

Happenings



November/December 2017

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Carols by Twilight Friday 1st December

One of our favourite family events is Friday December 1st – Carols by Twilight. Please join us from 5.30-7.30pm on the main lawn for an evening of festive family fun. There will be a Dance-a-long with Santa's Elves, a Carols Sing-a-Long, Christmas raffle, BBQ dinner available to purchase and visits from Santa and Rudolf! So bring your picnic blanket and join in our last big celebration for 2017.

Crowdfunding Campaign for Rigby House

We are very excited to have launched The Infants' Home's first crowdfunding campaign in our final bid to raise funds to renovate Rigby House. Renovations will begin in late December and be complete for a fresh start in February 2018. Our target is at least \$10,000 and all funds raised will be matched by one of our generous donors – effectively doubling all donations.

If you have already supported this campaign—thank you! If not, we invite you to join in. Crowdfunding works best if everyone shares the message via email and social media, to help get lots of little donations to reach a target. We hope you can join us by donating a little to help achieve a big outcome.

Follow us on Facebook

Keep up to date on The Infants' Home's news and events, [here](#).



Seeking Records Search Volunteer

Are you interested in history, family trees, or are fascinated by old photographs and documents? We seek a volunteer with a keen eye for detail to help with records search enquiries, and to catalogue historical photographs and documents. If interested, please contact Anne-Marie: 8719 5002 or abyrne@theinfantshome.org.au

Children Move to New Rooms, Houses and Big School

Children in many of the Houses have been following new routines to help transition to a new room, a new centre or to 'big school' as their learning and development progresses. Educators have been working with children to help connect them to their new educators, teachers and environments to help children feel safe as well as to encourage both independence and interdependence.

This is also a momentous year for The Infants' Home. When our new Early Learning and Care Centre opened in 2013, it enabled us to increase the number of children in Murray and Gorton House's early education programs. Now, almost 100 children are ready to transition to 'big school', the largest group of 'graduates' we have ever had.

We are proud to see how ready children are for their next big adventure and, whilst it is hard to say goodbye to those children and families who are leaving us, we wish all of you the very best and hope you keep in touch.

End of Year House Parties

We welcome families to attend End of Year Parties at your child's House(s). Signs are up at the entrances of each House with dates, details and times as below.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Carols by Twilight**, Friday 1st Dec, 5.30-7.30

End of Year Parties for each House:

- **Gorton House:** Friday 1st December, 4-5.30pm
- **Johnson House Preschool:**
Wednesday 13th December, from 4.30pm
- **Johnson House Toddlers:**
Thursday 7th December, 4- 5.30pm
- **Murray House:** Wednesday 6th December 4-6pm
- **Robinson House:**
Tuesday 5th December, 4.30-5.45pm.

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Dear Parents

December Events:

1st December: The Infants' Home's 'Carols by Twilight' family evening on the lawn (5.30-7.30pm)

5th December: Robinson House's End of Year Celebration Party, 4.30pm-5.45pm (Please bring a plate to share)

Welcome to our last Edition of Parent Happenings for the year, and what a fantastic year we have had at Robinson House! Sadly, the end of a year means that most of our school age peers will finish up shortly to go to Big School. It never gets any easier saying our goodbyes, however we wish children and families all the best with their primary school journey and hope they will come back to visit us in their new uniforms!

As the year comes to an end the children and educators at Robinson House came together to reflect on our learning outcomes and our most enjoyable children's' Learning experiences.. Please come and see our display board of children and educator reflection in Robinson House – below/overleafe is small section.

Learning Outcome 1



Supporting our children to develop a Strong Sense of Identity – Deepa and Aaryan

Feeling good about who I am and having self confidence in my groups – Jack R

Sense of Belonging - Sally, Teddy and Leo

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Learning Outcome 2

Our Relationships and friends... My buddies - Adelaide, Ivy Jane and Zadie

Making Friends makes me happy – Stella

Enjoyable...fun...New learning experiences shared...



Learning Outcome 3

Building trust in our self – Foch

Positive sense of self – Lesley, Honey, Mia and Kiara

Community of connections – Shared meal gatherings



Learning Outcome 4

Children are confident and involved learners ...

We use **language** to communicate ..Yehen, Charlie and Elsa

Children inquiry and investigating their world around them – Hugo, Ethan and Nikki



Learning Outcome 5



The children participate in innovation and play involving sound patterns, vocabulary and language; in literacy texts which have a predictable pattern based on rhyme or rhythm, e.g. dances, chants, rhymes, jingles, songs or engage in exploratory writing in response to written words and numerals in the environment

A reminder for Summer..

As the weather is getting warmer and we are experiencing hot days during the week, we will be inviting the children outdoors earlier in the morning and mid to late afternoons to help avoid too much direct sun.

Sunscreen is applied every time we are outdoors. We remind parents to pack hats and spare clothes for water play. Water stations are located throughout the indoor-outdoor learning spaces, and we continue to encourage children to stay hydrated by drinking lots of water during the day.

Construction Learning Space with Vasuki

Carpentry has become a supported interest, with the children showing great enthusiasm and engaging one another to build and create with the new wooden sheets and screwdrivers and tools. Angus made an aeroplane using wooden pieces, screws and a screw driver, Stella made a house for her friends. Please come and take a look at the many creations.

The benefits of working with wood. Children:

- * gain increasing control over their bodies, hand-eye coordination, manipulative skills and muscular strength
- * learn to solve problems
- * understand length, size, balance and force
- * learn to observe, predict and experiment
- * express their creativity in a 3-dimensional way
- * learn to share and cooperate with others.

Allied Health Support Groups with Justine, Simone, Deepa and Kaplana

As part of the 'check in' we do at each group time, the children place a photo of themselves on the board to communicate that they are 'at' group time. There is also a space on the board for any peers/teachers who may not have made it to the group that day. This helps to foster and encourage a sense of 'belonging'- the need to feel included is part of who we are and is integral to good mental health and wellbeing. It also helps to improve children's learning, behaviour and ability to form relationships.

This month, during 'check in' time, we started a new activity: breaking down the syllables in each of children's names. We did this each group time, to give each child the opportunity to break down the syllables in the following sentence "My name is... (name)". Currently, we are practicing chunking out the sounds by clapping our hands each time. For example, in the sentence "My name is...(name)", there is one clap for each of the sounds that make up the words 'my', 'name' and 'is'...followed by however many claps for each sound in the child's name i.e. Piper has two syllables (Pi - per) so she would give two claps. Recognising syllables in words makes spelling and reading an easier task for children. When children are able to say one syllable at a time, spelling and reading becomes much easier as the child can break the word into parts.

The Art Studio – Thi-my and Aruna

The 'art studio' activity area opens each morning to the sound of children making requests. Whilst we have supported the studio space to be set up with many learning experiences, the common request is 'can we do a show?'

Children were encouraged to express their ideas through various means such as dance, song, or drama/role-playing. Puppets were offered as a prop option, and children were also supported to take turns to be a technical assistant to pull the curtains, to be an MC, and to perform on the stage. Stavros, Ben, Archie, Anna, and Kiara had a turn at performing. Artie, Adelaide, Ivy Jane, Daniel, Ben, and Harry had a turn at being a technical assistant. Ben, Stavros, and Harry had a turn at being an MC. The experience allowed the children to work cooperatively with one another and promoted a sense of belonging for them. We continue our role-playing theater show tomorrow if you would like to come and watch.

On a final note, from the team at Robinson House ,we thank you for your time and your support over the past years as parents and we wish all our families a very safe, happy and joyful holiday time.

