



Mother Goose Day Nursery

NEWSLETTER TERM 1 FEBRUARY 2015

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Centre Closure

We are closed Wednesday, 5pm 23rd Dec
We reopen Monday 4th January 2016.
No fees are charged while the centre is closed.
We wish all our families a very safe and enjoyable
Christmas and new year. It is a wonderful
time to celebrate family and spend quality time
with our children. Merry Christmas.



Giving Tree

We are collecting long life products for the Samaritans Giving Tree.

Ideas include Shampoo, toilet paper, Bon Bons, tin foods, UHT Milk, pet food, pasta, fruit cake etc.

These items can be left in our hall way and will be taken to the Samaritans on 11th December along with the toys that were purchased with the fundraiser toy catalogue last month.. Check out the poster created by the Brilliant Bees to inspire you to help others.

What a wonderful message at Christmas time.

We will be celebrating the year at
 Maitland Park
 Wednesday, 23rd December
 5pm.
 Santa 6pm



Bring a picnic rug, picnic dinner, aeroguard, a glass of wine, and the family.

Extended family is very welcome, and a chance to thank them for helping out with

the support that they extend to you during the year. This is a very casual evening, a chance to catch up, have a chat and push the children on the swings.

Many of our educators will be there, but please remember that you are responsible for your children.

Bring to the Office no later than Friday 11th Dec: A book for any child **not** enrolled at MGDN with the name of your child on the bag (max \$15). These will be wrapped for you and added to the gifts that Santa will be giving to each of the children. Your Child's book will be with the siblings group.

Fees as at 4th January 2016

Brilliant Bees	\$83.00/day
Leaping Frogs	\$85.00/day
Tiny Tadpoles/ Curious Koalas	\$91.00/day



Brilliant Bees (4 - 6years)

Well, we are now in December and we all cannot believe how quickly the year is coming to an end. We have had an amazing year together where friendships have formed, lots of fun has been had, confidence and independence has flourished, learning continues and so many happy faces are seen every day.

As many of you know Tegan left on maternity to leave and had a beautiful boy, Hudson, a little earlier than expected at 33 weeks but although a tiny little man is doing well at home and is currently 13 weeks old. This has seen Jenny come into the room along with Cassidy, Briane and Leanne assisting with lunches and

programming times

In the Brilliant Bees we have been lucky enough to have been an excursion to the Civic Theatre to see 'The Very Cranky Bear,' which involved catching trains and buses, we have Maitland library visit once a month so we can borrow books and continue to share the love of literacy, and just last week we had Mama Africa visit which brought in the sounds of African drums into Mother Goose.

We have watched silkworms go through the complete lifecycle - we watched them hatch from the eggs and then every day we would ensure the silkworms would have fresh leaves and a clean container all whilst eagerly awaiting the spinning of the cocoons. Once the first cocoon was spun we counted down the days till a moth arrived - this took a total of 17 days! We were all very patient now we are watching the many moths as they lay their eggs, ready for the cycle to begin again. We are learning about life and death as the moths have a very short lifespan.

Many of our Brilliant Bees are off to Big School and have had their orientation visits. This has meant a lot of excited chatter about what has happened at big school is occurring between children and children and educators. To continue to support children to further become comfortable and be ready for this big and exciting transition we will transform home corner into a school, to allow them to explore through play. We have already observed throughout the year our school leavers growing in confidence and ability, from shyly standing up to give show and tell to confidently bringing in their items and telling their peers all about them with no assistance needed and many like to attempt to run group times! We continue to encourage self-help skills such as packing own bags, putting on own shoes and jumpers. It may be a good idea (if you haven't already) to start preparing your child to open and close their own lunch box and even wrap and unwrap their food from any packaging they are likely to be in. You could do this by having a "lunchbox" lunch one day a week at home. For some great lunchbox tips go to: <http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers/healthy-eating-and-drinking/lunch-box-ideas.aspx>

As the weather warms up we are noticing lots of Brilliant Bees that are not bringing their own hat. Although we do have spares these are limited and each week our supply is getting smaller and smaller as they accidentally go home on little heads. In preparation for 'Big School,' the night before you attend care go through your child's bag together and allow them to pack their bag, giving them the sense of responsibility and ownership of their belongings.

To finish up, we would just again like to say a big farewell and good luck to all of our Bees going off to Big School next year, we are very proud of the achievements you have made this year and look forward to hearing about all of your successes at Big School!

Amy, Sarah, Jenny, Leanne, Cassidy and Briane

Leaping Frogs (2.5 - 4years)

Its December already the Leaping Frogs have been busy over the last few months. We are full of excitement as children grow and skills develop, friendships blossom and children investigate, explore and create. Over the last terms we discovered and explored bugs and garden creatures, discovered our creative flair through process art and explored pets, meet several new family members with lots of children welcoming new siblings and we meet new family pets including chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs and a lamb.

