



MERINO COURT

Childcare Centre

JUNE 2016

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome to the June 2015 edition of Merino Court News.

Tracey our cook has finished her time with Merino Court. She was with us for 18 months and the kids will miss her yummy lunches. Cal will replace Tracey in the kitchen and then do his office work in the afternoons. So please be patient if you are waiting for a response to an issue or email etc. I will work hard to get through everything as soon as I can.

You have probably noticed lots of different faces around Merino lately. We have some new staff that you have all probably met by now, but we also have lots of students here doing their work placements. We have some high school students but also some TAFE students doing Children's Services. We like to pass on our knowledge to students and provide an environment where the students are comfortable to learn. As part of their student assessments, they may need to observe and plan for individual children, so if the students have asked for your permission to do so with your child, thanks for allowing them to do that.

The new fee payment system- direct debit- was supposed to start this week, but due to not many families signing up for the direct debit and/or returning the Payment Authority Forms, we will put it off until the first invoice period of July. PLEASE take the time to return the form or sign yourself up via the email and link in the email that was sent regarding the new payment method.

-Cal

National Quality Framework Summary- Quality Area 3- Physical Environment:

For children, the physical environment and space where they live and play is extremely important and has a huge effect on them.

So for us at Merino Court, it is essential that we pay attention to the physical environment.

At a basic level, physical environments for children must be safe and healthy. But beyond this level of meeting basic needs, the physical environment is full of potential and opportunities for children to learn about the world of people and things and about themselves. The physical environment is not a backdrop for learning –it offers opportunities for learning. It can inspire, challenge, encourage and excite.

When children are in environments that offer rich opportunities and experiences, they learn and develop

This Quality Area includes 3 Standards

Standard 3.1 is that 'The design and location of the premises is appropriate for the operation of a service'.

Standard 3.2 is that 'The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play'.

Standard 3.3 is that 'The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future'



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Monthly Projects and Participation

This month the staff worked hard to plan and undergo lots of different Reconciliation activities. We asked parents to vote on which room underwent the best activities and according to the votes, the Possums room won. Thanks to those who voted- a winner was picked at random from those parents who did vote and they received a box of chocolates.

POLICY REMINDER- EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Policy Statement

The education and care service is committed to the principles of Equal Opportunity in relation to community access to the service and the appointment of staff. Individuals will be treated with respect regardless of their gender, race, religion, age, impairment, marital status, political conviction, pregnancy, family responsibility or family status. The service will actively promote the positive aspects of diversity and encourage acceptance and appreciation of individual differences. Education and care will be made available to the community in accordance with the Commonwealth "Priority of Access Guidelines"

Policy Principles

- The service will have up to date information regarding Equal Opportunities Legislation.
- Families and educators/staff will be given clear instructions about the Australian Government "Priority of Access Guidelines".
- The service will endeavour to ensure that all policies and practices are inclusive.

Children

- Equal Opportunity principles will be an integral part of the service's daily programs and routines. Children will be given positive experiences which encourage equal opportunity. Programs will actively include opportunities for the children to experience diversity of culture, gender roles etc.
- Educators/staff will treat individual children and their families with respect. They will take into account individual differences in language, attitudes, abilities, assumptions and expectations

Educators

- All educators/staff will be selected and employed according to equal opportunity guidelines.



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GOANNA'S GOSSIP

At the beginning of this month we focused on Reconciliation, so the Goannas enjoyed learning about the aboriginal culture, recreating lots of art and listening to some great aboriginal stories.

This led to an excursion to Kings Park nature scape, which sadly only two Goannas were able to attend as some of the others were sick on the day. But we still had fun, especially the 2 Goannas who watched Sue almost fall into the water. lol

This has turned our focus to health-staying healthy by washing our hands-learning how germs grow and spread.

Tammy did a great experiment with us which is on display on the wall in the entry to the Goannas room. Check it out and keep checking it to see how it goes.

At the moment we are trying to learn Advance Australia Fair. We are adding a few dance moves to this to make it a bit more exciting-so if you catch your Goanna singing some unusual versions-now you know what it is!!!

Sorry ☹️

-Tammy and Sue

POSSUMS

During May the Possums have been learning about the colour **green**. Now we have moved on to **blue**. We have a few children really taking an interest in the fish tank in the Goannas room so we are currently working on a large craft fish tank for the wall in the room.

We are still working hard on our speech and naming and lots of us are saying MANY more words. We are sure you have all noticed how much more your Possums are speaking at home.

While it was reconciliation week, the Possums learned about how the Aboriginal people used their handprints in their art. They recreated their own version of this using a spray bottle and yellow paint. Following on with the handprints theme, the Possums used their hands and paint to make a giant Indigenous Flag and we discussed what the **colours** represent. We have started learning a new song called 'Inanay' and have read lots of books such as 'Mmmm Turtle', "What Made Tiddelik Laugh" and "How the Birds Got Their Colours". They have actually been really interesting stories.

