THANKYOU to everyone who completed our Annual Family Survey!

I was excited last week to receive the results from our first Annual Family Survey. Whilst we are still reviewing the data in detail, there seem to be a few common themes that have emerged. There were some real positive messages in the results, together with some critical reflections submitted and we shall be looking at these closely to identify areas for improvement.

The TOP five Survey Result Areas for us to review and work towards improvement in the next 12 months include:

1. **Staffing** (Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements)
2. **Communication** (Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities)
3. **Activities and Programs** (Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice)
4. **Car Parking** (Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management)
5. **Sickness** (Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety)

I would welcome any parent contributions to support us in addressing issues that were raised in the survey. Please feel free to come and have a conversation on any area you are passionate about contributing to!

Stay warm......Wil Pruyn

Centres Director

**KEY DATES FOR TERM THREE:**

**12 - 15 July:** CENTRE PHOTOS WITH FOONS
- Tuesday 12th (Dolphin and Rosella Room)
- Wednesday 13th (4 Year Old Kindergarten)
- Thursday 14th (Dolphin, Rosella & Koala Room)
- Friday 15th (Dolphin, Rosella & Koala Room)

**22 – 26 Aug:** BOOKWEEK
- Dress up as your favourite Book character!

**9 Sept:** PCCC TRIVIA NIGHT
- Get a table together and have a great night out!

**FOSTER PARENTS GROUP**

by Kate Marriott a Foster Parent Group member.

What is the Foster Parents' Group?

A group of parents who currently have children at the centre, in any of the programs e.g. long day care, 3-5 education & care, 4yo kinder. The function of the parents group is to conduct fundraising events & activities in order to provide the programs and children with specific items - toys, equipment etc to enhance their learning and play environments. Being a community run organisation, there are funds available for basic equipment and maintenance however there are always "extra" areas where funds can be well invested in toys, equipment, environment enhancement.....etc.

Our aim is to work as closely with the educators as possible; all three rooms have generated a list of "priority list" of items/projects that they believe will enhance the children’s learning and play environment.

In addition to fundraising, we also try and identify other sources of funding & financial assistance such and community and government grants. This has become increasingly important as we are limited in the amount we can raise ourselves and really rely on external funding for the "big ticket" items.

Plans for next term.......

- **After the success of last year’s trivia night, we have decided to run another one. It will be held at the Foster pub on Friday September 9th. So put the date in your diaries now!**
- **We hope to have a Working Bee sometime in the second half of the year to tidy up the outside area, lay more mulch etc.**
- **We have a couple of projects we would like to start work on soon involving construction of an outdoor kitchen, outdoor music area and some landscaping work in the kinder area.**
- **We are looking for fundraising ideas for a large community event in January we have been invited to participate in.**

How to get involved? Informal meetings are held periodically but assistance is far preferred to be received in the form of "hands on" help. If you are interested in becoming involved in any way, please contact Kate Woodward on 0447 634293.
ENROL NOW FOR 2017

Families, who have not enrolled into 4 Year Old Kindergarten through the Shires’ Central Enrolment Program by 30 June 2016, be prepared to miss out on a first Round offer!

FISH CREEK 3 Year Old Pre-Kindergarten: Our 3 Year Old Kindergarten Program at Fish Creek will only operate with a minimum number of children. We really want to see this Program continue, but without confirmed numbers we cannot guarantee it’s viability. If you are interested in the Fish Creek Pre-Kindergarten Program, please contact us as soon as possible to express your interest….spread the word!

OH SO SAD TO SEE YOU Go.......

Two of our valuable staff Ashleigh Morris (Dolphin Room) and Kailah Bartlett (Rosella Room) are moving on from PCCC. Simultaneously they are moving on to meet the needs of their changing lifestyles and have exciting plans ahead of them. We are so sorry to see them go as they are passionate, energetic and vital members of our teams.

ROSELLA ROOM

What a busy term we’ve had, we have been discovering the season of Autumn and have been watching and enjoying the seasonal changes in our yard here at PCCC. The children have been looking at numbers and developing maths skills through fun craft experiences, making a start on their winter vegetable garden and have been learning about pruning fruit trees.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the enthusiasm and passion for early childhood that both Ash and Kailah have shared with so many PCCC children and their families in their time at the service here in Foster. We are so sad to see them go!

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME

We have some new (and not so new) faces working in the Centre on a Casual basis. Trish Morrissey Brown, Deidre Gould and Leanne Payne are all filling in when we have staff away. With some great Early Childhood Education experience between them, they are critical members of our team as they keep us going when we have staff on leave!

KEPTME

If you have not yet logged into your KeptMe App you are missing out on important Program information from your child’s room. All of our Foster Rooms are transitioning to KeptMe as a way of communicating observations and notifications with families. If you are having problems with your account, please do not hesitate to come and see us to get you started!

