

GREYSTANES UNITING CHURCH CHILDCARE CENTRE

July 2021 Newsletter



To all our families who have elected to stay at home while we wait for COVID outbreak to subside, we miss you and hope you are all going okay and staying safe.

Our centre is still operating business as normal so if you have been away and would like to return just give us 48 hours notice of you planning to return so we can ensure we have the adequate number of staff and the food and supplies we need. You can let us know by email childcare@greystanesuniting.org.au

Educators are continuing to maintain our rigorous cleaning rituals to keep all our children, families and educators safe.

Educators were initially exempt from wearing masks but are now required to wear throughout the day both inside and outside. Thank you to all the families who have been wearing their masks in the centre.

Our service will remain open unless we are advised by the Health Department/Uniting Early Learning to do otherwise. Please notify the service ASAP if you/your child/another family member who has been attending the service contracts COVID19 or is considered a close contact so we can make the necessary steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our educators and families.

Please do not bring your child to the centre if your child is sick with cold like symptoms such as a cough, sore throat, fever or runny nose. If your child does become unwell at the centre we will call you to collect your child.

Special Events

Unfortunately incursions are on hold while COVID is occurring as we are not allowing visitors into our service but we have celebrated pyjama day and are looking forward to daffodil day and book week in August.

Giving Cupboard

From the 2/8/21 we will be setting up a giving cupboard that the children have decorated and will go outside of our service for anyone who is doing it tough during COVID. This will be for anyone in the community to take from. Feel free to take from it if you are in need or if you want to donate an item you can do that too. We will be putting some non-perishable food items in it as well as cards and pictures for the community to make them happy, as suggested by the children. We will also have some books donated by our church Op shop.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Neelam Thapa who has taken the position of Early Childhood Teacher. Neelam has been studying for several years and has recently completed her studies and has a Masters of Teaching in Early Childhood Education. Neelam has now moved into the Bears room and will be working alongside Eliane and Syeda.

We are currently recruiting for a P/T Diploma to work in the Butterflies room.

Vicki Midson who worked casually assisting Educators so they can do their Programming has decided to retire and spend more time with her family.

Luna Omari is soon to join our team working in the kitchen casually.

We are currently recruiting for a trainee to join our Bunnies team but are fortunate to have Nikhat Khan working in the Bunnies room in the short term.

Toys

Just a reminder to please not bring toys to the centre. Children often forget where they leave them which can be upsetting for them when lost and well as them getting broken. Some children own the same toy and thinks it is theirs and hence can cause disagreements between children.

Bunnies News

The Bunnies have been working on our health and fitness through our latest projects. We have been talking about the current COVID19 situation and how important washing our hands is and using tissues for our noses. We are also enjoying the various obstacle courses outside where we work on our physical health and development.

Butterflies News

The Butterfly children have been having wonderful experiences this term.

Educators have been fostering children's natural intent towards preserving in our environment through exploration in the garden. Children have been assisting in planting plants and watering them as well as exploring natural materials in play.

This term the Butterflies children have enjoyed creating and exploring "The Adventure of Freddie the fish & Froggy Diorama". They have been using magnifying glasses to explore & investigate extra resources such as rocks, plants & animals in our garden and discussing the impacts of pollution on animal habitats.

Our goal this term is for the Butterflies children to be socially responsible & show respect of the environment in order to develop an increasing understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals and become more aware of the impact of human activity on the environment.

We have also changed the set up our science corner with with added resources for children to investigate and explore. There are also posters and resources that promote healthy foods and nutrition which have formed part of our "Munch & Move" programmed experiences.

Personal hygiene is also one of our topics such as hand washing, tooth brushing. Posters are also displayed with a basket of assorted science resources such as periscope, magnets, shapes etc. for the children to explore & investigate. This has sparked their interest & inspired questioning.

We are encouraging children to play in groups to help develop social skills, language and team building.

Lisa is focusing on naming letters and their sounds and to enhance children's pre-reading and early literacy skills.

Parents have the important role to play as well by fostering your children's interest. Butterflies educators would like you to follow-up these interests and experiences at home and share their interests with us so we can extend upon their learning.

Take care and be safe.

Bears News

The Bears had a momentous couple of months with all the commotion and changes occurring due to COVID-19. The educators are working towards keeping the environment at the centre safe for families, children and staffs by following a policies and procedures designated by Uniting. Some of the procedures that we strictly follow in our centre during this pandemic is wearing masks indoor and outdoor at all times, washing hands on arrival and throughout the day and on departure and maintaining safe distance between parents, educators and children at all times. We have also assigned the QR code at our entry points for effective monitoring of any new cases.

Our planned experiences and activities mainly focus and encourage collaboration, focus on building trustful relationship between educators and children and seek feedback and cooperation from families.

The focus of learning and educational programs in Bears room for the upcoming term as follows:

School Readiness

- 1 Writing children's name
- 2 Exploring and learning about days of the week
- 3 Learning about season and weather

Community Events

- 1 Explore information about the upcoming Olympics through various play-based experiences.
- 2 Embedding geography in our teaching program by exploring different countries that will participate in the Olympics.

Intentional Teaching

- 1 Learning about living and non-living things.
- 2 Exploring plants and nature.
- 3 Exploring our body what makes us living.

We look forward to working with families. Please if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to speak to one of the educators in the Bears Room.

In coming days Neelam will be sending information regarding the educational program to parents through story park.

Recipe from the kitchen

FLAT BREADS

2 cups of self raising flour

1 ½ cups natural greek yoghurt

1 tbsp olive

Extra flavours –add a pinch of one of the below flavours

-dried rosemary

-fresh garlic

-chilli flakes

-dried oregano

Cumin

Mix all ingredients together. Roll out on bench. Cut into 8's and cook in greased frypan till brown on both sides.