



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Director's Message – Elizabeth Russo

Hello and welcome to our final Newsletter for 2014!

The children have been practicing very hard for our end of year concerts and are very excited at the prospect of performing for their families. If you haven't already got your tickets for the Happy Hippos and Wise Owls concert on **Friday 12th December** at **William Clarke College**, call into the office and see Chris or Megan. Remember, admission is by ticket only.

A very big thankyou to all families for attending the Gumnut Babies and Busy Bees Cuddles and Carols on 3rd and 4th December. The children had a wonderful time and the weather held off just long enough for them to enjoy a sausage and some outside time.

Also, huge thankyou to the families and friends who attended the Uncle Pete's/Gracelands Family and Friends shopping evening. It was an enormous success and the Centre received \$1,000 in resources for the children to enjoy. We will definitely be repeating this event in 2015!

We have been in discussion with the Hills Shire Council and various local Politicians in regard to the safety of Arnold and Memorial Avenue. I'm sure you are all aware that over the coming years Memorial Avenue will be widened. However, in the more immediate future (5th to 12th December) the drain and reeds on the corner of Arnold and Memorial Avenue will be dug out to ensure the visibility of all our families will not be obstructed when turning out of Arnold Avenue. For more information please refer to the letter attached to your email.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to our children that will be going on to big school next year. We will miss you all and wish you all the very best as you embark on the next phase of your education. We wish all our families a safe and relaxing Christmas break and a happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you again in 2015.



Gracelands Early Education Centre

Operating Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00am – 6:30pm

Address

7 Arnold Avenue
Kellyville NSW 2155

Phone

(02) 9629 5499

Email

admin@gracelands.com.au
elizabeth@gracelands.com.au

Centre Director

Elizabeth Russo

Nominated Supervisor

Megan Harbour

Management

Joe Russo
Christine Thomas

Fee Payment Options

Direct Debit
Credit Card

Statements are emailed every Monday and payments are debited every Thursday.

A late fee surcharge of 10% will be applied to all outstanding fees.

Credit Card payments incur a surcharge of 1.5%.

Nominated Supervisor's Message –

Megan Harbour

Hi families!

It's hard to believe its December and Christmas is just around the corner. It is a very exciting time for us at the Centre with the festiveness in full swing. We thoroughly enjoyed our Cuddles and Carol's afternoons for our Gumnut Babies and Busy Bees and are eagerly awaiting our upcoming Happy Hippo and Wise Owl Concert and Graduation, which we have been practising our little hearts out for!

This past year has been filled with lots of surprises....our lovely Charmaine is expecting her second little miss in a matter of weeks now and we wish her all the best during this exciting time. We also welcomed Christine to the office team who has delved head first to assist with keeping administrative tasks and systems under control.

Over the Christmas/New Year break the Nursery and Toddler yard will undergo a renovation with the grassed areas updated to synthetic turf. This should enable the yard to be more thoroughly and effectively utilised by our youngest little people as it will maintain a safe and dry area in any weather. Plans are also in the woodwork for our larger Prekindy and Preschool yard to have a make-over but this is a little way off just now.

A final reminder, the Centre Christmas and New Year closure period will be from Wednesday 24th December to Monday 5th January so our last day is Tuesday 23rd December 2014 and our first day back is Tuesday 6th January 2015. There will be no fees charged for this period and no debit payments scheduled.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back, bright eyed and busy tailed in the New Year....2015!

