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**Families and Children**

Welcome to a very different newsletter. As the coronavirus is at the forefront of everyday we will try to provide you with up to date information

**The Range Children’s Centre Newsletter May/June 2020**

**Coronavirus**

**The procedures we have implemented to keep us all safe are:**

* Everyone who enters the building is requested to sanitise their hands.
* All incursions/excursions have been stopped for the moment
* All students undertaking placement have been stopped from attending
* Visitors are kept to a minimum
* Staff temperatures are taken on arrival
* The keypad, door handles and other frequently touched areas are cleaned frequently throughout the day
* Any staff member or child who presents with a cough, runny nose or feeling/seeming unwell will be sent home
* Everyone is directed to wash their hands with soap and water frequently
* Sanitiser is available throughout the centre
* Educators clean surfaces frequently during the day
* The centre is cleaned daily after hours
* We receive regular updates from The Department of Education and Training and the Department of Health
* Parents are requested to keep drop offs and pickups brief and not to linger in rooms or the foyer
* Tables in the rooms are set up to maintain some distance between the children

**From the Committee**

The Committee of management would like to thank all Parents, families and staff for their understanding, patience, cooperation and support during the Coronavirus Pandemic. In these uncertain times we have all worked together to continue to provide a safe and happy environment for learning.

**Thank You**

We would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful people who have donated items to support us.

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

These acts of kindness are greatly appreciated.

**Staffing**

**The Committee of Management consists of:**

**President:** Geoff

**Vice President:** Aislinn

**Secretary:** Carey

**Treasurer:** Rebecca

**General Member:** Kirsten, Shaun, Anna, Alistair, Aislinn, Jacqui, Jarrod, Jessica

**Kindergarten Constative Rep**: Kelly

You can contact the committee via email. Committee@therangecc.org.au

If you would like to join the committee please pop in to the office and speak to Janice

**Management consists of:**

Thursday 8.30 – 5.00

Friday 7.30-4.00

**Bookkeeper:** Thao

Tuesday 8.30 – 5.00

Thursday 8.30 – 5.00

Friday 7.30-4.00

**Director:** Janice

**Assistant Director:** Nellie

**Educational Leader/ 3IC:** Robyn

**Buying and Selling Days**

Buying and Selling of days will not be available until further notice. Sorry for any inconvenience

**Centre Policies**

We have undertaken a partnership with Cancer Council Victoria and the State Government and are participating in their Achievement Program. Sally has been working on this and so far we have been awarded 4 out of 6 badges.

They are:

* *Sun Protection*
* *Alcohol Tobacco and other Drugs,*
* *Safe Environments*
* *Healthy Eating and Oral Health*

We are currently working on:

*Physical Activity and Movement*

If you would like to contribute any ideas to this policy please email your ideas to the office

The next Badge we will be working on will be *Mental Health and Wellbeing.*

For more information go to;

<https://www.achievementprogram.health.vic.gov.au/>

**Immunisation Schedule**

Families are required to provide a copy of up to date (most recent) immunisations. If you bring it in we can copy it for you or you can email the document to the centre

 You can obtain this from your MyGov account.

It is very important that our records are kept up to date as *No Jab No Play* rules apply

**Hobsons Bay Immunisation Program 2020**

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-services/Families-Children/Immunisation>

**CCS and FTB**

If you are eligible to receive payments from Centrelink, such as Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Family Tax Benefit (FTB) you may be asked to provide your family income estimate for the 2020-21 financial year.

You need to do this even though you aren’t currently paying child care fees. This is because Centrelink will use this estimate to work out how much CCS and FTB you will get next **financial year.**

There’s more information about updating your family estimate for the 2020-21 financial year on the Services Australia website

**Car Park Safety**

Just a reminder to all families that the car park has a speed limit of **5 kms.**

Please be careful when entering and exiting the car park as children sometimes detach themselves from their parents and can run off. Also please keep an eye out for pedestrians on the foot path.

We encourage families to walk or ride their bikes or scooters to The Range. Please feel free to park your bike under the veranda away from pedestrian traffic

Please be safe and wear a helmet

**Grants**

Due to the Coronavirus all grant applications have been put on hold and will be resubmitted at a later date

**Dates for Your Diary**

All incursions and excursions have been put on hold until we are directed by the proper authorities to rebook

**Yard Maintenance**

Great news, the permanent wooden structures in the playgrounds have been given a facelift with a new coat of paint/varnish. Most of the other wooden equipment has also received a coat of paint

**Important Dates**

**Monday 8th June Centre Closed** Queens Birthday

**Kinder Groups and Times:**

4 yr old Green group: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm

4 yr old Yellow group: Wednesday and Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm

3 yr old Orange group: Monday 9:30am – 4pm

**Kindergarten Term Dates**

1st term: Tuesday 28th January – Friday 27th March

2nd term: Tuesday 14th April – Friday 26th June

3rd term: Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September

4th term: Monday 5th October – Friday 18th December

**From the Educational Leader**

Just a brief message to let you know that educators are continuing to plan for your child, take observations and provide an interesting and stimulating program for the children. Our main focus at the moment is children’s wellbeing.

In these uncertain times the best we can do for the children is to continue with our normal routines, offer support and reassurance and to stay calm and positive.

The educators have been doing an amazing job of providing fun times for the children with lots of singing and dancing and physical activity.

The educators have also been great role models with modelling effective hand washing

**From the educational leader**

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

Every month an allocated room will call a drill within the centre. These drills may be a fire drill, a lock down or a shelter in place. These drills allow children and staff to be prepared and aware of procedures if at any time a real emergency may occur. When we have a drill, we evacuate to our pre-determined meeting points either in the koala/kookaburra yard by the amphitheatre or in the fairy garden/entry area. These are drill meeting points only. In case of a real event we would evacuate to corner of the carpark, opposite the entry gate. If we need to evacuate offsite, we then proceed to our secondary safety assembly point. This is located next door at Nelson Bros funeral home.

As required under the National Regulations we have a Emergency Management Plan in place. This plan outlines procedures and actions to be followed in an emergency. If you're interested in reading our Emergency Management Plan it is located in the foyer opposite the office on the notice board. Alternatively, please feel free to have a chat to the staff.

**Some of the things staff have been doing to keep themselves busy on the weekend during lockdown**

Knitting

Crocheting

Cleaning out wardrobes and cupboards

Washing curtains

House renovations

Painting

Cooking/baking

Cycling

Long walks

Netflix

Reading

Facetiming

Studies

Gardening

Listening to music

Spending time with their children/partners

Doing Puzzles

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Not on our menu, but a healthy start for anyone

Thank you, Kimberley,

**Bircher Muslie**

1 cup of oats

4 apples cored and shredded (skin on)

2 teaspoons cinnamon

¼ cup slivered almonds

Mix together

Will keep in the fridge for up to 10 days

Top with your choice

Yoghurt

Coconut

Nuts and seeds

Honey

Crunchy granola

Can be eaten cold or warmed

**We are asking for donations of art and craft materials. In particular these items;**

* large sticky tape (or small)
* coloured paper
* coloured cardboard
* cardboard
* good clean drawing paper
* chalk
* envelopes

Or anything else you think the children could use in their artistic creations

All items are gratefully received

Thank you

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***Links to the National Quality Standards: Quality Area 6 Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities***