A.B. Paterson College

Early Childhood Centre Newsletter

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Important Dates

- 5th October – Kings Birthday Public Holiday
- 19th – 23rd October Grandparents day Celebration
- 30th Day for Daniel

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Welcome to our Newsletter!

September has been a month filled with connection, community engagement, and meaningful learning experiences for our children.

We began the month by celebrating the wonderful male role models in our children's lives. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and special family friends joined us at the Early Learning Centre for a morning of activities, shared experiences, and plenty of laughter. It was a delight to see the children proudly welcoming these important people into their learning environment, creating special memories while strengthening the valued partnerships between home and the service. The joy and excitement throughout the morning highlighted just how important these relationships are in supporting children's sense of belonging, confidence, and wellbeing.

Later in the month, we proudly participated in Bravehearts Day, an important initiative that supports children to develop an understanding of safety, trusted relationships, and community helpers. The children were excited to welcome two Senior Constables from the Arundel Police Beat, who spent time talking with them about their role in keeping our community safe. Through conversations, questions, and hands-on interactions, the children gained a greater understanding of who police officers are and how they can help people in times of need. These experiences also provided valuable opportunities to begin exploring the concept of safe people and encouraged children to feel confident seeking support when required. September has been a wonderful reminder of the value of strong relationships and community connections. Through these experiences, children have continued to build their understanding of the world around them while developing a sense of trust, belonging, and confidence. We look forward to the exciting opportunities that the coming months will bring as we continue learning and growing together.

Tegan Findlay
Acting Centre Manager/ Educational Leader

Caterpillar's Classroom

Dear Caterpillars Families,
September has been another wonderful month of learning, growth and connection for our Caterpillars. Throughout the month, the children have continued to build their confidence, independence and curiosity through a range of intentional teaching experiences and meaningful play opportunities. It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident in expressing their ideas, attempting new challenges and celebrating their achievements with their friends and educators.

Identifying Numbers and Counting from 1 to 10
This month, we revisited number recognition and counting from 1 to 10, providing the children with a variety of engaging and hands-on learning experiences. Our Caterpillar educators intentionally prepared a range of activities to encourage the children to recognise numerals, practise counting and develop an understanding of numbers through play.
It was wonderful to see some of our Caterpillar friends confidently identifying numbers from 1 to 10 and demonstrating their growing understanding during our learning experiences. For those children who are still developing these skills, educators continued to provide encouragement, repetition and individual support, allowing each child to learn at their own pace and build confidence.
Through these experiences, the children strengthened their early numeracy skills, including number recognition, counting and one-to-one correspondence. They also developed their concentration, memory, problem-solving skills and confidence when engaging with mathematical concepts. By incorporating numbers into playful and meaningful experiences, we are helping children develop positive attitudes towards early mathematics and laying important foundations for their future learning.

Developing Fine Motor Skills Through Everyday Experiences
As part of our intentional teaching, we continued to provide meaningful experiences that supported the development of the children's fine motor skills while connecting learning to everyday life. The children participated in a variety of hands-on activities such as spreading butter on bread, using toy knives, manipulating playdough and exploring tiles.
The children particularly enjoyed making their own sandwiches. It was wonderful to hear Emma proudly say, "I did it!" after completing a task independently. Lachlan excitedly shared, "Miss Mirasha, I made sandwich!", while Hamilton proudly showed his creation and said, "Miss Mirasha, see my sandwich!" These moments demonstrated the children's growing independence, confidence and sense of achievement.
We also explored a range of activities that encouraged children to practise cutting, peeling, pouring, scooping, pegging, squeezing, spraying, zipping and buttoning. Each of these experiences provided opportunities for the children to strengthen their hands and fingers while developing greater control and coordination.
These experiences supported the development of fine motor skills, hand strength, hand-eye coordination and dexterity. They also encouraged independence in everyday tasks, concentration, persistence and problem-solving. By providing children with opportunities to practise practical life skills, we are supporting them to become increasingly capable and confident in caring for themselves and participating in everyday routines.

