



Grenfell Preschool  
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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## Newsletter February 2021

### Star Room

Welcome everyone. It is great to see families in the centre again. The children are settling in nicely to the rooms, becoming familiar with the new routine, educators, and peers.

We have been following the children's interest in bugs and the natural world. They have discovered various bugs and insects in the gardens while watering. This has led to various discussions and activities.

The staff in the Star Room have been working on an information pamphlet that will be going home this week. Please check your child's bag/lunchbox for notes. The survey is to give us some feedback and the "all about me" form is to be completed with your child. If you could please take the time to fill it out and return it, this will help us plan and program for your individual child's needs.

Please note we are now sending photos of the day out via email. If you wish you contact us or share information, please call or email [star@grenfellpreschool.com.au](mailto:star@grenfellpreschool.com.au)

### Garden Room

The Garden Room Educators critically reflected how effective the transition to leaving our hats on the personalised photo hook has been.

We are finding this a positive part of our routine.

We welcome more feedback on this change in our settling in period. The Garden Room as also sent out Family Service Plans for parents to complete and return.



## Sunshine Room

This past month has flown by and we have all settled quite well into our new learning environments. We have been exploring the back yard and we love that we can start doing things independently like climbing the fort, turning the gardening tap on, climbing in and out of the big boat and getting the sandpit toys out of the sandpit storage. We have had some time out there with all of the children and some time on our own which has been nice for us to build our confidence and spatial awareness.

Inside we have been loving books, the babies and the steppingstones. We have started to explore colours and have moved on to an "All About Me" concept which has provided us with many fun craft activities. We have been trying really hard at our small group times and we have adapted to the new concept of grabbing a mat very quickly. We also like to use the steppingstones for group times as it helps with our balance and coordination. We have also enjoyed using the emotion card to mimic the emotions and being confused is our favourite one.

Please remember to bring a hat, drink bottle, nappies, undies, spare clothes and a yummy lunch box every time your child visits. And please label everything- including shoes.

We have enjoyed seeing all the mums, dads, grandparents in drop off and pick-up times back in the rooms. Please help your child to unpack and have a look around the room at all our amazing projects.



## Rainbow Room

The Rainbow has had a very busy start the year, settling in not only returning children, but new families and children as well. Our aim this term is to build positive relationships with you and your children, and to ensure all children are settled into the environment, feeling safe and secure enough to engage in play. Please keep an eye out for communication via email, and feel free to contact us to support our goal of building respectful and collaborative relationships with you.



## **Directors Report**

Welcome back everyone! We are so excited to now be open to families, to come in and support their child's transition into their rooms. Please don't forget to follow our COVID19 safe procedures, it is our priority or ensure the safety of not only you and your children, but educators and visitors to the Service.

Wow, what a start to 2021. Our numbers across the Centre are growing daily with the Rainbow & Sunshine room almost at capacity for 2021. We have positions in all other rooms, however, to avoid disappointment, please don't leave it too long to decide on starting or increasing your child's early learning journey.

Mobile is back also, and we have positions at both Caragabal and Quandialla. Please encourage others you may know who have children eligible for the Service.

Educators have been discussing and mindfully planning to develop their programs to provide stimulating environments for all areas of your child's development. The open-ended provisions that are being provided to your child create opportunities for individualised learning and growth, choice and autonomy. Please speak with your child's educators if you have any questions about programming and planning, you may even wish to contribute your skills and ideas.

### **EXCITING NEWS!**

Holly Ryan had been appointed the WOOSH Coordinator. Holly brings many years of experience and passion in working with children and she is looking forward to getting to know the WOOSH children. Holly will start mid-February.

Sharn Ballard is also a new employee, working in the Rainbow room Wednesdays – Fridays. Please help us make Sharn feel welcome and introduce yourself to her. Sharn's little boy Fletcher has also joined the GPLDCC family and is absolutely adorable.

