



JULY
2019

ON *this* MONTH

WATERFORD WEST EDUCATION AND CARE
CENTRE

Drum Beat Show ----- 3
Parent/Teacher/Portfolio Viewing Week- 22-26

AROUND THE COUNTRY

NAIDOC Week ----- 7-14
World Population Day ----- 11
Asalha Puja Day----- 16
National Pyjama Day----- 19
Schools Tree Day----- 26
National Tree Day----- 28
International Day of Friendship----- 30

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the July edition of our centre newsletter for 2019.

We have some exciting events happening this month, with the most important event being our Parent/Teacher Interviews and Portfolio Viewing Evenings running from Monday, 22nd of July 2019 to Friday 26th July 2019. This week is designed for all of our rooms to showcase children's learnings, as well as allow parents and carers time to discuss with your child's teacher their progress over the past 6 months and work together to set goals for the next 6 months. Please be sure to return your Parent/Teacher interview and/or Portfolio Viewing Evening Slip ASAP.

Reminder to all parents, with the rollover of the new financial year, and families CCS5 and hours changing, along with our fee increase, we will be looking at accounts and adjusting payments over the upcoming weeks. We appreciate your patience and support during this time, and endeavour to make the transition into the New Financial Year as stress free as possible for all concerned.



Room News

Early Learners Room

This month, the Early Learners have been focusing and learning about colours. We started off the month getting messy making blue and green slime, developing not only our colour recognition skills but also children's sensory skills.

Throughout the month, Miss Teagan has taken every opportunity to name all of the colours that the children could see, and get the children to repeat the names of the colours after her, as well as find other things inside and outside of the classroom that are the same colour.

Extending on children's interests this month, The Early Learner room will explore the story book "The Hungry Caterpillar", tying back into our colours from last month, extending on children's fine motor skills and counting, as well as furthering children's language skills through exposure to repetitive text.

Junior Early Years Room

We've had such a busy month in the Junior Early Years room! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new children and families into our room. We are so excited to have you all here and can't wait to see all the amazing things you will all learn and achieve this year.

Over the past month, our focus has been assisting the children to develop a sense of belonging into our room, extending on Insects, incorporating the Abecedarian Approach, developing the children's physical wellbeing and extending on language and literacy skills through group time experiences. The children enjoyed developing their knowledge through various activities such as; Abecedarian Learning Games, creative activities and building social and language skills during group time. Over the upcoming month we will continue to extend on the children's social skills and vocabulary, whilst also incorporating NAIDOC week activities and working towards achieving individual goals for each child.

From the end of July Miss Renee will be commencing Maternity Leave, and Mrs Vicky will be stepping up as our Lead Educator Role. We wish Miss Renee all the best with the birth of her baby and look forward to her returning soon.

Early Learners Room



Junior Early Years Room



Room News

Early Years Room

Last month, the Early Years children focused on extending children's understandings about colours, and as such, throughout the month, engaged children in various activities to provide further meaning to new learnings. The children especially liked making connections with everyday objects and colours, and in particular we had a lot of fun using different materials to provide different colour reactions.

This month, will see the children participate in school tree day and as such we will use this opportunity to extend on different ways we can help to look after our environment. We plan to tie this into self-help skills next month, talking about different environments, outdoors, home and school, and ways in which we can look after these, encouraging children to take on more responsibilities in the classroom, caring for their belongings and space.

Pre-Prep Room

This month, we have been encouraging and promoting self-help skills. The children serve themselves morning tea, by using tongs and making choices of what fruits they would like to eat. This simple routine helps children begin to plan and sequence a task, develop their fine motor skills by using tongs, build the concept of fairness and recognise that other children are sharing the fruits too.

The other skills we have been focusing on is how to follow instructions. Following instructions is a part of everyday life. It requires the child to attend to detail in spoken language, to sequence the information in the appropriate steps and to seek clarification if they have trouble remembering or recalling the information. It is important for children are able to follow instructions so that they can function effectively across different environments. Instead of just giving children commands to do tasks, we have been playing different games and dancing to action songs to practice our listening skills and improve following directions.

