

NEWSLETTER – Issue 7

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2008. To all our new families and old, thank you for choosing Smartie Pants to take care of your children.



Help Us During Morning Drop Off (Before 9am)!

The mornings are always a very busy and transient time of the day and it is vital that parents assist us off to a good start to the day by helping during the busy drop off period.

Therefore, could all parents please allow enough time to **wash your child's hands, sunscreen them, get out their hats, coats, drink bottles etc. out of their bags** and settle them into their room before saying goodbye.

Could all parents please ensure they provide the service with a clean toothbrush which will be stored and kept in each bathroom. Please check your child's bathroom.

Fundraising

Keep an eye out for our chocolates fundraiser in the coming month. There will be a combination of \$2 and \$4 chocolates in each box. All monies raised will go towards purchasing more outdoor equipment for the children. A picture of what we intend to purchase will be located on the door.

Please label everything

We have noticed that lost property is building up in all rooms. Please ensure that you label all of your child's clothing and personal belongings. The centre cannot be held responsible for misplaced items where labels have not been provided.

Labelling is easy and can be done by either ordering labels through 'Stuck On You' who credit our centre with fundraising or by writing your child's name with a permanent laundry marker on their tag!

Computers! We need monitors....

Are you upgrading to a flat screen monitor and don't know what to do with your old monitors? We have purchased a number of computers and are wanting to put them in the each playroom but we still have to purchase monitors. Until we save up (using our up and coming fund-raising) for some cool flat screens, we would be grateful to any parents who would like to donate their old monitors for us to use in the meantime.

Like building? For our younger children, we also need to build special tables to ensure our little ones don't get access to leads and other electrical equipment. If you would like to donate some time towards helping us build these tables, please email Natalie on natalie@smartiepants.com.au.

Parent Committee

Love our centre but just wish we could do....??? Seen something you know we could improve...??? Have a great idea you'd like us to try...??? Seen something you wish we could have handled better...???

If you answered yes to any of the above we encourage you to come and join our parent committee and make a real difference to our centre. Our parent committee meets monthly (rotating between a Tuesday night and a Saturday morning). Please come along and help us make your child's centre a better place to be. The following are the scheduled dates for the year:

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 18th March 8pm- Smartie Pants

Future Meetings:

Tuesday 18th March 8pm- Smartie Pants

Saturday 26th April 9.30am- Smartie Pants

Tuesday 27th May 8pm- Smartie Pants

Saturday 28th June 9.30am- Smartie Pants

Tuesday 29 July 8pm- Smartie Pants

Saturday 30 August 9.30am- Smartie Pants

Tuesday 30 Sept 8pm- Smartie Pants

Saturday 25 Oct 9.30am- Smartie Pants

Tuesday 11 Nov 8pm- Smartie Pants

Please check out the parent pinboard for the copies of parent committee minutes and agenda items.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We are currently in the process of organising another round of parent teacher interviews. These interviews take approximately 15-20 minutes and facilitate discussion about your child, our programs and how we can work together to create an effective and engaging program for your child. Over the coming lists, each room leader will place up a list of times available to conduct interviews. Please feel free to book a time by signing your name and the name of your child.

Smartie Pants Calendar

Check out our website for our new Calendar of Events under the parent pinboard.

Art Smocks

We are asking families to supply an old shirt of Dad's for their child to use as an art smock. These smocks should be labelled and left in your child's bag for ready access

Dress Ups

We are always looking for dress ups for our children. If you have any old adult clothes, hats, scarves, beads, etc that you do not use anymore, it would most appreciated if you could donate them for our children's pleasure.

Parent Communication

Smartie Pants understands that it is sometimes difficult for parents to stop and read our notice boards for upcoming events and other communications. For this reason, we are asking parents to supply us with their email addresses for communications of various matters. You will also find this information along with a Calendar located on our website on the parent notice board. If you wish to receive updates via email, please register your email address on our website www.smartiepants.com.au.

Seeking Testimonials

Are you and your family enjoying your experience at Smartie Pants? If so, would you be interested in writing a testimonial of your experience for our website? You can email your testimonials to natalie@smartiepants.com.au or pass them onto a member of our team.

Reminders

Sipper Cups, Beanies and Drink Bottles

Please remember to bring these items in for your child to ensure they are prepared for all weather conditions.

Donations (Toys etc)

The centre is always grateful for recycled toys which we can use within our centre. All items which we are unable to use are passed on to charity organisations.

Incentive for introducing new families to Smartie Pants

We would like to remind families of our new incentive program for existing families who introduce new families to Smartie Pants. For each permanent booking, Smartie Pants will be offering one day's free childcare to the family who recommended us. Conditions do apply but if you wish to find out more, please speak to either Natalie or Sharon.

Accreditation Update

We are currently going through the validation process with the National Child Care Accreditation Council. Stay tuned for the results.

Policy Revisions

Amended Policies:

Minor revisions were incorporated (please see website for details)

Policies under review:

- Existing Family Orientation between rooms

Policies Reviewed by Parent Committee:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Bias Prevention

The policies under review have been displayed outside the office or copies of the Policy Manual are available for viewing in each room. Alternatively you can request access to it or parts of it electronically. If you would like to provide advice, assistance or feedback on this process, please don't hesitate to contact Natalie on 0407 882 076 or via email at natalie@smartiepants.com.au. Otherwise you can register your interest at the Parent Committee, who are also involved in key policy and procedure development.

Team Changes

More sad farewells as we say goodbye to Joy, Erin, Sarah and Maree. We will miss them all very much. We also welcome Rebecca and Gaylia to the team. Gaylia is already a qualified certificate three assistant while Rebecca brings with us her energy and experience in drama and song (Rebecca previously worked for our music program company Hey Dee Ho.