



Lightning Reef

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



February/March 2018 Newsletter

Welcome back to all of our families new and old I hope you all had a lovely break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the New Year!

We have said goodbye to many of our children as they head off to school for the first time. Although it is hard to say goodbye it is wonderful to see how they have grown and that they are so excited to be going to school, we wish them well.

Staff news

Room Leaders Richelle, Rosie, Megan and Carla are attending some intensive training on a fortnightly basis through until the end of March at "Gowrie Training Centre" in Melbourne. The training will support them in all aspects of the leadership role and ensure they are up to date with the latest information regarding educating your children. It is also a wonderful opportunity for them to network with educators from other services. I am sure they will be inspired and excited to implement what they have learned.

All of the Lightning Reef staff recently participated in training around Autism and Behavior, this has been extremely valuable in supporting and guiding our practice.

This year we have also planned training around Empowering Young People, Loose Parts, Reflective Practice and Reporting and Documentation. It is important that our educators are up to date with current and best practice so we can provide the best learning environment possible for our children.

The educators here at Lightning Reef have been working very closely with all of the children to ensure they are feeling safe and comfortable in their new environments and getting them settled into the new routines, I'm so pleased to say that all of the children have settled in so amazingly well. If you have any questions or are concerned about anything please don't hesitate to speak with the educators in the room, myself or Kobee at any time.

We welcome Jo to our full time team in the Sandhurst Room please stop in and say hello she is a fantastic addition to our team and has developed great relationships with the children whilst she has worked here as a casual staff member.

We will say goodbye to Sarika at the end of February as she takes parental leave, we look forward to meeting her new baby and wish her all the very best. Celeste will step into Sarika's role whilst she is away. Celeste is one of our casual educators and is familiar with the children in the room, another great staff member on board!

A recycling collection point has been set up outside of the Sandhurst room. If you have anything we can use in our craft area or in our programming please drop it off at this point. Some suggestions are glass jars, bottle tops, magazines, material scraps, cards just to name a few. Your rubbish could be our treasure!



Some reminders for our families

Please pack a change of clothes, a sun smart hat, a drink bottle, nappies (if required) and a piece of fruit. It is also important to label all of your child's belongings

Reminder that when signing your child in you must write the name of the person collecting your child, please don't just write "mum" or "dad"

Please remember that any casual bookings need to be made through our reception staff, it is important that we have enough educators rostered to cater for extra children attending

Children enrolled in our kinder program should arrive for kinder at 9.00am and be collected at 2.00pm. If you require care for your child outside of these hours you can book before or after kinder care, please see Jenna or Grace at reception for further details

Court orders and other legal documents need to be certified by a justice of the peace prior to us being able to accept them, please speak with reception staff for any further details

Our website <http://bendigo.ymca.org.au> provides all the information regarding Lightning Reef ELC and the Bendigo YMCA, you can access all of our services from the one site

Look out for your children's artwork in the reception area, we have some great artists here at Lightning Reef

Don't forget to check our notice board on the wall outside the kinder room for any news or information



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Chinese New Year celebrations are just around the corner and we will be exploring this in our program with the children. Our educator Qing has provided us with lots of decorations and information of her cultural celebration and we are looking forward to sharing this with you all. If there are any of our families that can help to teach our children anything regarding their cultural background we would love for you to share this with our children and educators just speak with the staff in the rooms.

Harmony Day is coming up on Wednesday March 21st, it celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. We celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world. The ongoing theme of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs'. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for all. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians equally belong to this nation and enrich it. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange on 21 March to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia. If you would like to participate come dressed in orange!

Labour Day Public Holiday is on Monday March 12th
Lightning Reef will be closed on this day

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Bendigo Regional YMCA is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

The YMCA supports the concept that in our society every child and young person deserves the right to thrive, learn and grow, be respected, valued and enabled to become an effective adult member of the community.

Our organisation ensures that each person involved in the delivery of services to children and young people understands their role and the behaviour we expect in safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect.

Bendigo YMCA is a recognised Safeguarding Children and Young People organisation accredited by the Australian Childhood Foundation.

The Bendigo YMCA Child Safe Coordinator is Julie Bowe julie.bowe@ymca.org.au 0418503413. Please don't hesitate to contact Julie if you have any concerns or ideas about how we can improve our practices or environments to ensure our children and young people feel safe.

Facebook

Like us on Facebook to see our weekly updates on what's been happening at After School Care and Holiday Program <https://www.facebook.com/BendigoRegionalYMCA>

