

Newsletter – DECEMBER 2008

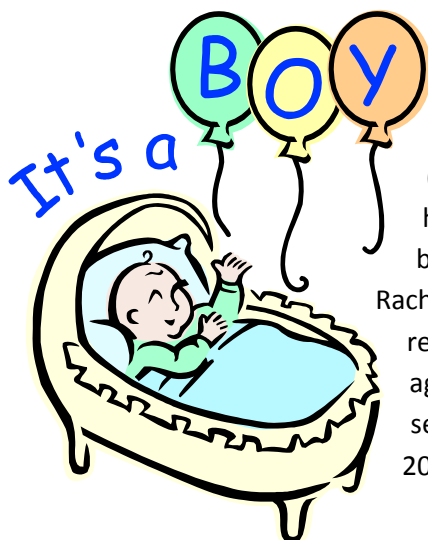
A note from Natalie and Sharon

Thank you all for another wonderful year. Many of you will soon commence your fourth year with us and we are very excited about the new year ahead.

However, sadly a few who have been with us for the last 3 years we are about to say a sad goodbye as you go off to school next year. We will miss you all so much and wish you the best start in the next important stage of your lives. Please stay in touch, we'd love to see you again and hear all of your new and exciting stories about school.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ethan Campbell and his family for winning 5 free days of childcare in our recent raffle. A big thankyou to all the families who purchased tickets.



Congratulations also to Rachael (Pip Squeaks Team) had a gorgeous baby boy 'Hamish'! Rachael is expected to return part time again early in the second quarter of 2009!

Please be Aware that We're Almost Full!

We're almost full with only 8-10 spaces available per day across the centre each day. To avoid unnecessary disappointment, it is therefore important that if you know you will require extra days you book them in as soon as possible.

Orientations

Over the coming weeks, for all children moving rooms, we will be begin orientations for the new year. This will involve written plans as well as short visits/transitions into the other rooms.

Furthermore, Since Christmas is expected to be quiet we are hopeful of family grouping together so the children can get to know their new carers

Family Grouping Over the Summer Holiday Period

Please be aware that we may family group over the Christmas break period when centre numbers get below 30. This will give our teams time to clean and reset their rooms for the new year. Please note that children's routines, access to programs and activities, while altered, will not in any way diminished. Over this time a combined program will be developed for the children using the service over this time. Please feel free to discuss any ideas or suggestions you have to input into the program over this time.

Sunny Weather

In line with Sun Smart we do not go outside without proper sun protection when the UV index reaches 3 and higher. As a general indication the UV index has been reaching 3 by 9.30am and does not lower



until 5pm. If you would like your child to play outside in the morning we now require that children are sun creamed before or upon entering care by parents. Sun Cream is provided in the Mini Minors room. A suitable hat is also required. Please make sure your child's hat is labelled.

New Sun cream sign in!

We have now added a column to our sign in sheets for parents to sign in when they have sun creamed their children before or upon entering care. Please put the time your child was sun creamed and sign the column.



50% Childcare Rebate Acquittal

For families that are claiming the 50% rebate the acquittal has been sent off and receipted as being received by the Childcare usage team as of 20 October 2008. For any questions regarding this please see Bree.



Family

Christmas Party!

Our centre wide Christmas Party was held again at Bundoora Park Sunday the 30 December 2008 and was a great success. We had BBQ and salads as well as a visit from Santa! The children also enjoyed many of the special activities available at the park including



baby animal feeding, petting, pony riding, train rides etc. Thank you so much to all the families who joined us to celebrate another fantastic year.

On the day we handed out diploma certificates for all of our Kindergarten children going off to school

Please note that David (Sharon's husband) took photos of all the children with Santa and we have printed them out as a gift to our parents who came on the day!

Satisfaction Survey Online

Please use this link to fill in our survey. Answers will help us to provide and exceed a great level of care.

smartiepants.com.au/satisfaction.html

Farewell

Please join us in saying a sad farewell to Natalie Conboy who is moving onto the next phase in her career. We wish her all the very best in her new endeavours. For all Kindergarten families, please note that Brad, Melissa and Natalie Higgins will continue to manage the 4 year old programs.

Room Reports:

Hug A Bubs

Team: Emma (Room Leader, Qualified & Centre Assistant Co Ordinator), Jean (assistant), Megan (assistant), Jan (assistant) Hermina (assistant) and Marie (assistant).

Wow this past month has gone fast. The room is changing so much as all the little babies become active around the room and the older children begin the transition to Pip Squeaks in the next month or two. We sadly said good bye to Lauren and wish her lots of luck and welcome a few new friendly faces to our group. Emma and Jean remain in their current roles and Jean, Hermina and Marie take on our break cover role sharing the week between them. Megan started her new role as assistant in the room full time. Please pop in and introduce your self or just say HI! The room has just been so bright and cheerful over the past couple of weeks and everyone is enjoying all the new toys we have brought with our fundraising money. We will be putting together cd's of the photos and art we have collected of the children. If you would like to order one of these please let Emma know. We will be charging a fundraising fee of \$5 per CD. Please note that these may not be ready by Xmas depending on the amount of orders placed.

Pip Squeaks

Team: Jenna(Room Leader, Qualified), Meagan (assistant), Kayla(assistant), Mary(assistant)

Pip Squeaks has recently farewelled a group of our older children who have now moved up to the Mini Minors room. We hope they enjoy their new room and we'll miss them! We have also welcomed lots of new children into the Pip Squeaks room who have recently moved up from the hug-a-bubs room and new children to the centre. We hope you all have a fun experience in the Pip Squeaks room. We have been very busy decorating our room with new art activities. We printed rainbow handprints and did pasting with felt and foam. We are also doing finger painting and printing it onto paper. The other week we did a large group painting on the tables and got very very messy!

Mini Minors

Team: Belinda (Room Leader, Qualified), Janine(assistant), Bee(assistant), Sam(assistant), Marie(assistant), Melanie(assistant), Tabitha(assistant, Qaulified)

Mini Minors has had a busy month this month. We have had new children move up from Pip Squeaks and a few new children start at the centre. We have been very busy making new friends and learning about farm animals. The children have done some beautiful paintings and pastings of all animals great and small. Over the next month we will be doing a lot of Christmas fun filled activities (it has come so fast). Can all parents please remember there 3 dollars for their child's scrapbook as it is getting close to the time when they will be being completed. Also we have a new notice board above our new lockers; can all parents please check on a regular basis for information that may be of importance.

Little Geniuses

Team: Brad(Qualified Kindergarten Teacher), Melissa (Qualified Kindergarten Teacher), Nat C (Qualified Kindergarten Teacher), Sandra (Qualified & 3 year old Kindergarten Teacher) Stella(assistant)