



grenfell preschool & long day care centre

newsletter

16th March 2009

General Meeting

Thank you to all who attended last week's General Meeting. The Centre welcomes everyone's input and appreciates your suggestions. General Meetings are the place where you can have your say and voice your concerns and I urge you all to come along to the meetings and help see that we have a great Centre catering for all the community.

5 Year Plan

Would you like to contribute to our 5 Year Plan?

The Management Committee of the Grenfell Preschool & Long Day Care Centre are currently constructing our 5 Year Plan. At the General Meeting, all parents in attendance were asked to contribute to this plan by contributing their ideas under the following categories:

- Building and Infrastructure
- Resources
- Staffing
- Programming
- Direction of Future Childcare

Ideas will be categorised as high, medium or low priority.

How can you make a contribution?

Thursday 12th March to Thursday 16th March

Parents and staff can vote at the Centre for the things that they would most like to see included as part of the 5 year plan. Just collect your 10 sticker dots from the office and place them on the charts on displayed in the foyer next to each of the things you would like to see included.

Monday 11th May

Voting will be collated and the plan finalised by the Management Committee and presented at the General Meeting.

External Audit

On the 11th March the centre underwent an external audit on our food handling procedures. Mr Shane Wilson from the Weddin Shire Council conducted the audit, and we are happy to say that we have the correct procedures in place.

Policies Under Review

The following policies have been reviewed and accepted by the management committee.

- Programming
- Behaviour Management
- Social Justice, Inclusion and Diversity

The following policies are currently up for review by the management committee.

- Cancellation
- Fees

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

The Behaviour Management policy will promote a positive approach to guiding children's behaviour with in an environment that is consistent, supportive and safe for all children.



Working Bee



I would like to thank Sarah, James, Phoebe and Kate Clifton, Sarah Hazell, Ross Armstrong, Laraine Bland, Jaxon Greenaway, Dean Cawthorne and Belinda Bourke who all who helped at our working bee. We got all the soft fall spread and the turf laid I would like to Thank John Grant for going to Cowra very early to pick up the turf and help lay it After the rain at the weekend the turf is growing well.

School Holidays

Two weeks' notice must be given if you wish to cancel your child's position during school holidays. If notice is not given, fees will still be payable.

Chicken Pox

There has been one case of chicken pox reported to the Centre. Chickenpox is a viral illness that comes on suddenly and is highly contagious. It usually starts with one spot, but more quickly appear, with fever, headache, runny nose, a cough and feeling very tired. The rash starts on the chest and back and spreads to the face, scalp, arms and legs. The rash can develop all over the body, inside the ears, on the eyelids, inside the nose and within the vagina, everywhere. The rash continues to spread for three or four days and is usually very itchy. Within a few hours after each spot appears, a blister forms. It may appear full of yellow fluid. After a day or so, the fluid turns cloudy. These spots are easily broken and form a scab.

Incubation period: The average incubation period is 14 to 15 days, but may range from 10 to 21 days.

Infectious period: From two days before the rash appears (ie. during the coughing, runny nose stage) and until all blisters have formed scales or crusts.

Exclusion period: Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.



Dates to Remember

Sausage Sizzle in Rotary Park
28th March 2009 at 4pm

Last Day of Term 1
Thursday 9th April 2009

Musical Quiz Night
Friday 1st May 2009 at 7pm
Start getting your tables of 10 ready
for a fun filled night.
More information soon ...

Next General Meeting
Monday 11th May 2009 at 7pm

Proposed Changes to Notice Given

The Centre's Cancellation and Fees policies are currently under review and the Management Committee have been discussing ways to improve the notice given arrangements in the policy so that we can avoid a situation where fees need to be increased to cover the increasing costs of the current system.

A discussion took place at last week's General Meeting in relation to the issue and all feedback, both positive and negative, will be taken into consideration by the committee. We encourage all families to come into the Centre and read through the current policy and to pass on any comments or suggestions to Sharon or the committee.

The current policy states that '2 week's notice must be given for the cancellation of a permanent booking' or '48 hours for the cancellation of a casual booking'. It also states that 'if the required notice is provided, fees will not be charged' and that 'families are then taking the risk there may not be a permanent position on their return'. This has never been an issue in the past, however with the increasing child numbers, it is becoming one now.

We are almost at capacity for the number of permanent staff we currently employ, and to accommodate the inconsistencies in child numbers we are constantly having to either employ extra casual staff or be paying too many permanent staff. Both which cause the cost of running the centre to rise. We don't want to get to a situation where we have to increase our fees to cover these inconsistencies, so we are proposing the following changes be made to the Cancellation Policy:

- Fees will still be payable regardless of whether the required notice has been given.
- Parents must provide advice of cancellations in writing or by completing a cancellation form.
- Notice will no longer be accepted by phone.
- The intention for children to not attend the centre during school holidays must be advised in writing at the beginning of each year when enrolment days for the year are confirmed.
- The one-off swapping of days will no longer be allowed - an extra day may be booked, however the child's usual day will still need to be paid for.

A parent survey will be conducted over the next couple of weeks to gauge families' opinions on this and other Centre policies.

The committee can be contacted by emailing committee@grenfellpreschool.com.au and Sharon can be contacted by emailing sharon@grenfellpreschool.com.au.

Contact Us

- ✉ 35 Forbes Street
(PO Box 35)
Grenfell NSW 2810
- ☎ 02 6343 1743
- 📠 02 6343 1304
- ✉ mail@grenfellpreschool.com.au