



## SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### Director's Message – Elizabeth Russo

Welcome to the September/October newsletter.

The festive season is just around the corner so please reserve these dates in your calendars for our not to be missed End of Year Christmas Concerts:

Gumnut Babies: Cuddles and Carols, Thursday 4 December  
Busy Bees: Cuddles and Carols, Friday 5 December

Happy Hippos and Wise Owls Christmas Concert and Wise Owls Graduation: Friday 12 December at William Clark College

In August Gracelands played host to the Federal Assistant Minister for Education Susan Ley. After touring the centre Ms Ley enjoyed a special afternoon tea with the children. September saw a great turnout of Dads for our Father's Day BBQ and after a minor shower in the morning, the weather was great! The children always enjoy having their parents visiting the centre.

As always, at this time of year we like to remind our parents of the Centre's Sun Safety Policy. We strongly support our "No hat, play in the shade" Policy so please ensure that your child(ren) have a wide brimmed or back flap sun hat every day.

The re-enrolment confirmations for 2015 have now been sent out. Please advise Megan as soon as possible if you would like to make any changes to your offer. Also, please remember that during December and January we require four weeks' notice to cease care and also for holiday notifications.

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed Christine as the Centre's new Office Manager. Chris is working really hard to try and remember the names of all of our children and parents!

## Gracelands Early Education Centre

### Operating Hours

Monday – Friday  
7:00am – 6:30pm

### Address

24 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

### 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!

Hasn't the year just flown by...it's hard to believe it is October already!

Lots of fun and exciting things planned for the upcoming months ahead...we will have our Cuddles and Carols for our Gumnut Babies and Busy Bees on separate days this year as it is so popular it becomes difficult to divide the time between the 2 rooms when organised on the same day. We also have Our Happy Hippo and Wise Owl Christmas Concert and Wise Owl graduation on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at William Clarke College so pencil this in the diary. Our Wise Owls heading off to school next year are beginning their big school orientations and they have now ceased sleeping in the Wise Owls (unless they need it!). The Wise Owls school wall is looking amazing! If you have requested January care for your school leaver you will be advised as the days become available – availability is based on holidays and absences indicated by enrolled families.

For your information and planning ahead for the Christmas and New Year period...the Centre's last day for 2014 will be Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. We will reopen on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Fees will not be charged for the Centre's closure period.

We have completed reenrolments for 2015 and you will have received a confirmation slip in your pocket outlining the days and room your child will be in next year. All new rooms and enrolled days for 2015 will start the week beginning Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. If you are planning to take holidays outside of the Centre closure period and would like the Holiday Half Fee to be applied you need to provide 4 weeks written notice for the December / January period. Please also remember your Holiday Half Rate is determined as 4 weeks pro rata per calendar year. Families with new siblings starting at Gracelands in 2015 will have received an email with the enrolment forms and Bond / Admin fee information. Please ensure you return these as soon as possible. We will coordinate orientation play sessions during December.

The Annual Child Care Week Awards Presentation Dinner was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September and Gracelands was nominated as finalists for 2 awards; Child-Led Learning and Inclusion. Whilst we didn't win we were 1 of only 5 centres in each category to be nominated as finalists nationally, so we were so proud to be nominated and our Educators had a great night out at the awards gala dinner. You can see the photos from the night below and in this newsletter.

Kind Regards  
Megan ☺



## Dates for the Diary

### October

3<sup>rd</sup> NRL Grand Final – Jersey Day

7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Diversity Week

14<sup>th</sup> Crazy Hair Day

20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Children's Week

27<sup>th</sup> Pink Ribbon Day

31<sup>st</sup> National Bandana Day

31<sup>st</sup> Halloween



To all who celebrate their  
birthdays in September &  
October:-

Winter Cooper Lacie

Eva Dylan Sienna

Elijah Alba Ashton

Riven Mikayla Isabell  
Zachary

Ella Cadel Tommy Ava

Sanjeev Aiden Matthew

Ethan Shanae Essa

Aysa Riley Cameron

Jonathan Allegra

## What's Been Happening

- ❖ **Child Care Awards Presentation Dinner** – The Australian Child Care Awards dinner was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Twenty four of our Gracelands Educators attended the evening to celebrate Gracelands nominated as finalists. The photos below speak for themselves!



