Building Redevelopment

Garas Construction is the approved builder by the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) for our new development. A meeting is scheduled for next week to organize a starting date. There will be at least 3 stages of the construction phase, starting with a new veranda with dual entrance gates at the Northern end of our boundary. This will then become the temporary main entrance during the major construction phase.

Curriculum

This term we have started an inquiry project into our building redevelopment which has been fuelled by children's interest in the building of Aldi at Golden Grove Shopping Centre. Some of the children have been making their own maps so we have extended their thinking through looking at the current floor plan of the children's centre. The children have been on an exploration journey, visiting rooms that they never knew existed within the centre whilst making markings on their floor plans which represent each room. Some of the children have taken photos of objects within the rooms and people along the way and then transferred their new knowledge by placing the photos on an enlarged floor plan which is displayed in the Star room against the purple wall. This has generated many conversations between the children across the site and their noticing.

- Did you know that the Star room has four toilets but the Rainbow room only has two?

- There are four cots in each sleep room; there are three high cots and one low cot in each.

- You can see the car park from the sleep room

- The desks in the office have rectangle shapes on top

- There are three doors that you can go out of from the teachers’ lunch room

- We will continue our inquiry project throughout the duration of our Building redevelopment.

Child Protection

Child Protection Curriculum this term is looking at Focus Area 3 ‘Recognising and reporting abuse’. Children will be discussing privacy and parts of the body, naming each part using correct terminology. We will explore different kinds of touching, using the concepts of people we can hug, people we might shake hands with or wave to, people we just say 'hello' to and people we don’t touch. Children will also be involved in discussing secrets that are safe to keep and secrets that need to be told.

Child Wellbeing Practitioner

In August 2015 the State Government announced a new initiative to introduce 60 Child Wellbeing Practitioners into Educational Sites across South Australia. Basing the child wellbeing program in education settings will encourage more engagement with vulnerable families, early identification with problems and connection to timely and appropriate services, and fewer families reaching the level of concern requiring a child protection response. On 26 July we were informed that a Child Wellbeing Practitioner will join our staff team.

On Thursday 4 August our Education Director (Ros Maio) and other Early Years Leaders participated in an “Instructional Round” (External Review) across our site—the focus was on our Problem of Practice (POP) – “Can we be confident that every baby, toddler and preschool child is given the opportunity for intellectual stretch beyond what would be traditionally offered for children of similar ages and stages of development?” The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and hugely affirmative. This experience will place our site well when we participate in the Assessment and Rating process through ACECQA – Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority: Regulatory Board. The date for this process is still to be announced.

Many thanks to the large number of family members who supported our Olympic Games Day on Thursday 11 August $512.60 was raised which will be used to purchase/replace some of our “sporting equipment” including mats and soccer net etc.
Sun Safety

To ensure that children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun, we ask that all children bring a named hat which is either a Legionnaire or wide brimmed style that protects their face neck and ears, each day. Hats with a front peak only (Baseball caps) are not an acceptable means of protection for the neck and ears. Navy Blue Legionnaire Hats are available for purchase @ $4.00 each. No hat means No outside play, we do not have spare hats for children to borrow.

Sunscreen should be applied by parents/caregivers to all exposed skin before arrival at the Centre. Sunscreen will be reapplied during the day in line with the current Cancer Council recommendations. If your child has a medical need for a particular brand of sunscreen (eg-allergic to others) we need permission from your Doctor to administer this sunscreen and you will need to supply your own sunscreen with your child’s name on a Chemist label. If you do not want your child to receive sunscreen- please put your request in writing and it will be filed with your child’s personal documentation. Please do not send children with exposed shoulders/backs/chests etc. These children will be asked to put on a t-shirt or will be required to spend all day inside as sunscreen alone is not an acceptable means of protection for these body parts.

Community Development

PARENT SESSION WITH Mark Le Messurier

DEALING WITH BIG FEELINGS –

Coaching kids to manage ANXIOUS to ANGRY feelings, and anything in-between!

Wednesday 14th September
Time: 7pm – 9pm
Gold coin optional
Dame Roma Mitchell Theatre, Golden Grove High School

How do BIG FEELINGS and tricky compensating behaviours work together?
Is some anxiety in my child alright?
Can I really coach my child to better manage their BIG FEELINGS?
Will there be strategies I can utilise straight away?
Mark promises to bring a wealth of totally practical ideas to show parents how to coach their children to tame their BIG frustrated FEELINGS. This workshop invests in you so you can empower your children!
www.marklemessurier.com.au
To book please register on-line:
https://marklemessurergoldengrove.eventbrite.com.au

Keep your kids smiling.

At the School Dental Service, dental care is FREE for all babies, children not yet at school and most children to age 17.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Your local clinic is: Modbury GP Plus Dental Clinic
Phone: 7425 8700

2016 Parent Opinion Survey

Each year the Parent Opinion Survey is sent to parents/caregivers across our site to help us gain feedback about the Children’s Centre and the services that we provide. It is an opportunity for families to express their views around what they value about the Children’s Centre and its programs and to offer constructive and innovative suggestions about how we can continuously improve the quality of our service. The questions are based on the National Quality Standards.

- Quality Area One : Educational Program
- Quality Area Two: Health and Safety
- Quality Area Three: Physical Environment
- Quality Area Four: Staff
- Quality Area Five: Relationships with children
- Quality Area Six: Relationships with Families and the Wider Community
- Quality Area Seven: Leadership and Management

Overall the responses to the 2016 Parent Opinion Survey indicate a continuing high degree of satisfaction in each Quality Area of the National Quality Standard.

Dates to Remember

- Monday 5 September: CAFHS clinic
- Wednesday 14 September: Mark LeMessurier
- Monday 25 September: Governing Council meeting
- Thursday 29 September: Last preschool day for term 3
- Friday 30 September: Preschool closure - Long Day Care continues as normal for children booked into a Friday and through the school holidays.
- Monday 3 October: Public Holiday
- Monday 17 October: Preschool program recommences for Term 4.