

Norwest CCC News –September 2008

2 Maitland PI Baulkham Hills NSW 2153* Ph 02 8850 2833* F 02 8850 2844 * E norwestccc@optusnet.com.au
Setting the Standard for High Quality, Affordable Child Care in the Hills District

Director's Update



Congratulations to our team for winning the True Local Business Award for Best Children's Service or Education. We were up against some strong competition from the local community and we were extremely excited about being recognised for all the hard work that we do. We have also been named as finalists for the Hills Excellence in Business Awards for Employer of Choice and Staff Development and Quality Assurance. Nesha also featured in the Sydney Morning Herald this month talking about the importance of high quality in Children's Services – you can see a copy of the article in the foyer.



Dates for your diary:

8 th Oct	Pink Ribbon Morning Tea
20 th Oct	Children's Week celebrations begin
13 th Nov	Grandparents Morning Tea
20 th Nov	School Reunion for the Class of 2007
26 th Nov	Meet the teacher afternoon tea for 2009
8 th Dec	Christmas Party for Ocean Room
9 th Dec	Christmas Party for Rainforest Room
10 th Dec	Christmas Party for Bush Room
24 th Dec	Our last day for 2008 – closing at 4pm
12 th Jan 09	Centre re-opens for 2009

Pink Ribbon Breakfast

We're holding a Pink Ribbon Breakfast on Wednesday 8th October from 8am to 9am. We're raising money to support breast cancer research. If you would like to attend, please let someone in the office know so that we can cater for numbers. Look forward to seeing you all there.



Trivia Night – Don't miss out on tickets

Tickets and tables are selling fast for our **Trivia Night, sponsored by www.3littlewords.com.au**. It's at 7.30 at Northmead Bowling Club, just down Windsor Road. It promises to be a brilliant night with amazing prizes and heaps of fun to be had. Tickets are \$15 each, and tables (either 8 or 10) get a discount of \$10. To purchase tickets, just leave your money in an envelope in the fees box, clearly stating your name and how many tickets you wish to buy. Your tickets will then be given to you before the night. Prizes we have so far include: **2 hour consultation by 3littlewords, hampers, \$200 coolcakes voucher, beauty wonderland products, Peter Brock Memorabilia, Guess Watch, \$1300 photography voucher, lots of wine, Children's toys, books, more hampers and much much more – no-one will leave empty handed!!!!!!**

Meet our new staff.....

Matthew

Matthew has just moved here from South Africa and is currently studying Degree in PDHPE. He works with the Bush Room children most afternoons after university. His niece and nephew have both attended the centre, his nephew is currently in the Ocean Room. Matt has been a great asset to the centre and the children love him!



Mikhala



Mikhala has just joined us as a trainee and has also started studying her Certificate III in Children's Services. Mikhala loves animals and has 3 dogs, a cat, 2 rabbits at home. She also loves to spend her spare time painting.

Mikhala is working as internal relief at the moment, so will hopefully get a chance to meet all of you in the coming weeks.

Sarah

Sarah joined us two months ago as a trainee and is studying a Certificate III in Children's Services. Sarah loves spending time at home with her family and, being from NZ, really enjoys watching the All Blacks!



Spotlight on.....

Name: Ashley

Started at Norwest: January 2005!

Working in: Ocean Room as the Room Leader and Group Leader for the Rainbow Fish

Family: Ashley lives at home with her mum and dad and 3 younger brothers.

Favorite thing to do on a weekend: Go to the movies, horse riding and "getting away from it all"

Currently Studying: Just about to complete a Diploma in Children's Services

Something you didn't know about me: There are 4 kids in our family only 3.5 years apart!



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Staff Movements



Briana has moved back into the Ocean Room as Group Leader for the Penguins. The wonderful Amy has moved on to try her hand at nannying, but promises to come back to complete her pracs with us as she continues with her Diploma in Children's Services. Briana's position with the Joeys group has been filled by the wonderful **Sarah**.



