



Newsletter

Term 2, 2018

OSHC Friends,

A Winter chill and some not-so-pleasant weather has not put a dampener on Epping Heights OSHC! We would like to send a special thank you to our school Principal, Megan Bridekirk as well as the teachers at EHPS for the continued use of classrooms as we have braved the inclement weather this term!

Our close partnership with Epping Heights Public School is a wonderful blessing, and we are continuing to work closely together to ensure the excellent level of service and care we provide to our community.

Earlier this term, we held our Annual General Meeting which was a resounding success. We discussed some important topics as well as electing our Management Committee for 2018-19. Please see the end of this newsletter for a list of our management team.

A thank you must also go to the members of our volunteer committee who stood down this year, as well as our fantastic new committee members who joined our special team.

As time ticks on and the service maintains its dedication to planning for the future, it is occasionally necessary to employ new educators. Our philosophy has always been to keep our team close-knit and as static as possible, but we are always extremely happy to welcome new members of the EHOSHC crew. This term we are very excited to introduce Brooke Perram to our team. Brooke has a wide range of skills and experience and is currently studying primary education. As with all our Educators, we encourage you to make yourself known to them and to become familiar with their names and what particular facet of skills and childcare expertise they bring to our OSHC.

Welcome Brooke!



Our newest team-member, Brooke.

It was this time last year that we were sending our congratulations to Laura McKenzie who had recently become engaged... Now it's Congratulations Laura on your marriage!

It was a beautiful ceremony in Berrima, and Laura and her husband Matthew are now enjoying their honeymoon. We are looking forward to having you back, as well as hearing about your travel adventures.



PROGRAM

Through regular evaluation, our program continues to change and support the needs of our children. Our programmed activities for Term 2 were as follows:

AM:

Monday: Get Crackin' with Craft

Tuesday: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Wednesday: Move-about Morning

Thursday: Puzzles and Games

Friday: Kids Choice

PM:

Monday: Kids Choice

Tuesday: Educators activities

Wednesday: Art with Donna

Thursday: Got Game with Jared

Friday: Art/Craft & Movie

Our program at OSHC is a dynamic and ever changing one. The observation of your child and the identification of their 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:

- Cricket
- Finger Knitting
- Slime making
- Dodgeball
- Quiet-time

This term, as a part of our Life-Skills program we have started teaching our younger children in particular, how to tie their shoelaces. Our wonderful educator, Molly made some wonderful wooden shoes to practise on and it is going extremely well. Basic shoelace tying not only assists the children in learning basic knots, but helps improve their fine-motor skills. Thanks Molly, and good-luck to our stage 1 group.



Elia Wong



Sing-a-longs with Ned

We are extremely lucky to have on staff, the talented Ned Rallings. Ned is a singer/songwriter and has brought to our Centre some wonderfully creative programming ideas all revolving around music. Ned is working on a music program to kick off next term and OSHC has invested in some great new equipment to help facilitate that.

The children have really enjoyed the sing-a-longs with Ned and he has now been nicknamed 'Ned Sheeran'!

For more information on our program, visit our website, check out our SmugMug photoblog or YouTube channel.

ADMINISTRATION

There have been emails from our admin service as well as media coverage relating to the changes to the childcare system. In brief, Childcare Rebate and Childcare benefit have been replaced by the Childcare Subsidy. If you have any questions regarding your responsibilities in regards to CCS, please contact the Family Assistance office on 13 61 50.

Safety

The safety of the children in our care is paramount as a high quality childcare service. We have several systems in place to ensure your child is supported in being safe, happy and healthy. Recently, we have been working with Mrs Bridekirk, principal of EHPS, to enhance our procedures to help make them more efficient, particularly during the transition from school to OSHC in the afternoon.

Please note these 3 key improvements that OSHC has introduced:

- **Additional educator supervision at bell time**
- **Change in roll-call system to reduce roll-marking time**
- **Daily sharing of OSHC attendance information with the school to enhance school awareness**

We would like to ask families to help support us in striving towards a safer OSHC by reminding their children of when they are to attend OSHC, to make sure they are prompt in arriving at OSHC after school and to seek out a teacher or OSHC educator if they are unsure of where they need to be in the afternoon.

There are many other safety procedures that occur in the OSHC environment including:

- **Daily checklists and termly audits**
- **Regular education for our children and staff**
- **A dynamic philosophy which encourages evaluative procedures and improvement**
- **Open communication and liaison with Epping Heights Public school**

EHOSHC also has particular penalties in place that are there to act as deterrents for incorrect practise that can place children in danger:

- **Late Pick up**
- **Non-notification**
- **Non-signage**

(For more details relating to the above additional charges, please refer to our website.)

We would like to take this opportunity to notify all families that our policies regarding these penalties are very strict and we ask that you familiarise yourselves thoroughly with our procedures to avoid these charges.

IMPORTANT: In the coming weeks our service is concentrating heavily on "Non-Signage". The issue our service is having is that people collecting children are being sent to collect them without log-in information, without authority to collect a child, or are using the wrong log in information. ALL of these circumstances put your child at risk of harm, incur additional charges, and is something that EHOSHC takes extremely seriously. We request the following of our families:

- **Do not send an un-authorized person to collect your child**

(If it is an emergency situation, you can email the Centre to notify us that someone different is collecting your child. You must provide their full name, and request that on arrival they present photo ID to our staff. You MUST NOT provide them with YOUR log in details. This will log in our system that YOU collected your child. Our rolls must be able to stand up in court, and need to be accurate. You will be charged \$15 for our staff signing your child out on behalf of an unauthorised collector)

- **Do not provide your log in details to anyone else**
- **Do not use your partners log in details**
- **Do not send a person under the age of 18 to collect your child**
- **Provide on enrolment at least 1 authorised nominee to collect your child in the event of an emergency**

Our log-in information is easily differentiable between mother/father and authorised nominee. Log-ins for MUM end in the letter 'M' eg: 1234M, Log-ins for DAD end in the letter 'D' eg: 1234D, and log-ins for authorised nominees are a 5 digit number eg: 12345. If staff identify the use of an inaccurate log-in, you will be charged \$15.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we strive towards making our service a safer place for the children of our community.

VACATION CARE

The next vacation care will be during the July 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.

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

IMPORTANT VACATION CARE INFORMATION

If you have enrolled in vacation care, please ensure you read all the information regarding the days you have booked. We also appreciate your patience and understanding when our program changes due to the weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

PLEASE ALSO RETURN YOUR SIGNED PERMISSION FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

COMMITTEE

President: Kathleen Smith kathsmithyemail@gmail.com

Secretary: John Hill

Treasurer: Jymima Fitismanu

Staff Liaison: Kate Valentine

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WHS Officer: Wendy Zhang zhangping70@hotmail.com

General Committee:

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