



Thursday 15th
November



Fortnightly Newsletter. Vol. 11

Important Dates

Safety with Dogs

16th
Nov

Bug Business
Incursion (P1 & P2)

20th
Nov

STEPS eyesight
Screening 4y+

22nd
Nov

Staff Christmas
Party

2nd
Dec

Centre Christmas
Party/Graduation

7th
Dec

Something Wild
Incursion (Nursery
and Toddler

11th
Dec

Administrative News...

- Aeroguard

We are asking families of children 12m+ for permission to apply Aeroguard to the children during this steamy season. If you haven't filled out a little slip yet, please ask your child's teacher.

- Toy Drive

Helena and the Nursery staff are championing a 'Toy Drive' at the Centre in the lead up to Christmas. More details will come, and a special place for donations will be setup in our foyer once we are ready to put up our Christmas Tree! This initiative is a wonderful opportunity to role model empathy, generosity and community spirit to our little ones.

EVENT SEASON!

We are well and truly in that 'countdown to Christmas' stage of the year. We can't believe it's just 6 weeks to go! We are so proud of the year so far, but there is still much fun to be had. Here are a few notes about upcoming events...

Safety with Dogs...

For children of Preschool 2 there will be a special visitor on Friday at about 11am. A representative from the 'Living Safely with Dogs' program will host a chat and a demonstration with the children regarding how to enjoy the company of pet dogs, but also identifying warning signs. It's important for our little ones to be able to recognize a nervous or agitated dog and act appropriately. This visit will happen again so don't worry if your child misses out this time. The session is free.

Bug Business...

We are so lucky to be surrounded by nature in this setting, and consequently the children seem to be fascinated by BUGS! To support and extend this interest we have arranged for a fun incursion to be hosted at the Centre. The session will be most appropriate for the P1 and P2 classes. If your child doesn't attend on the 20th November but you would like to be involved, please get in touch. We have decided to cover the fee for this incursion in recognition of the costs to families at this time of the year.

STEPS Eyesight Screening...

If your child is 4y+, they will be included in the statewide screening program on the 22nd November.

From the Directors

Anna Tran
Chloe Chant

Eyesight screening cont...

A professional will be visiting the Centre and screening children for eyesight difficulties to ensure they are ready and prepared for school! Consent forms should be available in your child's room. If your child does not attend on this day, please get in touch.

Christmas Party/Graduation...

On the 7th Dec we will be hosting a graduation celebration for our 'school leavers' at 4pm, and the Centre wide Christmas celebration will start at 4:30. There will be a BBQ dinner and a 'Special Visitor'. We hope you can make it!

Something Wild...

We are planning a special incursion that is appropriate for our Nursery and Toddler children. Again, If your child doesn't attend on the 11th December but you would like to be involved, please get in touch. We have decided to cover the fee for this incursion in recognition of the costs to families at this time of the year.

About our Educators...

...a little insight into the lives of your children's teachers to stimulate a chat and encourage communication...

Miss Jessi is taking a break up the coast with little Cooper! I hope you're enjoying the weather and the fresh air!

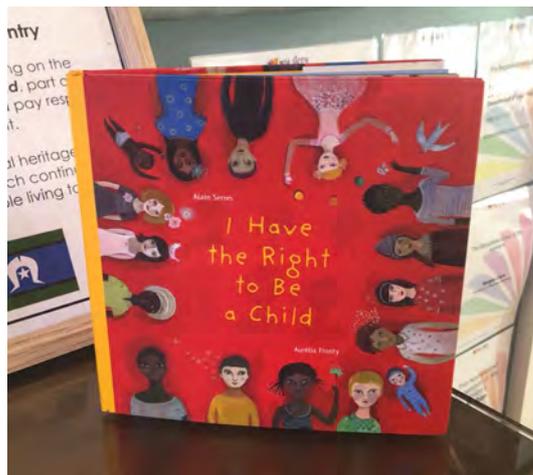
Miss Janine is already making plans to host a 'Big Fat Greek Christmas' with her family. We're very open to taste test any dishes she wants to try out before the big day. She's also celebrating her 34th wedding anniversary this weekend!