Caterpillar's Classroom

Celebrating Father's Day

One of the special highlights of September was celebrating Father's Day. Our Junior Room educators prepared a warm and meaningful Father's Day celebration, creating opportunities for children and their dads to spend quality time together through a range of fun and engaging activities.

A special highlight of the celebration was the Yoga with Daddy session. It was wonderful to see children and their dads participating together, following yoga movements, trying different poses and sharing lots of smiles and laughter. The experience provided a beautiful opportunity for families to connect, relax and enjoy learning and playing together.

The Father's Day experiences supported children's social and emotional development by strengthening their sense of belonging, connection and family relationships. Participating alongside their dads also encouraged children to develop confidence, communication and cooperation while experiencing the joy of sharing their learning environment with an important person in their lives.

These meaningful experiences also helped children recognise and appreciate the special relationships and people who are part of their families and communities. Most importantly, it was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the important role that fathers and father figures play in children's lives.

Meeting Our Community Helpers – A Special Visit from the Police

Another exciting highlight this month was a special visit from two police officers, providing a wonderful opportunity for our Caterpillar children to learn about community helpers and personal safety. The children were very excited and dressed up as superheroes for the day, making the experience even more fun and memorable. A special highlight was having the opportunity to sit in the police car, and it was wonderful to see all of our Caterpillar friends confidently participating and exploring the experience. The police officers spoke with the children about how they are safe people who can help them, alongside trusted adults such as their mummy, daddy and educators. They encouraged the children to seek help from a police officer if they ever feel lost, unsafe or in danger. This meaningful experience supported the children's understanding of personal safety, community helpers and the importance of asking trusted adults for help, while also building their confidence, communication skills and sense of connection with the wider community.

We look forward to another exciting month filled with meaningful experiences, new discoveries and opportunities for our wonderful Caterpillars to learn, grow and flourish together. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We truly appreciate being part of your child's learning journey and look forward to sharing many more special moments with our Caterpillar families.

The Caterpillars Team

Butterflies Classroom

Dear Butterfly Families,
What a wonderful month September has been! We have loved watching the children continue to grow in confidence, independence, and friendships as they explored new learning experiences and shared many special moments together. Thank you for your continued support and partnership with us. We are so proud of all the children and the progress they make each day.

Celebrations:

A very happy 3rd Birthday to Declan and Grace, who both celebrated their birthdays with their Butterfly friends this month. We hope your day was filled with lots of fun and happy memories.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the dads, grandfathers, uncles and father figures who joined us for our Father's Day Celebration. The children were so excited to share their learning environment with the important people in their lives, and it was wonderful to see so many families connecting and celebrating together. We also enjoyed celebrating Book Week alongside the Junior Kindy children. The week was filled with stories, imagination, and a shared love of reading.

Colour and Shape recognition

As part of our ongoing learning about colours, the children have also been introduced to a variety of shapes including circles, squares, rectangles, stars, hearts, diamonds, and ovals. Our new magnetic tiles have quickly become a favourite learning resource. The children have enjoyed exploring how different shapes fit together while creating towers, houses, bridges and imaginative designs. Some children confidently used their creativity to build their own unique structures, while others carefully followed picture guides to recreate designs. These experiences have encouraged problem-solving, critical thinking, persistence, and teamwork while strengthening fine motor skills. The children's ongoing interest in puzzles and train track construction has also continued throughout the month. Working together to complete puzzles and design complex train tracks has supported their growing independence, confidence, social skills and ability to solve challenges together.

Understanding Feelings & Emotions

Supporting children's emotional wellbeing is an important part of our program. Throughout September, we shared stories including The Great Big Bullfrog, BaaBoom, and I'm Feeling Sad to help children recognise, name and understand different emotions. These stories sparked meaningful

Butterflies Classroom

discussions as the children reflected on times when they had experienced similar feelings. During BaaBoom, the children spoke about how they might feel if someone took away something special that belonged to them, just as Clucky Cluck experienced in the story. It was wonderful to hear the children sharing their own experiences and showing empathy towards the characters and each other. These conversations continue to support emotional awareness, resilience and positive social connections.