We have been singing lots of songs over the past few weeks, the Possums have been really getting involved with the actions of each song and the favourite has been 'The Wheels on the Bus". It has been great to see the children enjoying group time and laughing lots.

We added a beam to the room so the children can safely climb up and have a look out the window and the younger children have enjoyed crawling through some pop up tunnels.

We have lots of children starting toilet training so we will be learning about that and making charts for the bathroom wall to encourage the kids to go to the toilet

-Lindsey, Karen, Bek, Mel, Jane and Sam



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SCHOOLIES STUFF

We have added a few new things to the room lately, as it is getting colder and we are starting to spend a bit more time inside in the Schoolie's room. The Schoolie's put together and built a tee pee on their own and did a great job with it.

We have been playing BINGO a bit as well recently which has been fun (not so much fun running around and chasing all the little numbered balls when they fall out of the spinner).

The Schoolies have been rewarded for their positive behaviour and when they been treating the others with kindness and respect. The afternoons run so much smoother when there are no arguments...but as some of the Schoolies have told me..."We have all been here at Merino Court together for years since we were babies, we are like family and sometimes even families fight".

We will be saying farewell to Ken as he will be leaving. Ken is off to high school next year and we aren't sure if he will rejoin us before the end of the year, either way we have always loved having Ken here and wish him all the luck at high school next year.

BIRTHDAYS:



Jude	4 th - 2 years old
Rebecca	7 th - 8 years old
Jack B	8 th - 6 years old
Romeo	8 th - 1 year old
Alicia S	21 st - 9 years old
Isla	22 nd - 2 years old
Gurnaaz	27 th - 2 years old



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Fee Rise

Our annual fee rise will take place, as of July 4th 2016.

The new fee rates are listed below:

Daily rate :
Possums and Goannas \$95

Before School \$47
After School \$58
Before AND after school \$75



Merino Court will be having a fundraiser photography event to raise money for a charity (yet to be decided).

You will all receive an email shortly with details of photo packages available, prices, payment options etc.

Monday 11th July 2016

NEW FEE PAYMENT METHOD

As per the email you all received recently, we are changing to a direct debit payment system for fees. Accounts are issued by email each fortnight and payment is by Direct Debit on the last Friday of the account period. Fees are payable for **all** days the children are booked in regardless of whether they attend or not, this includes sick days, school holidays, family holidays and public Holidays.

Families are to nominate their desired account via their own login details that were emailed to them, or ask Cal for an authority form and I will sign you up. Your account will only be debited the amount owing on the selected date. This is not a set amount and will reflect your usage over the nominated period.

Fees associated with Direct Debit are passed on to the family. They are:

- Bank Account per transaction \$0.75
- Visa/Mastercard - Calculated on transaction value 0.90% + \$0.75
- Amex - Calculated on transaction value 3.85% + \$0.75
- Failed transaction - Per failed or returned transaction attempt \$2.75
- Claim/Chargeback - Only charged when payment is reversed \$33.00
- Refund - Per refund (credit/debit card only) \$2.75

This new payment system will come in to effect as of the end of the first invoice period of June. All direct debit accounts will need to be set up by Monday 6th of June, with the first payment coming out on Friday the 17th of June. Payments will then be processed every second Friday there on.



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5 minutes with...Karen



What is your background and how long have you been at Merino?

I was born in Melbourne and my family moved to Perth when I was in my early teens. I have been at Merino Crt for about 8 1/2 years.

Tell us about your family life

I live with my husband David and we have been married for 27 years. We have two children, Shane 25 and Jason 22. Shane was married at Easter this year, so we have gained a beautiful daughter in law whose name is Katie. We have two dogs Buffy and Benji, a cat called Pud and a weiro named Uno.

What do you enjoy most about working at Merino?

I love that it is a small centre which means we can enjoy getting to know all of the children and families really well. I also get to work with some great people.

When can parents talk to you if they need to about anything?

My days at the moment are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and I am happy to talk to parents any time.

What's your best memory/funniest story from your time at Merino?

One memory which comes to mind happened a few years ago. My husband came to collect me one night and Rebeca who was quite young at the time came racing over to say hello. She looked at David, turned to me and said "Karen is that your dad"? Another happened a few weeks ago. Cal had very kindly bought a cake for afternoon tea on my birthday which had a 21 on it. Raphael took one look and said "Wow is Karen 72"? Not quite.

What are your hobbies and what do you get up to in your spare time?

I love going for walks with my dogs. I also enjoy spending time with family, going shopping and cooking.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you lately?

Just the other day I was cleaning the bathroom. I turned the tap on and the tap flew off and water gushed up to the roof and all over the bathroom. I called out "AHhhh,*****", and my husband came running in. He saw me looking like a drowned rat and found it quite funny. Needless to say his mood changed a little when he realized that he would have to fix it.