

# The Community Place Kindergarten News

A very warm welcome to all children and families at the start of a busy and exciting year.

## Introductions:

**Director/Teacher:** Ms Alison Mackenzie

*Dip Teach (Early Childhood) BEd*



Alison is excited about starting in this position and brings to The Community Centre thirty years of experience as an early childhood professional. Alison also is a local, having bought a home in Wooloowin for twenty years ago. From 1995 – 2005, she was director at Ascot Centenary Kindy.

Since then Alison has worked in very multi-cultural environments in the Middle East and in Sydney.

In 2009, she returned to Brisbane and was director of C&K Yelang Kindergarten at Indooroopilly. This centre was the first Indigenous kindergarten in the State, but closed at the end of 2014 when there were no more Indigenous enrolments.

Alison provides a strong focus on science, problem solving, language, discovery and mathematics in her interactions with children. She uses music as a key tool in supporting children’s learning. Alison is a strong advocate for children’s needs and rights.

She has three children. Josh is an environmental scientist in Canberra. Liz is a science and maths teacher (and mother of her two beautiful granddaughters, Ruby and Clara) and Kati works in Healthcare Simulation in San Francisco. Alison’s husband, Phil, is a retired scientist and lawyer.

**Assistant/Educator:** Mrs Saya Royle



I was born and raised in Tokyo Japan. I have been lived in Brisbane for 6years. I have a Japanese University Arts Degree in English and American Literature and I’m studying a Diploma of Children’s Services at present.

What I Love...

ART: I’ve studied Painting at Brisbane Institute of Art and I have a strong interest in modern artistic expression. I love drawing and my favorite medium to use is water colour and ink pen on paper.

CAT: My Cat’s name is “Suica” and it means “Watermelon” in Japanese. I called him “Mr.Watermelon” at kindy with the children.

COOKING: I love cooking Japanese food! I normally cook Japanese Curry, Sushi, Gyoza(Dumpling) and Yakitori (Japanese style Chicken skewered ).

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## Parking:



Car parks can be dangerous places for children – and a source of frustration if people park in the wrong place. Please ensure that you

- **only park in the designated areas,**
- **keep your children close and**
- **always watch for other children.**

## What to bring:



Hat



Spare clothes



Morning tea box **and** lunch box



Water bottle



Backpack



Sheets

**EVERYTHING TO BE CLEARLY NAMED, THANK YOU.**

## Signing in/out:



By law, each child **MUST** be signed in AND out EVERY day<sup>1</sup>. **Children cannot be left before 8:30.** Please make arrangements with a friend/ relative if you have to leave before this time.

## Sunscreen:



Please apply this at home. Cancer Council Australia recommends that sunscreen be applied 20 minutes prior to exposure<sup>2</sup>. This will be reapplied if children are outdoors longer than two hours. If your child requires his/her own sunscreen, please NAME this and give it to Alison or Saya, thank you.

## Saying Goodbye:



Each child settles differently. Some are very familiar with the centre and are eager to say goodbye and play. For others, it can take a little longer to feel comfortable in a new environment. We want to support all children and parents to quickly settle into the kindergarten routine and enjoy all we have to offer.

Some tips:

- Be positive. Instead of asking 'You won't cry, will you?', talk about how there will be painting, trucks, stories, games and so on.
- Involve your child in the unpacking of the bag so he/she knows where everything is.
- Ensure your child knows where the toilets are AND that he/she can go whenever necessary AND ask for help if needed.
- When it is time to go, be reassuring, say goodbye – and go. Some children ask for another five minutes, then another five, and another... Often, the longer the goodbye, the more upset the child (and the parent) becomes. If a child doesn't settle, we will call you. Parents are also welcome to call to see how their child has settled.
- Please don't bribe your child – 'If you don't cry, you can have a chocolate/toy/surprise this afternoon'. This does not help the child to learn internal coping strategies – and only puts him/her in a position of power to negotiate a bigger 'reward' next time.

We support children by having routines that give them a framework in which to operate: they learn what comes next, what is expected of them, where things will be, who they feel comfortable with... Each day things become more familiar and they feel less anxious and more settled.

You can support your children by asking about their day, reading any information about what we have done and talking about what they want to do next day. It will take a while to get to know others' names and to make friends, but we start with fun group times and sharing of ideas.

<sup>1</sup> Education and Care Services Regulation 2013 Part 6 Information, records and privacy s61

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/preventing-skin-cancer/>

## What do we do all day?



Have fun. Watch clouds. Identify the sounds of different vehicles (or birds or friends' voices or familiar sounds). Create patterns with blocks (or shapes or leaves). Make rhythms (or rainbows). Investigate where water goes (or how pulleys work or mixing colours). Learn strategies for sharing. Develop strength, control and coordination in muscles big and small. Make friends – and more!

As a C&K affiliate service, the centre bases its curriculum on C&K's *Building waterfalls* curriculum. This aligns with the *Early Years Learning Framework* introduced in all early childhood centres across Australia in 2012.

A Parent-Teacher Night will be held in February to discuss this and other aspects of the year.

### Handbooks:



A previous director, Kathy Larkin, has prepared the 2016 Centre Handbook for each family. Please ensure you have received your copy and keep it for reference throughout the year.

### Collecting your child:



The centre closes at 3:00p.m. **You cannot be late.** Parents may collect children earlier if required.

If another person is collecting your child, we must have **written authority from the parent** for this to occur. If you have not nominated this person on your child's enrolment form, you can collect an authorisation form from Alison. The person will be required to show photographic identification.

### Calendar:



Just the first three weeks of term are on the calendar to start. Parents will be informed of events as they come up.

**Tuesday 26 January** is a public holiday for Australia Day. The kindergarten will be closed.

We like to acknowledge significant days that families celebrate. Please let Alison know of any festivals or events that your family celebrates and feel welcome to share the festivities with us at kindergarten.

Term 1 will finish on Wednesday 23 March.

Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Fri
January 25 First day term 1	26 Australia Day/ Republic Day (India)	27	28	29
February 1	2	3 Setsubun (Japan)	4 Independence Day (Sri Lanka)	5
8 Chinese New Year	9	10	11	12

### Contact details:



Please put the centre's phone number in your phone so you have it in an emergency.

**Tel: 3357 6256**

**Email:** [childcare@thecommunityplace.com.au](mailto:childcare@thecommunityplace.com.au)

It is also very important to advise the centre if you change your contact details.

### Apps that promote creativity:



App Store

Looking for Apps that require your child to think and/or create? Read reviews of these...

- Moozart
- Hungry Guppy
- Playschool Art Maker
- Toontastic (for an older age group, but can help children see how stories progress visually)
- Busy Shapes
- ABC KIDS iview

Looking forward to a great year with you and your child,

Alison Mackenzie

Director