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## Dates for the Diary:

6-13 July  
NAIDOC Week

22 July  
Brendan O'Hara – Kinesiology

23 July  
Brendan O'Hara – Kinesiology  
Parent evening

1 August  
Jeans for Genes Day

4-11 August  
Dental Health Week

12 August  
Reptile Encounters

24-30 August  
Enviro Week

5 September  
Footy Colours Day

7 September  
Father's Day

12 September  
White Balloon Day

19 September  
Barry Peters – Song & Dance

19 September  
End of Term

# Room Reports

## JOEYS

All the Joey children have well and truly settled in the room's routine.

Educators have created secure attachments with all the children to date.

Just a quick reminder for parents to make sure your child has a warm waterproof jacket, warm hat and gumboots for outside play when offered. The outside playspace is well utilized by our Joeys.

They are exploring all area and engaging with other children from both the Wombats and Emus rooms.

Some of the Emu children have taken some of the Joeys under their wing, encouraging them and helping them to achieve different challenges.

Craft is offered most days allowing the children to experience painting, pasting, stamping and finger painting just to name a few is always a favourite time of the day.

Portfolios are always available for all the parents to look at, at any time and available to take home and returned the next time your child attends the service.

Please feel free to talk to the educators at any time if you have any questions or concerns about your child. We are always available to you.

Please let educators know of any new interests your child has developed, so we can include them in our program as required.

Looking forward to the rest of the year.

Joeys Educators – Debi, Annie, Heather.





## WOMBATS

With the year half over it is a great time to reflect on how much the children in the Wombats Room have grown. With about half the children in the room out of nappies and using the toilet and many of them no longer having an afternoon sleep, it is a subtle reminder of how quickly the first few years of their life actually go. In the last few weeks we have had the tent set up inside and a camper fire, inspired by some of the children playing outside with "camp fire or bon fires". This was a great opportunity for the children to have some fun, complete with handmade (crocheted by Leah) sausages and hamburgers.

Last week Anna and Clementine brought baby sister Frankie in for a bath. The children watched closely as Frankie sat in the bath and they all had a chance to help to wash and dry her. This was a link to earlier when the children were bathing dolls and then putting them in the sun to dry. Luckily we had a towel for Frankie. Thank you to Anna and Clementine for sharing this time with us.

We have set up a permanent craft trolley in the room. This allows the children to use scissors, glue, paper, magazines and drawing equipment whenever they want to. It promotes their own decision making and pride in their work.

Thank you to everybody who has regularly been bringing beanies, gumboots and jackets. On many occasions we have headed outside to have a play when it has been wet and cold. The children have enjoyed jumping in puddles and JUMPING IN PUDDLES. Please continue to bring these items each day.



## EMUS

Following children's interests in the outside space

Our developing environment has been coming along well over the last little while. We have added a fairy garden to the yard, to extend the interest of children. We had a parent donate the tepee, which the children then took great pride in decorating.

Through this area they have further developed threading, letter recognition, role play, imagination.

Many will have noticed a colourful edition of blackboards to our outdoor area. Parents and Friends were recently approached and approved our application for this new feature for our yard.

The children have been quick to take ownership of these and have enjoyed this creative outlet.

From Kristy, Elissa, Mica



## Scaffolding Children's Learning.

A few months ago the children in the Emu's room were talking about, 'things that fly.' This had eventuated after a child had initiated a discussion about an aeroplane during a group session. A table experience was set up by three of the children where items were added as children shared their knowledge about, 'things that fly.' The experience started with an aeroplane, hot air balloon and helicopter but soon moved onto bats, birds, pterodactyls and butterflies. An aeroplane was built in the big block area by a group of children and was explored by many of the children on a daily basis.

The experience has changed recently as children have expressed an interest in rockets which has now led onto space, stars, the solar system and Lego space vehicles.

Scaffolding the children's learning has occurred when we have gone from solid premade objects to the Lego and the children forming their own vehicles, from space buggies, rockets and space ships. Some children have moved to the big block corner and have begun to build rockets.

