

The Word from Wamberal....

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Staffing News:

The Staff recently celebrated the wonderful result from the Accreditation visit and were congratulated for all their hard work and all the support they have given the Centre during the past year.

We have very hard working and dedicated staff who contribute to the wonderful Centre we have in so many ways. During the Centre's first year I cannot thank them enough for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for their profession.

Michelle will be on leave from Monday October 5th – 9th.

We have a website....

wamberalpreschool.com.au

You can access newsletters and other information about our Centre. If you know of anyone interested in booking into our Centre, why not recommend they have a look at this site.

Our Focus on.....**SCHOOL READINESS**

Thank you to the 7 parents and to Michelle and Alana who came to our recent School Readiness evening. We able to discuss the skills children need to cope with the transition to "Big School" from a social, emotional and educational sense. Are children able to communicate their needs and seek help? Can children separate easily from parent? Is your child able to cope with frustration and change?

There were also practical tips for children including ensuring you choose a lunchbox and drink bottle they are able to open, shoes they can easily put on/off.

There are some great notes available from the night so please see Michelle for a copy of these if you were unable to make it.

In our Seahorse Room the children began their School Readiness program in April. We cover a range of developmental areas including their fine motor skills (pencil grip, scissor skills etc), numeracy, literacy and problem solving. We also have a big focus on their social and communication skills, aiming to develop their confidence in resolving any peer conflict or self help issues.

We use the Letterland program as a base for letter recognition and sound and then we focus on the Foundation Style in terms of letter writing as this is used in the school system.

HAVE YOU VIEWED THE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM????

It is available for your viewing throughout the year on the noticeboard in the Seahorse Room. We also love your input and ideas so please discuss these with Michelle.

Computer Program

After nearly a year with the computer program for Parent Accounts we have decided to change to a new company, following many frustrations and difficulties from our families in understanding their receipts.

Please note this is likely to take approx. 1 week for data to be transferred to the new Qikkids program and as a result receipts will not be issued during this period, however will be issued once system is in place. This is planned to take place in October.

Kirsty has worked comprehensively with Qikkids before and it should be easier for all involved.

Thank you for your support and if we can improve our Service in any other way please let us know.

Centre Policy For Family Information:

MINIMISING USE OF TOXIC PRODUCTS



Rationale:

Using toxic or potentially harmful products can pose serious health and safety risks for all those who come into the premises and those who use them. We want to maintain high hygiene and cleanliness standards and ensure cleaning products eliminate germs and potentially infectious materials as well.

Aim:

To reduce the toxic or potentially dangerous products kept on the premises, whilst still meeting the hygiene and disinfection needs of the Centre.

Practices:

- Use least toxic or non-toxic cleaning products. Products containing solvents, fragrances, caustics and chlorinated compounds are not necessary for normal sanitation. In our rooms use Orange Squirt, an organic product.
- Spray product directly onto sponge, away from children to minimise air borne product.
- Toys and equipment are cleaned in hot soapy water, away from child access and air dried.
- Avoid the use of air fresheners, automatic aerosol dispensers; plug in air fresheners and air fresheners in air conditioning systems.
- Do not clean immediately before start of day. Each day wash floors and desk tops to maintain good general hygiene and help minimize levels of airborne bacteria.
- Reduce dust levels. Vacuum daily with a quality vacuum. Install floor mats at all entry doors to reduce levels of shoe borne contaminants inside buildings.
- To deter pests and vermin will ensure we keep food sources limited to designated areas, keep desks, lockers, flooring clear of food residues, removal of wastes at the end of each day and use of screens and trap devices.
- Conduct ongoing investigations into more natural products and tools for cleaning

Sources:

“SASI Clean” www.sasiclean.com.au / freshgreenclean.com.au
 “Green cleaning at Point Preschool” – www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

Date: August 2009

IS YOUR CHILD SUN SAFE?

As the weather starts to become warmer we ask that you become familiar with our Sun Safety Policy – on display in our window for your reference.

Please make sure your child has.....

HAT – preferably a broad brim or legionnaire style

SUN SAFE CLOTHING-

Tops which cover the shoulders and tops of arms and their back.
 Pants / Skirts which cover the tops of legs

- ✓ We apply SPF30+ sunscreen mornings and afternoons
- ✓ We are indoors during the highest UVA times of the day
- ✓ We have lots of shade and try to arrange activities in these areas

Together we can enjoy the outdoors whilst protecting our skin from the sun.

ROOM NEWS

Dolphins:

We are excited to now be opening our room on Wednesdays due to increasing enrolments. The room is looking fantastic with lots of new art and science displays. We have been interested in discussing our pets, thanks to Imogen and her tadpoles which we have been watching grow with great interest.

Nicole & Jodi & Kirsten

Starfish:

Lots of learning has been going on in the Starfish room. Our Letter recognition and awareness is increasing everyday through a range of fun activities. We have just loved the new car garage in our room. It has been fantastic to watch our social development in recent weeks as well. Children are encouraging each other to use their nice words and to be gentle with each other and a number of friendships are developing.

Kirsty & Anne

Seahorses:

We have introduced a Friendship wall of Fame to recognise the children who are helping and caring for their friends and the children have responded so well. It was great to hear that our School Readiness program is providing for development in all the key areas mentioned at our recent Information Night. We have recently been learning about the seasons and weather.

Michelle & Alana

FATHERS WEEK

A big thank you to all our Dads and Grandfathers who came to join us during the recent week. It was nice to have you come and see our morning activities and watch our morning greeting time. The children enjoyed having you here and we welcome any other family members to come and see what we do at any time of the year.



We're going green.....

We recently were visited by Michelle from the local environment group who collect and redistribute our recycling and other bins from our homes. We learnt about the types of things that can be recycled.

This has greatly interested our children and staff and as a result we are introducing some new resources and procedures so we can lessen our environmental impact, which is a valuable lesson in our world.

We will be introducing a worm farm, to eliminate our food scraps being in the waste bin. We are also going to have recycling baskets for paper and also for food containers.

At home, you can help be being aware of trying to reducing the amount of packaging for foods you purchase and maybe even beginning your own compost or worm farm.

We are also trying to eliminate all toxic products from our cleaning cupboards and are investigating ways we can minimise our water usage and waste. We have introduced a natural, citrus based disinfectant in our rooms for daily use to clean tables etc.

WHAT'S ON?

September 29th

Ghanna have some fun

Multicultural performance group

October 17th – Saturday 10am-2pm

Preschool Open Day

Our Centre will be open for enrolment enquiries – tell your friends and family

November 5th

4 year olds Eyesight Screening

Free eye testing by Area Health for any child aged 4 and over

December 3rd

Christmas Concert

More details to come soon.

Each room will have a performance BBQ and Family Disco 'til 8pm

Last day of 2009

Wednesday 23rd December

LUNCHBOX REMINDER....

Please remember

- We are a **peanut free zone** so please don't pack peanut butter spreads
- We would prefer chocolate, biscuits and lollies **not** be brought in as we try to encourage and support healthy eating
- **Water** is the best drink of all

THANK YOU

Thanks go to **Phillip** for bringing his Fire Brigade members and the fire engine for us on Thursday 10th of September. The children enjoyed meeting the members and looking at the fire engines and spraying the hose.

Thanks to **Colleen** for her resources she has so kindly donated to our Centre for craft and other experiences.

Thanks to the **Whitton's** for their wonderful train table and train set which they no longer were using. It has been a very popular resource in our rooms. If you have any / resources you have grown out of at home which are in good condition they would be gratefully received.

