



grenfell preschool & long day care centre

newsletter

27th January 2009

Welcome

We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer break. The Centre reopened on 5th January and the staff have done a wonderful job caring for and providing lots of fun activities for the children during the school holidays. Due to the high attendance, the Centre has had to run two rooms. Now that school has resumed we will be using the three rooms.

We have some new enrolments and we warmly welcome all new families and children to the Centre. Staff will provide lots of help to you and your child to settle into the Centre. If you are unsure about anything please ask any of the staff.

New Room Names

The Red Room has been renamed the **Star Room** as the children in this room are our rising stars, preparing to go out into the world. The Star Room runs a school readiness program catering for the children that will be attending Kindergarten in 2010.

The Green Room has been renamed the **Garden Room** as the children in this room are still growing and blooming. This room caters for the Preschool children aged between 3 to 4 years old.

The **Rainbow Room** name will stay the same as these children are bright and colourful and enjoy exploring. This room caters for the babies and toddlers aged between 0 to 3 years old.

Staff for 2009

Star Room (4 - 5 year olds)

Belinda Bourke will take up the position as teacher in the Star Room. Belinda is an Early Childhood trained teacher who has come from Dubbo.

Laraine Bland holds an Associate Diploma in Child Studies and with **Patsy Moffitt** will assist Belinda in caring for the children in the Star Room.

Garden Room (3 - 4 year olds)

Rochelle Albertson will be room leader in the Garden Room. Rochelle comes from Forbes and has an Associate Diploma in Children Services and along with **Dean Cawthorne** who has his Certificate III and is studying for his Diploma will care for the children in the Garden Room.

Rainbow Room (0 - 3 year olds)

This room will be divided into 2 groups. **Kim Durham** will be the room leader. **Leanne Walsh** will be doing the portfolios of the 0 to 1 year old children and will work alongside Kim. Both Kim and Leanne hold an Associate Diploma. **Nicole Reid** who has her Certificate III and **Sarah Troy** will assist. **Janine Eyles** will be caring for the children with special needs at our Centre.

Quandialla Preschool

Tracey McKellar holds a Diploma in Children Services and along with **Lisa Jones** who has a Certificate III will travel to Quandialla to our outreach Preschool on Wednesdays.

Front Office

Christine Stein works full time in the office and is responsible for the accounts. Lisa Jones will also assist Christine in the office from time-to-time.

Angie Milne who has worked at our Centre for some time will no longer be teaching on Tuesdays as she has left us to continue her work in Young where she has been working the other 4 days a week. Her workload in Young has increased making it impossible for her to continue at our Centre. We will miss her and wish her well.

Jacqui Mitton worked 2 days a week with us last year and has offered to do casual work again this year when required. **Sally Metcalfe** had a new baby boy on the 6th January. Banjo William Scott Metcalf weighed in at 9lb 5½ou. They are both doing well.



Sally with her two boys; Archie and Banjo.

Laraine Bland and **Sarah loader** will both be taking Maternity Leave starting in March.

Bus Zone

The parking space directly in front of the Centre is allocated as a Bus Zone. Buses arrive from 8.30am to 9.30am each morning and it provides a safe area for children to enter the Centre. Children may only travel on the bus if they are over 3 years of age and Loaders Bus Service require parents to pay a \$1.00 fee for bus travel.

Our policy states that children must be over 3 to travel on the bus and rural children have priority. If you require your child to travel a bus permission note must be completed. If you have already completed a permission note then you do not need to do it again.

Sun Smart Centre

We have been recognised by the Government as having excellent sun safe practices. Parents are reminded to send their children to the Centre in sun protective clothing. Children who wear singlet tops will be given a tee shirt to wear whilst at the Centre. For more information on sun safety refer to our policy or ask staff.

Check your pockets

Please remember to collect all paperwork from your pockets weekly. The pockets are our system to communicate with you. We post your accounts, newsletters, upcoming events, book club and lots more in your pockets. If you don't check them you might miss out on something important.

Programming

Our programme fosters individual uniqueness, self esteem, independence and cater for all learning areas. The programme is designed to stimulate and develop each child's sense of self, communicating, thinking, and physical, social, feeling, creative and spiritual potential. An inclusive program is provided, catering for children of all abilities and accommodates their social and cultural backgrounds.

You may notice a difference with the way we will be documenting our story of the day. We believe that it will be the way of improving our results for accreditation.

Every day during school term staff record what the children have mainly been doing throughout the day. The events of the day are documented in the 'Story of the Day' folders. The folders are clearly displayed for parents to read and copies of the Story of the Day are sent home with bus children. We urge you to read these stories and make further contributions to our programme. Please feel free to write on the Story of the Day; your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Child Portfolios

Each child has a portfolio. The portfolio will contain a checklist, work samples, photos and an Individual Education Programme (IEP). During Term 1 staff will observe children to formulate an IEP for each child. The IEP will contain objectives and teaching strategies for your child. The IEP will be evaluated at the end of Term 2 and all portfolios will be sent home at the end of Term 2 for families to look at and comment upon. The children's portfolios are stored in the playrooms and parents are welcome to look at them and contribute to them at any time.

Visitors

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations require the Centre to get all visitors to sign in and out of the Centre. A visitor is any person, other than parents picking up and dropping off their children, who will be staying at the Centre longer than 10 minutes. The visitor's book is located in the foyer.

Committee Meetings

The Centre is administered by a volunteer Management Committee. Their primary aim is to provide high quality care for children, meeting the diverse and changing needs of our local community. The Committee meets with the Director once a month. The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th February 2009 after the General Meeting.

General Meeting

General Meetings are held on the second Monday of every second month. Our next General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th February 2009. All parents are invited to attend these meetings.

Concerns and Complaints

Feedback from families is an important component in the delivery of high quality services to children and their families. We appreciate hearing your thoughts, whether they are positive or negative. We will use your feedback positively to improve the quality of service we are offering. All concerns and complaints will remain CONFIDENTIAL.

Contact Us

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