

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 such lovely interactions between their educators and peers, and the room is a buzz with busy, happy children enjoying games, visual arts, music and stories.



We are particularly loving the circle games (such as singing and rolling a ball towards each other), which help us to learn the names of all the children in our room.

We are also loving sorting and matching games with educators and friends, circle games at Group Time, sensory experiences, such as finger painting and the addition of the rabbit, 'Gus' in our room. He is now off to visit in the Moonbeam Room.

PARENT COMMUNICATION SHEETS: Our 'Parent Communication' clipboards are now next to the 'sign-on' sheets. This form of communication allows families to document special events or 'goings-on' in their preschooler's life if they are unable to talk to a teacher in the morning. Our educators can then use this information to chat to your child, build relationships and possibly include the information in our program.

News from the Moonbeam Room

The Moonbeam Room is a happy and productive place.

'Gus' the rabbit is now visiting in our Room. We will be giving him cuddles during play time (and remembering to wash our hands afterwards).



We are helping with ideas and suggestions for the new playground. We will be discussing this during group times, researching ideas with our teachers and friends, and expressing our ideas through the visual arts.

We are currently learning to use sign language alongside our spoken word. (This is great fun!). Michelle, Cathy and Cass (from the Starlight Room) will be attending a training day later this month.



HIGHLAND GROVE

PRESCHOOL • EST. 1988

Newsletter - March 2018

Highland Grove Preschool has been part of the wider community for 30 years this year. We are proud and excited to have been in the lives of so many local families for the past 30 years, and look forward to a year of special celebrations in 2018.

House Keeping:

- We are reviewing our **Centre Philosophy** and **Family Involvement and Communication Policy** and have sent a copy of each 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 the end of March. We will then be compiling all feedback for a review as part of our April Staff Meeting.
- A copy of the new **Exclusion Periods** for illness is also provided.
- Just a mention that if your child's lunch box **contains perishables** (yoghurt, ham, etc), please use the marker to write your child's name on the item needing refrigeration (if it is not in a labelled container) 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. This will be reviewed for the Moonbeamers in the near future. Thank you.
- Noeli needs to attend university for several Mondays in March and April. Tarn (who teaches on Fridays) will be working almost all these days.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ Our team of educators are involved in regular staff meetings to review policies and procedures, discuss the children in our care and reflect on our program.
- ◇ Kylie and Michelle attend a Leader's Breakfast quarterly, along with many other local Directors, guest speakers and the local TAFE.
- ◇ Our playground renovation is part of the festivities celebrating HGP's 30th birthday. We look forward to sharing this process with you. Currently our educators are seeking input from the children. We will then be waiting on a preliminary sketch from the designer. Thank you so much for your excellent responses so far to our survey. A project folder will be in the foyer shortly to display the planning and development of this renovation.



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 and 5 year olds.

These visits will occur for 2018 on **Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd of March**. This program is run in the mornings, a little after drop off and the HGP teachers are always in attendance.

Please have your child at preschool by 10am those days.

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 for each eligible child will be placed in the children's pockets. Information is included regarding how the program works and a permission note to be completed and returned prior to screening. Please be sure to complete all details including Medicare number. Please ask if you have any queries.

Our Office;

- Karen, our Office Manager, works Monday & Wednesday, 8.30am-4.30pm and Tuesday & Thursday, 8.30am - 2.30pm.
- 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.
- Karen will be on holidays between the 28th of March and the 19th of April. Kylie will be processing fees during this time.

'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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

The early childhood sector is regulated by the National Regulations and 'National Quality Standard'. The Federal Government has highlighted 7 Quality Areas and centres are assessed on how they meet each quality Area. (These cover health, safety, relationships and the centre program).

Highland Grove was assessed in August 2012 and we were delighted to receive a rating of **'EXCEEDING THE NATIONAL STANDARD'**. Annual 'spot checks' continue to occur prior to HGP's next assessment visit.

Assessment and reflection is on-going. Our team of educators are contributing to our Q.I.P (Quality Improvement Plan) on a regular basis. A copy of our current Q.I.P is always in our library. (Which is 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 is in the form of reviewing policies, completing surveys and chats. We welcome our families help and input, please continue to give us your feedback. Thank you.