Imagination in Action

One of our favourite moments this month began when Olivia asked for the silk scarves so she could wear one as a superhero cape. Soon, Owen, Henry, Maeve, and Gabriella eagerly joined her adventure, choosing different coloured scarves and creating their own superhero identities. Together they embarked on imaginative journeys, shared ideas, and worked collaboratively to extend their play. These moments demonstrate how children's imaginations flourish when provided with open-ended resources and opportunities to lead their own learning. Through this play, the children have continued to strengthen friendships, communication skills and their understanding of colours.

The Butterfly Hair Salon:

One of the biggest highlights of September was the creation of our very own Butterfly Hair Salon. Inspired by Franchesca's interest in hairdressing, the experience began when she carefully brushed and styled her friends' hair after rest time, even creating a relaxing "hair spa" experience for Grace. Recognising the children's enthusiasm, educators expanded the experience into a dedicated salon corner complete with:

Brushes and combs, spray bottles, hair clips and accessories, hair mannequins and wigs, tool belts, mirrors, a real hairdryer generously brought in by Miss Leeah. The salon quickly became a busy and exciting space where children took turns being hairdressers, customers and salon assistants. Rich conversations developed as children discussed hairstyles, shared ideas and worked together. Role play experiences such as these are incredibly valuable for young children. They support creativity, communication, cooperation, confidence and emotional wellbeing while helping children explore their sense of identity and belonging.

Growing Independence

We are incredibly proud of the progress many children have made in their toileting journey this month. Several children have begun toilet training and are showing increasing confidence when sitting on the toilet, even if they are still wearing nappies. Many are also demonstrating longer periods of dry nappies throughout the day and are becoming more aware of their body's cues. Daily opportunities to practise toileting routines are helping children build independence and become familiar with the predictable routines of their day. We appreciate families and educators working together to support each child's individual journey.

A Visit from Arundel Police Beat

The Butterfly children were very excited to welcome the Arundel Police Beat officers to our centre this month. The officers spoke with the children about staying safe and introduced them to the important role police officers play within our community. The children learnt how to identify police officers by their uniforms and discussed other trusted adults they can seek help from, including parents, educators, doctors, nurses, lifeguards and other community helpers. The officers also introduced the emergency number 000 and spoke about situations where emergency services may be needed. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly seeing the police vehicle up close. The children were thrilled as the officers demonstrated the flashing lights and loud sirens, creating a memorable learning experience that many children continued talking about long after the visit had ended.

Looking Ahead

As we move into October, we look forward to extending the children's interests through imaginative play, creative experiences, emotional learning and continued opportunities to build independence and confidence. Thank you for being part of our Butterfly family. We cherish the opportunity to support your children as they learn, grow and make wonderful memories each day.

The Butterfly Team

Koalas Classroom

September has been another wonderful month of learning, discovering and growth in the Koala Room. It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident, independent and curious as they continue to explore the world around them.

Exploring Alphabets and sounds

This month, the children have continued to their exploration of alphabets and sounds through play, conversations and everyday experiences. One of the most exciting things we have noticed is that the children are beginning to develop an awareness of the sounds that alphabets make. Rather than simply learning letters in isolation, the children are starting to connect alphabets and sounds with things they see and experience in their everyday lives.

For example, when we explored the alphabets P, we asked, “P is for what?” the children began thinking about words they already knew that started with the sound, and quickly came up with ideas, such as “pizza” “pink”. These moments show us that children are beginning to make meaningful connections between their learning and the world around them.

We have been using the children’s interests and ideas to help guide our daily experiences and activities. When a child shows excitement or curiosity about something, we look for opportunities to extend that interest through stories, conversations, art, sensory experiences and play.

