

## PEGASUS Newsletter – Issue 1 – January 2002

In the past weeks we have been very busy learning about colours and shapes, diverse environments, winter, space, me myself and I, community workers as well as pets.

We are now moving onto the topics of fantasy and imagination, the beach, summer, and have began our 6 week Christmas program. We also have been encouraging childrens' pencil grip.



### Pre-School Requirements

Please remember to pack in your child's bag **a hat, a hand towel, a spare change of clothes and a sheet** all these need to be clearly labeled with your child's name.

As mentioned in the before children should not bring toys or jewellery to Pre-School as they become most distressed when these items are misplaced or broken.

A comforting toy is allowed as a support for when the child commencing Pre-School.

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### Hat Policy

Remember to bring a hat. In the child's interest we have to implement a "No Hat - No Outside Play" policy. We can not lend the children hat because of the risk of infections.

As warmer weather is approaching, our "Summer Program" allows the children to play outside in the morning and afternoon.

Please apply sunscreen to your child at least half an hour before they attend Pre-School, as it take time for it to be effective. Please let us know if your child requires a special sunscreen.

### Christmas Time

Christmas is fast approaching and our very busy staff are thinking about songs and dances for our very special Christmas Concert.

Fourth Term is an especially busy term when we have all sorts of fun activities for the children. We will be practicing our Christmas Concert, finishing off our end of year books, the Sugar Gliders will go for their walk to Narellan Vale Primary School and have "lunch box" week. The Sugar Gliders will also be staying up in the Fourth Term to do "Big School Work", so they will not require a sheet for this term.



### Impending Arrivals

### Graduation Photographs

All Sugar Gliders will be having their graduation photo taken on Monday 5th of November. The Children participating will have to be at Pre-School at 9:am on this day. (The pick up for children who don't normally attend Pre-School on Monday will be at 11:30am)

Graduation Photos are for the children

## ITS A BOY !

Melanie had her baby in November. Mum and baby are doing just fine. Melanies replacement Liz will take over for about 10 weeks, while Melanie is on maternity leave.

Liz was a full time teacher with us before she had her baby, and has been filling in for us from time to time.

We are really happy to have her back with us for an extended period and the children really enjoy her enthusiasm and her sense of fun.

attending Kindergarten at "Big School" next year but it doesn't include those going to Prep School in the private system as they are not going to the Kindergarten but are essentially continuing at a different Pre-School.

Also if you Child is not in the Sugar Glider language group but you have decided to send your child to school next year please see Melanie as soon as possible.



## Sickness Policy

Parents should remember that children need to be kept at home if they have a contagious illness or if they're off colour. Recently some children attended Pre-School with head lice, some with green/yellow nasal discharge (which indicates infection) and some others with conjunctivitis which is extremely contagious. It isn't fair to the other children at Pre-School if they contract some ailment from a child who should not have attended Pre-School while they were ill.



We suggest that while there is a plague of head lice that parents consider giving their child's hair a preventative treatment with one of the commercial products that are available. There are also "Scrunchies" which have a solution on them that prevents head lice, which are available for girls. We also suggest that the girls wear their hair up for the time being.

Your cooperation will help to prevent this problem from spreading further. top

## Extra Staff

You have probably noticed a few extra staff at Pre-School recently. The teachers have been taking their holidays and fortunately we've been able to call on our extremely valuable casual staff, Belinda and Liz to

## Good-byes

Naturally children love to wave good-bye to their parents in the morning and we like to encourage this but the rule is that the child has to stand on the mat at the back door and not go outside. You will appreciate that if a child

## Late Collection of Children

Recently there have been several occasions when children have not been picked up by 5:30pm. The terms of our licence and our insurance cover both require that the Pre-School

take over. Greetings are an important part of social learning and we encourage children to greet the teachers in the morning when they arrive and to say good-bye in the afternoon.

Sometimes shy children find it difficult to greet a new teacher so we are asking for your co-operation to assist your children with the greeting by prompting them. Usually the children only need this support on a couple of occasions and then they're comfortable doing it themselves.

goes outside the door a staff member would have to accompany them. This would mean the inside staff would be temporarily one short and this is not acceptable situation for the staff or the parents.



closes at 5:30pm .

If the children are not picked up by that time the two staff who have to wait with the children are greatly inconvenienced, we are in contravention of our licence and we have to pay overtime. When we incur additional costs because of this we will be obliged to charge that cost to the parent concerned.

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### **Fee Payments**

We have to remind parents that one of the conditions of the Childcare Benefit is that the unfunded portion of the fees have to be paid on time. Naturally the Pre-School wants to have fees paid on time because late payments cause problems in administration and waste a considerable amount of time when parents lose track of where they are paid up to.

### **Foyer Messages**

There have been some problems recently with someone scribbling on the After School Care Roll and some children have been rubbing out the messages on the Notice Board. We ask that parents supervise their children while in the foyer area so that other parents don't miss out on important messages from the teacher.

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### **Signing**

**It is really important for parents to ensure that children are signed in and out for each day of attendance.**

We discovered while doing our Fire Drill, which requires us to use the attendance roll to account for the children, that some children had not been signed in for the day. You can imagine the difficulty this would cause if there was a real emergency!

It is vitally important that we have a record of who is actually on the premises at anytime and completing the attendance roll is the way that parents confirm their child's arrival and departure.

A difficulty has arisen with some parents eligibility for child care benefits because



absences had not been signed for. To avoid having to personally pay the full fee for the day, you must sign for absences. In the past the staff have tried to "chase" parents for missing signatures but the 4th term is such a busy time that they really won't have time to do so. Remember that it is the parent's responsibility to complete the attendance sheet. top

**Our Young Artists** (click on the picture below to view a larger version)



Thank you for reading our Newsletter, a printed out copy is available from the Pre-School.