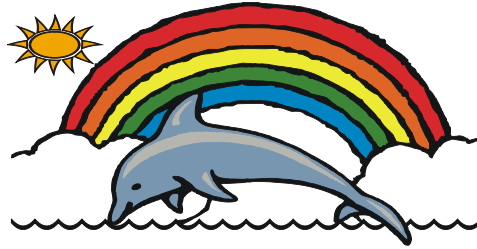


# Berkeley Vale Pre-school Kindergarten Inc

“Your Community Pre-school”

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“Living, Learning and Growing”

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July 2015 Newsletter

Dear Parents and families,

Welcome back following our winter holiday break. We have all enjoyed being able to stay indoors on those cold and frosty mornings. However, it was wonderful to also take advantage of the warmth of the sun during the middle of the day.

Our team of educators have worked on childrens' portfolios during the non-teaching weeks. We will soon be sending home your child's portfolio and they need to be returned the next day or following week at the latest. We also ask parents to complete the Parent Input page at the end of the portfolio. Your input and feedback is very important to your child's learning journey.

## **CRAZY HAIR**

Thank you to the children, team and families who got involved in our Crazy Hair week at the end of last term. We have successfully raised \$166.60 for Cystic Fibrosis Research. Well done everyone for this great effort.

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

A number of our educators have recently updated their formal Child Protection qualifications, which is a regulatory requirement for educators to maintain. As a result of this training, our Child Protection policy has been reviewed, amended and is attached for your attention. We would like to reinforce to all families, that employees and

## **What's Coming Up?**

- **Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 starting at 7pm.**

management are Mandatory Reporters in accordance with National Law and the Child Protection Act.

## **PERMISSION NOTES & SURVEY FORMS**

We apologise that at present we have numerous pieces of documentation requiring your urgent attention and return to the office. Including the following:

- Consent form for Census Data
- Permission form for Website photos
- Speech Pathology survey form

If you haven't completed these documents, please return them ASAP. Thank you to everyone who has already returned them. It is greatly appreciated.

## **WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN**

Berkeley Vale Pre-school is collecting the Earn & Learn stickers that families receive for shopping at Woolworths. Please tell your neighbours and relatives to also collect them on our behalf. We have gained valuable educational resources via this program previously and felt it worthwhile to do this again. We have Sticker Cards that can be collected from the office, or simply bring in the sticker dots and we'll get the children to add them.

## **MUNCH & MOVE – HEALTHY LIVING**

Central Coast Health shared a number of useful websites that families may like to access, if you wish.

Central Coast Health Promotion (Munch & Move page)  
[www.healthpromotion.com.au/Munch\\_and\\_Move/Munch&Move\\_home.htm](http://www.healthpromotion.com.au/Munch_and_Move/Munch&Move_home.htm)

Healthy Kids (Munch & Move resources, specifically the 2 sets of newsletter snippets) -  
[www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/campaigns-programs/munch-move-resources.aspx](http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/campaigns-programs/munch-move-resources.aspx)

Munch & Move fact sheets -  
[www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/campaigns-programs/munch-move-resources/munch-move-fact-sheets.aspx](http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/campaigns-programs/munch-move-resources/munch-move-fact-sheets.aspx)

The Magic Lunchbox -  
[www.healthpromotion.com.au/Magic\\_Lunchbox/Magic\\_Lunchbox\\_Resources.html](http://www.healthpromotion.com.au/Magic_Lunchbox/Magic_Lunchbox_Resources.html)

Potter the Otter -  
[www.healthpromotion.com.au/Healthy\\_Drinks\\_Children/Potter\\_the\\_Otter.htm](http://www.healthpromotion.com.au/Healthy_Drinks_Children/Potter_the_Otter.htm)

## **NOTES FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **SMS BROADCASTING**

Families will recall at the beginning of Term 2, we all experienced significant storm damage to our local area and subsequent power outage. This resulted in pre-school being closed for an extended period, and unfortunately we were unable to contact every parent. Our Management Committee have discussed various ways to overcome this and we would like to thank our President, Thomas McConaghey, who has sourced an affordable solution to this situation. Should

we be faced with a closure or emergency situation in the future, we will be able to send an SMS message to each and every parent. We would like to inform parents that we have created an account with SMS Broadcasting and included parent mobile phone numbers within a secure Excel spreadsheet. Please be reminded that it is vitally important that we always have your up-to-date mobile phone numbers at all times.