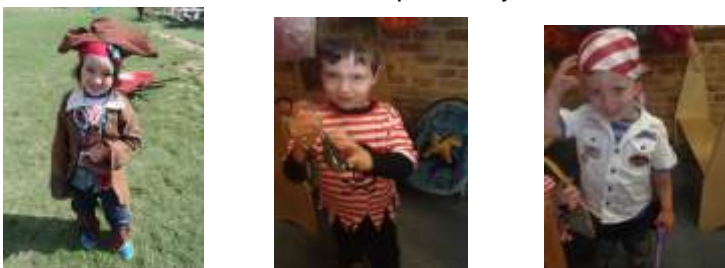
- ❖ **Father's Day BBQ** – On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September, daddies from all rooms joined their littlies for a BBQ and some daddy fun! There was a photo booth set up for daddy photos, some kiddies face painting by Shayne Taylor (Cameron from the Wise Owls mum) and some crazy antics in the big playground involving shaving cream and daddies!!! What a blast we all had!



- ❖ **Footy Colours Day** – National Footy Colours day was a hit with jerseys from all football codes being worn across Gracelands!



- ❖ **International talk and dress like a pirate day** – “Argh!!” Pirates were a plenty on 19<sup>th</sup> September as we dressed up for International dress and talk like a pirate day!



## BOOKINGS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR 2014

**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!

## Staff Corner

- Welcome to Miss Christine, our new Office Manager!
- Our Gracelands Educators attended Kids and Traffic: Out and About: Safe Journeys with Kids in-service training workshop on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September.
- We have a few staff who have changed rooms so below is a brief overview of where you can find your favourite staff members:

**Joseph** (Owner)

**Elizabeth** (Director) **AP**

**Megan** (Nominated Supervisor – Bachelor of Education [Early Childhood], First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis) **NS**

**Charmaine** (Assistant Supervisor – Advanced Diploma, Asthma & Anaphylaxis) **CS**

Christine (Admin Assistant – Studying Certificate 3)

Julie (Cook – Commercial Cookery Certificate, Food Handlers, Nutrition & Menu Planning, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

### **Nursery [Gumnut Babies] 0-2 years 24 children (7 staff)**

**Judy** (Co Room Leader – Diploma, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis, **ECT WAIVER**) **CS**

Shannon (Certificate 3, Studying Diploma, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Ashley (Certificate 3, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Danielle (Certificate 3, Studying Diploma, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Shealee (Certificate 3, First Aid)

Shadi (Certificate 3, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Bianca S (Diploma, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis) **CS**

### **Toddler [Busy Bees] 2-3 years 24 children (3 staff)**

**Maddison** (Certificate 3, Studying Diploma, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Monika (Diploma, First Aid) **CS**

Sarah (Diploma, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis) **CS**

### **Prekindy [Happy Hippos] 3-4 years 25 children (3 staff)**

**Rebecca** (Room Leader – Masters of Teaching [Birth-5 years], Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies [Child & Family], First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

**CS**

**Katarina** (Diploma, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis) **CS**

Bianca I (Certificate 3, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

### **Preschool [Wise Owls] 4-5 years 26 children (3 staff)**

**Alaina** (Room Leader – Masters of Teaching [Birth-5 years], Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies [Child & Family], First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

**CS EL**

**Tammy** (Diploma, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis) **CS**

Fiona (Certificate 3, Studying Diploma, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

### **Prekindy [Happy Hippos] & Preschool [Wise Owls] Support Staff**

Trudi (Bachelor of Nursing [Registered Nurse – Midwifery & Baby Health Care], Studying Certificate 3, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Kelly (Diploma, Studying Bachelor of Education [Early Childhood], **ECT WAIVER**) **CS**

Susan (Studying Certificate 3, First Aid / Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Nicole (Certificate 3, Studying Diploma, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

### **Trainee Float**

Molly (Trainee – Studying Certificate 3, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

Kate (Trainee – Studying Certificate 3, First Aid/Asthma & Anaphylaxis)

## 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 Kate★

For being a team player and bringing so much to her role as Room Float!



