

Centre news



FEBRUARY 2024



Happy Luna new year to all our families/carers! This year we celebrate the year of the dragon!

The Lunar New Year, known for its symbolic significance in Chinese culture, represents a time for letting go of the past and embracing new beginnings. Each year is associated with a different animal from the Chinese zodiac, including the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. The year 2024 is the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese Lunar Calendar.

Lunar New Year celebrations encompass a variety of traditions:

Lunar New Year Eve Dinner: Families gather for a special dinner featuring traditional dishes. In Malaysia and Singapore, one classic dish is yee sang (or yu sheng/lou sang), commonly referred to as the “prosperity salad.” Before dinner, participants toss the salad while expressing auspicious wishes such as “Happiness and prosperity” and “Peace and safety.” (I will attached a video here)

House Cleaning: It is customary to clean the house on Lunar New Year’s Eve and avoid cleaning on the first day

of the new year. This practice symbolises putting away old things to welcome new opportunities. Cleaning on the first day is believed to sweep away prosperity.

Red Envelopes: Married couples and elders give red envelopes (ang pow) containing money to children and unmarried individuals as a symbol of good wishes for the new year. Upon receiving a red envelope, it is customary for the recipient to express gratitude and offer well wishes to the giver.

Lion and Dragon Dances: Colourful lion and dragon dances, accompanied by lively music from drums and cymbals. These dances are believed to bring good fortune and prosperity. (I will attached a video here)

Family Gatherings: Families come together to visit relatives’ homes, sharing traditional foods and enjoying each other’s company. These gatherings provide an opportunity to reconnect with relatives and indulge in delicious traditional dishes.

Through these cherished traditions, Lunar New Year is celebrated as a time of joy, reunion, and hope for a prosperous year ahead.

News from the office

Can our families please ensure any recent immunization schedules are emailed to info@erinakindergarten.com. au so these can be uploaded to OWNA and so reminders can be sent to you. Please ensure these documents are provided to as we require a current immunization on file for all children attending our service.

Centre Updates

We are excited to announce that we have two new brilliant certificate three candidates starting in our Snugglepots room. Next week we are so very pleased to welcome Miss Renee to our team, Miss Renee comes with many years of experience and as a working mum and is returning to child care to reunite her passion for teaching in childcare. Miss Renee will commence her orientation next week. We look forward to welcoming Renee to our Snugglepots team. We are also pleased to advised that we will also be welcoming Miss Naomi



another qualified cert 3 educator who is also a mum with experience in childcare as a certificate 3 educator. Miss Naomi will be starting in the next couple of weeks with her orientation. We look forward to welcoming Miss Naomi to our team at Erina kindergarten.

In the Snugglepots we are saying farewell to Miss Kayla, she is moving to a centre near by accepting a promotion. We hope to keep in contact with Miss Kayla having community connections. Miss Naomi and Miss Renee will be replacing Miss Kayla in the Snugglepots room. Miss Amanda will continue her monitoring of the Snugglepots room to ensure a smooth transition for our Snugglepots families.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Miss Shardai in the bilbies – we thank her for her time at Erina Kindy and wish her all the very best in her new adventures and hopefully she stays in the field of early childhood. We will miss all your creative experiences, reading stories and spontaneous moments with the children.

We are welcoming to Erina Kindy Mr Tom he comes to us with his cert three studying with TAFE and he is looking forward to meeting our families and engaging with the children.

Around the service Miss Elle and Miss Teya have been working closely with the children and educators in regards to our experiences we are providing and setting up being meaningful, including children's voices and engaging for our children with various materials. We have been so excited to see the children interacting with so many different and engaging experiences to further their learning and reach their milestones!



Educator training

- Miss Teya (Assistant educational leader) -at Alkira Inspiring play spaces and Materials 9th February, 2024
- Several educators attended 19th Aboriginal perspectives webinar
- Staff meeting Tues 6th February – Communicating with families training quality area 6 and acting out scenarios
- During the month of February we are conducting our lock

downs and fire drills just in case of an emergency.

