

CECWA's News

a newsletter for the conductive education community in Western Australia

Movers and shakers in CE community ...update from President Lois

Greetings CE community! It is hard to believe that we are into term 3 – time flies.

Last term we were most grateful to receive another large donation from the Backstop Foundation. This was given specifically for the purchase of a new Dynavox to add to the one that was donated by them late last year. We express our sincere thanks to Jenny and Max van Doornum for their continued generosity in providing this very expensive equipment that facilitates our children's ability to communicate with others.

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome Colette Powers, our new Speech Pathologist, to the CE team.

Our fabulous Natalie Fitzpatrick will leave us towards the middle of August to prepare for the arrival of our newest team member. We wish Natalie and Wayne a safe and joyful delivery as they become first-time parents.


Anna Kocsis, our new Teacher Conductor, will be arriving later in August to cover Natalie's maternity leave. Meanwhile, we wait patiently for her visa application and Teacher registration to be processed by the respective departments. Once again, CECWA is providing a relocation package to help Anna with the move.

Laura Twomey, an Education Assistant, arrives in early August for a month of work experience with the CE team at the centre; when she returns to the UK she will begin her formal CE training. Several of our families have offered to host Laura while she is with us and we offer them our sincere thanks for their commitment and generosity.

Speaking of commitment and generosity, I would like to pay tribute to one of our unsung heroes. I am not sure how many of you are aware that all of the timber equipment, that is an integral part of the Conductive Education program, is made by one of our parents. For most of the school year, Sue Gay drops her daughter Nikki at school and returns home to labour on CECWA's behalf. Sue makes prototypes, measuring them against specific children, and their needs, and then produces the final product. If we did not have Sue, we would be spending hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars on every individual piece of equipment (*see page 3, "Equipment Hero" story*). Sue, on behalf of the entire CE community, I offer our heartfelt thanks to you for your unstinting generosity and ongoing hard work.

Three of our parents, Charmaine White, Lydia Gallant, and Kellie Wild, have had their abstract accepted for presentation at the 7th World CE Congress. CECWA is sponsoring Charmaine White's attendance at the Congress to deliver the paper which is titled: 'Conductive Education Families: Our Way of Life'. This Congress is to be held in Hong Kong from 5-8 December 2010 and attendance is open to all (*see page 7 for "CE family perspectives" story*).

Further information is available at:
<http://www.ce-congress2010.org>

 **Lois Hall, CECWA president**
lois.hall1@optusnet.com.au

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News Update - what's been happening

Our strategic direction ~ Where are we now?

In our last issue we posted news that CECWA is undergoing a strategic review and the key question we face is: "how can we (CECWA) assist in the development of CE programs?"

CECWA vice-president, Alistair Jobling, is in the lead role to progress the strategic review and has met with key service providers to discuss this question. At the moment, we are looking into the possibility of engaging therapists to assist the CE program and the opportunity to apply for some funding from NGCS. The main funding round for this purpose is in September and a comprehensive application is planned for submission.

The strategic review continues in this direction and remains open for discussion.

If you are interested in discussing the CECWA Strategic Review, please contact:

Alistair Jobling

alistairjobling@hotmail.com 

CE-ing connections

Molly has attended CE since early intervention, and her mum, Lynn Bradshaw, recently had reason to observe that children who receive early intervention and who access AAC – as our Conductive Education kids do are generally higher functioning than children who had not received intervention until they were much older. Lynn shares her experience here:

I was recently fortunate enough to attend the Cohen Syndrome Family Meeting in Middlefield, Ohio. Molly was diagnosed with this rare genetic disorder in May 2008. With the encouragement of family and friends and a \$1,000 contribution from the Smile Foundation I was able to arrange a whirlwind trip to the States. Never having met another family living with Cohen Syndrome before it was quite overwhelming and emotional to see 26 other families all in one room! The



L-R: Dr Laurance A. Boxer, Lynn Bradshaw, Dr Heng Wang

doctors and specialists were very generous with their time and this was so valuable given that our doctors here in Perth have never treated a patient like Molly before. Like with any genetic disorder all the patients had varying degrees of severity and there were some non verbal adults and teenagers who were yet to walk independently.

The thing that struck me was that the children who had received early intervention and who had access to AAC were higher functioning

cont page 7...