A special visit from the Police

This month, we were very excited to welcome the police officer to our Centre for a special visit and safety experience. The Koala children showed wonderful behaviour throughout the visit. They came outside calmly and in and orderly way, listened carefully while the police officer talked to them about safety and confidently raised their hands to ask questions. This experience provided an important opportunity for the children to develop an understanding of personal safety and

Koalas Classroom

how to keep themselves and others safe. It was wonderful to see the children actively listening, participating and sharing their ideas.

Growing in independence, confidence and care

One of the most special things we have noticed this month is how much the Koala children are growing in their independence and confidence.

The children are becoming increasingly capable of doing things for themselves and are also showing a wonderful sense of responsibility towards their friends and the group. For example, the children take turns helping the serve food to their friends; the children are learning to wait patiently for their turn, following instructions and take responsibility for helping; after playing, the children work together to pack away the toys and resources they have been using, making sure everything is returned to its place.

We are so proud of all the little steps they are taking each day and look forward to seeing where their curiosity takes them next.

The Koalas Team

Dolphins Classroom

The benefits of constructive play for our room

In the past few weeks, our Dolphins have become more interested in constructive play. In September, we offered many hands-on materials, including magnetic tiles, wooden blocks, LEGO, colourful connecting pieces, U-shaped blocks, cubic blocks, swimming noodles, and golf tees. Our children enjoyed building, connecting, stacking, and creating as they explored their own ideas.

Developing problem-solving and persistence

Constructive play lets children plan, experiment, solve problems, and learn by trying different things. When building towers, our children thought about how to balance each block and changed their designs if the towers fell. They learned that if something does not work, they can try a new way and keep going. These experiences help build persistence, resilience, and problem-solving skills.

Encouraging creativity and imagination

Open-ended construction materials help children use their imagination and create things that are meaningful to them. Our Dolphins have turned simple blocks into homes, castles, roads, and community spaces, often adding pretend play to their building. We have also heard children describe their creations, like saying, “Look, this is my drink bottle,” which shows how building supports imagination and communication.

Strengthening fine motor skills

Constructive play uses many small hand movements like grasping, connecting, stacking, twisting, and moving pieces. When the children hammered golf tees into swimming noodles, they practiced building hand strength, fine motor control, hand-eye coordination, and concentration while learning to use tools.

Supporting early mathematics and STEM learning

As children build, they explore math and science ideas like size, shape, balance, stability, position, spatial relationships, and cause and effect. Building towers and trying different ways to construct things encourages them to think like young engineers as they design, test, and change their creations.

Dolphins Classroom

Learning to work together

Constructive play also helps children build social and communication skills. They have formed small groups, shared materials, discussed ideas, and worked together toward common goals. When building towers together, they practiced taking turns, cooperating, and supporting each other while celebrating what they made as a team.

Growing confidence as capable learners

Most importantly, constructive play lets children make choices, follow their interests, and feel proud of creating something on their own. Our Dolphins are becoming more confident in making decisions, trying new things, sticking with challenges, and building on their own ideas.

We will keep offering open-ended construction materials, loose parts, blocks, connecting pieces, and child-safe tools so our Dolphins can design, build, test, change, solve problems, and create together. Constructive play is much more than just building. It is a great way for children to develop creativity, confidence, persistence, problem-solving, math skills, and teamwork while having fun and exploring their own ideas.

The Dolphins Team

Flicks & Fireworks

Movie on the beach. Fireworks over the ocean. Your new "Last-Sunday-of-the-Month" night out in Surfers Paradise!

Flicks & Fireworks is a brand-new Surfers Paradise program, bringing movies to the beach and fireworks to the sky on the last Sunday of the month.

Grab your family and friends, bring a picnic blanket and settle in on the sand for a movie under the stars – with a spectacular fireworks display over the ocean at 8pm!

And the best part? The movie doesn't end when the fireworks begin! We'll pause for a short intermission, enjoy the fireworks over the ocean, then settle back in to finish the movie.

Movie starts at 7pm. Fireworks start at 8pm.

Coming up

- 30 August – GOAT
- 27 September – A Minecraft Movie
- 25 October – Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire

Keep an eye out for more Flicks & Fireworks to come!

