

GENERAL NEWS

Welcome back, how can it be that May is almost upon us? Term 1, holidays and Easter have passed, where did that time go? It is always fun to watch Term 1 unfold and see new students and preppies settle in, grow in confidence and start to unveil their many, varied and unique qualities to us. And so we are back, refreshed and ready to embrace a busy and productive Term 2. Our continued challenge is to provide a fun, accessible, flexible, responsive, stimulating, affordable and NQF compliant Out of School Hours Care program. I am confident with the assistance of my Educators, input from students, parents and the wider school community we can deliver just that.

As always we strive to provide an exciting and varied program throughout the year, one that 'enhances each child's learning and development' (NQF Standard 1.1). Our weekly themes are planned in response to students areas of interest, influenced by dates of cultural significance or sometimes mirror classroom topics so as to consolidate children's learning. Term 1 topics included themes such as 'Back to School' 'About Me', 'Valentine's Day', 'Lunar New Year' and 'Easter'

Whilst our service has a structured weekly program which often includes craft, cooking, movie afternoons, treasure hunts, and outside play/games; we also endeavour to be flexible and fluid in our response to the children's needs, ensuring that they have freedom of choice and can participate in a range of experiences (NQF Area 3). We have a wide range of resources/games/equipment at the children's disposal allowing for play based/spontaneous learning to occur.

We allow access to electronic equipment in accordance with 'Building Better Brains' protocols. Please be assured that time spent at the computer, on ipads or the wii console is strictly monitored and limited to ensure children engage in other games/activities/outside play during sessions. Outside play is strongly encouraged each afternoon. The format of outside play varies but often includes games/sporting activities, structured sports clinics or availing ourselves of the fun and fitness track. We continue to implement 'Together Time' and 'Floor Fun' to allow for smooth transitions from one activity to another. Some of our students are actively asking to run/facilitate these sessions. Watching the children plan, gather resources and deliver these group sessions has been pleasing. They are developing important life skills including respectful interactions, leadership qualities, public speaking, an awareness of group dynamics and inclusiveness.

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'. We wish to ensure all children are supported and welcomed in our program, we endeavour to build meaningful relationships with the children and are keen to maintain our rating of "Exceeding" in this area. We will continue to use fun games/strategies to promote these ideals. Children's individuality will be recognised and embraced. We will continue to acknowledge birthdays, dates of special/cultural/religious significance and promote mutual respect and inclusiveness. Pupil of the Week awards, Sports Awards or any other school based and external achievements will be celebrated.

This Term we explore topics including Earth Day, ANZAC Day, Mother's Day, Sorry Day/Reconciliation Week. We will continue our focus on outside play. Research demonstrates the importance of outside play in all weather conditions. We will use our discretion on colder afternoons and obviously ask children to wear jumpers, you are welcome to send along jackets for the children if you so desire.

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. Please feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with staff directly 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

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.

We have had two families external to OSHC donate televisions. We thank the **Bradley's** who have generously given us a wii console/contollers/games, the **Barnes** family have also lent us wii games, whilst the **Bendle's** have given us a fabulous play kitchen and assorted accessories which is already proving very popular.

I would also like to acknowledge a very kind donation made to us by **Simon Ross** and the **Sheen Group** (organised by Isabel). We have been given 30 chairs to use in the OSHC room. These chairs replace our older chairs which were dated and in many instances too small for some of our older children. So to Simon and the Sheen Group we offer MEGA-THANKS. (These chairs were originally being advertised for sale, however, when I explained they were for our program they were given to use instead).

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

After the misfortune of the break-in and thefts last term it has been lovely to have such a wonderful/positive response by many individuals.

OSHC Committee:

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

Sheena Cronin	(Teacher Representative)
Tess Morris	(OSHC Director)
Rebecca Trevillian	(Parent Representative)
Cherie Mountney	
Natalie Lanyon	(School Council Representative)

Term Dates:

Term 2 runs from 18 April, 2017 to 30 June, 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 (ANZAC Day) which falls on Tuesday 25, 2017 and another, the Queen's Birthday on Monday 12th June, 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

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)		

Having considered feedback from parents it is not feasible to introduce a 6.30pm finish so our closing time will remain 6pm. ***

Just as a side note may I confirm that we do not run a school holiday program because numbers simply do not justify the time and expense involved. We are, as always, happy to advise about other local programs runs in the area.

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, and Jane.

Tess Morris.
OSHC Director

Shaun McClare.
Principal.