Throughout the month, we will continue to extend on improving children's self-help skills and welcome any parent feedback into the program

Early Years Room



Pre-Prep Room





WORLD POPULATION DAY – JULY 11

The global population is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100. For more than 25 years,

July 11 has been an occasion to mark the significance of population trends and related economic realities, challenging norms and values, and building the foundation of the world's future. Find out more at: www.un.org/en/events/populationday/

NAIDOC WEEK – JULY 7 - 14

The theme for NAIDOC week 2019 is VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH. The Indigenous voice of this country is over 65,000 plus years old. They were the first words spoken on this continent. Languages that passed down lore, culture and knowledge for over millennia. Find out more at: www.naidoc.org.au

Marinated Rump Steak with Yummy Veggies & Lime Yoghurt



PREP 20 min | COOK 20 min | FEEDS 4

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 500g sweet potato, cut into wedges | 3 tbs olive oil |
| 3 zucchini, cut into ½ cm ribbons | 1 tsp honey |
| 500g rump steak | 1 tsp Dijon mustard |
| 2 tbs balsamic vinegar | 1 garlic clove, minced |
| 3 tbs extra virgin olive oil | 1 cup Greek yoghurt |
| zest and juice of a lime | mint leaves, to serve |

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 200c and line an oven tray. Add sweet potato, season with salt and pepper, drizzle over 2 tbs of olive oil and toss to combine. Bake for 25-30 mins or until golden and cooked. Set aside. Heat a chargrill to high heat. Toss zucchini ribbons in 1 tbs olive oil and place on the grill. Cook for 3-4 mins (each side) or until gorgeously charred and golden. Set aside. Season steak with a little sea salt and pepper and place on the hot grill. Cook for 3-4 mins (each side) or until cooked to your liking. Whilst the steak is cooking, place the dijon mustard, honey, balsamic vinegar, garlic, olive oil, a little sea salt and pepper into a large flat bowl (big enough to nestle the cooked steak into) and whisk to combine. Place the cooked steak directly into the prepared marinade, flipping the steak a few times to ensure its covered in the balsamic sauce. Allow steak to rest for 10 mins. Meanwhile, place the yoghurt, lime zest and juice into a small bowl and stir to combine. To serve, place the thinly sliced steak onto a wooden board, drizzle over a little of the resting marinade the steak has been nestled in, add sweet potato wedges, ribbons of charred zucchini and lime spiked yoghurt. Garnish with fresh mint leaves and enjoy family style.

Enjoy x

Remember to always supervise kids in the kitchen.
Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

App reviews

THE COOK, THE ORGANISER AND FAMILY GAMES NIGHT SORTED!



PAPRIKA RECIPE MANAGER 3

HINDSIGHT LABS LLC | \$7.99

Organize your recipes. Create grocery lists. Plan your meals. Download recipes from your favourite websites. Seamlessly sync to all your devices. This app will allow you to find recipes you've liked or screenshot from days/weeks before. Save them all in one place and follow the recipe without the screen going dark. Tick off ingredients as you go, highlight your current step and so much more. This is the must have cooking app for everyone.

TASKFUL: THE SMART TO-DO LIST

TASKFUL, INC. | FREE

Taskful is a smart to-do list and task manager app that helps you stay on track and meet your deadlines. It breaks down all of your tasks and only shows you what you need to do today, so you can stay focused and motivated. Whether you are trying to track your steps, drink more water, or read that book you haven't picked up in a while, Taskful is designed to help you get stuff done.

HEADS UP! KIDS

WARNER BROS. | FREE

"Heads Up! Kids," is a fun and exciting charades game you can play with your little ones, no matter their reading level!

From animals to actions to items around the house -- give clues to help your teammate guess the picture that's on their head before time runs out!



FOCUS: Let them play! Kids need restriction free play to develop



You may have heard of play. It's that thing children do – the diverse range of unstructured, spontaneous activities and behaviours. Children play in many ways, including by exploring movements, constructing with equipment, creating games, using imagination and chasing others around a playground. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises play as every child's basic right. But play is becoming extinct. Global studies, across generations, have confirmed outdoor children's play has been declining, across all age groups, for decades.

Unstructured play improves learning and social and physical development. Providing a variety of play options, improved play access and fewer restrictions can encourage children to engage in physical activity with peers in line with their imaginations.

Play is becoming extinct

Australian children's active or independent travel has been declining over the past two decades, consistent with other countries. There are many reasons researchers are describing child's play as "endangered" and "extinct". These include more use of electronic devices and parents wanting to protect children from strangers, traffic, pollution and bullying. Research also points to a low awareness of the importance of play, more pressure on children to do well in class and more restrictions on play. Hectic schedules, such as parents' jobs and children's extra-curricular activities, may also contribute. Parents have reported their children are playing outdoors far less than they used to when they, themselves, were children. Parents are noticing fewer children walking and cycling to school or actively playing after school.