We have a great outdoor environment full of natural inspirations. We have found spider webs, worms, lizards, frogs, lady bugs and the occasional stink bug. We have lots of vegies growing, with our strawberries being the favourite. We have explored water movement, investigated sound, discovered lots of great stories, we have counted sorted, weighed and measured, explored colour and texture and have been very dramatic in play. We have been superheroes, shopkeepers, vets, hair dresses, office workers, builders, mums, dads and babies. We have cooked like master chief, flew like fairies, roared like lions and stomped like dinosaurs.

We have also gone on bear hunts, lion hunts, crocodile hunts and even giant hunts. We have made lots of mess and masterpieces and our exploration and discoveries continue to grow along with us. The program in the frogs evolves over the year and is designed to give the children skills that are built upon in the brilliant Bees. The age, skills and interests of all the children are taken into consideration when providing activities to develop all children's Mathematic, literacy, social, creative and physical skills, through activities that are of interest and meaningful to the children and are fun all these skills are developed.

In the last few months some of our older children joined the Brilliant Bees as we went to see "The Cranky Bear" at the civic theatre. We have also had regular visits from Maitland library librarians who read us stories and introduce us to new books. We also had a visit from Carlos who shared his African heritage with us through Music and

Drumming and Scott who brought an Ambulance in for us to explore.

Lots of children in the second half of the year require less day time sleep. Rest time in the leaping Frogs is approximately 12.45 - 1.30, All children are required to lay and rest their bodies. We listen to music or audio stories and read books. Quiet activities are available after this period for non-sleepers and as children wake.

As the weather warms up the fun begins with lot's more mud and water play, this means children will require spare clothes throughout the day. Please provide 2 sets of old clothes so it doesn't matter if we get muddy and wet.

We look forward to the rest of the year
Denise, Sheree, Briane & Leanne.



TINY TADPOLES

(0-1.5 YEARS)



Hi there everyone,

How quickly is this year flying by?! Now that the weather continues to get warmer please remember to bring a drink bottle, a sun safe hat (with a brim to cover your child fully) and a few sets of spare summer clothes for your little one. We have started to introduce water play as the weather gets hotter which is always a much loved experience as they explore with their senses.

Our favourite stories at the moment have been 'Five Little Ducks' 'Incy Wincy Little Spider', 'Dear Zoo' and 'Where is the Green Sheep'. Our Tadpoles have enjoyed sitting with their educators sharing stories throughout the day both individually and as a group as well as songs with the 'Five Cheeky Monkey's' requested repeatedly by our Tadpoles who find our crocodile puppet as they give it to their educators encouraging them to sing the song. Many smiles, squeals and giggles are shared when we sing this song.

Our Tiny Tadpoles have discovered the bathroom sink whilst their educators change nappies. This has led to us focusing on self-help skills as we wash their hands after each nappy change lifting them up to reach the tap (if they are unable to reach) as they hold their hands out for soap before rubbing their hands together under the water. They have very much enjoyed this as they smile and giggle in the mirror looking very proud. This has then transferred over into meal times as we continue to encourage them to feed themselves using a spoon or a fork. Sometimes educators help collect food on the utensil before they carry it up to their mouth feeding themselves. Our Tadpoles are very proud of themselves when they are successful.

As many of you have noticed Kasie now shares the Room Leaders Role with Amy W in the Curious Koalas room with most of our older Tiny Tadpoles transitioning into the Curious Koalas. This has been a smooth and exciting transition.

Erin continues to work 10 -6 in the Room Leaders Role from Monday to Friday and will continue to see you all on pick up. Alex continues to float between the Tadpoles and Koalas working 7.30-3.30 from Monday to Friday and will greet you on arrival. As some of you are aware Stacey has returned from maternity leave and she too floats between the Tadpoles and Koalas working 8-4 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Thank you for your time, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Erin, Alex and Stacey



Curious Koalas (1.5 - 2.5years)

Hello Curious Koala families!

We have been having so much fun exploring and growing in the Curious Koala's room since our last newsletter and now that the year is drawing to a close, many of our not-so-little Koala's are preparing to move on to the Leaping Frog's room. This is such an exciting transition for our children and we are preparing them for this next step in several ways. Firstly, you will have noticed that some many of us have been spending time in the "Big" yards, with the Leaping Frogs and Brilliant Bees early of a morning and also late in the afternoon. This is to assist them in becoming familiar with the environment and also educators from the older rooms, beginning to develop those relationships.

