

GENERAL NEWS

Welcome back and Happy New Year everyone. We trust that you all enjoyed a well deserved break and are feeling refreshed and ready to embrace Term1 and all that is has in store. I always find the beginning of the new year exciting, it is wonderful getting to know new families/students, introducing them to our program and its routines – so a very big welcome to you all! Our continued challenge is to provide a fun, accessible, flexible, responsive, stimulating, affordable and NQF compliant Out of School Hours Care program. To this end we will endeavour to provide an exciting and varied program throughout the year, one that ‘enhances each child’s learning and development’ (NQF Standard 1.1). Should you have any queries about our program please do not hesitate to approach a member of the OSHC team.

Towards the end of 2016 we had a very busy Term 4. We offered a variety of ongoing and engaging activities including craft, cooking, movie afternoons, treasure hunts, and outside play/games; keeping the children happily entertained. We also conducted a weekly colouring competition, trivia quizzes and a four week basketball clinic. We explored a number of weekly themes including Spring, Teacher Appreciation, Melbourne Cup, Under the Sea and Christmas. Weekly themes are often inspired by children’s requests, or influenced by dates of cultural significance and sometimes by classroom topics/excursions so as to consolidate children’s learning.

Access to ipads and the wii console was permitted in accordance with ‘Building Better Brains’ protocols. Time spent at the computer and on electronic devices is limited to ensure children engage in other games/activities/outside play during sessions. We encouraged outside play each afternoon allowing the children choice in terms of games/sports/outside activities, sometimes offering structured lessons/clinics or availing ourselves of the fun and fitness track. We continued to implement ‘Together Time’ and ‘Floor Fun’ to allow transition periods ie arrival at end of school day, and to-from afternoon tea to run more smoothly. It has been very pleasing to watch the children take ownership of these activities, often planning and running these sessions. In the process they have been demonstrating an increased confidence and developing their leadership/public speaking skills.

One of our primary aims here in OSHC (as per elements of the NQF for School Age Care) is to foster a sense of ‘belonging, being, becoming’. As such we have been implementing some fun strategies to promote these ideals. We engage in ‘About me’ and ‘Guess Who I Am’ activities (games and worksheets) and provide the opportunity for the children to share more about themselves and their achievements at together time. This has been particularly important in allowing us to get to know new students at the commencement of this school year. We have also been encouraging older students to take on monitor/peer roles and they have been enjoying the added responsibility, whilst also designating them a ‘seniors area’ of their own to enjoy. We have updated our room displays and resources to ensure all new members of the OSHC ‘tribe’ are welcomed and recognised. We continue to celebrate birthdays, acknowledge Pupil of the Week awards, Sports Awards or any other school based and external achievements.

Term 1 will see us explore topics such ‘Back to School’ ‘About Me’, Valentine’s Day’, ‘Lunar New Year’ and ‘Easter’. We will also have a continued emphasis on outside play. Research demonstrates the importance of outside play in all weather conditions. As such we will endeavour to spend some time each afternoon outdoors thus enjoying our ‘outdoor spaces’ and promoting NQF 3.2.1, allowing children to ‘engage in quality experiences in their natural environments’. We will obviously use our discretion in this matter once very hot weather arrives and will ensure all children wear hats and sunscreen (if required) and are also kept well hydrated. We seek your co-operation in sending a spare hat for your child to keep/use here in OSHC.

As mentioned, we promote a collaborative approach to each child's needs. We want to ensure that each child is supported to participate in the program. We consult teachers regarding your child's learning and development and also welcome your input to program content. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and as such you are invited to discuss your ideas directly with staff or use the suggestion book which is kept at our front desk for ease of access. (NQF standards 1.1.2 and 1.1.3).

