

# March/April



# Newsletter

As we near the end of Day Light Saving we are grateful for the fantastic weather we have enjoyed over the summer season.

The wet and colder weather is nearing and soon we will be asking for gumboots and raincoats so we can enjoy some time outside every day.

## Wine and Cheese Evening

Many thanks to all parents who attended our Wine and Cheese Evening on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. It was an opportunity to discuss Fantails as an Education Centre, talk about your own child and view the changes and extensions that have taken place over the last few months. Our vegetable garden is in full swing and parents enjoyed meandering into the Propagation area, discussing with the staff the view to becoming a self-sustainable centre and looking at what we could do in future to recycle our food scraps.



## Healthy Heart Program

Fantails menu has phased out all processed meats. Each day we offer children fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, milk/water/milo . Weekly we offer two red meat meals, one chicken, one fish and one vegetarian. This summer season we have also enjoyed fresh salads including beetroot, lettuce (some from our own garden) celery, carrot, sprouts, and mung beans. Children self-serve their meals and are encouraged to try new foods.

Our lunch boxes for nearly five year olds have been warmly welcomed by both children and parents.

Annette is given the choices for sandwiches and parents are pleasantly surprised to hear their child has chosen tuna or cucumber.

## Coming Events – Mid Winter

Winter is often a time for hibernation .....

**BUT NOT AT FANTAILS!!!**

Watch this space!!!

We will be holding a Children's Art Exhibition combined with Mulled Wine and winter nibbles.



### Head lice:

Head lice are a common parasite these days and eradication is very difficult. Please check your child's head often to ensure there is no infestation. Children at the centre with live lice will be required to be picked up and must be treated and all live lice removed before returning to the centre. If you have any questions please feel free to talk to any of the staff.



The best way to prevent your child from getting 'nits' is to:

- Keep long hair tied up
- Comb your child's hair frequently with a lice comb and conditioner to prevent the live lice from hanging on to the hair shaft
- Check your child's head often
- Add rosemary or tea tree oil to conditioner or use a preventative from your local chemist.

Please read our Child Health Policy which outlines situations where children are NOT TO ATTEND Fantails.

### Payment of fees:

The expectation for payment of fees is that they are to be paid in advance within 7 days of the Invoice date. A late penalty fee of 10% may be incurred if not paid within the 7 day period.

Our preferred method of payment is internet banking; however we accept cheques and cash at the Office. Some of our accounts are a few weeks behind. We would appreciate families talking with Sherryll to make arrangements to clear their debt and ensure their account is in credit at all times.



### School Holidays

If your child is going to be away for the school holidays, could you please let us know.

If children are not attending, staff can utilize the time for professional development and improving the centre resources.

If you have been with us for a year you are entitled to claim 50% reduction in fees for a total of 3 weeks per year. These must be taken in week blocks and paid for in advance. Please speak to Sherryll if you wish to have any time during the April/Easter Holidays.

### Lost Property

Every week we end up with a bin full of lost property. We would really like to eliminate the frustration for children, parents and staff by having all clothing named. This certainly makes it easier for staff to ask children to place their own clothing in their bags. We will only be keeping lost property for 2 weeks. If it is not claimed it will be sent to the Salvation Army to recycle.

### Visiting Student

Kate Gaskell joined us on the 21<sup>st</sup> March as a Student from the Warner Nanny Academy. She will spend two weeks working alongside staff and children and generally getting a feel of Centre protocol and daily running. An overview of Kate's background is currently posted on our front door for viewing.

### New fees policy

All parents are now aware of the change to our Policy structure to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. We no longer offer half day sessions, however our 7 hour "sliding" day seems to be suiting all families. The fee structure has an Under 3 and an Over 3 rate only. The over 3 rate includes the ECE hours allocated to each child. Please speak to Sherryl if you wish to change your hours at any time. It is imperative that we ensure there are sufficient staff to accommodate children's attendances.

### The Fantail Flyers

The focus for our School Readiness Program at the moment are the letters A B C and D. Staff have asked that parents also use these letters as a focus in daily activities i.e. Play Eye Spy, point to the letters in the newspapers or sign posts, ask your child to try and write the letters. Please speak to our staff about our program. It is imperative that home and Fantails work together to make it easier for children to learn at school.

### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to those who provide us with plastic bags, natural resources and other usable materials that children utilize in the art area. We have a list on the outside whiteboard with other "goodies" we would like. We would be grateful if you could help out with any of these things.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Newsletter and for being part of our "Free Range Childcare Family".

