

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.



Our room is a buzz with busy, happy children enjoying the creative arts program, home corner with dolls and dress-ups and block play with added vehicles.

The recent addition of the light box has been popular with the children. The coloured shapes and gel numbers are illuminated on the lit-up Perspex sheet and invite the children to practice counting and number recognition skill with their educators.

PARENT COMMUNICATION SHEETS: We have now added our Parent Communication clipboards next to the 'sign-on' sheets. This form of communication allows families to document special events or 'goings-on' in your preschooler's life. The teachers can then chat to your child, build relationships and possibly include the information in our program.

News from the Moonbeam Room

Did you know that our Morning and Afternoon 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 planning and social grouping.

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

The children have been exploring a variety of tactile, creative experiences which further their hand strength and co-ordination in preparation for future writing skills. These have included squeezing glue, manipulating warm, coloured spaghetti to form their name, sprinkling sand onto their pattern and marbling using shaving cream and eye droppers..



HIGHLAND GROVE

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Newsletter - March 2017

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.

PUMPKIN PATCH: A big welcome to 'Starlighter' Audrey's new baby, Richard, who was born during our holiday break. Congratulations to Emma and Miguel.

Welcome also to new baby Laine, little brother for Flynn (Moonbeam Room) and Max. Congratulations to Lauren and David.



House Keeping:

- We are sending home a **Parent 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

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 a Leader's Breakfast quarterly, along with many other local Directors, guest speakers and the local TAFE.
- ◇ Sarah Farrer, our Moonbeam Room Early Childhood Teacher (Mon, Tue & Wed), has a Post Graduate Certificate in Additional Needs.
- ◇ Our centre is cleaned by contract cleaners each night.
- ◇ Our centre is currently using government funding and photo commission income to purchase many beautiful new resources for your children. We will continue to display them in the foyer for you.



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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 your 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 21st, Wednesday 22d and Thursday 23rd 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.