In addition, we are building our self-help skills and independence as we take off our own shoes and put them in the box, as well as trying to put our own shoes back on (this is also great for children learning to recognise their own belongings); scraping our own plates after meals; assisting to clear the table; wiping our own face and hands after meals; putting on our own sunscreen (a big favourite!) and becoming confident hand washers. A few of us are also embarking on toilet training. If you feel that your child may be ready for this, we have some great advice and print outs to help you along, so please come and see us. All of these things will not only assist your children in the transition to the Leaping Frogs, but also help to build a strong sense of well-being in our children and a positive sense of self as they realise how effective they can be at doing things for themselves and others (Early Years Learning Framework, Learning Outcomes 1 and 3).

We would also like to welcome the newest additions to our Curious Koalas, who have recently moved up from the Tiny Tadpoles. These transitions have all gone very smoothly, as the two rooms work very closely together, building strong relationships with both groups of children. We would also like to welcome Stacey back from maternity leave who has been joining Kasie and Amy as an educator in the Curious Koalas.

So what have we been doing in the Curious Koalas? LOTS! But here is a few of our favourite things...

Babies: we love the babies! Inside and out, we have been looking after our dolls. Taking them for walks, putting them to bed, reading them stories and feeding them. This role play allows us to make sense of the world around us, through imitation of events we have seen in our everyday lives. We are able to take on new roles, experiencing what it feels like to be Mum or Dad, feeling a sense of power as we are able to make decisions about our own activities and how to care for the babies. It also allows us to show compassion for others as we look after our babies so lovingly.

Light and Shadow: After reading favourite stories such as "Who's there? Beware" and "Foggy, Foggy Forest", where illustrations were of deceiving silhouettes, we have begun to explore light and shadow, using torches initially, which was lots of fun as we shined them around the room and our friends tried to catch the light and we discovered how we could shine the light through the window boxes and create different colours. We have moved on from this, with educators bringing a light table into the room. We have been observing a lot of thoughtful interaction with this as children continue to explore how the light shines through the different coloured window boxes, and how the colours on the window boxes change when you stack them- a very interesting scientific concept (placing yellow on top of blue and getting green, for example). We have also been exploring lots of math concepts here as children use translucent beads to sort by shape and colour and fill up there window boxes, exploring volume.

Community helpers: Recently we had a visit from an Ambulance. The Curious Koalas were captivated, walking through the van, sitting in the seats, discovering and trying out the stethoscope and taking rides on the electronic bed. We also got to hear the siren which was very exciting. Kasie had to explain to one very interested Koala, who was sad that he had to leave the ambulance, that the ambulance had to go and help the sick people to get to the hospital, so it was time for us to say goodbye. This little Koala pointed sadly back to the ambulance, whilst lifting up his top and told Kasie (as he rubbed his tummy) "but I sick! I ate too much food." What a very quick thinker! To continue to facilitate this interest in our ambulance workers, we have set up a Hospital, complete with cardboard box ambulance in the room. We can't wait to see how the play develops! Remember to keep checking the iPad to see what we have done throughout the day!

As you can see, there has been a lot of active, hands on investigation in the Curious Koala's room. Please if you have any ideas or thoughts of ways we can add to our room, or skills you might have that you want to share with us, let us know! We have recently begun exploring a wider range of musical instruments, so if you know how to play one, we'd love you to come in and give us a demonstration!

All the Best, Kasie, Amy W, Cassidy, Alex and Stacey.



EDUCATORS for 2016

Room Leaders in 2016

Tiny Tadpoles - Erin
 Curious Koalas- Amy W
 Leaping Frogs - Denise
 Brilliant Bees– Amy C & Kasie

Jasmin– We welcome Jasmin to our team in 2016 in a maternity leave position. Jasmin will be working with Erin in the Tiny Tadpoles Room. Jasmin has just moved from Penrith and will be getting married in 2016.

Cassidy– We say goodbye to Cassidy as she heads to teach in the UK. We will miss Cassidy but we wish Cassidy and her Husband Adam all the best on this wonderful adventure.

Sarah– Has completed her traineeship and will be joining our team as permanent educator. Sarah will continue to work in our Brilliant Bees room in 2016.

Amy D - Will return from maternity leave.

What you missed on Facebook

Not everyone has Facebook, but it is an easy way for us to stay in contact with everyone.

We posted photos of our educators covered in mud at the Raw Challenge in September.

Photos of our educators building towers with marshmallow and spaghetti, throwing food at our Christmas Party at the Warners Bay Japanese Restaurant and playing Hungry hippo on office chairs.

We have posted photos of new babies and lots of parenting tips.

Photos of our excursions and visitors to the centre and even more parenting tips.

We posted updates during the flood, photos of water and more water during the flood.

We have posted lots and lots of things that we hope you have found interesting. Thank you for everyone's feed back, comments and likes.