Kind Regards
Megan ☺



Dates for the Diary

December

1st Milkshake and Smoothie Day

3rd Gumnut Babies
Cuddles and Carols

4th Busy Bees
Cuddles and Carols

12th Happy Hippos and Wise Owls
Christmas Concert and Graduation

8th – 19th Christmas Dress Up Week

22nd – 23rd Water Play Days



*To all who celebrate their
birthdays in November &
December:-*

Oliver Madison William

Jackson Koby Cameron

Isaac Emme Imogen Logan

Jackson D Mitchell Claire

Olivia Elly Joshua Daniella

Mason Edward Gursahaz

Brandon Gianluca Ethan

Catherine Daniel Bailey Sarin

Tehya Chen Peter Penelope

Swaraj Annabelle Poppy

Abby Zack

What's Been Happening

- ❖ **Run for the Hills** – On Sunday 23rd November Team Gracelands donned their running uniforms and participated in the annual Run for The Hills Charity Event. Whilst a group of the girls slogged it out running, Mr Joe was volunteering at the water stations!
- ❖ **Uncle Pete's Toys Evening** – Tuesday 25th November Gracelands hosted our first Uncle Pete's Toys Families and Friends evening. The evening was a huge success with family and friends shopping up a storm for the Give and Take charity and Gracelands.
- ❖ **Melbourne Cup Day** – Fascinators came out for some Melbourne Cup pizzazz....There were winners and losers but there was also a whole lot of fun to be had!



- ❖ **Water Play Day** – The water troughs and sprinklers came out for some water play fun in early November. The children had a ball...so much so we will hold two more Water Play days on our last days for 2014.



- ❖ **Uniform and Lunch Box Weeks** – The last two weeks of November were focused on our Wise Owls heading off to big school next year. We held a uniform week and lunch box week to prepare ourselves for the new experiences we will discover as big school kids!



BOOKINGS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR 2015

Limited positions currently available:

Nursery – Waiting list

Toddlers – Waiting list

Pre-Kindy – Waiting list

Pre-School – Waiting list

Please see Miss Megan if you are interested in booking any **CASUAL** days for your child/ren.

MAKE-UP DAYS FOR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

If your child is booked in for a Public Holiday you are able to book a make-up day subject to availability, your account must be up to date and the make-up day taken within an eight week period of the Public Holiday.

If your child is booked in our service 5 days a week, the Public Holiday will be processed at holiday half rate.

Please see Miss Megan to book in your make-up day!

House Keeping

- ✓ **Breakfast** – is served from 7am. Gumnut Babies are served breakfast in the Nursery Room and the Busy Bees, Happy Hippos and Wise Owls in the Toddler Room. The last seating is at 7:25am to ensure a smooth transition to each classroom at 7:30am. Rice Bubbles and Weetbix are served with a variety of milks. If you would like your child to eat breakfast please ensure they have arrived no later than 7:25am.
- ✓ **Appropriate clothing** – Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Singlet straps are not permitted as they are not adequate sun protection for little people's shoulders.
- ✓ **Give and Take Donations** – Give and Take have a Grocery Donation basket in the foyer. Donations are strictly limited to food items only.
- ✓ **Birthday Cakes** – Please remember if you are **ORDERING** a birthday cake from the kitchen to provide one week's notice. Cakes cost \$5.50, which is paid to the office. Please remember if you are **SUPPLYING** a birthday cake to deliver the cake with a list of ingredients (no nuts) to the kitchen. Please ensure you supply enough cake or cupcakes for 30 serves.
- ✓ **Holiday Half Fees** – Minimum two weeks written notice is required to request the discount on your nominated days. Please note, for Holiday Half Fee rates to be applied your account needs to be balanced or in credit. The notice period for Half fee Holiday Rates to be taken in December and January is four weeks.
- ✓ **Drink Bottles** – Thank you for taking your child's drink bottles home each day to clean and refill with fresh WATER. Please ensure all drink bottles have a lid or can be closed for hygienic protection and are clearly labelled.
- ✓ **Signing in/out** - It is very important that you sign your child in and out every day. When your child is absent due to sickness or holidays you **MUST** sign for that absence. Missing signatures will be reported to DEEWR.

Educator Appreciation Awards

We like to highlight the achievements of outstanding staff members. The team member is rewarded with a box of chocolates and a special trophy to say "thank you" and keep up the great work!

Congratulations to:

★Miss Julie★

For caring about the children and being so flexible in accommodating their dietary needs, and always doing it with a smile!



Policies & Procedures – Enrolment Policy

Our service accepts enrolments of children aged between 0-6 years.

Enrolments will be accepted providing:

- The maximum daily attendance does not exceed the licensed capacity of the Service.
- A vacancy is available.
- Child ratios for groups are maintained.
- Priority of access guidelines are met, as set by DEEWR.