Building the fundraising team

The fundraising team is very excited to welcome two new team members: Tracey Coad whose little girl Asha attends CE at Carson Street school, and Natalie MacFarlane, a dedicated CECWA supporter! We had our first team meeting post dinner auction on Tuesday 13th July, and we dove into the business of organising our two big fundraising events for the financial year, Castledare Family Fun Day, and *The Dinner for Dreams*. Next year, *The Dinner for Dreams* will be held at Burswood, in the Astral Ballroom, Saturday 16th April 2011. Pencil it into your diaries! It is going to be bigger and better than ever! But before the dinner date...

Castledare Miniature Railway Family Fun Day

Sunday 14th November 2010.

adults \$10 / children \$5

Tickets must be pre-purchased – no door sales available.

Call Katrina 0402 505 767 or Trevor 0413 434 669


This is a great day out at Castledare Miniature Railway, and one that the kids love.


Details on this year's entertainment will be released soon – www.conductiveedwa.com.au

For more information: The Dinner For Dreams, Linda Pierce lpierce@live.com.au

Castledare Family Fun Day, Katrina & Trevor Granland trevor.granland@bigpond.com 

CECWA Calendar

 Friday 24 September:
End of school Term 3

 Tuesday 12th October:
Back to school, Term 4

PLANNING AHEAD

 Sunday 14th November 2010
Castledare Family Fun Day

 Saturday 16th April 2011:
The Dinner for Dreams,
Burswood Astral Ballroom

For anyone in the CE community who may be mulling over some fabulous fundraising ideas of their own to benefit CECWA and our kids in CE – *If you have any fundraising ideas at all, please contact CECWA president, Lois Hall president@conductiveedwa.com.au to discuss support in materials and tips on how to go ahead and organise your own*

Team news

The 'Nat' Report - much ado about CE

Hi everyone from the CE team at Carson Street Independent Public School! We have had a number of exciting things happen in the last few months.

- ☑ The Parent and Child groups, Kindy, Pre-Primary and Year 1 classes have moved into our new classrooms, and are feeling much more settled.
- ☑ Colette Powers, our second Speech Pathologist started work last Term – Welcome!
- ☑ We are welcoming Kindy enrolments for 2011, please contact school on Tel. 93617500 for more information (see page 4).
- ☑ Initial assessments continue to be made and are keeping the waitlist as low as possible for the Parent and Child groups.
- ☑ Not only do we have Anna Kocsis, a

Teacher-Conductor arriving late August to cover my maternity leave, and then staying on at the School once I return, but we have also advertised for an additional TWO Teacher Conductors for the start of 2011 – fingers crossed!

- ☑ Laura Twomey, an Education Assistant from the UK will be joining the CE Team in August for 4 weeks work experience prior to start her Conductor Training in the UK, in September. Thanks to those hosting Laura.
- ☑ Early this year we began searching for a potential site for CE Satellite Class(es), North of the River. We are seeking at least 1-2 classrooms, which Carson Street School would lease from the school and supply the staff, equipment, resources etc. If you know of a potential school/site, please let the CE team know as soon as possible!

- ☑ The CE Team has had an Abstract accepted for presentation at the 7th World CE Congress in Hong Kong, 5-8 December 2010: "Transitioning Students with Cerebral Palsy into A Mainstream Environment". And finally, I'll be handing over the coordination of the CE Services to Shona Ballantyne in the coming weeks as I prepare to go on maternity leave in August.

For any enquiries regarding the CE programs being offered at Carson Street Independent Public School please contact:

Shona Shona.Ballantyne@det.wa.edu.au, or

Anne Metcalf (CE Admin Support)

Anne.Metcalf@det.wa.edu.au

Phone: (08) 93617500

Natalie Fitzpatrick, Teacher-Conductor

Natalie.Fitzpatrick@det.wa.edu.au

CE set up – equipment hero

As Lois Hall, CECWA president, pointed out in her cover page note, the timber equipment that is an integral part of the Conductive Education program is made by one of our CECWA parents.

For most of the school year, Sue Gay drops her daughter Nikki at school and returns home to labour on CECWA's behalf.

