

## News from the Starlight Room



Wow! The Starlight Room is such a busy place. The children have been enjoying the 'hospital' dramatic play area, growing plants from seed and some community visitors.

More recently we have been involved in.....

- Changing to a 'shop' dramatic play area, where the children can practice their social skills whilst exploring literacy and numeracy.
- Reading the 'bear' series by Nick Bland. These lovely books allow us to explore a range of emotions, and develop our vocabularies (a wonderful asset, and key indicator of success at school).
- Use our new round, wooden 'Notice board' to document the day of the week, weather, favourite colour and even the way we are feeling!

## News from the Moonbeam Room



In the Moonbeam Room....

- Educators have further encouraged the children's social, turn taking skills through partner games, such as 'Busy Bees' where the children mirror each other, play the game and then need to find a new partner, and echo songs, such as 'My Highland Goat', 'The Bear Song' and the playschool 'Echo song'. Echo songs develop pragmatic language skills that enhance the children's listening, co-operation and reciprocal relationships.
- Educators have been providing many opportunities for physical health and wellbeing, during both our more structured teacher led Group times and free play sessions. This allows children to gain greater strength and confidence in their bodies.
- The changing season is such a highlight of our day at the moment with the children collecting the beautiful autumn leaves in baskets and carts. This learning about nature is being carried over to our visual art, literacy and numeracy programs



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## Newsletter - June 2017 - Welcome to our June Newsletter.

Thank you so much to all our families for your regular feedback and contribution to our centre and the programs running in each room. We value highly the relationships within Highland Grove and look forward to the remainder of 2017, and beyond with enthusiasm.

### What else has been going on at HGP?;

- **'GRANDPARENT'S -AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEAS'**  
These were such a hit! Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. The children enjoyed having these visitors as part of our morning. We raised over \$350 for The Cancer Council. Thank you
- Monday the 12th of June is a **Public Holiday** and HGP is closed. There is no charge for that day.
- Our HGP educators are continuing their commitment to **professional learning**. On Saturday the 17th of June, six of our staff are attending the 'Educator's Big Day' Conference at Mingara. In August the management team are attending a conference in Melbourne. Several other educators have been attending training regarding physical activity, healthy eating, supporting families and documentation.
- There are posters highlighting our local schools on the glass doors of our 'Rainbow Room' door. Please add your child's name when you know which school they will be attending in 2017.
- Our educator Noeli, is now on 4 weeks practicum at a local public school. We will miss her on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Starlight Room (10am until 3pm), regular staff will replace her in her absence.

## S.I.D.S Red Nose Disco; Our annual S.I.D.S **“Red Nose Disco”**

is being held on **Thursday 29th of June from 6.00 until 7.30pm.**

The evening is a fun time for families and educators (who donate their time on this evening) to “boogey the night away” and all the funds made are donated to this wonderful cause. **The cost is \$5.00 per child.** (There is no charge for adults).



Red Nose products will also be available to purchase on the night. (Cash is the only form of payment available.) This really is a fantastic night; we will be providing cold drinks and a warm room on the night. See you here!!!!

### Some House Keeping:

**The Scholastics Book club** is due back by Tuesday 13th of June. The cooler weather is upon us. Our playground can be quite cold, **so please send along a warm jumper, socks and shoes** with your child each day. **The change to our Sun Protection Policy is - no need for sun hats in June and July** (in line with The Cancer Council recommendations). **The choice about a hat, beanie, or no hat is yours.**

### Did you know....

- HGP has a Parent Library in the foyer. We have many great books and DVDs. Simply write which books you are taking and ask one of the girls in the office to sign the borrowing book for you.
- There is an **“Absent” Diary** in the office. If you know your child will be away with 24 hours notice, you can place their name in the diary to see if someone from the same room would like to purchase that day of attendance.



### **Kylie's Comments.....**

Recently our educators have been discussing the benefits of exploratory, ‘risky’ play. Our natural outdoor environment at HGP includes trees, hedges, rocks, sand and water. The inclusion of these provisions allows children to hide, climb, swing and balance, just to name a few!

Risk taking allows children to develop a wide range of manipulative and motor skills, as well as muscle strength and endurance. Other positive benefits of risky play include the opportunity for children to gain mastery over their bodies, test their limits and try new things. Perceptual development, such as depth and spatial-orientation are also enhanced.

*As educators, it is our challenge to provide children with the best possible play opportunities, to create play spaces that will capture children’s imaginations and give them scope to play in more exciting and creative ways.* Dr Helen Little (Senior Lecture Macquarie University).

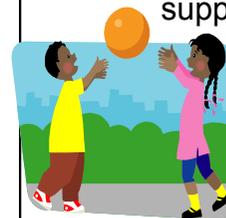
**Pumpkin Patch-** A warm welcome to baby Asher, little brother for Liam and Oliver (Moonbeam Room). Congratulations Mark, Anneke, and the whole family.



We have completed the review of some policies which support Quality Area 2 in our National Standard, these focus on Health and Safety. We will now turn our attention to....

### **(Quality Area 6-Collaborative partnership with Families and Communities) .**

This ‘standard’ highlights how collaborative relationships are fundamental to quality outcomes for children. Highland Grove aims to be inclusive and supportive of all families, and to welcome families to help shape our centre, its policies, practices and program.



We are currently reviewing our policies relating to this Quality Area and will provide these to families for comment soon. Thank you.