March, 2014 Newsletter

Term 1
Wednesday 29th January, 2014
- Friday 11th April, 2014

Facebook
Please like our OLQP Preschool Facebook page. We will post up to date information on news and events. Please note that no photo’s of children’s faces will be posted on our page.

Hall Pockets
Please remember to check your hall pockets each morning and afternoon on your child’s preschool day. Your hall pockets will contain lots of important information regarding fees, incursions and any other notes that you may need.

Pre-School Staff
Narelle Bolton  Monday – Friday
Lucy Muscat   Tuesday – Friday
Carmel DeBono Monday – Wednesday
Louis Woelfl    Wednesday – Friday
Julie-Ann Mifsud Monday (admin and fees)
Leanne Mifsud Monday, Thursday and Friday

Pre-School Hours
8.30am
- 4.00pm

School Terms for 2014
Term 1  Wednesday 29th January – Friday 11th April
Term 2  Monday 28th April – Friday 27th June
Term 3  Monday 14th July – Friday 19th September
Term 4  Tuesday 7th October – (term 4 last day to be confirmed)

Sign in Sheets
Each day your child attends, please make sure that you sign them in/out, both in the morning and afternoon. At the sign in sheet, there is also a family page where the children can share their stories at group time. There will also be a sign in sheet for your child to practice writing their name each day they come to preschool.
Fees

Term 1 fees should now be completed as they were due on Friday 21st, 2014. If you have not completed your Term 1 fees, this payment should be made immediately to avoid a $15 late fee enforced by the Catholic Education Office (CEO). If you have arranged for a fee payment plan, please ensure that you keep your regular payments up to date and on schedule.

Future invoices will now be sent out in the second last week of term. As each terms fees are due in week 4, including the last 2 weeks of term when you receive your invoice and the 2 weeks school holidays, this will allow you to have 8 weeks to pay your preschool fees. If you require a payment plan to pay your fees, this must be done within the first 2 weeks of the term.

Please ensure that you read our fees policy previously issued via email for any further information and is available on the website in the Parent Notes tab.

Payments can be made by BPay, Postbillpay and Eftpos.

Fees are processed on Monday of each week by Julie-Ann (between 9am – 3pm). Please contact her during these hours for any questions on 9631 8901. If you contact the office from Tuesday – Friday, please speak to Narelle. Other staff in the preschool may still take your eftpos payments, however they will not have access to your account information.

Security Gate

As you’ve seen we have a security gate which allows us to have control of who enters the premises during the day – better for the children. As parents this will only affect you at certain times during the day. The gate will be opened and accessible in the mornings from 8.30am – 9.45am and again in the afternoon from 2.30pm – 4.00pm. During these times, all you need to do is turn the top black handle and enter.

Between the hours of 9.45am and 2.30pm, the gate will be locked and only accessible by using the buzzer and intercom on the wall. If you are arriving at preschool during this time, press the buzzer and wait for staff to answer, let us know who you are and that you are at the gate wanting to enter, and we will unlock the gate electronically for you to turn the top handle for access.

Please make sure the gate closes securely behind you.

Lost Property

If your child has lost any belonging, please remember to check the lost property box, which is located on the verandah near the lockers. Please remember to label every item.

Preschool Special Treasures

Please help us to keep our special sandpit treasures at preschool. Some of our treasures are finding their way into pockets and bags. Please if you find any of these items, such as shells, with your child, can you please bring them back to preschool so we can continue to share them with others.
P & F Committee

The Pre-school has a P & F Committee and we are looking for some parent volunteers to help us out. The committee only meets once a term. We are looking for parents to take up the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please contact Narelle.

The next meeting being the AGM will be held on Tuesday 18th March, 2014.

Health Food Policy

At Pre-school we follow a health food policy. Please send fruit and/or vegetables with your child for morning tea. This can also be brought for an extra snack at lunch time (if they are still hungry). Some healthy suggestions are dried fruit, yoghurt, cheese, carrots, celery or other vegetables. A sandwich is recommended for lunch as we do not reheat food for the children. All food is kept in the fridge. Please note that bars such as LCM’s are not considered a healthy snack. Please see the Health Food Policy on our website under Parents Notes Tab.

Uniform and Spare Clothes

Please send your child to Preschool in sensible, sun safe clothing and footwear (thongs and strappy shirts are not allowed). Make sure they always have hat, as ‘NO HAT NO PLAY’. There is Pre-school clothing available if you have not already purchased some. Please remember to send spare clothes in your child’s bag in case of any accidents, water play or becoming dirty while playing.

Sunscreen

As the children will be playing outside, please make sure you apply sunscreen on your child before they arrive for Pre-School. If they don’t have any on before they come, due to new policies, you will need to apply it when you get to pre-school.

Parking/Drop Off

The driveway for the Pre-school is only to be used as a 5 minute drop off. Please be aware that if there is a car in front of you, this may take a little longer, so please be patient. If you need to speak to the teachers, please park on the road. The grass area is only for staff parking.