In 2010 Sue's equipment list includes 148 items including plinths, corner chairs, ladder slanted work broads, plinth tops, grasp bars and more. This equipment is made for all children accessing CE, including Parent-and-Child groups, and to date nearly half of this equipment list has been constructed and completed by Sue. The materials to make this equipment are all paid for by **fundraising money: materials only** (not including Sue's time)

- \$120** provides funds for a **Plinth**
- \$65** gives our kids a **Box Seat**
- \$45** will construct a **Mirror**, so our kids can see success
- \$75** sits our kids up strong in a **Corner Chair**
- \$50** gets kids to hold on tight – **Grasp Bar**
- \$60** gives our kids a supportive **Chair**
- \$35** helps balance our kids with a **Footboy**
- \$85** assists a child's climb to independence – a **Ladder**

SEEKING PLYWOOD ~

If anyone has any 7mm, 9mm, or 12mm plywood, that they wish to donate, Sue has 48 plinth leg raisers to make and would greatly appreciate the materials. She only needs plywood off cuts, not full sheets.

Please contact Sue Gay suenikki@bigpond.com

Photo: Nikki helping build a plinth >>





Carson Street Independent Public School

expert staff : exceptional programs

19 Carson Street, East Victoria Park WA 6101 Ph. 08 9361 7500 Fax: 08 9361 6363
www.carsonst.wa.edu.au carsonst@inet.net.au

EARLY INTERVENTION OPPORTUNITIES

Kindy and Pre-Primary Enrolments

Carson Street Independent Public School offers high quality specialised Early Intervention Programs for kindergarten and pre-primary aged students. This includes our unique Conductive Education Program which provides the integration and development of motor, intellectual, social and academic skills for children with motor disabilities.

All children access a well planned and resourced curriculum, ensuring learning opportunities in the following areas:

- Communication
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Social Interaction and Play Skills
- Concept Development
- Fine and Gross motor Development
- Self Regulation

Programs aim to maximise early learning opportunities through specialised strategies that support, promote and develop skills, behaviours and social confidence in young children.

A range of activities and experiences provides each child the opportunity to succeed in an atmosphere of care and feeling valued.

Need more information? Please contact us at carsonst@inet.net.au or go to our web page at carsonst.wa.edu.au. You can also call Ros Hamling, Deputy Principal at Carson Street School on 08 9361 7500.

JOIN OUR TEAM—CECWA Striders

Perth City to Surf Sunday 29 August 2010

Supporting Conductive Education Centre of WA (CECWA) www.conductiveedwa.com.au

for OUR cause — Conductive Education

CECWA is now registered and listed as a 'charity to select' for the 2010 City to Surf and we have started to build our team, CECWA Striders, to run, jog, walk...for OUR cause (this year City2Surf is allowing us to run for OUR cause – to raise funds for CECWA – not just/only for Activ).

Join our team! ~ To become listed on the team CECWA Striders' fundraising page, go to **CECWA Striders' fundraising page** www.everydayhero.com.au/cecwa_striders and click through **JOIN THIS TEAM** at top right of the page.

Please fill in your contact details [create your own username and password] and when requested [2nd page] use **password: stepbystep**

Joining up to be listed as a team member on the fundraising page only takes 2 minutes and this will give you access to lots of tips and email message suggestions to help promote the team. Remember also to REGISTER NOW for City to Surf in the division of your choice at www.perthcitytosurf.com — walk , run, pram- or wheelchair push 4km, 12km, 21km or 42km —



After you join this team, you will be able to send the link www.everydayhero.com.au/cecwa_striders to your friends and family so that they are able to sponsor you in this event and/or donate directly to CECWA Striders...with all proceeds going towards CECWA and our kids' future in Conductive Education!

Please send CECWA Striders' fundraising page link to all your friends and family asking them to sponsor the team in raising funds for CECWA, even if you're unable to join in the event on the day.

Conductive Education Centre of WA (CECWA) www.conductiveedwa.com.au

For more information on CECWA Striders, contact:

Lydia Gallant, team captain

Phone: 0410 645 018

Email: communicate@conductiveedwa.com.au



exploring possibilities, achieving abilities

Special Kidz Special Needz – a result of CE mums meeting –

*CECWA mums, Lee-Anne Heron and Charmaine White, established Special Kidz Special Needz charity and raised over \$50,000 to offer kids with special needs aged 0-8 the opportunity to view and be fitted for a range of equipment from postural inserts, travel seats, car seats to standers, walkers, prams, wheelchairs, up/down bases and toilet/commodos
...and even a bike pram/seat!!*

The founders of Special Kidz Special Needz (SKSN) are very familiar with the importance of positioning and the right equipment for a child with a disability. Lee-Anne's daughter, Asiale, who has cerebral palsy, and Charmaine's son, Jack, diagnosed with Mitochondrial Disease, have both attended Conductive Education since early intervention at 18 months and 2 years old respectively (January 2007).

