



grenfell preschool & long day care centre

newsletter

28th May 2019
Issue 10

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Committee Corner

Message from the President
Rachel Conron.

Dear Families, Staff and Friends of the
Centre

At an Extraordinary Committee Meeting, the Management Committee of the Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre adopted a resolution to pursue the acquisition and the development of a state-of-the-art Preschool and Child Care Centre on a new site.

The Centre is at or approaching capacity on multiple days at the current Forbes Street location, and with the numerous additions which have been made to the Centre since opening as a Preschool in 1964, the concept of extensive renovations to the current facility is not a feasible option.

We are experiencing an increased demand for child care places, and the Management Committee are committed to ensuring that the Centre has the capacity to meet the needs of the community into the future, particularly to enable our casual or emergency style bookings to continue, and to ensure we are able to support families when they need child care. This is especially important with the increased number of young families moving to the Shire.

Discussions and analysis will commence shortly to assess the feasibility of the preferred site. There are many significant hurdles and steps in the process, and we are determined to bring the local community along the journey. The outcome we are seeking is the construction of a state of the art, purpose-built facility that caters for the needs of our children and future generations.

This is a very exciting development for the Committee, Staff and Families. We are in the very early stages of the project and will keep you abreast of the progress. We would appreciate your support going forward, and while it is a big job, what a result we will have for our children, our community and the Grenfell brand.

Welcome

I would like to welcome Francesca Taylor to our committee as our new Secretary. Francesca, known as Frankie, is an accountant and lives at Caragabal. I would also like to thank Bec O'Neil, our outgoing Secretary, for the work that she did on the committee. Bec and the family have moved, and I wish her well.

New Resources

There was a buzz in the centre when our added resources started to arrive. The children in the Star room were eager to play with them, and the Rainbow Room children are having a wonderful time with the big yellow truck slippery dip. We were very lucky to obtain a \$10,000 grant to help buy them.



Hope you have got your tables ready for the Trivia night this Friday 31st May.

Protect your little ones from the Flu

Grenfell Community Health are giving FREE Influenza vaccines for all children 6 months to 5 years of age. Phone Community Health on 0263491767

Please consider having your child vaccinated as there are children away due to coughs and colds



The biggest morning tea

The Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre along with the Mobile Preschool Service raised \$262.90 from the biggest morning tea. The money raised will go to Can Assist, who are committed to ensuring that all country people have access to cancer treatment. Thankyou to all the staff and families that made food for morning tea.



You can leave your Earn & Learn points in the box in the foyer at the center. We also have a box set up in Woolworths at Young to place your Earn & Learn points.



The Gigalees show

The Gigalees will be at the centre on 19th June at 10:30. If your child does not attend that day you are welcome to bring them along. The cost of the show is \$5.50 per child. Adults are free

SURVEY ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

1. Do you like the story of the day format and do you feel it is readily available to you for the days your child/children attend?

Out of 19 reply's 16 yes, and 0 N,o and 3 didn't tick

What is the Story of the Day?

The story of the day shares with families a glimpse of their child's day. Every day the staff write and email the story of the day. They often do it in their lunch times, to ensure they can be emailed out the same day. If you are not receiving your copy, please check with the staff in the room to make sure you

are on our email list. A new camera has been purchased for the Rainbow Room and the Mobile Service to make the photos clearer.

2. Do you feel that the children's Portfolio is a good reflection of your child's educational program and progress?

16 replies, 11 Yes, 3 didn't say, and 4 unsure

What is a Portfolio?

Child Portfolios focus on individual strengths, interests and needs, and cover all areas of development following the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. We maintain child Portfolios on all children who regularly attend the service. The Portfolios will contain learning stories. Learning stories clearly demonstrate that learning occurs through play. Learning stories show learning in action, they provide a voice that helps parents imagine their children demonstrating their learning. Learning stories make our observations visible and focus on respecting, capable and competent children.

The children's Portfolios are kept in the playroom the child attends and you can look at your child's portfolio at any time.

3. Are you satisfied that the building and equipment are safe and hygienic?

19 Replies, 15 yes, 2 didn't say, 2 said mostly

We always look at ways to improve the centre and get broken items repaired/replaced as soon as possible. The turf in the playground is being replaced and we are putting in irrigation to help us maintain it. We have also just spent \$14,000 on added resources.

4. Are you satisfied that the staff engage in enjoyable friendly and warm interactions with your child?

19 replies, 17 yes, and 2 no answer

All the comments were lovely, and we thank you. My staff are very committed to what they do, and they work hard to see that all children are happy and well cared for.

5. Are you satisfied that the staff show respect for children's developing competence and foster their self-esteem and independence?

19 replies, 17 yes, and 2 no answer

All the comments were lovely and positive, and I would just like to remind you that at any time you can come in and stay with your child. Maybe have lunch with them or morning tea.

6. Are you happy with the staffing arrangement in the morning and late in the afternoon, when the children are combined usually in the Rainbow Room?

