



St Andrew's OSHC

Volume 1, Issue 3

St Andrews OSHC

16-06-08

The busiest time of day for OSHC is from 2.40pm to 4.00pm. When the children come out of school and have lots of energy to burn, it does take extra time to check the roll and serve afternoon tea etc. We would appreciate it if parents could organise another time for enquiries etc. I am available every morning from 7.00am to 9.00am, and in the afternoons after 4.00pm to discuss any concerns.

If you have not been receiving your statements via email recently, it would be that I do not have current email addresses. Being able to email statements, newsletters and other messages to families is much more efficient and less costly to the program, so, please check with me to see if I have your current email address, or let me know if you don't have access to the internet.



Some parents may have noticed that a gate has recently been installed at the end of the library. This is to prevent cars from driving in to the areas that we have licenced as play areas or walking areas. With the dental van being parked in the area behind the library, (which is the designated parking area for OSHC staff), space is limited & as it is impossible to find a park in the main car park at 2.30; and as there is no lighting around the tennis court area, I have a Duty of Care to ensure staff can access their vehicles as safely as possible, as it is very dark at the end of their shifts.

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OSHC Website:
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OSHC Email Address:
ferrygroveoshc@bne.centacare.net.au

Vac Care

The Vac Care Program, booking form and excursion permission forms are all available to be downloaded from our website, and bookings should be made ASAP to avoid missing out as we have limited staff available.

Fee Increase

A reminder from the last newsletter that the new fee increase will take effect from June 30th. New fees will be :

BSC	—	\$8.00
ASC	—	\$12.00
Vac Care	—	\$27.00

Payments

Could parents please ensure that fees are fully paid at the end of term and a reminder that fees should be paid weekly unless other arrangements have been made. As OSHC is a non-profit organisation, we rely on the prompt payment of fees.

Inside this issue:

- Email Addresses
- Parking at OSHC
- Vac Care Program
- Fee Increase
- Fee Payments
- Menu Changes
- Concert



Menu Changes

We have recently been advised of changes to the Food Act which will become effective from 1st July. We will now be able to cook meals for the children for up to twelve times per year. We will continue to serve afternoon tea as usual at ASC, however, it will be cold foods such as sandwiches, crackers, scones, etc, or anything that is pre-cooked in a licensed kitchen and does not require reheating. We are still permitted to do our cooking activities with the children as it is part of the program. The main change will be that we will only be able to cook meals for the

children once per week during Vacation Care & once per semester.

As children were eating all of their food at morning tea (during Vac Care), we have decided that it would be of more benefit for us to provide morning and afternoon tea each day and the children will provide their own lunch each day, other than the "lunch provided days" as noted on the Vac Care Program. Please note that we are not permitted to re-heat any food brought from home, or 2-minute noodles.

Nutrition

The school recently organised a session for parents to learn more about healthy eating & ideas for children's lunch boxes etc. Unfortunately, there was very little response to the session and it was at an impossible time for working parents to attend. I am looking for expressions of interest (email is fine), from any parents who are interested in attending a session. If there is enough interest, I can organise a session at a time more suitable to OSHC families. The presentation is from Nutrition Australia with whom OSHC has membership, and approval of our menu.

OSHC Concert - Saturday, 30th August, 2008.

Our annual concert for this year will be held on Saturday, 30th August at 6.30pm. We have started rehearsing and putting children into various performances. The children have been asked if they would like to participate and are given the opportunity to do so if they wish to. Be involved. We ask that parents/carers please let me know ASAP if their child will not be

able to participate if they have prior commitments etc. The majority of costumes will be provided, and children would only be required to provide costume items that they may already have such as jeans or a t-shirt. More information will be sent out closer to the date, This concert will be our 7th and it has been great to see the children gain confidence

through performing in front of an audience and they have a lot of fun as well as raising money for charity. It was lovely to see so many families attend last year, and also some very proud grandparents.



Mobile Phones

Just a reminder that our policy on mobile phones is outlined in the Parent Handbook, which is on our website. If children need to have a mobile phone with them at OSHC, it must be handed to the co-ordinator and then it will be returned to the child at the end of the session. It is a Centacare Policy that neither staff or children use mobiles during OSHC.

Homework

Also, a reminder regarding our homework policy. We have a homework session at 5.00pm when a supervisor is available to assist. Children can do their homework at any time, however, to maintain our staff ratio, we cannot allocate staff to assist at other times.



Thanks once again to Trish Dunn who has done a fantastic job of setting up our website and keeping it up to date with information for families to access at their own leisure.

Thankyou for taking the time to read the newsletter and keeping up to date with events happening at OSHC.

Thankyou,
Jayne Browne