Welcome to 2017

Interesting Happenings during January and February

World Wetlands Day, 2 Feb: The importance of wetlands is that they are ecosystems with high biological diversity, regulators of the water cycle and climate, and are also used for human activities such as tourism and fishing. The term ‘wetlands’ encompasses a vast range of water based areas including swamps, marshes, billabongs, lakes, salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves, coral reefs, lagoons and peatlands. Western Australia has many environmentally important wetlands, to find out more about how you can support children learning about wetlands, go to http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/world-wetlands-day

Perth International Arts Festival, 10 Feb—5 Mar: There are so many arts events happening during this time, with lots of free and family events. Many of them celebrating and showcasing Indigenous art and performances. What better way to be part of the community? Find out more at https://perthfestival.com.au/

International Mother Language Day, 21 Feb: On International Mother Language Day the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN agencies participate in events that promote linguistic and cultural diversity. They also encourage people to maintain their knowledge of their mother language while learning and using more than one language. What are you doing at your centre to encourage and support the learning of a child’s mother language? How do you make multi-lingual families feel valued?

Holiday Closure

CTAS will be closed from Monday 26 December 2016 until Friday 6 January 2017. Our first day back, will be Monday 9 January 2017.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

We look forward to a great 2017.
**The Avocado Project**

Following on from our re-grow article last newsletter, Caroline Evans from Kidz Biz Beaumaris, submitted her story about an avocado project she facilitated with the children at her centre in July.

“This week we have been busy collecting avocado stones, parents have helped by saving their stones, and the children have proudly brought them in.

The children have found it tricky to stick three cocktail sticks into the stones but they have persevered and followed instructions well and our stones are now sitting with a little water on the base. We are waiting for them to sprout roots, the first one is called a tap root. It is essential for the tap root to stay in water. This process takes about a week. The next stage is the stalk, or seedling. Once the stalk is around 12cm tall, the stone can be transferred to a plant pot filled with compost. Keep the plant well-watered and out of direct sunlight. After about 8 years we may have fruit! This is our Kidz Biz legacy.”

Caroline also brought in a plant she had grown previously to show the children. They were all quite excited at the prospect of growing a “real life tree”.

Caroline wrote: “we are working towards improving our sustainability so this has been a lovely way of getting the children involved in an environmentally friendly activity and has given us a great opportunity for learning about different eco systems.”

**Why Choose A Traineeship?**

- You get paid to learn!
- You gain valuable work experience
- At the end you receive a qualification that is recognised Australia wide
- You stay current in industry
- Gain confidence working in a real job role

If you want to learn more about traineeships or to sign up for qualification training, please call CTAS on 9350 9222 or email admin@ctas.wa.edu.au

**New Staff and Staff Changes**

We would like to welcome Debra Murphy to CTAS as a new Trainer and Assessor. Debra has joined us after working in the Early Years industry for 11 years. She has experience in all roles on the floor including Qualified Caregiver, Cook, WHS Officer, Assistant Director and Director. She comes from a big family in Ireland and has been living in Perth for 4 years. She likes to spend her time outdoors or travelling when she can- this will be her first Christmas here!

Gemma Gibbs has come on board as our new Training Administration Officer, she will be providing support to the Management Team in various projects and for day-to-day operations. Prior to CTAS, Gemma had been working within the VET Sector in various administrative roles. She is currently studying her Diploma in Business Management Leadership. Gemma enjoys comic books and learning new things, she is a Training Administrator by day and is considering becoming a superhero by night.

Donelle will be moving to the Professional Development Team as the Administration Assistant. Donelle has been working at CTAS for the past year in an administration role.
Hospital Familiarization Incursion

The Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (AWCH) offers a Hospital Familiarisation Program as an incursion designed especially for children, 3 years old and above, in the Kindergarten/Pre-School program at a Child Care Centre. This fun and interactive session runs for an hour and a half and includes a short mat talk, a story or video about going into hospital and an hour for role-play with hospital dress ups, our life-sized doll, wheelchair, crutches, hospital play-sets, books, puzzles and medical equipment.

Research done by ECU in 2002 showed the program produced a significant increase in the children’s understanding of medical equipment and procedures. There was also an increase in children’s positive feelings towards medical intervention. The research confirmed the importance of learning through play and recommended that all centres having the program also hire the medical play kit, to allow role-play to continue beyond our visit.

The incursion costs $130 and hiring the medical play kit is $25 for one week.

To make an expression of interest for the program contact the HFP Coordinator by phone on 0468 740 422 or email admin@awchwa.org.au. You can also book on their website www.awchwa.org.au.

Choosing the right RTO

In the latest newsletter from the Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), Issue 12, ACECQA talk about how important it is to find the right Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for you to study with. The article lists the questions you should ask your prospective RTO before signing up to study.

