time with friends

Something you didn't know about Lauren: Lauren has sung at the Opera House and Entertainment Centre as part of the School Spectacular

Why are you working in Early Childhood? *I really love children and watching them grow and develop*

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News from the kitchen



Our winter menus have been a huge hit with the children. They've been particularly enjoying the Chicken and Basil wraps, Fettuccini Carbonara and the Spinach Risotto.

Our Menu is now up on our website so that you can take a look, and we'd love any input you have with regards to menu suggestions, recipe ideas, feedback on meals etc.

The colder days and high levels of physical activity they've been doing mean that the kids are eating lots at lunch time. Sometimes up to four serves (half a bowl per serve) of lunch - and when you add morning tea, afternoon tea and late snacks, the children are getting most of their nutritional requirements at the centre. Don't be surprised if they're not too hungry for dinner!

Cheesy Vegetable Pikelets

1 small zucchini, coarsely grated	½ tsp olive oil
1 small carrot grated	½ cup of fresh or frozen corn kernels
1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour	½ cup self-raising flour
1 ¼ cup buttermilk	1 egg, lightly beaten
½ cup tasty grated cheese	olive oil cooking spray

Using your hands, squeeze moisture from zucchini. Heat oil in large, non-stick frying pan over medium high heat. Add zucchini, carrot and corn. Cook stirring for 2-3 minutes or until softened. Set aside.

Sift flours into a large bowl. Add husks to bowl. Add buttermilk and egg. Whisk to combine. Add zucchini mixture and cheese. Stir to combine.

Spray pan with oil. Heat over medium heat. Using 1 tsp per pikelet, cook 4 pikelets for 3 to 4 minutes or until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn. Cook for 2 minutes or until cooked through. Transfer to plate. Cover to keep warm. Repeat to make 16 pikelets.

National Quality Agenda Consultation – Online Survey

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to seek public comment on a series of options to improve the quality of early childhood education and care in Australia. The link below allows you the opportunity to have your views considered. It should only take about 15 minutes to complete and we really encourage all parents to take the time to fill it out.

Parent Survey

http://www.orima.com.au/surveys/deewr_parents/introduction.php

Parent Information

We have also just recently updated all of our parent information folders. We have a range of information, including information on children's nutrition and dental care, information on appropriate furniture and toys for children and much, much more. Take some time to browse through the folders which are located on the shelves in the foyer. You can also find a lot of useful information on our website, including our Parent Resource List which we have posted on there for your convenience <http://www.norwestccc.com.au/linksarticles.html>

Trivia Night

Friday 9th October – West Ryde Leagues Club. Tickets will be on sale soon! If you would like to use the opportunity to promote your business by donating a prize, please speak with Jayne. We already have heaps of wonderful prizes including vouchers for haircuts, movie tickets, massages, car services and much, much more.