From Denise

## RECIPE

### LAMB KOFTA CURRY

Ingredients

500g lamb mince	Meatballs:
1 Clove Garlic	1 onion
1 egg	10g piece ginger
½ tsp coriander	½ tsp cumin
Curry Sauce	grated zucchini
1 can tomatoes	& carrot
1 clove garlic	1 onion
5 cloves	10g piece ginger
½ tsp turmeric	1 tbs tomato paste
1 ½ tsp cumin	1 ½ tsp coriander
1 tsp garam marsala	1 tsp paprika
½ cup natural yoghurt	¼ cup water

#### Method

Mix meatball ingredients together and form into balls. Cook meatballs.

Sauce - Cook onion, garlic, ginger.

Add cloves, tomato paste, turmeric, coriander, cumin, paprika, garam marsala and cook for about 30 seconds.

Add tinned tomatoes. Stir in yoghurt and bring to simmer. Pour over cooked meatballs and serve.

## From the Educational Leaders Desk

### The Project Approach -Theorist Lillian Katz

This year we have had several projects in the Emu's room: the Hairdressers, the Fairy Garden, the Lolly shop, the Camping area, things that fly and more recently space. The project approach entails taking an area of interest and using this as a basis for in-depth enquiry or research. The results of using a project approach are the promotion of creativity and critical thinking. All projects stem from the interests of the children and are planned and developed in collaboration with the children, with the idea for the project coming from the educator's observations of children. An initial provocation is explored and information is gathered, with educators and children sharing their knowledge and experiences. The educators support the children's learning by providing a wealth of resources that will help facilitate children's explorations. The children's suggestions, questions and ideas are recorded. Sometimes we use a floor book, where the children are able to draw and write ideas as well as use other creative mediums, like photos and art work to express and demonstrate their understandings. The key to successful project work is the observations of the educators and these are also recorded in the floor book. From Marlene



## Seedlings

Developing understanding about a healthy lifestyle in 2nd term we have been focussing on keeping fit and healthy. The pre-kinder children have been learning about the important contributors to a healthy lifestyle such as, drinking water, brushing teeth, eating fruit and vegetables, washing hands and exercising. The children have learnt about the digestive system and how our body uses food. We have read lots of fun stories that have reinforced the concepts being learnt. The kinder group has been learning about foods that are ok to eat every day ('go foods') and foods that are best eaten occasionally ('stop and wait foods'). Both groups have been involved in discussions about the ingredients in their lunches to encourage appreciation of their food. The children have also been learning about sustainability concepts such as recycling, caring for our world, appreciating nature and having a minimal impact on the environment. Part of our environmental appreciation has included excursions on Thursdays into the nearby bush. These excursions have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children and their enthusiasm for nature has inspired lots of learning through exploration. We will conduct these types of excursions on other days during the following terms so that all children will have the opportunity to participate in our nature and community awareness walks. From Naomi and Dianne



## QUOTE

Learning is more than the acquisition of the ability to think; it is the acquisition of many specialised abilities for thinking about a variety of things.

(Lev Vygotsky)

## Family and Friends



**New trees.** Some of you may have seen the five beautiful new Queensland Brush Box trees outside the centre when they were delivered last week. These are now in the ground and looking very settled, and will provide lots of lovely shade during our hot summers. Family & Friends have bought these from fundraising monies earned last year, so thank you to everyone who has supported our great fundraisers.

**Microwave Heat Pack Toys.** By now you will have received a catalogue and order form for our latest fundraiser, Microwavable Bed warmer toys. You may have seen samples on the front counter, these are so soft and cuddly, and you can heat them up for warm cuddles in bed. Sure to keep the kids (and us) warm and snug all winter long. A great present idea too, for any nieces and nephews with winter birthdays!



**Movies in the school holidays.** We will be running movies at the information centre during the July school holidays, we have booked in Wednesday 2nd July and Thursday 10th July at 2pm for the movie afternoons, put these dates in your diary now !! Stay tuned for more info on what will be screening.

**Heiner's Pie Drive.** We will be running a Heiner's Pie Drive at the beginning of next term, so look out for the order forms coming home with your children, and stock up on tasty winter meals for your freezer.

