

## Newsletter Winter 2017

Juliana Hernandez has resigned from her position as kindy teacher effective 10/6/17. Juliana came to us in 2009 after gaining her Masters in early childhood teaching in Columbia, South America. She has overseen and designed our kindy programme for the past 8 years and in addition to the wonderful input and dedication of the kindy team, she has elevated our educational profile and children's experiences to an extremely high standard.

As I have stated in previous newsletters, it is very difficult to recruit and hold onto university trained teachers in a child care setting as we struggle to compete with the wages and conditions offered by schools and sessional, public kindergartens.

Juliana's reasons for leaving us are not based solely on these factors as she is very interested in pursuing a more senior/management role within the education sector and will I expect, eventually move towards an academic role given her amazing talent & philosophy. *(It's fair to assume that an extra 6 weeks holidays and significant increase in pay certainly didn't help our cause)*

Fortunately, but by no means accidently, we have a fantastic alternative structure with which to go forward. Natalie Bunworth, whom most people will know from the kindy team, is currently studying her Masters in Education and is happily going to fill Juliana's shoes as our new kindy leader.

Natalie first came to us along with her partner Craig as the parents of Jake and Adam who attended the centre from 2004 – 09. (Their graduation poster is still up in the hallway!)

Natalie's interest and subsequent transfer to the early childhood sector was encouraged strongly from our perspective as her qualities both as a potential teacher but also as a person were obvious.

Natalie has a strong interest in the world of science and has played a very influential role in the kindy curriculum for the past few years after leaving behind her previous incarnation as a mechanical engineer /project manager. She has introduced many science experiments and creatures into the kindy such as frogs, crickets and stick insects and is the muscle and energy behind the worm farm and vegetable gardens at the rear of the office.

Natalie will continue building on the professional relationship that Juliana has developed with the Flinders University departments of Education, Arts and Science and other institutions such as Uni SA, TAFE and the Adelaide Museum and Botanic Gardens etc.

We are in the process of examining how best to fill the role that Natalie will leave behind but given the talented relief pool of casual workers that we currently employ, we have many suitable options.

It is our expectation that the kindy program will go from strength to strength under Natalie's guidance and keen interest in science.

If you have any questions or would like to have some input into the Kindy curriculum, please contact Natalie anytime on 8204 5308.

### **Centre Closure**

The centre will be closed this coming **Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June** to enable some major works to be undertaken in and around the grounds. The Centre will also close this year for **Christmas** from **December the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1.00pm and reopen again on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2018 at 6.30am.** No fees will be charged during either of these closures.

### **Outdoor Environment Upgrade**

On Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> June the temporary wall will finally be removed and our larger outdoor play-spaces will be restored. New fencing will be erected between the different sections and we will be able to gain a perspective on just how we can best proceed with the next phase of the redesign of our entire outdoor environment. As outlined in previous newsletters, we will have three new pavilions erected in the weeks following the wall removal and along with the refurbished sand-pits, digging areas, pathways and major tree plantings we will also begin the process of building three new tree-house/cubbies.

The baby-house is also receiving some much needed fencing improvements and in addition to some new swings and rope climbing/ activity areas in an improved sandpit, we will also be building a new storage shed.

### **Winter Clothing**

Because we tend to spend a good deal of our time outdoors even when it is quite cold, it is important that children come to child care prepared. Children love being outside, and if appropriately attired **will not catch colds as is often claimed.** Warm, thick clothing and woolly beanies are essential on the coldest of days, and spare clothes are also a good idea in case of getting wet or muddy.

Of course if it is truly miserable outside, we will remain indoors but it is not practical to expect children to remain inside, especially if there is the option of venturing out.

### **Web Page**

We hope that you are enjoying our new Web Page. It is hoped that it allows you to gain an even better insight into the daily lives of your children at FMC.C.C.C.C.