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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

Tiny Teddy Room - Melissa, Marg, Tamara & Suz

During the week of March the 24th our focus was on Earth Hour learning about the Great Barrier Reef and the sea animals that live in the sea.

Activities that we participated in were

– Pasting a variety of different coloured fish and making fish out of paper plates.

–Sea animals used in their play for imagination which included play dough and a “mind matt” that encourages children to build on their interest and wonder in the world around us and the animals that live in the sea, This included by setting up a container filled with fish and frozen water children were able to come back and play at their own choice investigating with the frozen water and fish, this was great to see the response of the children's reactions.

A big interest that we all have been involved in our room is the home corner.

Many of the children have shown an interest in cooking and taking on role playing by caring for the babies and making cups of teas. We then extended this interest and allowed the children to make cup cakes for afternoon tea and learn about the process of making cupcakes by adding flour,milk,eggs and butter into the bowl and all having a turn at contributing to the cake mixture . The best part was then being able to taste the cakes and eat them for afternoon tea.



Butterfly Room -

Julie.N, Julie.S, Lea, Matt & Leanne



During the autumn months our focus has been on exploring nature and natural resources. During nature week a variety of activities were offered to the children. A highlight was when the whole centre went out to the big oval and took part in a bare foot nature walk. Using our senses we explored the many different materials. We have continued our interest by incorporating natural resources into our play spaces and creative experiences.

During May we celebrated the local La Fiera festival. Children and Educators learnt about the Italian culture throughout the week. Activities such as flag pastings, learning the Italian words for common colours, reading Italian books, listening to Italian music, finding Italy on a map, looking at photos and exploring Italian cuisine, were offered throughout the week. On Thursday children in the butterfly room made a tiramisu. This was shared with all children at lunchtime when we all joined together to enjoy a pizza and pasta lunch.

The following week we made some homemade pasta. Children all mixed some egg into flour to make a dough. Children then helped Julie.S use the pasta machine to roll the dough into fettuccini. At lunchtime we all tried our pasta.

It was yummy.



Starlight & Rainbow Rooms – Nicole, Shaneen, Leesa and Zoe

In the Starlight and Rainbow rooms this term we spent time doing activities that were linked to Earth hour. This focused on the Great Barrier Reef and was called “Light out for the reef” which is affected from climate change.

Books were added to the learning environment and we talked about what we would find in the ocean.

This led onto the children doing many different activities which included making fish, colouring in coral, turtles and fish to make a diorama. They also spent time playing with the water trough which had shells and sea creatures. A group discussion was also a great way for the children to increase their knowledge and respect for the natural environment and proved popular with the children encouraging them to touch some coral and shells.

The outdoor environment was also popular with the children doing lots of craft activities using leaves from the yard. The children collected leaves in baskets and then used them to paste, thread onto string, paint and even cook with. Being able to explore the outdoors allows the children a better understanding of the world in which they live and focuses on curiosity and enquiry.



RECIPE

LAMB KOFTA CURRY

Ingredients

500g lamb mince

1 Clove Garlic

1 egg

½ tsp coriander

Curry Sauce

1 can tomatoes

1 clove garlic

5 cloves

½ tsp turmeric

1 ½ tsp cumin

1 tsp garam marsala

½ cup natural yoghurt

Meatballs:

1 onion

10g piece ginger

½ tsp cumin

grated zucchini

& carrot

1 onion

10g piece ginger

1 tbs tomato paste

1 ½ tsp coriander

1 tsp paprika

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.

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)



From the Educational Leaders Desk

During La Fiera celebrations children and educators explored Italian heritage, culture and traditions. While engaging in activities Educators and children were broadening their understanding about the cultural identities of Children and families in our community. With this knowledge we can develop trusting relationships, respectful interactions, understanding of the world in which we live, and meaningful learning experiences. Exploring cultures is incorporated into programming and planning throughout the year. Intentional teaching of cultural celebrations such as La Fiera, Nadioc, Easter, Mother's day, Father's day and Christmas are annual events, while teachable moments such as talking about our own culture, looking at pictures, reading books and sharing language are incorporated spontaneously. Children, Families and Educators are encouraged to share their culture. Sharing of knowledge helps everyone to gain a greater understanding and respect for the difference and similarities that make up our community.



Seedlings

In the butterfly room our focus has been establishing A Hungry Caterpillar Garden. Over many weeks donations were sought and received for our garden. We would like to thank Dalhsens Mitre 10, Myrtleford Tyre % battery, families and staff for their Kind donations.

Firstly the tyres were painted on a weekend. Once these were dried children helped to cart some soil and shovel it into the tyres. It was finally time to plant. We planted some herbs and vegetables so once they grow we can use them in cooking experiences and in the kitchen. Gardening has lots of benefits for everyone. Staff were able to work together on a shared project, families were able to contribute, building a sense of community and children were able to scaffold their knowledge of the world in which they live. Establishing our garden provided many opportunity to share enjoyable interactions. As well as the above benefits garden provides opportunity to learn about: Life cycles, healthy eating, care for the environment, recycling and the impacts people have on the land.



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 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

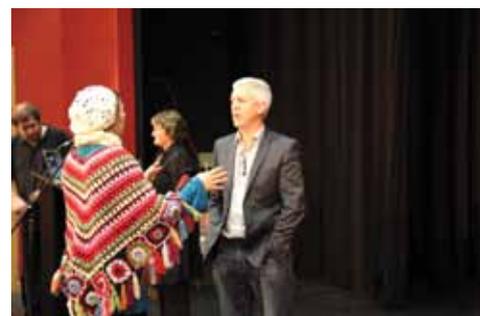
Alpine Children's Services hosted a very successful parenting evening and educator's conference on 22 & 23 May. Over 80 people attended the parenting evening on Thursday night, with three wonderful presenters.

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.

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 Paula if you have any queries about the new fees, your account or are experiencing financial hardship.