

### **GENERAL NEWS**

Welcome back, I trust that you all enjoyed a happy, relaxing school holidays. Term 3 is upon us and we are feeling invigorated/refreshed and ready to embrace a busy and productive Term. As always, we will endeavour to deliver a fun, accessible, flexible, responsive, stimulating, affordable and NQF compliant Out of School Hours Care program. I am confident with the assistance of my Educators, input from students, parents and the wider school community we will accomplish these goals.

We strive to provide an exciting and varied program throughout the year, one that 'enhances each child's learning and development' (NQF Standard 1.1). Our weekly themes are planned in response to students areas of interest, influenced by dates of cultural significance or sometimes mirror classroom topics so as to consolidate children's learning. Term 2 topics included themes such as Earth Day, ANZAC Day, Mother's Day, Sorry Day/Reconciliation Week and Winter.

Whilst our service has a structured weekly program which often includes craft, cooking, movie afternoons, treasure hunts, and outside play/games; we also endeavour to be flexible and fluid in our response to the children's needs, ensuring that they have freedom of choice and can participate in a range of experiences (NQF Area 3). We have a wide range of resources/games/equipment at the children's disposal allowing for play based/spontaneous learning to occur.

We allow access to electronic equipment in accordance with 'Building Better Brains' protocols. Please be assured that time spent at the computer, on ipads or the wii console is strictly monitored and limited to ensure children engage in other games/activities/outside play during sessions. Outside play is strongly encouraged each afternoon. The format of outside play varies but often includes games/sporting activities, structured sports clinics or availing ourselves of the fun and fitness track. We continue to implement 'Together Time' and 'Floor Fun' to allow for smooth transitions from one activity to another. Some of our students are actively asking to run/facilitate these sessions. Watching the children plan, gather resources and deliver these group sessions has been pleasing. They are developing important life skills including respectful interactions, leadership qualities, public speaking, an awareness of group dynamics and inclusiveness.

One of our primary aims here in OSHC (as per elements of the NQF for School Age Care) is to foster a sense of 'belonging, being, becoming'. We wish to ensure all children are supported and welcomed in our program, we work to build meaningful relationships with the children and are keen to maintain our rating of "Exceeding" in this area. We will continue to use fun games/strategies to promote these ideals. Children's individuality will be recognised and embraced. We will continue to acknowledge birthdays, dates of special/cultural/religious significance and promote mutual respect and inclusiveness. Pupil of the Week awards, Sports Awards or any other school based and external achievements will be celebrated.

This Term we will explore topics including The Human Body, 100 Days of School, National Science Week, Book Week and Father's Day. We will continue our focus on outside play despite the cooler weather. Research demonstrates the importance of outside play in all weather conditions. We will use our discretion on colder afternoons and obviously ask children to wear jumpers, you are welcome to send along jackets for the children if you so desire.

As mentioned, we promote a collaborative approach to each child's needs. We want to ensure that each child is supported to participate in the program.

We consult teachers regarding your child's learning and development and also welcome your input in to program content. Please feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with staff directly or use the suggestion book which is kept at our front desk for ease of access. (NQF standards 1.1.2 and 1.1.3).

NQF 1.1.4 states that documentation about each child's program and progress be available to families. Our weekly program is available to view online linked to Compass and FlexiBuzz and prominently displayed inside the OSHC room for your information. You are always welcome to view examples of your child's work which are kept in their portfolios and can be accessed at any time. You are also invited to contribute to our Quality Improvement Plan at any time

#### Donations/Community Projects.

We extend our gratitude to those families who have generously donated items to the OSHC program including craft materials, board games, electronic devices and their time/expertise – it is greatly appreciated by us all.

For those who continue to donate weat-bix/money for Edgar's Mission thank-you. It was also an honour during Term 2 to make a donation on behalf of the OSHC program to The Asylum Seeker Centre as part of our 'Refugees Week' discussions.

#### OSHC Committee:

For your information the OSHC subcommittee currently comprises the following members;

Sheena Cronin	(Teacher Representative)
Tess Morris	(OSHC Director)
Rebecca Trevillian and Cherie Mountney	(Parent Representatives)
Louise Bendle/Natalie Lanyon	(School Council Representatives)

#### Term Dates:

Term 3 runs from 17 July, 2017 until 22 September, 2017. Last day of Term will see OSHC commence early to coincide with the 2.30pm finish to the school day. A student free day fell on 17 July, 2017 whilst there are no public holidays during this Term.

Please note that there are occasions (eg outside play, Sporting Clinics) when staff/children are outside the OSHC room and staff are therefore unable to answer phone calls to the OSHC landline. Staff can be contacted on the OSHC mobile 0411 841 855 during these times. This also satisfies the requirement that we have access to an operating telephone for immediate communication to and from parents and emergency services, regulation 98. (National Quality Framework)

### **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

To ensure your spot in OSHC this term and throughout the year, we ask that all permanent booking forms are filled out and handed back to the OSHC staff a.s.a.p. Casual bookings are still available and bookings can be made either through the school office or directly with OSHC on **9876 0389**.

Bookings and any cancellations need to be made 24 hours before the required session to ensure we have appropriate catering and staff in place. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT PRESENT DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING AND THE NEED TO ADHERE TO STAFF RATIOS. Given a large intake of new students we ask that you secure a place by completing a permanent booking form to avoid disappointment.

## **PAYMENT OF FEES**

In order to continue successfully running our program, it is essential that fees are paid. Invoices are issued each week so please check your child/children's bags. Payments can be made by credit card, cash or cheque at OSHC or the school office.

*We would greatly appreciate that families with outstanding accounts pay their account. All Fee Payments go entirely into operating the service and helps ensure the continuation of the school's successful O.S.H.C. program.*

## **HOURS AND COSTS**

Before School Care (breakfast until 8.15am)	7.00am-8:45am	\$11.00
After School Care (afternoon tea provided)	3:30pm-4:30pm	\$11.00
	3:30pm-6:00pm	\$22.00
Early term finish (last day of term)	2:30pm-3:30pm	\$11.00
Curriculum day*	8am-6pm	\$33.00
(*dependent on student numbers)		

Having considered feedback from parents it is not feasible to introduce a 6.30pm finish at this time. As such our closing time will remain 6pm.

Just as a side note may I confirm that we do not run a school holiday program because numbers simply do not justify the time/preparation/planning and expense involved. We are as always happy to provide information about other School Holiday programs in the area.

Throughout the Term I intend to distribute our annual OSHC survey and this will include questions about the need for us to re-introduce a Curriculum Day program. Should the demand warrant (ie enough interested parents whose children attend on a regular basis and who are willing to pay increased charges) a proposal will be put to school council for approval and a new fee structure introduced accordingly.

IF YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR THE CHILDCARE BENEFIT YOU WILL NOT PAY THE FULL RATE. It makes BSC and ASC very affordable. Please remember, it is your responsibility to apply for this benefit and you may do so via the Family Assistance Office/Centrelink.

### ***OSHC staff are:***

***Director: Tess***

***Educators: Dianne, Jess, Jenny, and Jane.***

Tess Morris.  
OSHC Director

Shaun McClare.  
Principal.