Modern parents are more likely to accompany children, by driving them to school, attending their excursions, supervising them on school grounds, or keeping them indoors altogether. More than half of the world's population lives in cities. Urban environments are prone to decreasing play opportunities with less open, natural spaces for outdoor play.

Why this matters

Children have fewer opportunities to engage with nature. Providing more contact with nature can enhance children's creativity, boost their mood, lower stress, improve well-being, promote physical activity and improve attention spans.

Nature play is also becoming more important as a counterbalance to children's technological saturation. It is important for children to connect with nature early, as they are then likely to learn to appreciate nature into adulthood. In primary school, children spend around 30 hours per week at the school and have more than 4,000 recess periods. If play opportunities are becoming limited around the home and community, schools are the best place for children to meet their play requirements.

How schools can help

Research shows introducing simple objects from around the home (such as milk crates, pipes and wooden planks) into school playgrounds may influence children to work cooperatively. They discover new ideas and solve problems by constructing, observing, designing and learning from each other.

Providing more options for children to play outdoors ensures they are intellectually challenged and engaged to find new ways to use such spaces for discovery. If loose play equipment, such as balls, bats and blocks, isn't available children can still use what nature provides, such as twigs, leaves, rocks, feathers, petals, mud and sand.

The diversity of outdoor objects and features offers children a variety of shapes, sizes and locations they can use to discover, explore and invent games or designs. It's better for play objects not to be fixed as this helps with exploration, discovery and creativity.

Replenishing play opportunities are important for children. In your play space try to include: **Spaces for thinking**, so children can make discoveries, learn and be intellectually engaged. **Spaces for doing**, so children can take moderate risks, undertake play challenges and extend themselves physically. **Spaces for being**, so children can be themselves away from the confines of classroom walls or overly restrictive rules, regulations and routines. **Spaces for feeling**, so children can explore and independently embrace their senses and play decisions with a diversity of colours and features.

Source: Child in the City (2019, June 10). A 'Let them play: Kids need freedom from play restrictions to develop' Retrieved from <https://www.childinthecity.org/2019/06/10/let-them-play-kids-need-freedom-from-play-restrictions-to-develop/>

NUMBER PUZZLE



Cereal box number puzzles are so easy to make and a fun way to create an easy numeracy activity your pre-schooler will enjoy.

Simply cut a side out of a cereal box and write a range of numbers your child is learning or working towards (1 – 5, 1 – 10, 1 – 20). Then cut between the numbers to make rows and columns, you can make this as easy or as challenging as your child needs.

Activity and image from <https://handsonaswegrow.com/cereal-box-puzzles-counting/>



HEALTH & SAFETY: 10 Habits to shape a well-adjusted child

Parenting is a very complex task. If we're not careful, we will become too focused on one aspect and let the others fall by the wayside. Many times, I see parents who are intently focused on discipline, and I'm talking about the traditional use of the word here with regard to modifying behaviour. Sometimes we get very caught up in "What do I do when..." or "How do I get my kid to..." and we lose sight of the bigger picture. The truth is that there are many things that are more important in shaping our children than the methods and techniques we use to modify their behaviour.

Here are 10 things that are more important than any method you choose, in no particular order.

- **Relationship:** The relationship that we have with our children is the single biggest influence on them. Our relationship sets an example for how relationships should be throughout the rest of their lives. If we have a healthy relationship based on respect, empathy, and compassion, we have set a standard. They will grow to expect that this is what a relationship looks like and will likely not settle for less. If, however, our relationship is based on control, coercion, and manipulation, well you see where I'm going with this. In addition to that, our influence comes from a good relationship. Children are more likely to listen to and cooperate with an adult who they are connected to. In other words, if we build trust and open communication when they are small, they will come to us when they are not so small. Our attachment helps wire healthy brains, and our responses set the tone for how they respond to us (they're little mirrors).
- **Your lens:** When you look at your child, who do you see? Do you see the positives or the negatives? The way you think about them influences the way you treat them. Your thoughts also influence the way you feel emotionally and physically throughout the day. "He is in the terrible twos" will cause you to look for terrible things, to focus on them, and therefore try to correct them...constantly. Try to turn negative thoughts like this into positive thoughts, like, "He is inquisitive and fun!" Try to start seeing misbehavior as a clue that calls for help rather than something that needs squashed immediately. Correction is not needed nearly as often as you might think. Also watch your tone and language. Lori Petro of TEACH Through Love says, "Be mindful of the language you use to describe your children. They will come to see themselves through that filter you design." Be careful not to place labels such as "naughty" or "clumsy" on your child. They will come to see themselves the way you see them.
- **Your relationship with your significant other:** Your kids are watching and learning. The way you and your partner treat each other again sets a standard. Happy parents make happy kids.
- **The atmosphere in your home:** All of the things mentioned above come together to create the atmosphere in your home. If you have loving and connected relationships, you



likely have a warm atmosphere in your home.