What to bring

Bring a picnic blanket or low-backed chair, grab some takeaway from your favourite Surfers Paradise restaurant and make a night of it.

Come early, find your spot on the sand and enjoy everything Surfers Paradise has to offer before the movie begins.

Price: Free

When:

- Sunday, 27 September 2026 | 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM
- Sunday, 25 October 2026 | 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM

Where:

Near the Surfers Paradise sign, 2 Esplanade, Surfers Paradise, 4217,

Meat and veggie filo pie

Ingredients

- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 1 tsp Coles Minced Garlic
- 500g pkt Coles Pork & Beef Bolognese Mince
- 250g Coles Snap Frozen Vegetable Mix
- 2 tbs Coles Roast Meat Instant Gravy Powder
- 6 sheets filo pastry

Method

Step 1

Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan-forced).

Step 2

Heat a medium ovenproof frying pan over medium heat. Add the onion and 2 tbs water and cook, stirring, for 2 mins or until the onion softens. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 30 secs or until fragrant. Add the mince and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon to break up lumps, for 5 mins or until mince is cooked through.

Step 3

Add the vegetable mix to the pan and stir to combine. Add the gravy and 1 cup (250ml) water. Bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring often, for 3 mins or until the mixture thickens slightly. Remove from heat.

Step 4

Place 1 filo sheet on a clean work surface. Gently scrunch and place over the mince mixture in the pan. Repeat, in batches, with the remaining filo.

Step 5

Bake for 15-20 mins or until the pastry is golden brown and crisp. Divide the pie among serving bowls.

From our Educational Leader

Preparing for Transitions

It is hard to believe that we have just one more term remaining before the Christmas break and the beginning of a new year. For many children, this means exciting changes ahead, whether they are moving into a new classroom, progressing to Senior Kindy or Pre-Prep, or preparing for their first year of school.

Transitions are an important part of a child's learning journey. While they can bring excitement and anticipation, they can also create feelings of uncertainty. By supporting children in a positive and meaningful way, we can help them build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging as they prepare for their next step.

Throughout Term 4, our Centre Managers and Educators will be intentionally supporting children through transition experiences by:

- Providing opportunities for children to visit and become familiar with their new learning environments.
- Building relationships with future educators through shared experiences and interactions.
- Encouraging children to develop independence through self-help skills, problem-solving, and decision-making opportunities.
- Engaging in conversations about change, growth, and what children can look forward to in the year ahead.
- Reflecting on each child's strengths, interests, and achievements to celebrate how far they have come.

A key part of our transition program will be the Senior Kindy to Banjo and Friends transition visits. During these visits, educators will accompany their classes to Banjo and Friends, where children will have the opportunity to meet their future teacher, explore their new learning environment, and begin building relationships within the classroom community. These experiences help children develop familiarity with space and confidence as they prepare for the year ahead.

Our Junior Kindy children will also begin participating in transition play experiences within the Senior Kindy classrooms later in Term 4. These visits will help children to build connections with educators and peers while becoming comfortable and familiar with the environments they will be learning in next year. Through play-based experiences, children can gradually develop a sense of belonging and excitement about their upcoming move.

Families can also support transition at home by:

- Speaking positively about upcoming changes and new experiences.
- Encouraging independence with everyday routines such as packing belongings, dressing, and managing personal care tasks.
- Maintaining consistent routines to help children feel secure and confident.
- Listening to children's questions and feelings about their upcoming move and reassuring them that it is normal to feel both excited and nervous.

Preparing for transitions is an important step in supporting children's wellbeing, confidence, and ongoing learning success. We recognise that every child experiences change differently, and we are committed to working closely with families to ensure each child feels safe, supported, and ready for their next adventure. Whether transitioning to a new classroom or beginning their school journey, our educators are here to support both children and families every step of the way.

We look forward to celebrating the wonderful growth, achievements, and milestones of all our children as they prepare for their next exciting chapter.