

ON *this* MONTH

DECEMBER
2020

- 1st – First Day of Summer
- 9th – Kindy Graduation
- 10th – Children's Christmas Party
- 14th – Vacation Care Starts
- 24th – Centre Closes for 2 weeks
- 25th – Christmas Day
- 26th – Boxing Day
- 30th – New Year's Eve

January 2021
11th – Centre re-opens

Please remember to pack a water bottle, sun safe hat, cot sheets (for younger children) and 2 sets of spare clothes and with your child's name on all items. Parents please ensure your child has shoes on when entering/ leaving our service or hopping on our courtesy buses. Thank you



Keep in touch on Facebook



Bay Island Early Learning and Care

A Message from the office:

Hello Families,

As mentioned in previous newsletters Our centre is going through Assessment & Rating. This has been postponed until our centre is notified of a future date.

Our Centre will be closed from the 24 December 2020 through to 10 January 2021.

Have your children outgrown their clothes? If so, we would gladly take them off your hands. We are replenishing our stock of spare clothes to be used on those days we have water play at our centre!

December Birthdays:

Ebony, Shaun, Mihaka, Troy, Keanu, Bently & James



5 Minute MOVES

Hide and Sweat!

The adults in the family write down 20 physical activities on separate small pieces of paper. These are then put in coloured envelopes or small containers and hid around the house. Kids are then tasked to find the hidden items. When found, they are opened, and the entire family performs the activity for the reps or amount of time given.

Putting a time limit on finding all of the items and doing all of the exercises makes it more interesting!

NURSERY RHYMES

Nursery rhymes offer oral support to children and aid in their development of hearing awareness. They are part of children's pre-literacy skills, being an important pillar in their cognitive development. Their value to children's language and learning foundation cannot be underestimated.

Learning nursery rhymes helps children develop phonemic awareness, memory and articulation, it helps children's understanding of concepts: painting pictures in children's heads, social routines, and Listening skills.

The activity is simple: Revisit your old favourite nursery rhymes, learn new ones! Use them to transition between activities or read nursery rhyme books at bedtime.

Fun with
LITERACY



Child Safety Tip

Sun safety – www.sunsmart.com.au

Too much sun can lead to sunburn, skin damage, eye damage, skin cancer and a weakened immune system.

Your child needs some sun to help her body to make vitamin D, which is important for things like strong bones and muscles. But you must **be careful about how much sun** your child gets on her skin.



SLIP



SLOP



SLAP



SEEK



SLIDE

Community Links

Macleay Island Lions Club

@lionsmacleay on Facebook – Drop Off point is at the front of Macleay Island State School

Macleay Lions are collecting cans and bottles to raise money here on Macleay Island. Part proceeds go to our local school for various projects when needed. These donations also help us run the school breakfast club 5 days a week.



Sustainability at Home

This holiday season why not make your own cards from recycled paper with seeds, creating a plantable card.



Check out:

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/diy-seed-paper/9548326>

Sustainability in our Service

Bay Island Early Learning collects recyclable items from our own households, parents/families & community members to reuse in our craft activities. Our educators are creative in reusing these items and some children have taken their art home.



Early Years Learning Framework in Action

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise, and imagine. When children play with other children, they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems, and engage in critical thinking. Play can expand children's thinking and enhance their desire to know and to learn. In these ways play can promote positive dispositions towards learning. Children's immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being. Early childhood educators take on many roles in play with children and use a range of strategies to support learning. They engage in sustained shared conversations with children to extend their thinking. They provide a balance between child led, child initiated, and educator supported learning. They create learning environments that encourage children to explore, solve problems, create, and construct. Educators interact with babies and children to build attachment. They use routines and play experiences to do this. They also recognise spontaneous teachable moments as they occur and use them to build on children's learning. Early childhood educators work with young children to promote and model positive ways to relate to others. They actively support the inclusion of all children in play, help children to recognise when play is unfair and offer constructive ways to build a caring, fair and inclusive learning community.

A message from our rooms



Ocean room – Turtles – In the ocean room this month we have focused on our social skills and us educators have provided activities and created play spaces to best encourage and foster positive relationships.

Our therapist for this month is Vygotsky who believes that group activities and learning encourages social interaction, and this means for the children to be able to communicate and have conversation about learning. He also believes that children learn from being paired with more skilled peers or an adult.

Lots of activities were planned in groups the children have enjoyed doing art as a whole class.

We look forward to December and Christmas as we are starting our Christmas art, craft, and gifts.



Ocean Room – Joeys – This month in the ocean joeys room we have been exploring around the ocean yard. We encourage children to help care for their environment and learning new skills, develop self-confidence by helping plant seeds, pull the weeds and watering the plants using the watering cans. We are also collecting dried leaves, sticks, twigs to create beautiful collages using natural resources. While the children are outside learning, playing and exploring, we have new resources in our yard – Balancing stools – this can help develop better concentration needed for sitting and paying attention.



Time Flies Its nearly Christmas time and holidays are fast approaching. We read a story about Christmas and sung along to jingle bells using our musical instruments, the children enjoyed dancing and following the rhythm of the beat.

Just a reminder please pack extra clothes for water and messy play as the weather is getting warmer now and we will water play more often.

Bush Koalas – “It’s Beginning to look a lot like Christmas!”