- Miss Melissa (Director) and Miss Jilly-Anne (compliance manager) from the management team have been consulting with the department of education on a monthly review and we have been receiving support visits this month to our service to review all our compliance procedures across our service in preparation for Assessment and Rating of our service. These support visits have been exceptional for our management team with extremely great feedback and support from the department about our practices and procedures which is fabulous.

Policies reviewed this month

- Ensuring the consistency and quality of our Centre is paramount to us, and one of the ways we achieve this is through regular policy reviews and updates. Recently, we conducted a comprehensive review of three key policies: the “Privacy and Confidentiality Policy,” the “Education , curriculum & learning policy “ and the “Excursion Policy.”

Excursion policy – (A snippet from our policy embedding practice)

The Nominated Supervisor or educators will:

- complete a risk assessment before an excursion covering criteria which include proposed activities, duration, route and destination (including any water hazards), educator to child ratios and need for additional volunteer assistance (eg parents), mode of transport, child restraint/seat belt requirements and process for ensuring children get on/off transport safely, and children's health/medical needs
- risk assessments are only required for ‘regular outings’ if one hasn’t been written within the last 12 months of the excursion date. Regular outings are walks, drives or trips to places that children visit regularly and which have substantially the same risks each time
- ensure parents authorise their child going on the excursion before the excursion (unless it’s a ‘regular outing’ and parents have authorised within the last 12 months). The authorisation must include, for example, the excursion date, or if ‘regular outing’ a description of when the child will be taken on the outings, destination, proposed activities and duration, type of transport (if any), child restraint/seat belt requirements, expected number of children, educator to child ratios, and number of extra adults attending, items child should bring and advice risk assessment is available at service
- update risk assessments for regular outings and obtain new authorisations when circumstances change
- always implement the Excursion Procedure to eliminate/ minimise risks. In addition to above this includes completing checklist before excursion, process for checking rolls and doing headcounts when leaving service and destination, and process if child is ill/injured during excursion.

Families feedback for Our Philosophy

By now everyone should have received a survey monkey link via OWNA in regards to providing feedback for our philosophy review. Please take the time to fill this out all feedback is taken constructively and goes towards our continuous improvement QIP.

We wish to also thank our families for feedback regarding family grouping in the mornings. We have now modified our rosters to increase our educators in the mornings in the Bush babies room to allow for the Bush babies to be dropped off to familiar environment to the Bush babies educators to encourage a sense of belonging and security, The Snugglepots and the Gumnuts will still family group within the Snugglepots room until 8am.

Upcoming events

- Lunar New Year Celebrations at kindy from the **12th February, 2024**
- Anniversary of Apology **13th February, 2024**
- Valentines day **14th February, 2024**
- Incursion Bush babies room Messy Play trays **10am (21st February)**
- Love your pet day 26th February bring in a picture of your pet or draw your favorite pet at kindy!
- Tell a fairytale and dress ups **26th February** and bring a book to share with our friends here at Erina kindergarten



Central Coast families support services

Our team are excited to continue to work with local families in 2024 and have a range of parenting programs and support groups available in Term 1.

We deliver a range of evidence-based parenting courses across multiple venues throughout the Central Coast. Our courses are free for eligible parents and carers on the Central Coast.

Parenting Courses

- Triple P - Positive Parenting
- 1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching
- CHIME - Mental Health and Parenting Program
- P4P - Preparation for Birth & Parenting

Support Groups

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- CHAT | Young Parents

Registration is required for all Term 1 parenting programs. Please visit www.ccfss.org.au for more details or download the Term 1 calendar.



Educator of the month

At Erina Kindergarten we pride ourselves on having high quality Educators. We like to recognise Educators that have demonstrated excellence by awarding them with an Educator of the Month Award.

Educator of the Month this month goes to: **Miss Alex** at the front desk for learning the new system of OWNA, being efficient and working in partnership with our families. Happy Shopping with your voucher.