



KCCC newsletter March 2010

IN THIS EDITION

Director's Report, Staffing Updates including Industrial News, Staff Training, Important Dates, Can you help?/Room Reps, Fundraising Dollars, Update of Statistics, Nutrition Project, Blowing Our Own Trumpet, Occupancy.

At the time of writing, we have 190 families and 217 children attending the Centre, including the Rosellas, Kingfishers and Kookaburras at Kindergarten.

STAFFING UPDATES including INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Maria, who was filling Rachel's maternity leave position has now finished her time with KCCC and we thank her for taking on such a difficult role and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Rachel is now working Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will soon return to fulltime.

Leah has returned to study and she may be available for relieving if her timetable allows. David Fraser has begun working at the centre casually and comes to us with a range of experience and a passion for the profession.And we are very pleased to welcome Loan Duong back to KCCC.

The KCCC Board has endorsed an Agreement negotiated between the union representing child care workers (LHMU) and the Victorian Children's Service Association. The Agreement covers wages and conditions for long day care staff and will cover a large number of centres across the State.

Before endorsing the Agreement, the Board considered both KCCC's ability to attract and retain staff and cost implications. The union has actively engaged with KCCC staff.

Staff are currently voting on the Agreement. If a majority vote in favour and the Agreement is endorsed by the Industrial Tribunal (FWA) then wages will increase by 10.5 per cent over 2.5 years. Non-contact time for Level IV qualifieds engaged in program planning will also increase. These outcomes need to be considered in light of a wage freeze in 2009 and the realities of the new industrial relations framework.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we come to the end of first term it is exciting and satisfying to reflect on the success of KCCC.

How do you know you are successful in this type of setting? Is it the over 287 families on our waiting list hoping to access our service, while other centres appear to have vacancies? Is it the longevity of our staff in an industry that has a turnover of 32%? Is it the reputation of KCCC within the community and the industry?

Yes, all these elements indicate our success. For me however, it is the happy, smiling faces (both parents and children) that leave the centre each day - this is a true measure of success.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Kinder will be closed from Friday 26/03 and will reopen on the 12/04.
- KCCC will be closed for the Easter break on Friday 2/04 and Monday 5/04.
- Pies/Hot Cross buns can be collected on Thursday 1/04 after 2.00 pm. Those not collected at COB will be placed in the freezer.

STAFF TRAINING

Over the last month staff have:

- Liz attended the two City of Melbourne network meetings. She also attended a forum discussing the issues around the implementation of universal access which equates to the offering of 15 hours of kinder.
- Morag attended an inservice entitled Embracing Play.
- 10 staff members attended the Kensington Women's Dinner

'If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.' Rachel Carson

NUTRITION PROJECT.

In the month of July students from the School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences at Deakin University will be working on a project in conjunction with KCCC.

The project involves assessing the menu in relation to the Australian Nutritional Standards and offering the centre feedback via a report.

The report will offer guidance around future menu planning and enable us to offer the highest possible nutritional standards for the children. Some parent focus groups may be offered so we will keep you posted. On completion, the report will be made available to interested parents.

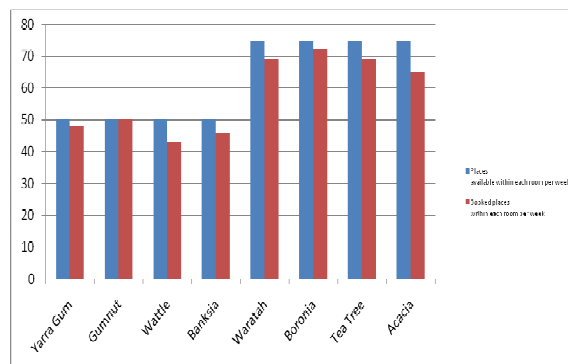
CAN YOU HELP?/ROOM REPS.

We are still looking for a room rep for our Gumnut room; please see Liz or Jordana Hunter on 0412 291 377 or jordana.hunter@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

The first meeting of our room reps is taking place this Wednesday evening 31/03 at 8.00 pm at the centre.

So watch this space for further details.

OCCUPANCY



FUNDRAISING DOLLARS

Over the past month, with fundraising money we have purchased 2 more light boxes and the accessories to go with the boxes, 8 wooden cars, a set of 80 blocks, tableware for home corner x 4 and a number of board games. We have \$363.40 remaining.

Blowing Our Own Trumpet! (Just a little bit)

Two weeks ago we had a visit from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). These visits are required under the legislation and are unannounced. The goal of the inspection is to ensure we are meeting our legal requirements. The inspection took over three hours and covered diverse areas within our service. Eg: Staff and children's records, the educational programs for the children, child staff ratios, etc. We are pleased to say we received a very positive report with no non-compliances.

Leading on from above we received a call from the department inviting KCCC to present at the 'DEECD Innovation Awards' under the category of Innovative Practices within an Early Childhood Setting. This is quite an honour and is a direct result of the excellent programs offered by the staff and the unique form of documentation the centre has developed - all witnessed during the inspection.



'If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.' Rachel Carson