This past month we have really explored the children’s interest in water play. Creating a safe, secure and comfortable outdoor learning space where the children feel free to make choices and decisions that influence events that occur in their world. We are excited to begin a new learning journey as December falls upon us. Our goal will be to use natural materials and recycled materials to help create decorations for our room, Christmas tree etc as it is a part of our belief that also aligns with our centre philosophy - That we are

sustainable, encourage sustainability, and educate the children about sustainability. Educators in the bush room have also been working on The NQS - QA3 (***Fit for purpose - 3.1.1***) - Making sure the indoor and outdoor play spaces are set up for children, activities and games are set out purely based on the children’s interests. We are excited that Christmas is just around the corner, however it is also bringing our time together slowly to a glorious end as the Bush Koala’s will be transitioning into the Rainforest Room to become a Ranger with Miss Lisa. Have A Jolly Merry Christmas Everyone!



Rainforest— As most of you would know I have had a very quick recovery with my healing, and I am back to running around with the lovely children learning and having fun. The children really enjoyed our making of lunches and packing lunch boxes. We have seen the children use perseverance to open packets, manage lids and zips and my personal favourite – not eating the entire contents of their lunch box in one sitting. The children have been role playing teachers and students making connections to the similarities to school and kindergarten growing confidence in their next steps in their education.

This time of year is as sad as it is happy. Our lovely staff get emotional to say goodbye, but we are so proud to see the children move on. It was a pleasure to create your child's transition statement and record their individual learning and achievements over the year. These statements will be provided to your child's Prep teacher to paint a holistic picture of your child as a starting point to their education.

Graduation has been moved to Wednesday the 9th of December up at the Cove to avoid weekend commitments and clashes with some wonderful community events. Our Christmas party follows the next day on Thursday the 10th with loads of water play so please bring a change of clothing.

The QKFS subsidy for Kindergarten finishes on the 10th of December, so there will be a slight increase in fees if you choose to continue care. Please be mindful that your child's CCS hours will drop from 36hrs to 24hrs after the 30th of December. We would love to see the children access the vacation care programme.

Enrolment forms have been sent home as your child becomes school age and needs to do another enrolment to access the Cove.

I would like to finish off with a huge team thank you for sharing your amazing treasures with us. We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the future. xxx

Curlew Cove – Its December!! We have lots of fun things happening this month. This past month we have made some great changes to our cove environment, we have set new play spaces and have a range of new resources for the children. We have been connected to the environment and nature as we have continued our gardening and it has been great watching our gardens flourish as spring turns to summer.

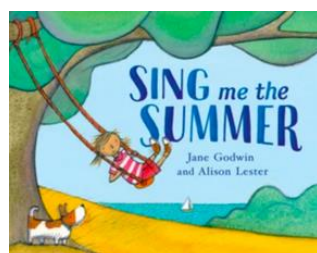


Of an afternoon the children have enjoyed coming to the cove and having the freedom to choose what they want from their afternoon and what activities, games and resources they would like to use, having these available for the children allows them to become more independent and lets them make their own decisions as well as allows them to use verbal communication between one another practicing social skills and building friendships. We have enjoyed getting creative with our paints, collaging and gluing to create beautiful pictures we have also incorporated natural resources within our art such as leaves and sticks. The children have also been using their building skills when creating different marble track and connecting tracks together with their friends to watch their marble roll successful down, as well as adding pieces to create their successful track.

This month we have Vacation Care beginning we have a great 2 weeks planned of what's happening on those days, we look forward to excursions exploring our islands, Santa workshops, gift making, water castle slide and many great activities the children will love these school holidays. We look forward to seeing you there.

Book reviews

The second half of 2020 has produced some special books written by some of Australia's best authors, here are a few we like!



THE BUSHFIRE BOOK

Polly Marsden, Chris Nixon | Start a conversation

An accessible and reassuring picture book that teaches children what they need to know about bushfires so they can understand what's happening and be smart and prepared, not scared.


SING ME THE SUMMER

Jane Godwin, Alison Lester | AGE 3-7

The seasons have also always been a comforting, reassuring aspect of life. When so much is changing and uncertain, the return of each season

THIS MONTH'S POLICIES CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED

Our Centre encourages parental feedback when we are reviewing our policies each month. This month we will review the below policies with our families. A copy of the policies will also be at the Centre for viewing, or on our website and facebook page. Our families are encouraged to read and provide feedback on the policies.

-  Administration of Authorised Medication Policy
-  Account Details Form
-  Sleep and Rest Policy

Parent Feedback on Policies reviewed this Month

Please complete the section below if you have any comments, suggestions or feedback on the policies we are reviewing each month. Your feedback is valuable to us and is part of continuing improvement plan within our centre. Exciting news this can also be completed on our website. Thank you.

Policy Name:

What I like about the Policy:

What I would like to see changed about the Policy:

CHILD CARE RATINGS

Education and care services across Australia are assessed and rated by their state and territory regulatory authority.

All the approved services are assessed against the seven quality areas of the National Quality Standard.

1

Educational program and practice

Your child is supported to participate in play and learning

2

Children's health and safety

Your child is protected from illness and hazards

3

Physical environment

Your child plays in a safe and well-maintained environment

4

Staffing arrangements

There are enough qualified staff to give your child the attention they need

5

Relationships with children

Your child is made to feel supported and welcomed

6

Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Local community involvement and respect for the beliefs and values of families

7

Governance and leadership

Your child is cared for in a positive and well managed environment

They are given a rating for each quality area (above) and an overall rating based on these results. You should consider all these ratings when [choosing a service](#).

Most services will receive one of the three middle ratings below.