Monique has moved into the Kangaroo group as Amanda's assistant as Lauren recently left us to try something different

Staff Training

A number of staff have been on external training recently, including:

- Rachel – attended a course on 'Early Words – Literacy for Children 3-5 Years'
- Sarah – went along to an Arts and Crafts course
- Ashley and Jules have been attending a number of workshops for the Diploma training.
- Lorna, Nesha, Ashley, Amanda and Rachel are also about to spend the October long weekend in Canberra at the Early Childhood Australia Conference. No doubt we will have lots to report back on after that!

CCB/CCR Update

We've sent out a couple of communications (letters and emails) about the changes to CCB. Take a look at the website <http://www.oceccc.gov.au> if you haven't caught up with the changes. The summary is: CCB is going down – for most families it will be 0%. CCR is going up – increasing to \$7500 per year - this will be paid quarterly. In addition, there is a tax break associated with this – so there's another 30% that you will effectively get back. You will get letters from the FAO. Your CCR from last year will get paid as soon as you lodge your tax return.

Paid Maternity Leave

The Productivity Commission's draft report on Paid Parental Leave has now been released. The report may be downloaded in whole or in part from the inquiry website at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/parentalsupport> The 'Paid Parental Leave Inquiry Team' are seeking feedback on the draft report, so please feel free to drop us an email if you would like us to pass on any feedback on your behalf. Feedback is due by the 14th November.

Safety Day

After many discussions and experiences about safety and being safe, on Tuesday 30th September we held our first **Safety Day**. Many Bush Room children bought in their bikes and scooters. Everyone who did also remembered to bring in a helmet which was fantastic to see. A road was created in the car park fully equipped with traffic lights, stop signs and pedestrian crossings (also called Zebra Crossings). Amy prepped the riders, talking about the importance of wearing a helmet. We were also fortunate to have a helmet donated



that was worn in a bike accident. It has the scratches and cracks to show. Sarah talked about the local traffic environment with particular attention to road signs and being a safe pedestrian. Most importantly, all children need a hand in traffic so everyone was paired up holding hands. Monique read our road safety "Three Billy Goats Gruff" story then demonstrated the car Safety Door and why it is important to get in and out of cars using the safety door as it is away from oncoming traffic and closest to the kerb. Finally some of you got to experience our Driveway safety display kit. The aim of the kit is to experience the difficulties of seeing small children behind a car.

We have heaps of Road Safety information. Please see staff if you would like more information about being safe.

Make your Christmas shopping easy this year...

Midson Road Child Care Centre have organised a fantastic shopping trip for Saturday the 25th October. There are still some spaces on the bus, so if you are interested contact mrcstaff@bigpond.net.au to secure your place.

Leaving time : 8.30am from the Centre

Arrive back : approx 4.30

Cost per ticket: \$49 which includes lunch

Some of the warehouses they will be visiting include: *Beach and Bath (towels etc), Victoria's Basement (fantastic homewares, Handbag and Shoe Factory Harry's Toys, Christmas Cave (great Christmas decorations), And many, many more.*

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Giveaways...

EarlyWords DVD



We have a number of great Early Words DVD's to give away. The DVD is called "Prepare your child from birth for reading and writing" and they

specifically target the 3-5 age group. We have copies in English, Urdu, Dari, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Tamil and Korean. If you would like a DVD, please speak to someone in the office.

Mental Health Week

During Mental Health Week 5th – 13th October, there will be some small giveaways and pointers on how to 'stress less'. The following website link is for an article on "Mother guilt" taken from the Huggies Baby website – they also have an article about the new safety standards for prams.

<https://www.huggies.com.au/BeingAParent/FeatureArticles/AllAboutMum/Mother-Guilt.asp>

My Child Magazine

On Friday we will also have a number of current issue My Child Magazines to giveaway. We will leave them in the foyer so please feel free to grab one.



White Wings Cakes



Thanks to the lovely people at Australian Family Magazine, we were one of 250 centres invited to trial and survey the 'Bite Sized Baby Cakes' from White Wings. We have approximately 40 free boxes to

distribute, all you need to do is fill in the survey and give it to Jayne who will then give you a free trial box. Yum Yum!

Christmas Parties

Don't forget to put the dates of the Christmas Party in your diary – Based on parent feedback, this year we will be organising the food and charging families a very minimal fee to cover it.



