



Grenfell Preschool  
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter March 2021

### Star Room

Hello Star Room Families.

During February we have focused on Sun Safety. We have done this through group experiences where we have looked at where to put sunscreen on our bodies, what sort of hat to wear, where to play when it is hot and how much water we need to drink each day. We have a regular sunscreen station set up in our room along with pictures around it to help remind children about sun safety. We regularly watched a short YouTube clip called George the Sun Safe Superstar. Now we have finished, the children have participated in making their own sun safe certificates they can keep. All this is displayed in our room on our sun safe wall. Please feel free to have a look.

Thank you so much to all our lovely families that have brought a photo in for 'Our Belonging Tree'. The children just love seeing their families up on the wall, it brings much discussion amongst peers.

We are focusing on sustainability over the next coming weeks with Clean up Australia day on the 7th March. We have been working on our new worm farm donated from Bunnings Young. Along with our new veggie beds in our front yard. We are looking forward to planting, caring for and watching them grow.

Another thank you goes to our families who have completed and brought in the "All about me" survey which has given us a lovely insight into our children personalities and also families goals. A common goal from families appears to be for our children to develop school readiness and social skills. In the upcoming weeks we will be focusing on developing positive social skills as this is very much an important, if not the most important school readiness skill preschool can offer children.

Reminders for parents:

Please remember to pack a spare change of clothes including undies, socks and pants. Accidents are still common and will happen from time to time even in the most confident of toilet trained children. Children feel much more comfortable changing into their own clothes too.

Our spare clothes supplies are also limited so if you have any preschool clothes at home please return these.

## Garden Room

Clean up Australia Day has created lots of meaningful conversations with the children, resulting our excursion on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. If your child attends on Friday, please ensure they have appropriate walking shoes.

We have been reflecting how exciting it is children are borrowing from our Library, if you have any questions please see any of the Garden Room Educators.

We have a lot of children loving Bluey! Have you seen the "Bob Bilby" episode? We are excited about introducing this into our room soon.

## Sunshine Room

What an adventure we have been on this month. Exploring animals of the jungle has been fun. We have engaged in many different animal crafts and have transformed our locker area into a tree from the jungle, filled with monkeys, lions, snakes and giraffes. If you have not been into see it, please come on in and see our creative tree. We have also learnt a new song all about the Itsy Bitsy Monkey. We have enjoyed tapping sticks also and have our favorite songs we love to perform but are learning some new songs also.

We have all settled well into the room and our days are filled with plenty of giggles, laughs and learning.

## Rainbow Room

The Rainbow room have been busy exploring the new toys in our room over the few months and our outside environment, as well as welcoming new friends into our room.

Since opening the doors we have noticed a few children become unsettled, to help the Rainbow room children settle back into this transition and have a sense of belonging we ask that families please send in family photos - if you have already thank you!

We are currently brainstorming ideas to introduce the photos to the children's level so they can see them as they want too. We have also used the photos for children to carry around whilst they have been unsettled, this could even be from falling over, it has helped a lot.

Please remember to label your child's belongings.

We are starting up our garden again, using discovery garden seedlings from Woolworth- they have been a huge hit so far, if you have any spare you don't need, we would love them. Also, if you have any other cuttings from your garden we would love to incorporate it into our space 🌱

We love hearing feedback, thank you families for helping encourage us to thrive in different directions of play and explore different avenues with your children, we love hearing about what they're doing at home so we can continue their interests here ❤️

## Caragabal

We have had a great start to the year, including welcoming two new children.

This term we started talking to the children about having our own totem, like the Wiradjuri do. We hope that talking about caring for our totem and its habitat, it will give the children a more personal link to caring to the world. After some discussion they chose the Koala. They even decided to add it to our 'Acknowledgement of Country'! We found a book called 'How the Koala Got Its Claws', watched a couple of videos and learnt some very interesting facts about Koalas. The children at the school made a Koala last year which sits in the office, so we went on an excursion to see it. Now we are planning to make our own Koala.

We are also starting to include more loose parts in the program this year (Loose parts are any loose, tactile materials and found objects that children can move about during play and exploration. They are versatile, open-ended and can be added to any learning environment for children to adapt and to turn into anything their imagination allows.). If anyone has any items, they think we could use, please let us know. Some examples of loose parts are: bottle caps, cardboard tubes, recycled spools and wheels from thread and ribbon, fabric remnants, silk scarves, ribbons, bangles, costume jewellery building and household project remnants

## Quandialla

We welcome our new children and their families to the Quandialla preschool. We hope your children enjoy their time with us.

This term we have started a worm farm with the children. We use our food scraps from the day to add to it, which the children are enjoying. We are learning what worms like to eat and hopefully once they make their castings, we can use them on our garden we are going to start.


The children from years 4, 5, 6 at Quandialla school have also been bringing over some scraps from their morning fruit break. We love working and interacting with the school community.

We had a fire drill this month with the whole school. We practice these so educators and children know what to do in case of a real fire.

If you have not already sent in family photos you can email them to us at [quandialla@grenfellpreschool.com.au](mailto:quandialla@grenfellpreschool.com.au).

You can also email us at this address if you have any questions or if you have been on holidays or have something to share. We love seeing photos of what the children have been up to at home.

## Reminders

-  Please do not park in the Bus or Disabled Zones. The fines for parking in the Bus Zone are \$337.00 and 2 points.

If you park in the Disabled Zone without a permit, the fine is \$697.00 and no loss of points.

Parking in these areas make it problematic for the buses to pull in and becomes a safety issue when dropping off and picking up children.

## **Directors Report**

For education and care professionals, building partnerships with families involves establishing and maintaining positive relationships. A strong relationship is based on understanding and respect for each other roles, lifestyle choices, culture, and expertise. It is our goal to ensure we establish these relationships genuinely and in a way that you feel valued, respected, and communicated with effectively. Please speak with your children's educators about any concerns and questions you have about your child's day or practices at the Service. If you have a preferred method of contact, please communicate this with the team to ensure we are collaboratively communicating with each other. We are here to help and ensure yours and your child's time with the Service is positive.

I want to thank those parents who have taken the time to respond to emails or sent positive messages to the teams about their interactions with children, programs or just to let them know their child is loving their time at the Service. Such feedback means a lot to the educators.

I would also like to mention the hard work Chris Cartman has contributed to the Service. We often need items fixed and he has undoubtedly been able to complete such tasks with efficiency and professionalism.

You may have also seen the new shelf put up in the hall near the Rainbow Room, this was put up by Coopers' Pop, Gary Halloran. Thanks, so much Gary your time is much appreciated.

## **Booking Changes**

Effective of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 we will no longer be offering half day bookings. This decision was not made easily as we want to ensure we are meeting the needs of the families and community however this is an operational decision to ensure we are up to date with best practice in our sector, administration practicality and the viability of the Service.

Casual bookings are still available as well as Occasional Care. Both of these booking require 24 hours' notice. Much planning goes into every day the Service operates including how many educators are required for the number of children in attendance. Please call Lorraine to make your bookings.

# Appendix 1 – Membership Form

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

Grenfell Preschool and Long Day Care Centre Incorporated  
(incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1984*)

I, .....

(full name of applicant)

of .....

(address)

(occupation)

hereby apply to become a member of the abovenamed incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the association for the time being in force.

Signature of applicant

Date