

# June Newsletter

## *Up Coming Calendar of Events*

Date Time	Event	Special Notes
29/6/09-10/7/09	Holiday Program	Tabitha & Natalie will be on partial leave and hence program will be run Sandra & Brad
29/06/09 - 03/07/09	Bookings Open for Parent Teacher Interviews	A Booking Schedule Sheet will be stored on the sign in table
	Parent Committee	Date? Time
6/7/2009	Lost Property Bin will be cleared in all rooms!	
13/7/09	Term 2 Commences  Last call for uniform orders	
06/07/09 – 17/07/09	Parent Teacher Interviews 4pm-7pm	

## *Some changes to your account management*

We have been listening to some of your feedback and suggestions about improving our contact ability regarding accounts and other daily issues. It is for this reason that Emma will be located at the front desk between the hours of 8:30am-11am daily and 8am-4pm on Fridays.

You can also reach Emma via email [emmahedley1@gmail.com](mailto:emmahedley1@gmail.com) or phone 94383877 extension1.

## *CCB Update*

Well we have survived our transition to the new CCMS system and we hope you are all happy with some of the many improvements to our system, including the ability to now direct debit and look at your statement online at anytime.

If for any reason you do not understand your statement or you need any further assistance setting up your account please do not hesitate to contact Emma at the front desk between 8:30am to 11am each day or via email at [emmahedley1@gmail.com](mailto:emmahedley1@gmail.com)

## *Absences from care*

Our new CCMS system requires absences from care to be submitted at the end of every week. If your child is unwell, please inform staff when you ring the centre whether or not you will be providing a sick certificate. For families claiming CCB a sick certificate is required in order for your benefit to be paid for the absent day. An allowance of 30 days absent without a certificate is available where CCB will still be applied. Medical certificates must be handed over to your room leader or in the receipt box on your next day in care.

Annual Leave must be given in written notice or via email to [emmahedley1@gmail.com](mailto:emmahedley1@gmail.com) at least two weeks before beginning in order to have holiday discount applied.

## *Parent Committee*

Thank you to the parents who came to our first Parent Committee meeting for 2009. It was great to hear everyone's ideas and skills that they can bring to our meetings. Parent Committee hopes to organize a meet and greet for centre parents for the second half of the year. We will also be organizing fund raisers and reviewing some centre policies. This is a great way to meet and socialise with other Smartie Pants parents and get involved in centre activities. If you would like to be a part of our Parent Committee please email Emma at [emmahedley1@gmail.com](mailto:emmahedley1@gmail.com). Our next meeting will be at the centre September 5 10am-11am.

## ***Clothing***

Can we please remind all parents that your children need to bring in outdoor coats or Jackets so that they can go outside to play whatever the weather! And if you can bring in some gumboots (named and in a plastic bag) then they can splash in puddles too!!!

## ***Uniform Orders***

Uniform order slips are still coming in and this has delayed orders for some parents who completed their orders last month. This is the last call to put in their orders by Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## ***Top Tales Books***

Another reminder to families is to check out our top tales books in the foyer of the centre. These books are exceptionally good value and help fundraise to build our library.

Orders can be placed with Bree, Emma or through the mailbox in the foyer.

## ***New Child Restraint Rules***

Parents should be aware that starting 9 November 2009, children under seven years of age must wear a child restraint or booster seat when travelling in a car for improved safety.

The type of restraint will depend on the age of the child as follows:

- Children aged under six months must wear an approved, properly fastened and adjusted, rear facing child restraint
- Children aged between six months and under four years must wear an approved, properly fastened and adjusted, rear facing child restraint OR a forward facing child restraint with an in-built harness
- Children aged between four years and under seven must wear an approved, properly

fastened and adjusted, forward facing child restraint with an in-built harness OR an approved booster seat which is properly positioned and fastened.

There are also new laws for where children can sit in vehicles. If a car has two or more rows of seats, then children under four years must not travel in the front seat

If all seats, other than the front seats, are being used by children under seven years, children aged between four and six years (inclusive) may travel in the front seat, provided they use an approved booster seat.

## ***Lost Property***

Please be aware that we have two full Lost Property Bins:

1. Clothing with Names (which we do try to work to clear weekly);
2. One without names

**We will be clearing the unlabelled items to the brotherhood bin on**

**Monday 6 July 2009!**

**Have you noticed some of the amazing art works around the centre? Here are some quick pics!**

## *Red Nose Day*

Red nose day was a lovely success. We raised xxx.  
Here are some quick pics!



## **Room Updates**

### **Pip Squeaks**

In the last few weeks Pip Squeaks have been reading some new books during group times. We have started reading Don't be a bully, Billy, Toot Toot Beep Beep & The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We decorated green circles to make a big caterpillar on our wall and this week we are starting to make butterflies.

Last Friday we had Red Nose Day! Our friends and family came to visit us and we all wore our red noses! In the next few weeks we will be copying photos that have been taken of your child throughout the year so far onto a CD for you to purchase. The money we raise will go towards new equipment for outside and some new furniture for inside.

