



ROSEBERRY HOUSE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
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BENTLEIGH, VIC 3204

ROSEBERRY HOUSE BENTLEIGH NEWSLETTER

February Edition

FROM THE OFFICE

Hi, Welcome back to all our returning families and a big Roseberry House Welcome to all our new families. It has been a very busy few months, but all the families and staff have settled into new routines and rooms well.

As most of you know Angie has picked up some more teaching work at Swinburne and taken a part time role at a Community Based Centre. Angie is helping us through our Accreditation and CCMS transition and is here on a Wednesday morning and all day Thursdays until we find a new Co-ordinator. I am hoping to drop back to my Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays in March, Rowena will be out the front on a Tuesday, Angie on a Thursday and of course Sandra will be here Monday to Friday mornings. I will keep you all up to speed with our progression.

With our transition to CCMS there will be a change to the way CCB manage their payments to us on behalf of you. We are working on the simplest way to keep things the way they are (to avoid excess charges) and will let you know as we work it all out. More information on CCMS is available on the back page.

Our March invoices will be out soon and they are due no later than the 3rd of March. It is really important that all your balances are paid by then as we have to start migrating our accounts the week beginning the 10th of March.

Remember we need 1 months notice for holidays to be able to give you half fees, so please fill in your holiday date notices in plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

We are planning our parent Information Night for March, our tentative date is Tuesday the 25th of March, but we will confirm this soon. It is a great night where you get to meet other parents from your child's room and learn about your child's time here at Roseberry House.

Thanks, Tracey

Hello!

You may have noticed, I have not been at Roseberry House on a daily basis this year. In 2007 I made the decision to focus more on my teaching at Swinburne University and extend my current workplace skills by job sharing in a community based centre. I'm sure many families had already read this news in the November and December newsletters last year, but I'm still getting a few queries. I will be here on a consultancy basis to assist with Roseberry House's transition to CCMS (what a headache!), Accreditation and general centre operations, with my official days here at Bentleigh being limited to Wednesday mornings and all day Thursdays.

My time at Roseberry House has been fulfilling not only on a professional level but also personally. I quite often refer to my time here as 'Where I grew up' and I know that this is why I have such a difficult time to 'officially' leave. However, that said, I am enjoying the new challenges that 2008 has already produced and am hoping to catch up with all the families during out of hours events that will occur throughout the year.

I will keep everyone posted via the newsletter, email and notice boards about exciting events, accreditation news and other valuable information (possibly a farewell gathering - if I ever come to terms with leaving) in the coming months.

Angie

DATES TO REMEMBER

- *Wed 27th Feb
Responsible Pet
Incursion
Bilby Room*
- *Monday 10th March
Labour Day Public
Holiday - Centre
Closed*
- *Tuesday 11th March
Traffic School
Excursion
Bilby Room*
- *Friday 21st March
Good Friday Centre
Closed*
- *Monday 24th March
Easter Monday
Centre Closed*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE OFFICE	1
POSSUM NEWS	2
WOMBAT NEWS	2
KOALA NEWS	3
BILBY NEWS	3
NOTICEBOARD	4

POSSUM ROOM NEWS

Welcome to all our new Possum families for 2008. As always it has been a busy start to the year as all the children in our room are new to the centre.

We are slowly winding down our orientation process, it has been wonderful to meet all our lovely families and to learn all about your children.

The children have been setting into their new environment well. Kirsty Heidi, Mel and I have been focusing on forming positive and trusting bonds with each of the children to ensure they gain a sense of security.

The children have been enjoying the activities within the Possum room, there has been a lot of interest in the sandpit play, magnetic balls, climbing and home corner play.

We have been singing lots of finger action songs and reading stories. Some of our most popular songs are "Row, row your boat", "Open shut them", "Old McDonald".

Don't forget that we appreciate any and all emails, photos and written stories of special interests that your children have at home.

We are looking forward to a great year together.

Regards,

Fab, Kirsty, Mel & Heidi



WOMBAT ROOM NEWS

Welcome to the Wombats Room for another year at Roseberry House.

We have been so busy in here with creating buildings, drawing and dance. It almost leaves little time for singing but that is one of our favorites pastimes too.

The little Wombats have settled in well and are getting to know their new caregivers. With Ferah as the new room leader, Bek and Row and the new face Thea. As well as the familiar face of Courtenay who moved up with the children from last year.

