

News from the Starlight Room



We are so amazed at how our 'Starlighters' are adapting to the preschool environment. The children have been involved in lovely interactions between educators and peers.

We are currently involved in lots of sensory play in the Starlight Room. This includes shaving foam at the easel, bowls filled with various textures (e.g. rice, confetti etc) and the water trough inside.

During our Group times we have been exploring elements of music, particularly pitch, showing going high and low with our voices as well as our actions.

The song '10 Green Bottles' has provided us with lots of fun and opportunities for counting with one to one correspondence.

We hope Cathy is having a wonderful holiday in Europe with her whole family. Thank you to Sharyn, Tina and Vicki.S for working extra days.

News from the Moonbeam Room



Did you know that our Morning and Midday Group times are being 'split' each day into smaller Group experiences. The children's group will change each day and placement is a result of each educator's programming.

We are encouraging the children's self help skills, one way is to work with them to keep their lockers tidy.

There have been a few staff changes in the Moonbeam Room, Cass has now gone off on maternity leave and Kim and Danielle have started to settle into their days. Pip (our Uni student) finished her prac and will remain on our casual list and Ashleigh is moving on.

We are delighted that our Sarah, Tanya, Vicki.M, Mackenzie & Noeli all continue to be familiar faces for our Moonbeamers.

Just a little reminder to please leave children's own toys at home. :)



HIGHLAND GROVE

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Newsletter - March 2016

Welcome to our HGP March Newsletter. Our centre is buzzing with busy, happy children, enthusiastic educators and families re-kindling friendships and making new ones.



House Keeping:

- We are sending home a **Communication Survey** and would so appreciate your feedback. Please just complete and pop in the fees box in the foyer. Thank you.
- We are reviewing our **Centre Philosophy** and have sent a copy home with this Newsletter. Please feel welcome to scribble directly on the paper if you would like to give feedback and pop it into our fees box in the foyer by Monday 14th of March.
- A copy of the new **Exclusion Periods** for illness is also provided.
- Just a mention that if your child's lunch box **contains perishables**, eg; yoghurt, ham, etc, please use the marker to name the item needing refrigeration and take it out of the lunchbox. Then pop it in one of the baskets in the fridge. Thanks everyone.
- A reminder to send a **hat for your child each preschool day**.
- And also a **set of cot sheets**. The children are currently resting in both rooms. Thank you.
- Just a mention that we inherited a **very 'tight' car park**, with unfortunately small parking spots. Please be very careful as your little ones get in and out of your car as other cars are easily damaged. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ Our team of educators are involved in staff meetings every four weeks to review policies and procedures, discuss individual children and review our program.
- ◇ Kylie and Michelle attend Leader's Breakfasts each quarter with many other local Directors, guest speakers and the local TAFE.
- ◇ Sarah, our Moonbeam Room Early Childhood Teacher, has a Post Graduate Certificate in Additional Needs.
- ◇ Our centre is cleaned by contract cleaners each night.
- ◇ We are planting some viburnums along the back fence where the lilli pillis had to be removed. We are also putting in two ornamental pears to replace the liquidambar which also had to come out.



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Our Office;

- Karen, our Office Manager, works Monday & Wednesday, 8.30am-4.30pm and Tuesday & Thursday, 8.30am - 2.30pm. Please call her with any fee queries.
- Karen would like to send a reminder that if your child has a sibling who attends another centre (including Family Day Care, Before and After School Care and/ or Vacation care) please let her know.

Sign on' Sheets

Please remember to sign your child in and out of the centre on our daily 'sign on' sheets. This is also a great place to check how your child went with their lunch and see if they had a sleep during Rest time. The staff also use the bottom of these sheets to write the name of the person collecting your child, if they vary from their usual 'pick up' person.



S.T.E.P.S (Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening)

This NSW Dept of Health initiative visits early childhood settings to provide a free vision assessment for all 4 year olds.

If you child is older than 4 and missed out on the vision screening last year, see the office and we'll include your child on the list.

Highland Grove will receive these visits on **Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th of March.** This program is run in the mornings in our Rainbow Room and the HGP teachers are always in attendance.

Families with HGP preschoolers who do not attend these days are welcome and encouraged to come in for the screening on one of the 3 days allocated, please book in via the office. A note about how the program works, and a permission note to be completed, will be in your pocket .

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

From January 2012 the Early Childhood sector has been regulated by the National Regulations and 'National Quality Standards'. These cover 7 Quality Areas. Centres are assessed on how they meet the standards.

Highland Grove was assessed in August 2012 and we were delighted to receive a rating of **'EXCEEDING THE NATIONAL STANDARDS'**.

This form of assessment and reflection is on-going. HGP will possibly be visited again later this year. Meanwhile we are constantly working on our Q.I.P (Quality Improvement Plan). A copy of our current Q.I.P is always in our preschool library. (Which is now on the shelf in the foyer, directly in

front of the office). As part of this constant review we will at times be asking families for feedback. This may be in the form of reviewing policies, completing surveys and conversation. We welcome our families help and input, please continue to give us your feedback. Thank you.

