

## News from the Starlight Room



- ◆ Thank you for your 'Pets' photos. These connections between home and preschool help set up your child's sense of belonging at HGP.
- ◆ We have been sooo enjoying lots of box construction, challenging our fine motor skills and using our imaginations. Any donations are always welcome. Thank you.
- ◆ It has been lovely to see the children's enthusiasm for dramatic play games/songs during our Group Times. The Starlighters have been further developing their turn taking skills and group co-operation through games such as, 'There was a Princess Long Ago'. We are excited to extend upon this by dramatizing familiar nursery rhymes.

***Kylie's Comments;** My attention has recently turned to our preschool playground. We have been researching some enhancements that could be made to our lovely playground and garden. Our focus is to continue to create an interesting, engaging, challenging and welcoming space for children to explore.*



## News from the Moonbeam Room



- ◆ Some of the children have begun their visits to their Head Start Big School programs. It's lovely to hear all about these visits and to support each child with their transition to school.
- ◆ Our dramatic play area has been transformed to an area for 'Celebrations and Costumes'. The educators are planning Group Times and play experiences which coincide a diverse look at these two themes.
- ◆ We have been discussing 'respect' and 'care' throughout our preschool day. Group Times have reflected this topic, we have been reading stories and having quite in depth discussions. The HGP teaching team are recognising and congratulating responsible, respectful and caring behaviours.



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## Newsletter - August 2017

- \* **Re-enrolment:** Thank you everyone for your 2018 re-enrolment slips. As the year progresses we can confirm your days. (If you haven't sent yours in yet, there are spare forms in the foyer).  
  
It is usual for most families to be able to secure their required days. The re-enrolment fee is due on the November account. Once the re-enrolment processes is complete, we then enrol new children into the Starlight room, including making contact with families regarding siblings.
- \* Our **Starlight Room** is now benefitting from an extra educator on Thursdays and Fridays for 5 hours a day. This increase is due to the enrolment of a child with additional needs to our preschool community. Tina is filling this position until the end of the year.
- \* We have sent home some further policies for your feedback. Please pop in the fees box in foyer if you'd like to comment. Thank you.
- \* **HGP's Photos** will be taken each day of the week this year from Monday 11th of September. Please place these dates in your diary. More information about the organization of our 'Photo Week' will follow next month.
- \* Highland Grove's final day of preschool for this year is Friday 22nd of December. Our first day back in 2018 is Monday 22nd of January



### Picture Plates;

We are doing our Annual Picture Plates for those who would like to participate this year. The children draw on the plates and they are sent away to be treated. The plates are then returned to us in time for Christmas. Simply indicate on the list in the foyer if you would like your child to do a plate and they will be completed at preschool between Monday the 7th and Friday the 25th of August. The cost of \$27.50 will be included on your account.



### Staffing News;

- ◆ Did you know that **Sarah, our E/C teacher** in the Starlight Room (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays) has a post graduate Certificate in Additional Needs.
- ◆ Each Highland Grove educator has a current **Senior First Aid** qualification.
- ◆ **Mackenzie and Noeli** our casual staff members, are completing their Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood & Primary) .
- ◆ In recent years the Federal and State Governments have allocated funds for increased qualifications and training in early years settings. **This Professional Development** Initiative has meant that you'll continue to see the HGP team involved in further training and study. This training includes Kylie's Master of Early Childhood, wonderful programming and wellbeing training for all our educators, Visual Communications Training (PECS) training for several staff and ongoing professional growth for the entire HGP team.
- ◆ Both **Kylie and Melisa** will be having a couple of days of holidays in early August. (They are both going to colder climate and hoping for snow.)

### What else is going on at H.G.P!

- ◆ On Friday 14th of July, Kylie, Michelle and Karen attended Heather Irvine's book launch of the new edition of 'Hello baby'. This real and supportive parenting book on raising bub is available to borrow from our Parent Library in the foyer.
- ◆ Cass, our Starlight educator, again organized for HGP to be involved in the 'Coast Shelter' food and blanket drive. Thank you to all the families who have been able to support this worthy cause. The final pick up date is Friday 11th of August, so any last donations can be made prior to that date. Thank you.
- ◆ Later this month Kylie, Michelle and Karen will attend a conference in Melbourne which focuses on working towards excellence in early childhood education and care. We looking forward to sharing our learnings.
- ◆ The Starlight Room has a work experience student, Brie will be part of the team from Monday 31st of July for 1 week.
- ◆ The Moonbeam Room has a final year university student, Joel. Joel is completing his leadership practicum and will work alongside Michelle for 1 week, starting also on Monday 31st of July.
- ◆ Ella and Emily will be visiting other centres to complete their 'Baby pracs' as part of their traineeship. Ella will be away from HGP every Tuesday for 5 weeks from early August. Emily will be away for a full week from Monday 7th of August. We wish them well.

### The National Quality Standard;



It is time for us to review our **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**. (We have provided you with a copy to assist families who would like to give some input). HGP is proud of its commitment to sustainability practices, such as; recycling-including paper, cardboard, our worm farm and chooks. We also enjoy 'green' strategies such as gardening, thoughtful equipment choices, building inclusions like insulation and external and internal blinds.