

NEWSLETTER

# THE INSIDER

*by Woden Valley*



## COMING UP



### NOVEMBER

23.11 - 27.11 - lunch box week  
Kangaroos  
26.11 - mangoes pick up

### DECEMBER

4.12 - Kangaroos graduation, 3.30 PM  
8.12 & 10.12 - Santa visit, 3 PM - 5 PM  
22.12 - last day of operation in 2020

### JANUARY

6.01 - first day back in a new year  
26.01 - public holiday  
29.01 - WVCCC birthday

## STORYPARK

Storypark is a secure online community that helps working parents, extended family, educators and specialists connect with children's learning and discoveries.

### How does Storypark help my child?

- Deeper insights into your child's unique interests, needs and abilities, allows better support and improved outcomes.
- Improves communication between educators and families.
- Enables educators to spend their time with your child more effectively, instead of decorating individual scrapbooks.
- Helps to define 'what's next' in your child's learning, by clearly defining the planning cycle through easily accessible individual observations.

Enrolled families must follow Storypark notifications. We often communicate important events or messages that involve your child and family.

There are many great features available, including online communication with teachers via the conversation tab, as well as family input tab - where you can share with us photos from holidays or weekend.

# COMMUNICATION

## How to? Where to?

Woden Valley believes parents and educators play an essential role in the effective operation of the Centre, and in enriching a child's experience at the Centre. We aim to provide an inclusive, positive and supportive environment for children and their families. Communication is a crucial part of our work. Information shared with educators can support the way they handle your child's routine for the day.

There are many options of how you can communicate with our educators:

- verbally - at pick up or drop off time
- communication diary - where you can write a quick note or instruction for the staff
- phone call - feel free to call the Centre at any time, we will do our best to connect you with the room (please be mindful of times like meals or sleep). Unfortunately, we do not have a phone system that can support direct phone calls into the rooms.
- Storypark conversation - each educator is assigned to the room on Storypark, you can message that person via conversation tab.

How do we communicate?

- daily reflections available on Storypark - you can read about your child's day, and we encourage you to comment.
- daily routine record - each room has its record sheet / or board where you can check your child's toileting, sleep and food intake.
- verbally - we found verbal communication most effective in many cases. All our educators are permanent and assigned to the room for the year.
- notice boards and notes - educators will often place a message in your child's locker 'collect wet/soiled clothes', or write child's name on a board with - IR initials to indicate that there is an incident report to sign.



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The ACT Chief Minister - Andrew Barr visited our Centre in October and learnt about the importance of quality early childhood education. He was impressed by the complexity of the program provided and our welcoming environment.



## PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT - AN UPDATE

Our yard renovation projects are starting to take shape. All the surfaces have been removed, and the final work is being completed. The landscapers are currently focusing on a dry river bed in our toddler's room, as well as concreting wooden logs into the ground. The sandpit upgrade in the babies yard looks amazing and 'Fred' the dinosaur is ready for his new home to be completed in the Toddler's sandpit.

Unfortunately, we are running behind schedule with these projects due to severe weather conditions and drainage work going over-time. The final stages of this project will include soft fall installation and planting.

We aim for the children and educators to be able to fully enjoy these newly built play spaces in the New Year, if not earlier. The alternative outdoor play areas have been working well, and the children are enjoying nature walks.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year during Children's Week we encouraged everyone to be involved in our "Giving Project" to build an understanding that strong communities are ones that can rely on each other to be there when we are unable to do it ourselves.

Families donated essential everyday items to the Little Pantry, an initiative of Woden Community Services that support families in need of food and necessary supplies when times are tough.

The project was a great success, and it started a fantastic conversation between families and the children about the importance of giving. We are so proud to see the growing kindness of the children in our care.



## CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM

Within Term 3 and Term 4 we have seen many new initiatives being explored by the children and educators alike.

The introduction of a Holiday Program was well received throughout all rooms with the children experiencing things like Messy Play days, Spa Day, Dress Up Days and everything in between. The idea behind a holiday type program is for everyone to reconnect with each other and to enjoy the spaces that we have created over the last 10wks. For the January period things will look different again as we are still supporting the children about to go to primary school, but if you have any ideas for fun days or excursion/incursions we could look into please let us know.

Educators are also in the process of collating all the amazing work and learning that your children have been involved in over the last 6mths to create the End of Year Summative Assessment. These assessments are a way to show longitudinal learning to see the Early Years Learning Framework in action. Children's play is their work and each provocation stimulates another area of development. This is why our environments are set the way that they are - to provoke learning opportunities and discover lines of inquiry to extend knowledge.



## NATURE PEDAGOGY

The Last three months have been full of changes. Winter to Spring brought out all the flowers we planted in May for Floriade. It was the most beautiful time of the year and the children were very respectful of their Floriade garden. The Floriade garden was enjoyed by Chief Minister Andrew Barr and Education Minister Yvette Berry. We thanked them for giving the youngest members of the Canberra community a chance to connect and contribute to Floriade. We learnt a lot about how capable your children are. Now the Floriade garden is prepared to transition to low water use in Summer with low water need flowers such as California poppy, daisies, lucerne, borage, succulents and Japanese silk trees.

The Term 4 program focus is on reducing water use with a Hugel Kulture and wicking bed creation as part of the program. The children have planted 3 different colours of beans, a variety of flowers, and last year's Dahlias and Jerusalem artichokes to create green rooms of cool shade. We are also trying cucamelons for the first time. Corn planting has been delayed until late November to give us a later corn harvest in late February 2021 when all children have returned from holidays.