Our next Management Committee meeting is Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm – all parents are welcome.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Colleen Templeton and the Berkeley Vale Pre-school team

## **GETTING TO KNOW US**

This month we are getting to know Sonja Denniss, educator from the Dolphin Room, who works Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

### **Tell us a little about yourself ...**

I'm married to Peter, and I have two children, Jordan, 15 and Alyssa 12. I have lived on the Central Coast for 26 years so I guess that makes me a local. I was actually born and raised in Papua New Guinea as one of 7 siblings before moving permanently to Australia in 1988. I have been teaching at Berkeley Vale Pre-school since 1992! Don't ask me how old I am because I can't remember!!! Old Timers has set in!!

### **What do you do when you're not a pre-school?**

Well, I'd like to say that I lead a life of social leisure, but like most parents I spend much of my spare time running my children around to their various sporting events and catching up on house work!! Otherwise, I do enjoy lazing

at the beach in summer, bike rides with my kids, followed by fish and chips in the park, seeing the occasional movie, camping and catching up with family and friends ... or anyone that will have a LATTE with me!!

#### What's your favourite meal?

What?? I only get to have one favourite meal?? Okay, if I have to choose, it would have to be chicken cashew stir fry with chilli jam ... mmm!! I love Thai food!!

#### What is your favourite pre-school moment?

3pm!! Ha ... just kidding! My favourite pre-school moment is when children laugh! When they develop a sense of humour and can enjoy a joke. Most of all, I love it when they get MY sense of humour and can laugh with me!! Although I am pretty sure they mostly laugh at me ... but that's OK too.



## CHILD PROTECTION

### AIM

Berkeley Vale Pre-school, including educators, staff, management and volunteers are responsible for protecting young children to ensure their safety, welfare and wellbeing. These individuals hold Mandatory reporting responsibilities to Department of Education and Communities if they suspect a child is at significant risk of harm, during the course of their work. This is in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998.

### IMPLEMENTATION

As staff are Mandatory Reporters, if a member of the team suspects a child is at significant risk of harm they will refer to the Mandatory Reporter Guide located on the Keep Them Safe website. [www.KeepThemSafe.nsw.gov.au](http://www.KeepThemSafe.nsw.gov.au). Following the advice from this website, the individual will carry out the instructions as per recommendations. At this point it is expected that the Nominated or Certified Supervisor is informed of the outcome.

Keep Them Safe is a new Child Protection intra-agency initiative designed to promote the well-being of all children. The MRG (Mandatory Reporting Guide) online tool helps guide individuals' actions. If the outcome from the Mandatory Reporting Guide is to lodge an "Immediate Report" or we believe there is a high risk of significant harm and/or imminent risk of significant concerns for the safety of a child, an immediate telephone report MUST be made to the Child Protection Helpline on 133 627. Educators will continue their relationship and conversations with families and where appropriate may also encourage families to contact the Family Referral Service on 1300 006480 to offer more targeted support.

Pre-school staff will maintain a Child Protection register that will be used to record any events or situations in relation to child protection concerns. Any Risk of Significant Harm forms faxed will also be filed in the Child Protection register. All staff will treat these records with the strictest confidence.

Public Child Protection Hotline is: 132 111

### ALLEGATION OF ABUSE IN CARE AGAINST A STAFF MEMBER, VOLUNTEER OR STUDENT

To protect children and staff we will aim to have two adults present when children are toileting and during rest time. Adults will not be left alone with children, and children may need to be woken to meet this requirement.

In accordance with the OMBUDSMAN ACT 1974 (Amendment) we will advise the NSW State Ombudsman of any allegation of Child Abuse made against a staff member and will follow the directives and advice given by the Department of Education and Communities. If Police are informed, A Notification of Serious Incident form will be submitted to Department of Education and Communities within 24 hours. If the matter is not referred to Police, we will submit a Notification of Complaints and Incidents to the Department of Education and Communities within 7 days.

*Referenced: Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010.  
Child Protection (prohibited Employment) Act 1998.  
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011.  
National Quality Standards 2.3.4.  
NSW Mandatory Reporter Guide, 2010.*