NQF 1.1.4 states that documentation about each child's program and progress be available to families. Our weekly program is available to view online linked to Compass and Tiqbiz and prominently displayed inside the OSHC room for your information. And you are always welcome to view examples of your child's work which are kept in their portfolios which you can access at any time. You are also invited to contribute to view and contribute to our Quality Improvement Plan at any time

We will endeavour to run a structured sports activity throughout this term under the auspice of the School Sports Initiative, details are yet to be finalised, we will consult Mrs Chisholm our PE teacher in this regard and keep you informed.

On a sour note OSHC was broken in to over the school holidays and the children have been disappointed to discover that our tv, wii console and numerous games were stolen – we will endeavour to replace these and have already had a generous offer of a tv to be donated.

Donations/Community Projects.

We extend our gratitude to those families who have generously donated items to the OSHC program including craft materials, games, their time and expertise – it is greatly appreciated by us all.

For those who have given weat-bix/money for Edgar's Mission or who contributed clothing for our Indigenous friends in remote Western Australia we thank-you.

OSHC Committee:

For your information the OSHC subcommittee currently comprises the following members;

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| Sheena Cronin | (Teacher Representative) |
| Tess Morris | (OSHC Director) |
| Rebecca Trevillian | (Parent Representative) |
| Louise Bendle/Natalie Lanyon | (School Council Representative) |

These roles may change once School Council elections occur – so we shall keep you posted in this regard.

Term Dates:

Term 1 runs from 1 February to 31 March, 2017. Last day of Term will see OSHC commence early to coincide with the 2.30pm finish to the school day. There is a public holiday (Labour Day) which falls on Monday March 13, 2017..

Please note that there are occasions (eg outside play, Sporting Clinics) when staff/children are outside the OSHC room and staff are therefore unable to answer phone calls to the OSHC landline. Staff can be contacted on the OSHC mobile 0417 136 280 during these times. This also satisfies the requirement that we have access to an operating telephone for immediate communication to and from parents and emergency services, regulation 98. (National Quality Framework)

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

To ensure your spot in OSHC this term and throughout the year, we ask that all permanent booking forms are filled out and handed back to the OSHC staff a.s.a.p. Casual bookings are still available and bookings can be made either through the school office or directly with OSHC on **9876 0389**.

Bookings and any cancellations need to be made 24 hours before the required session to ensure we have appropriate catering and staff in place. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT PRESENT DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING AND THE NEED TO ADHERE TO STAFF RATIOS. Given a large intake of new students we ask that you secure a place by completing a permanent booking form to avoid disappointment.

PAYMENT OF FEES

In order to continue successfully running our program, it is essential that fees are paid. Invoices are issued each week so please check your child/children's bags. Payments can be made by credit card, cash or cheque at OSHC or the school office.

We would greatly appreciate that families with outstanding accounts pay their account. All Fee Payments go entirely into operating the service and helps ensure the continuation of the school's successful O.S.H.C. program.

HOURS AND COSTS

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| Before School Care (breakfast until 8.15am) | 7.00am-8:45am | \$11.00 |
| After School Care (afternoon tea provided) | 3:30pm-4:30pm | \$11.00 |
| | 3:30pm-6:00pm | \$22.00 |
| Early term finish (last day of term) | 2:30pm-3:30pm | \$11.00 |
| Curriculum day* | 8am-6pm | \$33.00 |
| (*dependent on student numbers) | | |

I will soon consult parents in relation to extending hours of After-School Care, with a view to finishing at 6.30pm. I will also be surveying you all to ascertain the demand for running a Curriculum Day program. Should the demand warrant (ie enough interested parents whose children attend on a regular basis and who are willing to pay increased charges) a proposal will be put to school council for approval and a new fee structure introduced accordingly.

IF YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR THE CHILDCARE BENEFIT YOU WILL NOT PAY THE FULL RATE. It makes BSC and ASC very affordable. Please remember, it is your responsibility to apply for this benefit and you may do so via the Family Assistance Office/Centrelink.

OSHC staff are:

Director: Tess

Educators: Dianne, Jess, Jenny, Jane and Rebecca.

Tess Morris.
OSHC Director

Shaun McClare.
Principal.