Fish have been a key interest in the room with lots of talk about making fish and singing fish songs about big fish and little fish. We have been doing a lot of fish related activities so we are going to get a few for our room and the Wombats will have a chance to name them.

Outside has also played a role in the Wombat life. Climbing the obstacle course dancing with ribbons and of course the sand pit.

So Welcome everybody, we are all excited to have you all back for another adventurous year.

The Wombat team.



KOALA ROOM NEWS

The new team in the Koala room consists of Joanne: Room team leader, Jess: assistant, Nikki: assistant Leigh: assistant and Caitlan Assistant.

I (Joanne) am new to the Bentleigh centre and was working as part of the Glenhuntly centre for most of 2007. Before that I was involved in a local kindergarten for 12 years.

We have been busy settling in many new children and getting to know new families to the centre. We have also been getting to know all the personalities in the room. The children who were part of the centre last year have settled back into the routine well. We started the year with a basic and familiar program for the regular children and a manageable program for the new children. The program has already evolved to include children's interests and requests.

We have started the sharing book entries and these can be found on the shelf outside the room. We have also started the individual reflections for the children. Please remember you can look at your child's individual reflections whenever you wish.

Animals

The children have been talking about animals, reading about animals, playing with animal blocks, puppets and toys. So our room is developing a family pet book for our book shelf. If you have a pet, a photo to include in the book would be appreciated, so your child can share their pet with the room. We may use this book for group discussions and to encourage children to stand up and talk in front of the group. This can be good for confidence building.

Our Fish

We have some Fish in our room, five Zebra Danios. They will be visiting us for a while.

Joanne Kingston:

Koala Room Team Leader



BILBY ROOM NEWS

We would like to welcome all our families into the Bilby Kinder Room for 2008!

The start of the year is a time of settling in, getting to know each other, the new routines and expectations and this is very much what we are focusing on at the moment.

Our programme develops through the children's interests which we then try to develop and extend in various ways. Some of the children have been showing interest in sea creatures, so some of the things we've done to extend on this is – we looked at pictures on the internet, printed them out and provided them for the children to gain inspiration for their own drawings and pictures and with these we're trying to create our own underwater scene. We've looked at books, both fact and fiction, as well as putting plastic sea creatures in ice which the children could play with and watch melt. We try to get as much input from the children as possible.

We're also focusing on things that will help to create a relaxed and co-operative atmosphere in the room, such as listening and following through with the words we hear from both other children and staff, using a quiet voice and walking feet inside the room, and tidying up what we play with before moving to something else. Having the same expectations at home makes the learning easier for the children.

As I've said in the class newsletter, if you have any concerns or information you'd like to share about your child, particularly at this early stage of the year, please organise a time to meet.

We're looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Regards,

Naomi, Aleesha and Karen



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TRANSITION TO SMARTFEES CCMS

The Government is introducing a new system for reporting attendances and claiming Childcare Benefit. This system is called CCMS (Child Care Management System) and will be phased in for all Childcare Services during 2008. Roseberry House will transition late March.

Changes you may notice with CCMS

* Each service will be required to create an enrolment for your child(ren). To do this they will require not only your child's DOB but also your DOB as the parent or guardian of this child. This is a new mandatory government requirement to maintain your eligibility for CCB funding.

* CCB will no longer be calculated by the service. Each week, your child(ren)'s attendance details will be sent via the internet to the CCMS from your service's Smartfees software. The CCMS is operated by FaCSIA (Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs). FaCSIA in turn sends this data via the internet to Centrelink who already have your CCB details. Centrelink will calculate the amount of CCB for each child for the week and this information will be sent back down the line to your service's Smartfees software which will then calculate your gap fee.

*** If your service currently bills you in advance using Smartfees' Projected Care facility, you will need to be aware they any advance billing will now be subject to change once the CCB is calculated by Centrelink and your gap fee is finalised.**

* If your family has a shared care arrangement (for example, Dad pays the fees one week and Mum the next and each has their own separate Centrelink CRN), your service will be able to now record your child's details once but still each of you separately.

Each of these things will take some time to master so please be patient; the new system is designed to simplify reporting and reduce the service's administrative responsibilities.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Hi my name is Lesley,

I'm really glad to join the team here at Roseberry House. I have always had a passion for cooking and food. My most recent experience was working along side a Head Chef in a busy RSL bistro. (Highett RSL)

I enjoy being a part of a team and fast paced environment.

I hope to bring a world of different flavours and textures for your children to enjoy.

