

## News from the Starlight Room

- ◆ As the children's social and cognitive skills increase, we have added more complex puzzles to the shelf and introduced new turn taking games, such as 'Zingo', which involves matching picture/ word cards. This game has been very popular.
- ◆ We have been loving musical experiences, including the musical instruments and learning actions to new songs, 'Herman, The Worm' and '5 Little Worms'. These songs reflect our interest in the garden and developing sense of humour.
- ◆ We are continuing to explore our feelings and emotions, and developing skills in empathy. We love to sing the "If you're happy song", including changing the words to express cranky, 'take a breath'!
- ◆ Our Cathy is now well underway with her study to complete her Diploma in Early childhood Education and Care and we are very proud of her. She is now taking small Group Times almost every day. Recently her Group Times have been focusing on building relationships.



## News from the Moonbeam Room

- ◆ The Moonbeam children are showing a passion for mixing colours and experimenting with outcomes. The children have been particularly enjoying creating new colours and predicting what their colour mixing would result in.
- ◆ The Literacy Learning Centre has been very much frequented, with children writing letters and enjoying copying words.
- ◆ The children are engrossed in a variety of forms of construction, from building in the damp sand, to block and lego stairs and houses.
- ◆ Who's hiding in our garden? Could it be fairies? The magic of fairies is all around the Moonbeamers. We have been using our imaginations and exploring where fairies might live and what they might get up to!



## HIGHLAND GROVE

PRESCHOOL • EST. 1988

### Newsletter -July 2016

- The weather is cool and our playground can be fresh. Please remember to send along a warm jumper or jacket for outside play.
- If your child is going to be absent from preschool during the school holidays, please just let us know. Thanks so much.
- **S.I.D.S- 'RED NOSE DISCO'.** - This annual evening was a huge success. We raised \$655.00 for this excellent cause. Thanks to all the staff, families and children who were able to come along to this fun night.



### STAFFING NEWS

Melissa is now back on board at Highland Grove, teaching the Moonbeamers. We are delighted to have her return from her maternity leave.

Danielle is away on a fabulous European holiday for 4 weeks and Tanya is replacing many of her days.

Sharyn will be away the first week in July, enjoying a lovely holiday with her family. Familiar educators, including Michelle, Cathy and Vicki S will replace her.

The Friday staff in the Starlight Room will now be Sharyn, Cathy and Tina as Michelle is returning to her 3 days per week from early July.

Several staff are booked to attend a Tony Attwood/ Sue Larkey Autism Awareness training in 4 weeks time. Ongoing professional learning is vital for all early childhood educators and highly valued at HGP.

Kylie is in the 2nd year of her 'Masters in Early Childhood' through Macquarie University. The study is challenging, inspiring and has excellent value for her role in leading Highland Grove Preschool.

## Our next area of focus; Quality Area 5; Relationships with Children

- *Educator-to-child ratios always exceed the legal requirements of our setting. HGP feels that by providing high ratios of qualified staff, we offer children the opportunity to feel supported and are also able to facilitate each child's individual learning and wellbeing more fully.*
- *When children transition to the older room at the end of the year at least one educator transitions with them.*
- *Our centre's Positive Guidance Policy is sourced from current child psychology practices and respects the dignity and rights of the child at all times.*
- *Highland Grove staff have recently been involved in wonderful training to support each child's social and emotional wellbeing.*
- ***Policies relevant to this Quality Area have been sent home for family input and feedback. Place in the fees box. Thank you.***



### Did you know.....

- The Highland Grove Preschool **WEBSITE** has our Newsletters available for you to read at your leisure, as well as an Information Booklet attached if you would like to check any policies or practices.
- We have a **Parent Library** on the shelf across from the entry with books and dvds available for borrowing. Please see Kylie, Karen or Michelle in the office for assistance.
- The majority of our art and craft program occurs in the morning between **8.30 and 10.20am**. This is also a lovely time for children to establish social connections for the day.

### HGP Pumpkin Patch;

Welcome to baby Clodagh (named from mum's Irish heritage). She is a younger sister for Aoife (in the Moonbeam Room) and Connor. Congratulations to Lisa and Andrew.



Also a warm welcome to Cayden, baby brother for Carissa in the Starlight Room. Cayden was born in April. Congratulations to Yin and Luming.

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

- ◆ Our preschool **car park** is a busy place! We inherited small spaces, sorry about this. Please be aware of littlies as you move slowly through this area, and please be aware of others who are waiting for a park as the space is somewhat limited. Thanks so much.
- ◆ Moonbeam families, please write your child's name on the coloured 'fish' placed on the Rainbow Room glass doors. These lists ask **'Which school is your child attending in 2017?'**. Thank you.
- **Re-enrolment:** Families with a child returning to HGP for 2017 will receive a form shortly to indicate day preference, work/study status and the year your child is likely to start school. Please complete and return to the office by Fri. 29th of July. Thank you.
- Some families are presently thinking about when their child is going to start school and where they will be in 2017. Be sure to have a chat with your child's teacher for input if we can be of assistance.
- Please let your child's teachers know if, or when, your preschooler has their 4 year old immunisation. We will pop their name on our new big 'Teddy' posters. Updated Immunisation certificates are also required for the office. Thank you.

### Further events;

- As part of the transition of our **Book Library** to the foyer, we have purchased a huge range of new books to replace any that were old and tattered. We will display them in the foyer as they arrive.
- HGP is installing **new signage** across our preschool. (You may have noticed the big sign on the exterior brick wall is peeling off!) This means that our lovely orange ducks will now be more visible throughout the centre, welcoming everyone to Highland Grove.



**HIGHLAND GROVE**

PRESCHOOL · EST. 1988