## 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.
- ✓ **Donations** - Thank you we have been inundated with a variety of donations from pre loved toys in great condition, books, puzzles, DVDs, scrap paper, empty boxes for craft and news papers to plastic bags! All donations can be dropped off in the office and we will distribute them accordingly across the Centre.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Closing Doors** – Please remember to close and or lock (if applicable) each door upon entering and exiting the service. We kindly ask all parents to be mindful of slamming the foyer gate closed and ensuring that all children are not climbing or riding the gate as it can cause wear, damages and is unsafe.
- ✓ **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.

## Kitchen

Miss Julie's wrap up from the Kitchen!

Miss Julie has returned from her trip to Vegas and Hawaii! We missed her while she was away and since her return she has been cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

During her break the vegetable gardens were re-sown and the new crops have been growing in abundance. Asparagus, celery and lettuce have been coming out of the gardens on a daily basis with so much we have been refrigerating it! The chickens have been laying 6 eggs a day and these have been used in some lovely cooking experiences with the children of late.

A quick reminder that if your child's allergies change – i.e. they have outgrown them or they have developed a new allergy please speak with Megan in the office to confirm in writing so we can ensure our records are updated accordingly.

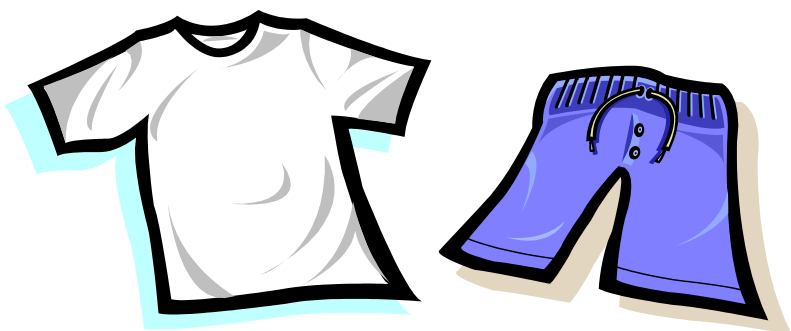


## Policies & Procedures –

### Clothing Policy

#### Children's clothing:

- Children should be dressed in clothes which allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them using equipment while at play.
- Clothing should also allow easy access for toileting i.e. elasticised trousers, track pants, shorts - instead of buttons, zips, belts etc.
- Children will be encouraged to use aprons for messy play and art experiences to protect clothing. For this reason it is important to not send the children in their best clothes.
- Children should be appropriately protected from the sun during outdoor play- please refer to sun safety policy for details on appropriate hats and clothing.
- Children's clothing should accommodate weather conditions i.e. be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating, and warm enough for cold weather – including outdoor play. At all times educators/staff will monitor children to ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather conditions.
- Children should have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns i.e. thongs, clogs or backless shoes have a trip factor and do not allow children to use equipment safely.
- Comfortable and non restrictive clothing is important at sleep time to promote your child's comfort at this time of the day.
- The Service will maintain a collection of suitable spare clothing should it be required.
- All clothing and belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's name.



## Recipe...

### CHICKEN AND ZUCCHINI PIKELETS

Makes 24

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- ½ cup self-raising flour, sifted
- ¼ cup reduced fat grated tasty cheese
- 1 medium zucchini, grated
- 70g cooked chicken, diced
- 1 ¼ cups skim milk
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- Olive oil cooking spray
- ½ cup plain low-fat yoghurt
- 1 tbs finely chopped fresh chives

#### Method

Combine flours and cheese in a large bowl. Make a well in centre. Combine zucchini, chicken, milk and eggs in a large jug. Add egg mixture to flour mixture. Stir until combined.

Lightly spray a non-stick frying pan with oil and heat over medium heat. Drop 1 heaped tablespoon of batter into pan. Repeat to make 6 pikelets.

Cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until bubbles start to form on the surface. Turn and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until golden and cooked through. Cool on a wire rack. Repeat with remaining batter to make 24 pikelets..

Combine yoghurt and chives in a small bowl. Serve pikelets with yoghurt mixture..

## Community Information & Articles

### Cerebral Palsy Alliance - Steptember

During September the Gracelands Educators participated in “**Steptember**”. We donned our pedometers and aimed high – to take 10,000 steps per day.

The **Steptember** charity event is run by Cerebral Palsy Alliance and challenges people to take 10,000 steps a day for 28 days straight in, yes you guessed it, the month of September.

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is an umbrella term that refers to a group of disorders affecting a person’s ability to move. It is a permanent life-long condition, but generally does not worsen over time. It is due to damage to the developing brain either during pregnancy or shortly after birth.

CP is the most common physical disability in childhood and affects people in different ways. It can affect body movement, muscle control, muscle coordination, muscle tone, reflex, posture and balance.

For more details go to [www.cerebralpalsy.org.au](http://www.cerebralpalsy.org.au)



## What you need to know...

### MUNCH AND MOVE

Eating fruit and vegetables will help your child grow strong and healthy. Here are some tips to get your child to eat fruit and veggies!

Cut fruit into finger pieces

Offer a range of vegetables to try

Offer the fruit and vegetables in different ways such as raw, sliced, mashed, baked or grilled

Get them to try small amounts of dried fruit

Offer fruits and vegetables your child already enjoys

Put fruit on breakfast cereals

Make smoothies with frozen or fresh fruits

Snack on corn cobs

Put salad on sandwiches

Eat plenty of fruits yourself

Grow some vegetables in a garden and let your child look after them



## THE GUMNUT BABIES

Hi Mummies and Daddies,

Welcome to our beautiful spring weather which has allowed us to be outside for longer. Our Gumnut Babies are really enjoying the extra-long play days outside. Considering we had so much time inside during winter and the 3 weeks of rain they are loving the spring air. It would be great if you could please dress your children in comfortable play clothes for outside, this makes it easier for them to move around when they play. A jacket for the morning arrivals and evening departures is great, this will be taken off when they play outside if it's very warm. Please make sure to dress your child in a top with sleeves for sun protection. It's also important that you bring their drink bottle full of fresh water each day. This will be replenished throughout the day, during the warm days your children's drink bottles are being refilled with fresh water about 2 to 3 times a day. Just a reminder that your children's bags do need to go home every day, your children do share lockers with other children so it's important that the lockers are not being occupied with your child's bag if they are not in attendance.

As we approach October we begin preparing all of our 2 year-olds who are going to move to the Busy Bee's next year. This starts with no more bibs during meal times, no more lids on sipper cups, we begin to encourage them to use the bathroom to wash their hands with soap and water and teach them more about their own personal hygiene. We start to walk from the Nursery Room to the Toddler Room to make them familiar with the hallway, where their new lockers will be and generally showing them around their new room for next year. Toilet training is practised in the Toddler Room. However our toilet training procedure in the Gumnut Babies room has changed, so please feel free to speak to us if you are planning to begin toilet training.

We have lots happening in October, so please remember to read your calendar of events which has already been emailed through to you. If you have any questions regarding your child's preparation for their move to the Toddler room, or any general queries please do not hesitate to speak to us.

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!

So here we are at the beginning of October, how quickly the year is passing!

I'm sure you will have noticed as you drop off and collect your child(ren) that our dinosaur feet have changed to fairy feet! The Busy Bees are now enthusiastically engaged in making a fairy garden and house. If you have any materials that will help us with this project please feel free to bring them in.

The Munch and Move program continues to promote healthy eating and physical activity amongst the children and with the warmer weather well and truly on the way we can now spend more time outside in the fresh air. Please don't forget to update the clothing in your child's bag to accommodate the warmer weather.

As we head towards the end of the year some of our Busy Bees will be moving up to the Happy Hippo's room. If you are experiencing problems with toilet training in readiness for this transition please make the staff aware. If you haven't already done so, pick up a toilet training pack from on top of the lockers outside the Busy Bees room. It is important that children are toilet trained before they can make this move as the Happy Hippo's room is not equipped for nappy changes.