Newsletter

The Pre-school newsletter will be available on our website the first week of each month. It will keep you up to date with everything going on at Pre-school. If you would like to contribute anything that may be of interest to other families, please let us know. If you do not receive the newsletter, please let Narelle or Julie-Ann know.
### Medication

No medication is to be left in the children's bag. If your child needs to have medicine during the day, it must be given to staff and a form filled in, this includes asthma puffers, epipens and cream. Medicine must be in its original packaging and the script in your child's name.

### Allergies

If your child has any type of allergy, you must inform the staff immediately.

### Washing Hands

Please encourage your child to wash their hands when they arrive at preschool. This will also remind them and get them into the habit of hanging their towels in the bathroom too.

### Fundraising

During the year we will be holding various fundraising events. Funds from these events will go towards things such as incursions.

### Prayer Tea Towel

The Pre-school prayer tea towel is available for purchase for $10.

### Donations

The Pre-school is always in need of various supplies, especially toilet paper & tissues. If you would like to make a donation, that would be very much appreciated.

### Website

Each fortnight on a Tuesday, you will receive an email from our website which will include various information about upcoming events and our newsletter. Keep an eye out for it in your inbox.

### Additional Needs

If you have any concerns for your child as the year progresses, whether it is learning, social or behaviour, please see staff to discuss any issues you may have.

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**Child Reflections**

Here is an email that we received from one of our preschool Mum's. If you have any feedback that you would like to share, please send us an email.

“I made a comment the week before how I love that Marcus is able to share his experiences with his classmates through “news time / show and tell”

It’s really good for Marcus’ confidence and speech. I know this is something they do from kindy so this will definitely help him in the future. It’s a good practise.

Thank you for encouraging and helping him.

He loves going to preschool and I can see that he really enjoys being there. Thank you so much for making him feel so welcome. I am one happy mummy”
**Special Events**

**What’s happening this month March, 2014**

*Preschool AGM Meeting*
- Tuesday 18th March, 2014
- Time: 7.30pm

*Peter Wood’s Magic Show*
- Thursday 20th March, 2014
- Time: 10.00am
  (See note in the Parent Notes tab on website)

*Living Eggs*
- Monday 31st March, 2014 – Friday 11th April, 2014

**Special Events**

**What’s happening next month April, 2014**

*Easter Hat Parade*
- Friday 11th April, 2014
- Time: 9.00am

**Birthdays**

March, 2014

5th – Kerri D
19th – Finley A
27th – Narelle B

15th – Eva A
25th – Raymond S
28th – Adrian R

**Email**

When you receive an email, please send a reply to acknowledge that you have been able to open and read each one. When notes are attached to the emails, there is no need to print out the notes and send them back, just RSVP by email.

**Web & App Lookout**

Do you have any useful websites or apps that our families may find of interest and would like to share with them? For example: Healthy Foods, Craft ideas, etc. Please let us know and we can pass them on in this section of the newsletter. Please note that we are not endorsing any websites that we include in this newsletter.

**Water Bottles**

Could you please make sure that you send your child to preschool with a water bottle. We have water at the preschool to refill them if they drink their whole bottle.
Care Packages Sent Christmas 2013

For Christmas last year we sent some care packages to our troops serving overseas. Below is an email we received from one of the soldiers.

G'day to everyone there at the Early Learning Centre in Greystanes,

Sorry for the delay with this email, all our Christmas mail was lost for a while and we only just received our missing stores yesterday.

It was lovely to receive the Christmas box that you have gone to so much effort to put together. I especially liked the pictures you have drawn, particularly Nicholas’ drawing of himself and the present, and Shannons drawing of a race track. My son Tyler just turned 5 before I left and he likes to draw too. I also have a daughter, Xanthe, who is seven.

My job onboard is to look after the weapons, surveillance and communications systems to make sure we can protect ourselves and anyone else that may need our help. Another part of my job is boarding party. That means if we find people on the ocean that may need help we go across to their boat and assist them. On the other hand, if they are doing something wrong, we have to go and find out what is happening, and if they have anything bad, we take it away from them.

At the moment we are searching for people who are involved with shipping and selling bad things like drugs and weapons. We are trying our best to stop people trading drugs and using the profits to do bad things. In turn, we are hopefully stopping some of these drugs ending up back in Australia (and other places) and ruining peoples lives there too.

Just before Christmas we were patrolling the waters around Africa to try and prevent pirates from stealing ships and hurting people. A lot of people think pirates are only in movies, but we ended up catching a few. Once we caught the pirates we took away their weapons and sank their boats, then returned them home so they can hopefully find other work to do that doesn't involve hurting people. I am the person talking to the crew members in the story picture below.

It is very difficult being away from home and my family, especially around times like Christmas, but your parcel has made me very happy to know we have support from back at home.

Thankyou very much, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and good luck at big school (although you will have been back for a few weeks by now). I was hoping to be home for my sons first day at Kindy but unfortunately that didn't happen. I can't wait to get home and hear about all the wonderful adventures he has had at school, as I'm sure you are all sharing with each other too.

Kieran

CPOET Kieran Davis
HMAS Melbourne - FFG 05
Deployed - MEAO
02 6224 1871

P.S. I have been told a lot of mail may still be in the process of being delivered/redirected because of the troop withdrawal, but please take this as a thankyou for anything else that may have been sent. Your effort and best wishes are very much appreciated.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Australian Defence Organisation and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.