8 th Dec	Christmas Party for Ocean Room
9 th Dec	Christmas Party for Rainforest Room
10 th Dec	Christmas Party for Bush Room

Don't forget we LOVE getting A4 paper that your office can't use any more – eg old letterhead. We can use it for all sorts of things around the centre!

THANK YOU to the following families for their generous donations

Hughes	paper
Meddings	cardboard and keyboards
Fasulo	sheets
Wesley	books
Mclennan	Paper
Spooner-Smith	Kitchen items and cake
Mohan Ram	Paper
Stanley	Raffle item for disco
Hockey	Disco lights
Watts	Craft items and teddies
Drew	paper and bags
Darch	paper
Hollis	Toys
Buxton	Toys
Schweiger	Paper

A special thank you also to all of the families who donated books for the Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library appeal – we were able to donate many boxes or wonderful books

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped us with some fantastic prizes for our Trivia Night

3 Little Words "professional organizers for home or office" – www.3littlewords.com.au

Cool cakes – www.coolcakes.com.au

Beauty at Greenwood - beauty products –

www.beautywonderland.com.au

Prima Art Blacktown – picture framers - 9671 6677
Tiffany Inspired Jewellery – **Ketty** 0425 258 074

Great new stuff...

Some of you will have already noticed that we have had the **pergola** out the back covered so now when it rains you won't get wet going to collect your children from the Bush Room! This is also allowing the children to spend more time enjoying the outdoors when it rains rather than spending the whole time inside. We are also planning on installing a small water container to catch the water from the new guttering roof. We will then be able to use this water for water play and watering the plants.

We also have a great new **cubby house** in the big playground that the children absolutely love.

Parent meetings

Remember that if you want to make a specific time to speak to your child's teacher about their development and progress, just give them a call to arrange a time that is convenient for both of you.

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Ocean Room



The Rainbow Fish have started to re-introduce a number of **BabyHands** signs to help the younger babies communicate more effectively. Baby sign language has proved to be very successful with the older children as they have developed. Some of the basic words that we introduce to begin with are “please”, “more”, “finished” and “milk”. The babies are also really enjoying the warmer weather as it gives them the opportunity to spend more time outdoors, engaging in water play, easel painting and **sensory play**.



The Penguin and Dolphin children have been exploring new **painting materials** and techniques and have created some beautiful artworks. They have also been doing lots of **cooking** which has

also involved food taste testing. If you are interested in joining us for some cooking, please speak with one of the staff members in the room. The children have also had a chance to use the **light box** which has been fascinating.

Rainforest Room

The Rainforest Room has had some exciting things happening over the past few weeks. With the warmer weather approaching, we have been spending larger amounts of time in the **sandpit**. We have been incorporating maths and science into our sandpit play, by discussing the concepts of empty and full, pouring and filling, heavy and light.



We extended this by doing some **experiments** with feathers and weights. A number of children have also shown an interest in **transport** and how we get to kindy, what mum drives, what dad drives, how we travel over water. We really enjoyed reading “**Who Sank the Boat?**” which is a great story that deals with the concept of volume. Some of the Butterfly Group have also started to show an interest in **letters** and how letters make up our names.

Bush Room

With **Spring** in the air and trees beginning to blossom the children have been involved in many different activities learning about **living things and looking after the environment**. Our new **plants** are growing strong and we are also trying to grow some herbs and lavender. We were fortunate enough to have a **wildlife visit**, which was a great opportunity to learn about animals and looking after them in the wild. This prompted a fantastic investigation by the Kangaroos about all things related to **possums**. The Wallabies are continuing to develop their **writing skills** and have recently been interested in writing letters. The Wallabies have also taken on the responsibility of



collecting the mail each day, a great opportunity for them to also learn more about road safety and letter recognition. Following a parent suggestion recently, the Joey's

conducted a science experiment about **hatching eggs**. The 2 eggs hatched into a toy dinosaur and a crocodile. Lastly, our **Sports Day Mini Olympics** was a great success with all children getting active in a range of Olympic spots and games. This all followed in from the Beijing Olympics when the children did a lot of exploration of the Chinese culture including cooking some delicious rice paper rolls.

