

# WE BELONG FAMILY DAYCARE



**Newsletter December 2020**

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As we approach the end of what has been an extraordinary year, there has been many challenges and much hardship for so many people. We Belong FDC stayed open and operating throughout the lockdowns and throughout the Free Childcare period working with 50 % subsidies for many weeks. Our Educators tenacity and loyalty is acknowledged and thanked whole heartedly. We also thank all our families for your support and understanding as we worked together to keep the doors open.

Beverly and I would also like take this opportunity to thank Kellie, Lyndel, Zoe, Rachelle and Christina for all their hard work over 2020 in supporting all educators, children and their families.



Kellie



Lyndel



Christina



Rachelle



Zoe

It is with sadness that we farewell Kellie our Educational leader who has been with We Belong FDC from its inception and has been a staunch advocate of Family Day Care, children and their families. Kellie has worked hard to make sure children receive the best care and education possible and has a passion for inclusivity and indigenous input into our service. She has been instrumental in our involvement in NAIDOC week and also instigated a network that brought Kellie has taken a position as a Child Development Specialist with the Benevolent Society and I'm sure you will join with us in congratulating her on this new and very important work. She will be very sorely missed.



Best Wishes for the upcoming festivities.

### Transition to School

We Belong Family Day Care believe that transition to school is a process that occurs over time, beginning well before the child first commences school. We value a play-based program in supporting children's learning in the early years and focus on children's social and emotional development and positive sense of self as a learner. Promoting individual children's development is embedded in everyday play opportunities.

Nathan Mikaere-Wallis, researcher and neuroscience educator, recently stated: "Pushing three- to seven-year-olds towards early reading, writing or maths will not improve their long-term chances of success. Instead, it's far more important to foster positive social and emotional skills."

With some children unable to attend school based transition programs this years, We Belong Family Day care with support from Logan Together and other local education services have developed a video to support children with some questions they may have around going to school. You can view the video on this link

[https://youtu.be/oqj\\_vFm0S3w](https://youtu.be/oqj_vFm0S3w)

Educators are currently writing a statement of transition for those children who require this.



### Play Community

Did you know that we have Community Play sessions at The Rainbow House at Daisy Hill State school on Azalea Avenue? These run each Tuesday 9:00am to 10:30 all are welcome to join and engage with others through play. The Play Community will commence again in the first week of term in 2021.



For more information email:  
[webelongfc@gmail.com](mailto:webelongfc@gmail.com)

### Story Time

Unfortunately COVID put a stop to most of this year's events but that didn't stop us engaging with all the children through the web Miss Kellie uploaded stories, songs, & games each week for all the children to engage so no one misses out. You will find these at

<https://www.webelongfdc.com/services2>



### Sun Safety



Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and UVA and UVB (broad spectrum) **protection** every time your **child** goes outside. For the best **protection**, apply sunscreen generously 30 minutes before going outdoors. Don't forget to protect ears, noses, lips, and the tops of feet.

#### How to cope and stay safe in extreme heat

<https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/looking-after-yourself/how-to-prepare-for-a-heatwave>

- Drink water, even if you don't feel thirsty. Take a bottle with you always.
- Hot cars kill. Never leave children, older people or pets in cars. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.
- Keep cool. Seek out air-conditioned buildings, draw your blinds, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.
- Plan ahead. Schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.
- Check in on others. Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, the elderly, the young, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.

### Important Notices

**School Ends-** 9th December 2020

**Public school Recommences** – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Closed for Christmas Period** – 12pm 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020-4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**The Service will be available for educators working via the scheme emergency mobile.**

**Public Holidays** – 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28th December 2020- January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

### Educator Acknowledgement Evening

We had a wonderful Night at our final educator network meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November. We reflected on the year of 2020 and shared our highlights, we spoke about 2021 and all there is to look forward to, we ate delicious food and most importantly we acknowledged and celebrated all our wonderful educators and their differing strengths.



### *Sandra Smith Retires*

After over 40 years as a FDC Educator Sandra is hanging up her educator hat. Congratulations Sandra on a wonderful career achievement.



### Christmas Quiz

1. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer is the most famous of the reindeers. How many of Santa's Reindeer can you name?
2. How many wise men took gifts to the baby Jesus?
3. What are usually pulled at the dinner table on Christmas day with a paper hat, joke and small toy inside?
4. Who are Santa's helpers in green-clad clothes and pointy hats, with pointy ears?

Do you have a favourite children's Christmas recipe?

Here's one from us

### Reindeer cupcakes



#### INGREDIENTS

100g dark chocolate  
1 cup (250ml) water  
125g butter, softened  
1 1/4 cups (255g) brown sugar  
3 eggs  
1 1/2 cups (225g) self-raising flour  
1/2 cup (75g) plain flour  
1/4 cup (30g) cocoa powder  
36 large pretzels  
18 white chocolate buttons  
18 red M&M's  
36 green M&M's  
[Chocolate](#) piping gel

#### CHOCOLATE BUTTERCREAM

125g butter, softened  
3 cups (600g) icing sugar mixture  
1/3 cup cocoa powder  
2 tablespoons milk

#### METHOD

**Step 1**  
Preheat oven to 160C. Line eighteen 1/3 cup (80ml) muffin pans with paper cases.

**Step 2**  
Combine the chocolate and water in a medium saucepan over low heat. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until chocolate melts and mixture is smooth. Set aside to cool completely.

**Step 3**  
Use an electric mixer to beat the butter and sugar until pale and creamy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the combined flours, cocoa powder and chocolate mixture, in batches, and stir to combine. Divide evenly among the lined pans.  
Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centres comes out clean. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

**Step 5**  
To make the buttercream, use an electric mixer to beat the butter until very pale. Gradually add the icing sugar, cocoa and milk, in batches, beating well between each batch.

**Step 6**  
Spread icing evenly over each cupcake. Arrange the pretzel on each cupcake to create antlers. Place a white chocolate button on the opposite side to create a nose. Use the piping gel to attach the red M&M's to create a red nose. Arrange green M&M's for eye, and top with chocolate piping gel for pupils. Place on a serving platter to serve.