19 replies, 14 yes, 2 unsure, and 3 didn't say

We are taking the Star, Garden and school children down to their rooms much earlier to avoid the Rainbow room looking so busy in the mornings. We work on a ratio so there must be, at all times, the correct number of staff to children. On days when we have extra children, we employ extra staff to

meet the needs of the children. If at any time the staff feel that they need more support, Sharon or Lorraine step in to support them until not required - which isn't for long.

7. The Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care are legally required to have many written policies. Can you suggest any strategies we could use to inform and consult with families about new policies?

The best suggestion was that we email policies to families. If you would like to read any policies at any time they are kept in the folders in the foyer and in the kitchen in the Rainbow Policies folder. We review policies over 2 years and they are placed in the newsletter when reviewing.

8. The staff and Management Committee are keen to revise current communication strategies used to inform families and the community about issues at the centre. Can you suggest any suggestions to guide this, such as ways you prefer to receive information (e.g. email, Facebook, newsletter) and how you approach the centre if you have any concerns?

Most people said they prefer email for the newsletter, and some had suggested Facebook. We will continue with our emails and place extraordinary events on Facebook. I also remind you that we have a web page you can also read the newsletter.

www.grenfellpreschool.com.au

9. Do you feel if the situation arose, you would be able to communicate with the Director and management committee?

The Management committee is
President - Rachel Conron – Ph 0488665970
Vice President - Eloise Hinde - Ph 0400948551
Treasurer - Amanda Protheroe - Ph 0423090050
Secretary - Francesca Taylor
Ordinary members - Emma Wildsoet 0488432600,
Fiona Cations 0427350624 and Belinda Mawhinney 0408081525.

The Director is Sharon Grant and works 5 days a week from 8am to 4pm ph. 0263431743 or email sharon@grenfellpreschool.com.au

10. Do you have any suggestions about what could be done to improve any aspect of the service and facilities delivered by the Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre?

All staff are qualified, and some are working towards other qualifications, and some have higher qualifications than others.

Sharon, Emily, Mel, Ashleigh and Tracey have a Bachelor of Teaching and Sharon has a Diploma in management.

Laraine, Holly, Jenny, Kim and Katie have a Diploma in Children's Services.

Lyn, Zovi, Bianca, Wendy, Melinda, Lorraine, Natalie Hayes and Belinda have Certificate III in children services. Natalie Cotter and Sally are working towards a Certificate III in Children

Services. Holly is studying her teaching degree and Bianca and Natalie Hayes are studying for a Diploma in Children Services. All staff do extra workshops to update their knowledge to help children and families. All staff are required to participate in 38 hours of in-service training per year. All teachers are required to be a Proficient teacher and must gain 100 points in workshops to maintain it. One day's workshop can be only 8 points, and all teachers must pay a registration fee each year. All staff are required to have a working with children check and must be updated every five years. Staff are trained in child protection.

Our Strategic planning is addressing more ideas to improve the service.

Thank you everyone for your feedback and I would be only too happy to help to make this centre and our Mobile Preschool Service better for everyone.

Circle of Security®

A workshop for Bigger, Stronger, Wiser and Kind Parenting.

All children want to feel loved and safe. The Circle of Security® Parenting program is based on decades of evidence about how secure parent-child relationships can be strengthened. The program helps parents to provide children with the confidence and freedom to explore their world while feeling a sense of comfort and security. An experienced and supportive facilitator will guide the eight group sessions.

Circle of Security® Parenting Program for parents of children 0-12-year-old, will help you:

- Support your child's self-esteem
- Tune in to your child's world by reading important cues
- Understand your child's emotional needs
- Connect with your child and enjoy being in the moment
- Strengthen your bond and attachment with your child. The course will be run at the centre and goes for 4 weeks Tuesdays 10am to 2pm 11th June to 2nd July 2019

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

To book your place call:

Grenfell Pre-School: 02 6343 1743

Kirstin @ Home-Start: 0428 450 399

(Occasional childcare is available @ the carers cost)



Contact numbers Mobile Service: **0488 045 584**
Grenfell Pre School and Long Day Care Centre:
on **63431743**.

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The Gigalees will be at the centre on 19th June at 10:30.

- 25th May National Families Week
- National Simultaneous Story Day
- 29th Make a cake day
- 5th June Biggest Morning Tea
- 19th June Eat your vegies Day
- 26th June Eat your fruit day



Dates to Remember

The Gigalees show

19th June at 10:30

Circle of Security starting

10am to 2pm 11th June to 2nd July 2019

End of year close

Centre Closes – Friday 20th December 2019

Centre Opens – Tuesday 7th January 2020

Circle of Security Parent Group

**Have you ever wondered why your kids do
some of the things they do?**

Circle of Security is an easy to understand and commonsense parenting group, designed to help parents and carers recognise and respond to the needs and behaviour of all children.

***This program will help you to feel more confident
about meeting your children's emotional needs
whilst setting limits for them.***

A 4 week course
Tuesdays 10am to 2pm
11th June to 2nd July 2019
Grenfell Pre-School

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