- **How you relate to others:** How do you treat the bank teller, the store clerk, the telemarketer? What about your parents and your in-laws? They are watching your example. Albert Einstein once said, "Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means."
- **Community:** Are you involved in your community? Aside from setting an example, there are valuable lessons to be learned from volunteering, supporting a local cause, attending church, or donating items. Seeing a bigger picture, how their acts can influence many lives, will give them a sense of responsibility and reinforce good values.
- **School:** Whether you choose private school, public school, homeschooling, or unschooling, your choice will have an impact on your child. Choose with care. Peers have a big influence on children, but if our relationship is where it should be, our influence will still be stronger.
- **Your Cup:** How full is it? You have to take care of you so you can take care of them. If your cup is full, you are more patient, more empathetic, and have more energy. Not only that, but a child who sees his parents respect themselves learns to have self-respect. Put yourself back on your list.
- **Media. Television. Video games. Social media:** They are always sending messages to your kids. Now, I let my kids watch TV and play computer games, so I'm not taking a big anti-media stance here, but just be aware of what your kids are getting from what they're watching.
- **Basic Needs:** Adequate nutrition, sleep, and exercise are not only essential for the well-being of your child but also influence behavior. Finally exercise helps children learn to focus their attention, limit anger outburst and improve motor skills.

Eanes, Rebecca (2019, June 10). 10 habits to shape a kind, well-adjusted child *Retrieved from* 10 habits to shape a kind, well-adjusted child



NATIONAL TREE DAY

Trees provide some amazing services! They produce the air we breathe, they provide food and other resources many species need to survive, they offer wind and noise breaks, they control erosion and storm water runoff, and they reduce excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Tips for planting trees >>>

Location, location location - Ensure your tree is going to thrive now and in the future. Plan for growth in the future and make sure your tree is going to have all it needs.

Timing - Consider the species you are planting and what time of the year is best to support the tree in the early growing stages.

Mulch - Mulch can help your tree retain water, protect it from extreme temperatures, and prevent other plants from outcompeting your tree for resources.

Water and Wait!

Are you taking part in National Tree Day on July 28?





INVESTIGATIVE PLAY

"The investigative case-based learning approach is a method of learning and teaching that gives students opportunities to direct their own learning as they explore the science underlying realistically complex situations."

Investigative play stations are set up throughout the environment indoors and out. These may be construction, sensory play, STEM, writing, numeracy or any topic that aligns with our current program.

- Children have the time, space and resources to become deeply involved in their investigations. Learning is richer and more effective when it develops over time and when there are opportunities for planning and reflection throughout the experience.
- The physical environment contains materials and spaces that encourage curiosity, investigation and wonder. Interesting and engaging materials or resources can provide the stimulus for children's questions and investigations. It is also important to ensure that children can access the materials and resources that they need easily and quickly. When this happens, they are able to resource their own learning and to follow their own investigations in whichever direction they lead.
- Educators see themselves as co-learners, working with children as they learn. When this happens educators feel less focused on transmitting knowledge and are more likely to support and extend children's own attempts at understanding.

Source:

http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/NQS_PLP_E-Newsletter_No45.pdf

- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/scan/past-issues/vol-38,-2019/investigative-learning-our-journey-at-balmain-public-school#What0>

National Quality Framework | Quality Area 1:
Element 1.1 – *The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.*

Our Vacation Care Program July 2019

Our School aged children have had an absolute blast this first week of school holidays, attending different parks and discovery centres, rollerblading, and even seeing the latest "Toy Story" movie at the cinemas.

Next week sees children explore more hands on experiences, including parklands, a yummy lunch at sizzler and bowling and laser tag.

Spaces next week are limited so please contact our centre director today to book your child in. The Program is based solely on children's interests, as well as extends on their social, fine and gross motor skills through STEM based learning activities.



5 Minute MOVES

WINTER WARM UP

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

How often do your children say "I'm cold?" Next time they do set them a challenge and join in too. Ask: How can you warm your body up? (It must be via movement) Anything they do you must copy. You could: Jump, skip, spin, run, hop, wiggle, roll, dance, chase, tickle... Before long you will all be warm and have done a little exercise in the process!

Waterford West Education and Care Centre

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Feedback 
is always welcome