To read the article, go to the website http://acecqa.gov.au/news-media/acecqa-newsletters and click on the ACECQA Newsletter Issue 12 2016.

The 2017 January to June calendar is out

Check our website for up to date calendar information. If your service requires specific training, consider our in-service sessions. We can customize any of our previous or upcoming topics, just contact us for dates and availability through our email: pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au

Remember you must use your LDCPDP funding by 30 June 2017. This funding can be used for CTAS professional training.

Supporting Children’s Behaviour
Tuesday 31 January 2017, 6.30pm—8.30pm

The Planning Cycle: Observations and Curriculum
Wednesday 8 February 2017, 6.30pm—8.30pm

Child Protection
Wednesday 15 February 2017, 6.30pm—8.30pm

Let’s Get Creative—Hands On
Wednesday 22 February 2017, 6.30pm—8.30pm

Leadership
Wednesday 1 March 2017, 6.30pm—8.30pm

See our calendar for full descriptions on these sessions.
Diploma Student of the Year 2016

Congratulations to Kirsten Armstrong from Beldon School of Early Learning, who was awarded the Diploma Student of the Year, this is what her Trainer, Jenny Dyball, had to say about her:

Kirsten has been a diligent student – successfully completing her Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care in September. She has participated really enthusiastically and actively in her own learning – reading, researching, asking questions, listening. She has been truly committed to learning and growing as an Educator.

Kirsten’s assessments have, without exception, been submitted on time to an exceptionally high standard – beautifully presented, easy to read and full of relevant and current information.

Our discussions have always been focused and rewarding with Kirsten demonstrating sound knowledge, enthusiasm, and a genuine desire to provide high quality care. She is capable of drawing on prior knowledge and experience (as a Mum and as an Educator) making her an all-rounder – keen to learn from new experiences and drawing on the best aspects of prior experiences.

Consistently throughout our observation visits Kirsten has shown her relationships with the children, the families of the centre and her colleagues to be genuinely respectful and fun. The children are drawn to her – parents seek her out and her colleagues speak very highly of her sense of fun and her work ethics. She has a very sound knowledge of children – and how to best cater to their individual learning needs without compromising the needs and individuality of her colleagues.

She has, on several occasions, come in for a scheduled visit even when she has been on annual leave – and she has forfeited lunch breaks on occasion in order to not miss her monthly visit - how is that for commitment?

Kirsten is making a worthwhile contribution to the early education sector – she has taken on the mantle of Room Leader without missing a beat, and best of all she is keen to share her knowledge and passion with other educators at her centre.

Kirsten has been an awesome student – committed, exceptional – she is an asset to the centre and to the Early Childhood Education profession.

Certificate III Student of the Year

We would like to congratulate Elena Mantegazza, from Jellybeans Attadale, who received the 2016 Certificate III Student of the Year Award. She was nominated by her Trainer, Avril Dolan. Avril put Elena forward for the award because she:

- Is always well prepared for any visit
- Really takes the time to go through her readings and making sure she knows and understands the information
- Has great knowledge of her centre’s policies
- Takes advice on board
- Is able to demonstrate her knowledge on the floor
- Has a passion and interest for learning
- She doesn’t use her challenges as an excuse for not completing work, such as having English as her second language, working full-time in the kitchen, or being pregnant
- Always has detailed and well referenced assignments

Certificate IV Student of the Year

Congratulations Rachel Davis from Helping Hands Caladenia for receiving the Certificate IV Student of the Year award for 2016. Rachel was nominated for the award as she is very knowledgeable in caring for school aged children, she always answered her questions confidently and could relate the answers to experiences or scenarios in the workplace. Rachel has also developed amazing relationships with the children in her care and is a positive role model for her colleagues. She is organised and always has the children’s interests as her priority.
Inspiration Spot

We had so many inspirational photos sent in by our Trainers in 2016, we weren’t able to fit them all in. Here are some to inspire you in 2017:

Bletchley Play and Learn celebrated Early Childhood Educator Day in September by giving their educators gifts and morning tea. They wrote down what children said was their favourite thing about their educator.

Little People’s Place Fremantle repurposed picture frame backs to make art easels.

Kidz R Us Forrest St set up a sensory table which included scented pouches.

Organikids have been conducting science experiments about the transfer of water through plants, creating an inviting book reading space and sensory play with Indigenous artefacts and native flora.

Great Beginnings Bunbury made a bookcase from a pallet, and created a kitchen from donated items.

Starbright Osborne Park showed how an outdoor space can be enhanced with loose parts and natural materials.

Join in

Be a part of our newsletter, and you could earn your center a $100 voucher for resources.

Just send in some photos of your centre’s makeover, an amazing experience you have set-up or your inspiring environment with a detailed description explaining the photos.

Send the photos to pdtraining@ctas.wa.edu.au

Visit us on the web at www.ctas.wa.edu.au