Lee-Anne and Charmaine sought to find and give kids access to equipment that could impact their ability to sit, stand, walk, communicate and maximise their potential and ability to enjoy life...embracing the CE "can do" philosophy.

"Up until now it has been frustrating that there are so many wonderful pieces of equipment and access technologies available worldwide but not in WA. Through SKSN charity we hope to change this and give kids access to equipment that could change the way they experience life,,, for the better!" says Lee-Anne.

Paediatric Equipment Display... Turns 1!

July 2010 is the display's first birthday. The display is open 9-5 Monday to Friday at the Independent Living Centre in the Niche, Aberdare St, Nedlands (next to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital). To book a fitting time if you wish to try your child in the equipment it's always best to phone ahead to make a booking: 9381 0600.

For a full list of equipment on display, visit www.specialaussies.com

SKSN are asking for your help to let other families know about the display by spreading the word to all you know – especially, tell your Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. If you have any equipment that you are currently not using that you wish to donate, contact:

Lee-Anne Heron, CEO and Equipment Resources & Family Liaison
Special Kidz Special Needz

p 0433 022 677 / e lee@specialaussies.com / i www.specialaussies.com



CE families: Our Way of Life

cont from page 2...

than the children who had not received intervention until they were much older. This reinforced what I already knew and that was how lucky we are that Molly had the opportunity to access Conductive Education at such an early age. I remember working with Molly in School for Parents for a couple of years before those first wonderful steps. Molly has so much to say, and she can get that message across using her PODD book or Dynavox even if she can't find the words. It is impossible to know where we would be today without having had that experience, but I do know that we would not have seen the incredible amount of progress we have in such a short space of time without Conductive Education and the amazing people who work in the program.

words by Lynn Bradshaw

lynnlee10@iprimus.com.au

for more information, www.cohensyndrome.org 

Next issue: Spring 2010

Send submissions by 20 September 2010

Stories, ideas for stories to include in future issues, as well as photographs make this a more interesting read. Please send feedback and suggestions to one of the Media & Promotions Team members:

 **Lydia Gallant**

communicate@conductiveedwa.com.au

OR

 **Miranda Nikolich**

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CECWA families' perspectives – presenting at 2010 CE Congress, Hong Kong

Our "Families' Perspectives" abstract, written by three CE parents – Charmaine White, Lydia Gallant and Kellie Wild – has been selected for oral presentation at this year's international Conductive Education Congress, to be held in Hong Kong 5-8 December 2010.

The abstract introduced and discussed our approach to the 'family perspectives' category with a strong message that CE is our way of life, not just a session once a day or once a week. The plan is to present different perspectives of CE from CECWA families who choose CE for the same reason.

Why do we choose CE for our child?

"...because it considers our child's entire needs providing holistic intervention to help children reach their full potential in a positive learning environment – and it provides our families with the tools to integrate CE into our daily lives."

CE is fundamental to our way of life because, as families with the resources to effectively embed its principles into our daily routines, any given part of our child's day becomes a learning situation. CE provides our families with hope because it works; and this drives CECWA families in their efforts to ensure the WA program continues.

As families that choose CE as a way of life, we sometimes struggle to create a unified approach across the teams involved in providing care, services and information. We juggle competing priorities, professional approaches and meaningful, yet contrasting advice. In this presentation to the 2010 CE Congress, we will share perspectives to represent the experiences and benefits of CE for a large group of Western Australian families engaged in making CE an integral part of life for their motor disabled children. Our families have children with a range of disabilities (including mitochondrial disease, acquired brain injury, and Angelman syndrome) who access, or are wishing to access, the only CE school program in WA. Each family has varying lengths of experience accessing CE from those new to CE in 2010 to those who have accessed CE in the Early Intervention group for 0-4 year olds, which commenced in 2005, and have since gone on to Year/Grade One.




We conclude that collaboration and shared understandings of the value of CE is necessary, and propose that everyone wants to make a difference for the benefit of each child.

Does this make you think of points that you'd like to share?

Please send your own family's perspectives for inclusion in the presentation!

We are asking for shared CECWA family perspectives – experiences and insights to include in our presentation – and would love to hear from you.

Please contact:

-  Charmaine White cwhite1@westnet.com.au
-  Lydia Gallant lydiag@aapt.net.au
-  Kellie Wild ekwild@aapt.net.au