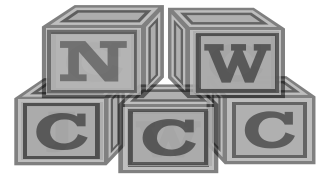


# Norwest CCC Mini News – February 2010



Hello and welcome to a copy of our Norwest mini news for February. Normally our newsletter would be bi-monthly but with so much content going into our January Newsletter, we thought it would be a great idea to break it up into two separate newsletters. Inside this newsletter you will find your child's room reports, further information about events going on here at Norwest and more! You will also find attached a copy of our Annual Parent Resource File which is a compilation of all relevant services, websites and information to assist you in seeking further information on a wide range of topics. Thank you to those parents who have been contributing to our programming through parent input in daybooks and donations of old children's books and paper for art and craft.



## Ocean Room Report

Welcome to all the new families who have started with us recently. We have been very busy this month with many events being celebrated such as Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. We are continuing to explore many different areas of the Ocean Room to find out what our interests are. One key interest that has been noted is the sandpit with many children finding sandpit play comforting and helpful their separations from parents early in the morning. The sand pit is a warm comfort that allows children to test and challenge their senses of touch and feel. This has been extended in a number of interesting ways with all groups participating in crafts surrounding special events, as well as a friendly visit from Briana's rabbit *Thumper*.

## Rainforest Room Report

The children are all settling in well to the Rainforest room routine, and loving the increasing independence and opportunities to take a more active role in their own day. We have been taking great care of our guinea pigs of course, they have been a wonderful help to settle children on arrival, and provided a great insight into the tasks required to care for an animal. We have also been exploring our classroom and the courtyard, with lots of social interactions starting to occur as we all get to know each other a bit better, and feel comfortable in our learning environment.

February has seen a few celebrations going on, like Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, Carnival and Sunnies for Sight Day all giving us lots to organise and learn about. There has also been a trend of interest towards the home corner with the preparation of pretend picnics and dinners prompting a new area to be investigated through dramatic play. Fernanda has been collecting an array of empty food packages that we can add to our dramatic play in the home corner so that the children can delve deeper into their imaginative investigations. Fernanda is also sharing some of her home culture from Brazil with us as we celebrate *Carnivale`* on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. She is bringing in some Brazilian music for us to dance to, we are making fancy masks to wear and making maracas to play whilst dancing. We will need lots more empty drink bottles though, so if you have any in your recycling please bring them in for use to make lots of rice maracas.



## Upcoming Events

**12<sup>th</sup> March - Our First Wine and Cheese, Art and Craft Exhibition** - Keep watch in your emails for fliers to email to friends and family. Also opportunities for business networking and meeting other families associated with Norwest CCC - 4.00pm - 8.00pm

**16<sup>th</sup> Grandparents Afternoon Tea** - 2.30pm - 4.00pm

**27<sup>th</sup> April - Transition to School Night**, providing you with a great opportunity to learn about our Transition to School Program and gain further knowledge on the school systems in NSW

## Joey Group Report

The Joeys have done amazingly well settling into the Bush room and are becoming more comfortable with their new teachers and surroundings. Recently the Joeys have found great joy in expressing their developing gross motor skills (large muscles, physical development) in an obstacle course that was put together during outdoor play. Their growing abilities were demonstrated during this week's Sports Day when another challenging obstacle course was set up. The Joeys have also been expressing their drawing skills and have drawn portraits of themselves, animals and their homes. Their imaginations are amazing and they are incorporating it into their activities, which show their developing social and language knowledge and understandings.



**We still have limited Vacancies for all age groups, perhaps you want an extra day, or you know someone that is looking for care. Any referrals you suggest who enroll, get you a Free Day of Child Care!**

## Wallaby Group Report

The Wallabies have been very busy settling into the Bush Room with all our Rainforest friends. From last week the children have demonstrated a keen interest and love of nature and the outdoors through 'bug' projects and have a ongoing interest in gardening and our "up and coming" vegetable patch.

Thank you for all the parent input and involvement, the children have developed an interest through a parent comment about fine motor skills; in particular, writing and parent input with Joshua's mum Lauren on Pancake Day as she helped us to cook up a storm.



## Kangaroos Report

February for the Kangaroos group has been busy and varied. We have continued to add to our 'Hello' song to reflect our culturally rich group. Lunar New Year for our Chinese and Vietnamese families was explored through literature (*'I Speak Two Languages'*) and craft where we used Asian faces for collage and drawing. Valentine's Day was a continuation of their interest and the children looked at 'same and different' with the Chinese symbol for 'LOVE' and their writing. As well as all of this, the children are fascinated by building. Several of the children now make two storey block creations collaboratively using the 'spaces' they create to place objects. Others are making patterns and pretend spaces with magnets. On Tuesday, two friends "made a golf course". A very creative and imaginative group of children!

With the constant changes in weather, children starting back at Norwest and school siblings heading back to school, it is not surprising we have again been hit with a wave of common childhood illnesses. These include common colds and flues, coughs and gastroenteritis. These are all very common childhood conditions that you are likely to experience more than once a year. Unfortunately having an ill child is not a pleasant experience for anyone. Please respect the other children and staff here at Norwest and if you notice your child getting ill or showing varying symptoms or coming up with a rash, please keep them at home with the comfort of familiarity around them. Children who are not 100% find it very hard to get through the day here at Norwest and it is much better to keep them home a day and return when they are well. If needed we are happy to supply letters for employers about children's sick leave. The Children's Hospital Westmead is a great site for factsheets on a large range of illnesses and diseases, as well as information on child development.