When a family has indicated their interest in enrolling their child into our Education and Care Service the following will occur:

- A tour of our Education and Care Service will be organised and conducted. During this tour, the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educator conducting the tour will give the family information about the Service including, but not limited to, programming ethos, meals, incursions, excursions, inclusion, fees, policies, our status as a Sun Smart Service and the responsibility our Service has to ensure Sun Safe practices, Regulations for our state and the Assessment and Rating process under the National Quality Standards, signing in and out procedure, the National Quality Framework, room routines, Educator and other staff qualifications, introduction of Educators/Staff in the room the child will be starting in and Educator/staff and parent communication. Families are also invited to ask any questions or raise any concerns they may have.
- Families are given the Service's Parent/Guardian Parent Handbook to read, and are invited to ask questions and provide feedback or suggestions.
- Discussions are held between office staff and families regarding availability of days, a start date and tailoring an orientation process to suit the needs of the family and child.
- Families are informed of the Priority of Access Policy, and have their position assessed as to how they place within this system. Any matters that are sensitive of nature, such as discussing a child's medical needs or Court Orders, will be discussed privately with the Approved Provider/ Nominated Supervisor at this time. We request families begin to fill out enrolment forms, and provide us with background information so we can accommodate their needs in the Education and Care Service from the first day of their enrolment.
- Should a child speak English as a second language, we request that families provide us with some key words in the language the child speaks at this time so Educators/Staff can assist in meeting the child's needs.
- Families also need to contact the Family Assistance Office (Centrelink) to have their eligibility for Child Care Benefit assessed. If these details are available, we will complete the child's formal enrolment. Should a family still need to access this information, we will complete an informal enrolment until these details are finalised.
- As per our Child Orientation Policy, families will be invited to bring their child into the Education and Care Service at a time that suits them so the child and family can familiarise themselves with the environment.
- Before the child begins their first day with us, the Education and Care Service must have all required documentation for the child including complete Enrolment Form, Panadol Authorisation Form, All About Me Form, copies of the child's Birth Certificate and Immunisation Register. The child will not be accepted into the Service without this being completed.

Other information about our Education and Care Service's enrolment includes:

- We will try and accommodate families so that children from the same family can attend our Service. This will be carried out in line with our obligations under the Priority of Access Policy.
- We encourage all families to consider immunising their children. Please see our Immunisation Policy for further information.

Recipe...

REINDEER FOOD

Ingredients

- 1 bag rolled oats
- Red food colouring
- Green food colouring
- Red glitter
- Green glitter

Method

Divide the oats equally between two bowls. Add red food colouring to the first bowl and mix well. Add green food colouring to the second bowl and mix well. Add corresponding glitter to each bowl and mix.

Combine both mixtures and toss gently leaving sections of each colour.

Pour into a bowl, garnish with carrot and leave next to Santa's milk and cookies for the reindeer!





THE GUMNUT BABIES

Hi Mummies and Daddies,

Welcome to December and our last Gumnut Babies newsletter for the year. December just seems to have come around so quickly and the festive season is upon us. You will see that our room is filled with Christmas craft that your children have been busy creating and we apologise for the glitter, but nothing makes their creations sparkle that little bit more than lots of glitter.

Over the past few weeks we have been getting all of our Gumnut Babies moving up to the Toddler room ready for their transition to their new room next year. We have really been focusing on group times, hand washing and teaching them how to identify their belongings. A few parents have mentioned to me that their children have to go and wash their hands before they eat lunch or dinner at home; this is a great sign as they are able to identify the importance of good hygiene practises which we have been teaching them.

Just a quick reminder to let you know that your children's craft folders have lots of craft in them to go home, would you please collect those as there will be plenty more to go home in the next few weeks with all of their Christmas craft.

We would like to thank you all for a wonderful year and hope you have seen your children grow and learn during their time in the Gumnut Babies room, we wish them all the best of luck as Busy Bee's next year.

To all of our parents with children staying in the Gumnut Babies room we hope that 2015 is a bigger and better year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your break and holidays and we look forward to seeing you back at Gracelands on Tuesday 06 January, 2015.