Please let us know if you are keen to help out with anything at all or have any suggestions for great fundraising ideas.

Thanks everyone Lisa  
Family & Friends contact:  
Lisa Flew  
0412 517 545  
lisa@everestports.com.au

## Maternal Child Health

SIDS and KIDS have developed a new publication Cot to Bed Safety which is now available to download from [www.sidsandkids.org](http://www.sidsandkids.org) or copies of this pamphlet and others are available from the Alpine Maternal & Child Health Service.

Cot to Bed SAFETY discusses when to move your child out of a cot, where to sleep a child who has moved from a cot, such as a floor mattress, a toddler bed and the safety concerns of an adult height bed. It also considers making your home safe before the move.

Points to remember in order to sleep young children safely are:

- Safe bed
- Safe mattress
- Safe bedding
- Safe sleeping environment both night and day

Some safety alerts include use of:

- Bean Bags
- Sofas
- Large cushions
- Air mattresses – these are not safe places for young children to sleep.
- Bunk beds are not recommended for children under 9 years of age

The ACCC have also updated their publication A detailed guide for consumers: FIND OUT MORE-Keeping baby safe, A guide to infant and nursery products, this is also available from the Alpine MCH Service.

## Successful Parent Evening & Conference

Alpine Children's Services hosted a very successful parenting evening and educator's conference on 22 & 23 May. Over 80 people attended the parenting evening on Thursday night, with three wonderful presenters.

First up was Warren Cann, CEO of the Parent Research Centre, who presented 10 valuable tips for strengthening parent's relationships with their children, dealing with difficult behaviour and coping with the 24-7 demands of being a parent. Julie Baker then presented on Sensory Processing Disorder and how families can support their children. Niki Buchan finished the evening by talking about the topical issue of risk-taking in outside play.

All the services managed by Alpine Children's Services closed on the Friday to allow all educators to attend the whole day conference. Invitations to the conference were extended to the wider Hume region community. 50 ACS staff attended, with another 65 staff attending from local schools and early childhood services – 115 in total.

The conference was a great success with seven presenters, speaking on topics such as: sensory processing disorder, emotion coaching, indigenous curriculum and simplifying documentation. One attendee noted on the feedback sheet that the speakers were, "...both very interesting and I have more thoughts and ideas to help improve my teaching." Another person noted, "Excellent speakers across a broad range of interest areas."

Alpine Children's Services would like to thank the event sponsors - Bendigo Bank (Bright), Alpine Health, Alpine Shire Council and Gateway Community Health for their fantastic support. ACS would also like to thank St. Mary's Primary School, Myrtleford P-12 and Mountain H2O for their support.



## Reminders

Please make sure you check that all your child's belongings for the day have been returned to their locker/bag.

Lost property is getting out of control. If goods remain uncollected they will either be placed in our spare clothing or taken to op-shop. We cannot be held responsible for unnamed items.

Warm Clothing for the winter. Please ensure your child has a good supply of spare clothes and waterproof shoes/gumboots and jackets for outside play. The children are constantly getting wet through their play and we cannot keep up with the supply of spare clothes. REMEMBER we will always attempt to have outside play every day even on cold and wet days. Our children benefit from this and learning increases.

Pick up times: As you will all be aware we have altered our short day session times to 8.15am to 3.45pm. Please note that this will be strongly monitored and late fees will be applied as soon as you go over this time.

### **New Fee Schedule from July 7th 2014**

As you will now be aware, our new fee schedule will commence from Monday 7th July 2014.

Please speak to Catherine if you have any queries about the new fees, your account or are experiencing financial hardship.

## A BIG THANKYOU

Greg Walsh, owner operator of "No Bull, No Fuss Concreting" donated his machinery and time to assist Andrew Mior (Complete Gardening) and Graeme Crutchett (Alpine View Groundsperson) to dig a drain in the outside playspace last Saturday to assist with ongoing drainage problems.

Pictured left to right : Graeme Crutchett, Greg & Kara Walsh, Andrew Mior.

