Last week we were scientists at JCCC. Look at our amazing investigations...

We painted outlines with water on the cement and watched the lines “evaporating”.

Who says that scientists can’t be funny?

We also used a magnet to find metal things in our kindy yard...

...And discovered a perfect “cast” shed by Mrs Little, the smaller of our two spiny leaf insects.

This is not Mrs Little, it’s just the skin she grew out of.

LEARNING STORIES

Has a “learning story” about something your child has done at kindy or care appeared in your pocket? At the end of last term, Alison, Tegan, Tash and Erin attended a training day about using learning stories to document children’s learning. Held in Port Broughton, the session was presented by Wendy Lee, a New Zealand educator with a wealth of experience in the early childhood field. We have come back keen to experiment with writing learning stories to the children and sharing them with families. If you find a learning story in your child’s pocket, we would love you to let us know what you think. Did you enjoy reading it and sharing it with your child? Did it give you an insight into what your child does at the centre and how they learn? Our goal this year is to look at ways of documenting children’s learning at kindy and care in a way that is meaningful to children, families and educators.
You will have received a letter via your child’s pocket regarding our next fundraiser for the centre: commemorative tea towels and tote bags printed with a photo of our current location surrounded by drawings by the children. Please get your orders back to the centre by Thursday 30th May and don’t forget that the bags and tea towels would make great gifts for grandparents and other relatives! We are hoping to raise funds to purchase children’s bikes for the new centre.

GOVERNING COUNCIL NEWS

Governing Council met last Tuesday 7th May. On the agenda were two policies: Fees and Bookings and Eligibility and Priority of Access. As a result of discussions it was decided to make some clarifications and amendments to current procedures for child care bookings and non-payment of fees. These important changes will come into effect on June 1st, 2013. An information sheet has been included with this newsletter detailing changes and clarifications included in the new policy. Please read this information carefully and contact Alison or Karen if you would like to discuss your individual situation.

The Priority of Access to child care was also discussed. We are required by DEEWR to follow the following priority of access:

1. A child at risk of abuse or neglect
2. A child of a single parent who is working, training or studying OR a child of parents who are both working, training or studying
3. Any other child

At our centre, positions will be filled according to these guidelines. Based on advice from DEEWR, we have also included in our policy a clause stating that a priority 3 child may be required to vacate their place for a priority 1 or 2 child needing care. In this circumstance, the centre must give two weeks’ notice and every effort would be made to offer an alternative place for the child losing their booking. Please note that in order to implement this policy parents of priority 3 children must have been made aware upon enrolment of the possible requirement to give up the booking to a child with a higher priority of care. Therefore, this situation will only apply to new priority 3 bookings and not to existing priority 3 bookings as these families would not have had this information upon enrolment.

Approved Governing Council minutes are available in the flip file at the entrance door and all parents are invited to attend meetings which are held twice a term, advertised in the newsletter and on the “What’s On” calendar on our website.

That’s all for now from Alison, Tegan, Deb, Gayle, Karen, Tash, Erin, Jo, Roweena, Kimmy, Joanna and Angie.