

Child Side Update Term 3 August

Snippets of learning: We intend to make snippets across the shape of the day visible to families across the whole school in a digital form to save costs, especially ink. Lisa S is setting up a sharing app called **Story Park** for all educators across ECC (Early Childhood Cluster), MCC (Middle Childhood Cluster) and YACs (Young Adolescent Cluster). Each cluster will be adding a fortnightly snapshot. To do this Lisa will need everyone's email and as a time saving measure she would appreciate every family to email her their email address ASAP. Lisa Seewraj lisa@childdeschool.wa.edu.au Story Park has a feedback comment section which we would prefer families do NOT use or share with others. Our intent is to share snippets which families can use as a face to face conversation starter with their children and with educators if they wish. We are very cautious around digital sharing for privacy reasons and to reduce the impact of any potential misunderstandings. Please let Lisa know if you are not receiving an invitation on your emails to access Story Park (please allow at least a fortnight for Lisa to get this all organised). This is a whole school approach to sharing our work.

Family as educational partners: Families know their child in different ways to educators and together we can build a more complete jigsaw picture with more pieces of shared knowledge. Together parents and educators can make a difference to health, well-being, confidence, resilience... through early identification eg: where children need extra or different support and targeted intervention beyond school alone resources eg with: **Speech clarity** impacts relationships through communication, reading, writing, spelling, concentration **Executive functions** which let people plan, organize and complete tasks.

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/child-learning-disabilities/executive-functioning-issues/3-areas-of-executive-function>

Working memory: accessing/retrieving information, concentration, following instructions

Low muscle tone: Common difficulties often (but not always) experienced by those with low muscle tone: Fatigues quickly. Poor posture. Increased flexibility, increasing susceptibility to injuries. Poor persistence to gross motor tasks. Lack appropriate body awareness feedback. Avoids chewy foods. Preference to engage in sedentary activities.

Family involvement: Historically our school had a high degree of hands on family involvement with building and maintenance. We started with 7 children and managed to start a school and playgroup in an old house on loan from Iluka Mining Resources down the road. Then about 4 years later we moved in to our current site with the initial building (now the ECC) and gardens totally done by families, including dismantling and repurposing the building from Manjimup, painting, landscaping, electrics, technology... We were a grass-roots bottom-up organisation where we were all the change we wanted to see. It was a true collective family enterprise, a community that arose from a shared purpose and common belief around childhood and humanity. We all wore many hats including having roles on the Governing Council, educators, administration, gardeners, IT, furniture removalists and furniture builders... Many families were involved in regular busy bees and lent a hand keeping everything manageable. Everything you see now has a story behind it and continues to be the results of efforts of families and staff. Now we are established, we still have a commitment to keeping fees manageable (in comparison to other independent schools and we do not have a financial back up organisation like religious affiliated schools) and to keep families involved in many small ways, so that the school is a shared community, rather than a 'them (the school) and us' construct. Our historical commitment is to keep the school purpose constantly in mind to stay 'small by design' with a personalised approach and a high adult to child ratio. To keep costs low and keep families engaged we still have current and past families and children contribute in many unseen ways eg: sourcing fruit and bread weekly and bringing to school, taking home loads of washing (kitchen and towels), repurposing furniture, painting, spot-cleaning, Living Books, helping upgrade outdoor equipment, fixing broken items, sorting the library, spot-gardening, helping with fund-raising (before, during and after) such as Little Day Out, cake and wood raffles



Child Side 2006



Many hands make light work!

Important Dates

Please check outdoor whiteboards.

YACs attend Jamie Oliver Ministry of Food at ECU: Wednesdays 9th August until end of term

Governing Council meeting 2nd August for board members

School Development days 17th and 18th August (no children, staff only)



Car Park: Please continue to be vigilant in and around the car park at both *arrival and departure times*.



Help needed:

- Washing towels and kitchen laundry from MCC and YAC, please take a small load daily- See Lisa/Karron



- Little Day Out: our major Fundraiser/Open Day/Families getting to know each other- developing our 'village'. Please see a P and F member.
- ECC outdoor- See Leonie/Rachel with help to upgrade outdoor zones
- MCC-Big Idea Pit (BIP)- see Lisa for loose parts and storage