Thank you

Pip Squeak team

### **Mini Minors**

The last 4 weeks have been big weeks for the Mini's & Minors, we have implemented new routines, and have spent time getting to know each other as staff and children have been moving around the room. Mini's & Minor's have been decorating their rooms, and making big changes to make the environment colourful and inviting. Mini's have been concentrating on self help-skills and painting beautiful flowers and butterflies for their art gallery which is in the room, whilst the Minors have been learning about colours and improving on their fine motor skills, and cognitive skills. Can parents please continue bringing in \$3 for scrapbooks, as the children are working up quite a folio.

Thanks from the Mini's Team and the Minor's Team.

### **Hug A Bubs**

We cannot believe how fast this year is flying past. We are already half way through the year and the children are all growing up so fast. We have been busy in the room the last month teaching independent skills to your little ones.

As you are probably noticing at home you are no longer allowed to feed your child as they are a big kid now and want to do it all on their own. All the little

babies have now grown up into very independent toddlers and we are helping them to further develop their independence and start to prepare for the move to Pip Squeaks. During meal times children are sitting at the table on chairs and feeding themselves with spoons and forks and doing very well at this. The younger children are still in low chairs but are also beginning to feed themselves with and without their spoons. Messy food is very exciting to watch as bits and pieces are flying around the floor. They are all doing so well with feeding and we are proud of their progress.

The room is full of talented artists so please take time to look at all their art in the hallway and room walls. Our focus for art this month has been winter and incorporating new methods of art such as introducing pasting, crayon and chalk drawing and the all time favourite finger painting. All art is stored and handed out every couple of months as we rotate our displays. Thank you for sharing your children with us this past 6 months and we look forward to another great 6 months ahead.

Hug A Bubs Team

## **Little Geniuses Room**

### ***New Additions***

We have had some new changes and additions to the room this term especially our new assistant Kerri who has settled in well. We would also like to welcome Billie, Matthew and Rochana from Mini Minors, and Zachery, Tara, Khianni and Charlie N who are also new to the room and have settled well!

### ***Developmental and Parent Input Surveys***

We have had a fantastic response to the surveys we recently sent out and we are slowly incorporating your ideas and issues raised into our program. So thank you very much for your wonderful feedback. It helps us so much to hone in much more efficiently on the real issues, challenges and areas of enjoyment for your child as well helping us to connect and collaborate much better together.

### ***Term 2 Reflection***

You may have noticed a lot of change over the last term. We changed the room around and beefed up the number of activities to be on average around 30 indoors 10 outside. We have also significantly increased our focus on literacy and numeracy and with the aid of family involvement in our take home reading program, many children are now making fantastic efforts at recognizing simple words and sentences, writing their own name, counting up to 15-20, as well as basic addition and subtraction under 15. This is well above our expectations so early in the year and we are really excited to build further on these basic foundation skills into the next term.

We have also been focused heavily on room limits/rules which include passes for high traffic activities like home-corner which prior to implementation of this idea, attracted on average 10-20 children at a time into a play space set up for between 4-5 children. The result of this change has

given us opportunity to split up children who consistently play uncooperatively together and foster new friendships with our shyer or more quieter children. The results have been amazing with children able to better engage in each activity. As teachers we love the sweet sound of quiet and engaged play where children are concentrating and enjoying themselves..

Finally, we have put a lot of effort to improving our meal routines to ensuring that they improve rather than disrupt the day. You may have noticed that in the mornings we run a progressive morning tea from one table. This appears to work best as children are arriving at vastly different times and can help themselves to food when they are hungry. Our lunches are often large hot meals and we continue to focus on the children taking responsibility for themselves to pour and serve their own foods. We now split the tables up into three groups and this is working superbly!

### ***Do you like what we're doing with Computer Learning?***

Recently Science Daily (June 19, 2009) issued an article about research into the use of computers in preschools and schools and the effects on children's literacy, concluding that "Computers do not spell the demise of literacy -- in fact, they may help to create one of the most literate and engaged generations the world has seen". We now agree. Since introducing computers as a key part of our daily curriculum, many children previously not interested in reading or writing have shown incredible interest in this learning area. These children love the play/game element that is more easily facilitated in this type of learning and show high degrees of enjoyment and engagement.

### ***Have you noticed our colour table?***

We have a colour table where we concentrate on one colour for two weeks and talk about it and all things related to that specific colour, including what colours mixed together can make that colour or can be made from that colour.

## ***Our Nature Table is back!***

We have also restarted a Nature table and we would really appreciate anything that you may find on walks out about and on the beach.

## ***Show 'n Tell***

Show and tell has been going on now for a few weeks and we have seen some super things from home, but can we remind parents that show and tell must only come in when a letter goes home.

We also have a lot of new art work up in the room and down the corridor which we would love you to come and have a look at!

## ***Travelling Bear***

Implementation of our new accelerated learning programs has been quite overwhelming for the team and the children; hence, we have decided to delay our implementation of this activity until next term. We are sorry to all the families who have been excited about this new activity and look forward to your stories very soon!

## **Last Chance to go on Parent Contact List!**

Your Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact phone  
number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your postal  
address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Last Chance to tell us the school your child will attend in 2010 or 2011.**

School your child will be enrolled in

2010 \_\_\_\_\_

OR

2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know have your teachers name and/or school contact details so we can discuss your child's progress in term 4 with them?

\_\_\_\_\_