Best Wishes,

Miss Judy, Miss Shannon, Miss Ashley, Miss Shadi, Miss Bianca, Miss Danielle & Miss Shealee.



Nursery fun and games!



THE BUSY BEES

Hello all!

What a fantastic year of change! Miss Maddie, Miss Sarah, and Miss Monika are very proud of all the Busy Bee children and their achievements throughout the year.

Thank you to Miss Kate and Miss Molly for their extra love and care that has been greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Miss Liz, Mr Joe, Miss Megan, Miss Charmaine and Miss Chris for entrusting us with great confidence to create an environment of positivity.

To the Busy Bee parents we thank you for your patience and cooperation, and for allowing us as Educators into your little one's life.

Lastly thank you to all the Busy Bee children for showing us patience, happiness, imagination and love. For all the Busy Bee children moving up to Happy Hippos we wish you loads of luck as you embark on the next exciting chapter of your lives.

We wish the children and their families a wonderful Christmas filled with happiness and love and a safe New Year of endless discoveries and possibilities.

Love Miss Maddie, Miss Sarah and Miss Monika



Busy Bees being "busy bees"...





THE HAPPY HIPPOS

Hello Happy Hippo Families!

We cannot believe that it's already the end of the year!!

During November we've been very busy with our dinosaur project. This started as a small group interest and after a short while it ballooned into an interest of all the Hippos! We talked about the various dinosaur names, using complex pronunciation to say the tricky words and we chose some of our favourite dinosaurs; the T-Rex, the Triceratops, the Stegosaurus, the Pterodactyl, the Velociraptor, the Ankylosaurus and the Brachiosaurus. We looked closely at what makes them different. We know that some of them eat meat, while the others eat plants. Then we created some fantastic artworks and hung them on display. Recently, we have been so excited digging in the sandpit and finding dinosaur bones! So far we've collected 28 of 41 bones! It's certainly kept us busy!

As December has approached, the Hippos have really begun to show a strong interest in Christmas. We have already started wearing Christmas shirts and bringing in singing reindeers! At Kindy we've been working hard practising our Christmas songs. We can't wait for the concert to come!

We would like to remind you that show and tell finished for the year on Friday 28 November. We will be so busy during December and will need to get ready for the Wise Owl room! Please check the news box and take home any items that you may have left in there.

Also, we do not mind what your child/ren wears for the concert, as long as they wear Christmas clothes or colours. They can wear Santa hats, reindeer ears, anything they would like to have fun dancing in!

We are all looking forward to the last month in the Happy Hippo room.

Miss Bec, Miss Bee, Miss Kat and Miss Susan



Happy Hippo
Projects



THE WISE OWLS

Dear Wise Owl children and families,

I cannot believe I am writing the last blurb for the year. The time has absolutely flown.

The end of the year is in full swing with many children heading off for their big school orientations, lunchbox week, uniform week and Christmas concert practice.

Our home corner area has been transformed into a school. The children are enjoying sitting down at desks, writing, reading and dressing up, imagining themselves at their big school.

Towards the end of the year, homework books and news will be finishing. As soon as your child has completed the dot-dot 1-20 sheet, they can keep their folder at home. Well done to all the Wise Owls who have finished and participated in homework.

News ceased the same week as lunchbox week started. This group time has been replaced with the children's Christmas concert practice.

Speaking of the concert, the Wise Owls are very excited to put on a great show for all of you. This year the class is divided into five lines of ten children ensuring that they have plenty of space to dance. These five lines are distinguished by colour and a note has been left in your parent pocket informing you of your child's colour. We ask you to kindly dress your child in a shirt, dress and/or shorts of that colour. If it has a Christmas picture on it then that is fine as long as the majority of the shirt is the colour allocated to them.

We are looking forward to the end of the year and it will be here before we know it. I would like to take this opportunity to say that it's been a pleasure to teach every one of the Wise Owl children this year and we wish them all the best in big school and beyond. Make sure you come back and visit!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Alaina, Miss Tammy, Miss Fiona, Miss Kelly, Miss Trudi and Miss Nikki



Wise Owls preparing for their
move to big school

