



Newsletter

Term 4, 2017



OSHC Friends,

Yet another terrific year at Epping Heights OSHC is drawing to a close. We would like to thank ALL of those who have contributed to ensuring the continued success of the centre and our program. So many people assist in ensuring that our service operates at such a high standard:

- Our wonderful school, teachers and Principal; Megan Bridekirk.
- The dedicated and supportive Management Committee, which comprises of 9 awesome OSHC parents!
- Becklyn; our tireless administration company whose expertise and dedication is unsurpassed.
- The children and families of our service who we rely on for inspiration, close collaboration and vital feedback to keep our program relevant and fresh.
- OSHC support and training agencies.
- Other local services who we share ideas and advice with.
- Our catering services, coaches and providers.
- Last but not least, our excellent educators whose diversity of skills and expertise is nothing short of amazing!

Thank you!



Jessica Miller being a very helpful gardener!

PROGRAM

Through regular evaluation, our program continues to change and support the out of school hours needs of our children. Our Term 4 2017 programmed activities were as follows:

AM:

Monday: Together-Time!

Tuesday: Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban

Wednesday: All Outside

Thursday: Kids Choice

Friday: All about Art



PM:

Monday: Hort 4 Kids

Tuesday: Staff Activity Day

Wednesday: Staff/Kids Choice

Thursday: Got Game with Zak

Friday: Art with Tahlia & Movie/Popcorn

Our program at OSHC is a dynamic and ever changing one. The observation of your child and the identification of your child's needs (by our cohort of trained educators) assists in informing our program to best suit your child's requirements. This term we have had some wonderful activities inspired by the children.

Some of these were:

- Slime
- Survivor Tag
- Karaoke
- Play-dough

Our OSHC 2017 survey came back with some interesting results. Some of the major points which presented themselves that we are amidst addressing are:

- **A resounding preference for free-play amongst the children.** This has already been addressed in the Term 4 Program and will continue to form part of our ongoing program. Allowing children choice is something that we have always aimed to achieve. Creating the parameters for children to learn, grow, be stimulated and be safe during free-play is the challenge that our educators are having to be creative with each week and will continue to do so into 2018.
- **An overall concern from our community for the growing numbers at our service and the centre's ability to facilitate the demand for places.** We are currently (and have been for some years) working closely with the school and other agencies to find a solution for this issue, whether that be a secondary space or increased classroom access. As we are all aware that the growing population of Epping is putting a huge amount of pressure on our service and our school. The best way forward short term (as well as long term) for our service is yet another challenge that we are tackling head-on. Please rest assured that we are doing our utmost to ensure we are able to continue to service our school's growing population with before & after school care. It is also pertinent to mention that we will inevitably be dealing with wait-lists in 2018 for PM sessions. This is not an ideal situation, and we ask for your understanding as we sail into these uncharted waters.

Check out our videos on



Maryann, Dyuthi, Anneliese & Naomi



Everyone LOVES a fancy hat Anthony!



'Love' is all we need, Filipe.

ADMINISTRATION

Please ensure your fees are kept up to date. We have a direct debit system for ease of payment. If you would like to utilise this service, you can apply via our webserver.

OSHC admin would like to remind parents to please ensure that they include their parent code when they make internet payments. Several unidentified payments have been arriving in our account which are quite onerous to follow up. Your assistance with this would be appreciated.

If you are not receiving a fortnightly emailed statement from administration, please contact the centre to confirm your email address.

If you are not receiving CCR (Child Care Rebate) which is a government rebate that EVERYONE is entitled to, please contact administration on 9878 2651 or email info@becklyn.com.au

VACATION CARE

The next Vacation Care will be during the summer holiday period. It looks as though it will be another wonderful program. As with all our programs we would love your feedback; please let us know how you and your kids enjoy our programs by emailing us at the centre.

For information regarding the vacation care program, please check out our website.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR VACATION CARE PERMISSION FORM TODAY!

If you are not on direct debit, it is expected that your v/care fees are paid up prior to the commencement of the vacation- care period.

COMMITTEE

President: Kathleen Smith kathsmithyemail@gmail.com

Secretary: John Hill

Treasurer: Patrick Finnegan finno_funky@hotmail.com

Staff Liaison/Public Officer: Jacqueline Mackaway djmackaway@aanet.com.au

WHS Officer: Wendy Zhang zhangping70@hotmail.com

General Committee:

Melinda Grigg
Jan-Louis Kruger
Michelle Goodman
Jeenu Simon



Check out our Online photo blog at:



SmugMug

Our Educators for 2018:

We have seen some of our educators leave in 2017, and have also welcomed some new faces. A part of our philosophy at EHOSHC is aiming for a group of educators who are here for as long as possible as well as being experienced and highly qualified. This helps maintain consistency and stability for our cohort of children as well as provide a high standard of care, attention and professionalism.

This year we farewelled Ashlee Hodge and Hansel Lin, both will be missed! We have welcomed on board Tahlia Mills-Doyle & Anja Kruger and we are all very happy to have them. Best of Luck moving forward into 2018!

Please see our list of educators for 2018 below:

Adam Pearson (Director): Adam is a trained visual arts teacher, who has just finished his 10th year at EHOSHC. Adam is a practising artist and is also a musician and has a keen interest in animal husbandry, horticulture/agriculture & sustainability.

Kirsty Hunt (Assistant Coordinator): Kirsty is currently studying her Diploma of School Aged Care and has been with EHOSHC since 2013. Kirsty enjoys her time at the gym and also shares her love for cooking with the children at our service.

Molly O'Rourke (Senior Educator): Molly is currently completing her Masters in Primary Education and is a ray of sunshine at EHOSHC! Molly is a wonderfully creative and gentle soul with a passion for education. Originally from the Port Macquarie region, Molly loves the outdoors and is about to take a trip to Hawaii!

Amy-Louise Parsons (Senior Educator): Amy is a trained Primary School teacher with a love for the environment and just a lot of fun to be around! Amy's passion for adventure has taken her on many trips around the world and has blessed her with a real holistic perspective on life.

Jeremy Brittan (Educator): Hailing from South Africa via the Central Coast, Jeremy is currently completing a double degree in Business/Commerce at Macquarie University. Jeremy is a wonderfully grounding force for the team and his OSHC YouTube videos really show off his creativity and skill.

Nick MacFarlane (Educator): Nick is a trained music teacher and has a real flare for the theatrical! His rapport with the children is unsurpassed and his sensitivity and enthusiasm is an asset to our service.

Laura McKenzie (Educator): The dark-horse of our team, Laura is actually the longest standing staff member other than Adam. Laura left our service after completing an Education degree and recommenced working with us recently. You may not know this, but Laura is actually a full-time teacher at Cherrybrook Public School!

Tahlia Mill-Doyle (Educator): The newest member of our Team, Tahlia is also a local. She went to school at Cheltenham Girls and is currently completing degree in Special Education. We are blessed to have her!

Anja Kruger (Junior Educator): Anja is our first junior educator in a number of years. She started off as a volunteer in the Duke of Edinburgh program and we couldn't let her go! Anja is quickly finding her feet in the industry and we wish her well in this journey!