If you have not yet completed a Kept Me Consent Form to get you started, come and see us in the office and we will get you going!
We have been learning about vegetables, identifying them and discovering how they grow. We are hoping to follow up on this learning by cooking vegetable soup with the children.

We have been making lots of spontaneous cubbies both inside and out as the opportunities arise; this has led to a lot of imaginary play from the children. Our home corner ‘shop’ has been a big hit with lots of role playing and interesting discussions happening.

The topic of families has being a main talking point at group times; it is interesting to hear and discuss with the children their responses to questions and stories surrounding family.

With the colder weather arriving the children have been learning to put on their wet weather pants (supplied by the centre), boots and coats for outdoor play. The children have thoroughly enjoyed splashing about in the puddles after the rain and building with the wet sand in the sandpit.

Notes to families:

- We would like to ask families if their child could bring in a photo of their family members for a Rosella room family tree project.
- Please remember gumboots, coats and beanies for the cold weather.
- Wanted: Any grocery shop catalogues for craft experiences.

DOLPHIN ROOM

In Dolphin room we have been keeping busy. We have been enjoying playing outside while it’s not too cold or raining. Could all parents please remember to pack spare clothes, jackets, gumboots and beanies so we can go outside and enjoy some winter play.

As the weather is getting colder the children are eating more, please ensure you pack enough for your children for the day. Left overs are a great filler for your children for lunch, wraps, quiche, mini pizzas, ham and cheese scrolls, baked beans, spaghetti are just some quick and easy ideas.

Carole, Carrie and Melissa recently attended the Early Childhood Australia Conference and have come back to the Dolphin Room with lots of ideas and inspiration

We have been busy teaching the children hands on sustainability practices. Each child now has their own hand towels which they are using to dry their hands instead of paper towel.

It is also great to see how quickly the children have understood and embraced the concepts of composting and recycling with our new rubbish and compost bins in our room that the children have been using well.

As some of you may be aware, we were planning an excursion to the library and a picnic but this did not happen as the library was getting painted. We are going to try and go to the library once a month for story time and a picnic at the park.
It is with sad news that one of our great educators Ashleigh Morris is leaving us to head off on some new and exciting times. Ash will be greatly missed around the centre!

KOALA ROOM 3-5 PROGRAM

FRIDAYS with LOUISE and SANDRA

Marg Haycroft, from South Gippsland Library, visited our session during this Term. She read us stories relating to farm life. We counted together using stories and we danced and did actions related to these stories - it was great fun.

We have had some amazing group times, where your children have showcased their poster to us all, explaining to us what was on the poster, who did what and the stories behind the pictures, your children asked questions and answered questions.

The group supported each other by listening and engaging in the stories, showing great interest, which sometimes lead to stories beyond the poster, it was fabulous to see children so animated and happy to communicate with each other.

KOALA ROOM 3-5 PROGRAM

THURSDAYS with KATE, ANJA, DENISE & LINDA

Over the last few weeks the children have been enjoying our group times, listening to stories, learning new songs for singing and dancing. Some of the rhymes we have been working on are 2 fat gentlemen; here is the bee hive, Please porridge hot and heads and shoulders knees and toes.

The children have developed a great understanding of our routines and have been establishing many positive relationships with their peers, it is lovely to watch as their play develops incorporating others ideas.

We had a very successful cooking experience cooking Gingerbread men and girls extending the story of the Gingerbread man.

We appreciate the wonderful help from families, thank you for your time. We will have an opportunity for families to help out again next term.

Helping in the room gives you the opportunity to see your child from another perspective, see who they play with, how they play and interact with others meanwhile developing a greater understanding of the learning environment at the Prom Coast Centre for Children.

We would love all children to bring a beanie, coat and gumboots for the colder weather. The children are welcome to leave their beanies here in their hat pockets.

Just a reminder for families to continue to pack icepacks in lunchboxes with meat and dairy.
KOALA – 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

Term 2 ended on a high with “The Flying Bookworm” Theatre company visit. The children enjoyed participating in the stories with some children taking major roles.

Other highlights were Responsible Pet program, Teddy Bears Picnic, playing on the "Wild side", daily yoga, and a visit from the police.

We have talked about Autumn and the Indigenous Australians. Term 3 will start with an interest in Australian animals, winter, and fire.

Outdoor play is an important part of our program. We have over pants for each child, but please provide gumboots (not low ankle boots) and rain jackets so your child can stay warm and dry while playing in a wet environment.

Parent / teacher take place in week 2, so please book a time slot to catch up.

Please keep an eye on your Keptme App for articles about your child and notifications. We have noticed that many have not opened their notifications!

Happy Holidays!

Suzanne, Sharon & Bridget

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