Miss Tash will be a bridesmaid at her sister's wedding this weekend!

Sustainability and Diversity



Unfortunately we aren't entitled to a council-recycling bin according to the strata rules. However, this encourages us to look at new and interesting way to recycle our 'waste' materials everyday! Miss Van is helping the children to use our many milk containers to grow some plants!



Thank you to Miss Janine for bringing in the book, 'I have the right to be a child'. This books has been used my many groups at the centre as provocation to discuss concepts such as equality, fairness, childhood and diversity.



Happy Diwali! A big thanks to Amy and Samiti supporting us to celebrate Diwali! The children were very interested in the beautiful clothes, decorations and dancing. On a personal note, I was particularly happy to partake in the eating of yummy foods in the staff room!

Service Philosophy...

Any critically reflective Childcare service should look at reviewing their Service Philosophy regularly so that the values and beliefs of all stakeholders (children, families, educators, community) are represented. We would like everyone to have a voice during the process and so very soon you will be receiving an online survey that asks for your opinions. In the meantime, please have a look at our current philosophy and perhaps reflect on the ways in which we could focus and enrich the vision that underpins our curriculum...

Our Philosophy

At My Story we are interested in the quality of the early learning experience. In fact, we believe implicitly in the primacy of **experience**. What your son or daughter can see and think and do for themselves and in association with others in their time with us really matters. It's what they'll take away with them and build on for the future.

We take time to construct rich and varied experiences that stimulate and encourage the intellectual, social, physical and psychological development of your child – and always in the context of an environment that is fun, supportive and suited to their needs.

It is our hope at My Story that the quality of this experience will inspire your child to seek out new learning experiences for themselves and build the kind of confidence they need to become life-long learners. We like to think of this as a “virtuous circle”, an easy to understand theory of learning that begins first of all with what we believe in – quality **experience**.

Children

Each child in our service is capable, curious and full of potential.

Children bring their unique background to our service; their cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic, spiritual and sociological influences are to be considered and embraced.

Families are the primary educator and influence in the lives of the children at My Story. We believe that fostering respectful and reciprocal relationships with families is vital for meaningful collaboration and the realisation of our mutual goals.

Educators

Educators at My Story have found their way to our service out of love for children, an academic interest in child development and a passion for education.

Our educators come to the service with their own unique backgrounds, strengths and interests. The diversity of our team is an asset in allowing children to reach their full potential.

Educators at My Story are committed to life-long learning. Through sharing of experience, mentoring, structured professional development and facilitated discussions, we are constantly updating our skills and accessing new research and theory.

A culture of critical reflection is embedded in the educators at our service. Honest, authentic and effective reflection ensures that we are constantly challenging ourselves in the pursuit of best practice.

Care and consideration is taken at My Story to ensure that the emotional and physical environment is conducive to happy and successful learning. Visual displays, levels of consistency and predictability as well as tone in verbal and non-verbal communication are considered deliberately according to the evolving needs of the children.

Our Learning Environment

My Story embraces a play-based learning philosophy. We honour a child's right to play as both a process in itself but also a powerful context for learning.

The Key Educator Approach is embedded in our service as a means of fostering strong and secure emotional attachments with children. It provides a sense of belonging for children and families alike.

Our anti-bias approach enables us to empower our children with knowledge of social justice, equity, communal responsibility, empathy and fairness. The physical and emotional environments at the My Story service support inclusion for all children, educators and families. Our physical environments scaffold learning for children through diverse and exciting mediums and offer interaction with both technology and the natural environment.

Community

My Story aspires to be a champion of community involvement.

Our involvement in the community provides context and influences the educational program and practices at our service.

Community spirit and awareness of the world around us allow us to celebrate the diversity of the Hills District and foster a sense of **being, belonging and becoming** in our children.

As a service, we understand our internal strengths but know we grow stronger by forging evermore effective links with our community. In order to provide holistic support for the children and families in our care, we engage with relevant community organisations in the local area and strive to become more and more integrated with the hopes and aspirations of the people we serve.

We advocate for change in our community that is supportive of the health and well-being of our children and their families.