We are looking forward to another busy, fun filled month so please check the Calendar of Events to make sure you don't miss anything.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to any of our Educators.

Miss Maddison, Miss Sarah, Miss Monika, Miss Kate & Miss Molly.



Busy Bees being "busy bees"...







# THE HAPPY HIPPOS

Hello Happy Hippo Families!

What a busy, busy month the Happy Hippos have had!

After the animals project we embarked on a project about books. This stemmed from the book fair where we were so excited seeing all the new books in our foyer. We decided to do the book study on the Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler books, starting with 'The Gruffalo!' All of the Happy Hippos became so interested in who the Gruffalo was and what his characteristics were. The rhyming words of the story allowed the children to predict events in the story and helped them feel as though they were reading it too. We talked about what an author does and what an Illustrator does and we looked at the components of a book such as the spine, the blurb, the title and the direction of print. During our book study we have now continued on with what happens next. We have analysed the similarities and differences in 'The Gruffalo's Child', 'Stick Man' and 'Tabby McTat'; we became so excited to see some similar characters like the fox, the mouse and the owl in the other stories and we were really excited to see the Gruffalo hiding amongst the scenery!

Have a look on the wall to see some fantastic artworks the Hippos have done throughout our book study!

The Hippos have also been practising our calendar every morning! Hopefully you would have heard them singing the days of the week song or the months of the year song at home. We are also learning about the seasons, the dates and the weather! We have really enjoyed our calendar times.

## A Few Reminders

- Can you please start to swap over the spare clothes in your child's bag from winter to summer. We have been spending more time outside and are beginning to engage in water play. When we have needed to change clothes we have only had winter ones to use. We would also like to remind you to place sunscreen on your child when signing them in. The sunscreen will be next to the sign in/out folder when outdoors.
- We would also like to encourage you to please keep an eye on when it is your child's Show and Tell day. There is a sign on the front and the back of the door, as well as on the programming wall. It is really hard for us to fit children in on days that aren't theirs as we end up with lots of children on one day and the group time goes for too long. Can you please ensure that toys stay at home unless it is your Show and Tell day or it is a cuddly item.

We look forward to the last few months of the year as Hippos! Christmas is fast approaching and we are already getting excited about Santa!!

Miss Bec, Miss Bee, Miss Kat and Miss Susan



*Happy Hippos have been learning about the calendar and weather.*



# THE WISE OWLS

Dear Wise Owl children and families,

Can you believe that we are already at the end of September?! It is crazy how fast the time is going by.

With our completion of rest time, we have started a learning discussion and project about 'Big school' as soon your little one will be off to orientations at their school. This discussion includes finding out which, if any of their friends will be joining them in their new school. We will learn about different aspects of school such as the school emblem, school song, lollipop ladies, canteen, little and big lunch and the list continues. If there is anything you would like to add to our discussion or feel is very important for the children to know then please let one of us know and we can add it to our list of discussion topics. Getting your child prepared for the transition is crucial to their confidence and willingness to start next year. Start talking about it with them too as you drive past their school and discuss the responsibilities they will have when they start attending next year.

Unfortunately we have had an influx of toys being brought to the classroom. I'd like to kindly ask you to encourage your child to leave them at home (not in their bags) as toys are getting lost or causing conflicts in the room. Objects should only be brought on their news day and left in the news box. On the topic of news, many children have begun forgetting to bring in an item to discuss. "Talking news" does not engage the child on the mat as much as news that involves something that your child is interested in and comes from their home. It gives your child a better chance to discuss, describe and extend their verbal and social skills when they have something to talk about with their peers.

If you have any queries or concerns leading into the end of the year, then please do not hesitate to come and chat to any of the staff about it.

Miss Alaina, Miss Tammy, Miss Fiona, Miss Kelly, Miss Nicole, Miss Trudi & Miss Susan.



*Wise Owls enjoying playing in the sand and preparing for their move to big school*