And.....we have appointed a trainee. Kelly Bembrick will commence with the Centre in the coming weeks. You may already know Kelly, she had lived and worked in Grenfell for many years and is ready to start her Early Childhood career. We could not be happier that she has chosen to begin her profession with us.

Finally, I have really enjoyed getting to know you all over the past few weeks. My door is always open to families, so please pop your head in and say hi when you can. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, collaborating with you, your child, educators, and the community for positive outcomes for all.

Nat Rush

## **Board of Directors Report**

The Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to all families, both new and returning to the community of GPLDCC. The current Board of Directors was elected by members of the GPLDCC Association at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) convened in December 2020. The current Board of Directors is Rachel Conron, Amanda Protheroe and Belinda Mawhinney. All three have worked together over the past two years on the management committee and are collectively committed to supporting the operations of the service. The Board of Directors meets regularly with the Operational Leadership Team to ensure the service continues to deliver high quality early childhood education that meets the needs of the Weddin Shire.

Did you know that all families accessing services of GPLDCC are members of the GPLDCC Association and are eligible to vote at the AGM? To assist the management of members, attached to the newsletter is a membership application form that all families are required to complete. Please complete and return form to our Operations Co-ordinator, Lorraine Harveyson.

The Board are working on a number of exciting developments in 2021 and will provide updates as the year progresses.

If you would like to contact anyone on the Board, please email: [executivecommittee@grenfellpreschool.com.au](mailto:executivecommittee@grenfellpreschool.com.au)

## Changes to enrolment

The Board of Directors have made some operational decisions that may affect your child's enrolment into the future.

Effective March 1, 2021, the "two weeks' notice for absence" will no longer be available. This means that if your child is going to be absent from the Service for holidays for example, you will be required to pay for the position. This is a decision based on best practice in the sector and operational development for the Service.

Furthermore, wherever possible, casual bookings will be accommodated however due to the increased numbers in permanent bookings, we will no longer be able to guarantee casual bookings on demand. Requests for casual bookings must be made with 24 hours' notice.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Grenfell Girl Guides

Girl Guides offers an inclusive, nurturing, and safe environment where girls and young women take part in a wide range of fun activities and adventures, delivered through a dynamic and flexible non-formal educational program. Designed by girls and delivered by girls, the activities across each age group of the Girl Guide program reflect the interests of girls at that stage of life.

The world of a young girl is more complex than ever before; school pressures, family life, a digital reality, global perspectives and raised expectations, means navigating their own path can be sometimes tough and confusing. What they need more than ever is a community of people they can call their own. A place where they are considered perfect just as they are, a place they can try new things, learn new skills, make life-long friends, and develop a rounded view of the world. A place where they can carve their own journey, choose what to learn, be challenged, discover new talents, have adventures, be creative, and most importantly—have fun.

We are looking for more girls to join our local unit. At the moment our Unit is called a 'Flexible Unit' covering girls from 7 – 14 years old but we would love to be able to start a Pre-Junior Guide Unit in Grenfell 5 – 7years. Girls will join a group of four to six girls (called a 'Patrol') that meets once a week. With the help of an adult Leader the girls decide what stuff they want to do.

Grenfell Girl Guides (Flexible Unit) meet after school on Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Guide Hall in East Street. If you would like more information on your daughter joining Girl Guides in Grenfell, or helping out as a Unit Helper or Leader, please contact us via our Face Book page 'Grenfell Girl Guides' or by contacting one of our Leaders. Glenda Howell - 0429 631 505 or Sandra Frame - 0249 639 776. Or you can visit [www.girlguides-nswactnt.org.au](http://www.girlguides-nswactnt.org.au) to find out more information.



**ENROL NOW**

Do you have or do you know of a child and family with a child/ren aged 2 ½ - 5 years?

We are taking enrolments at the Weddin Mobile Preschool Service @ Quandialla.

We visit on Mondays & Wednesdays and operate out of the Quandialla Public School from 9:15am – 3:15pm. Please feel free to drop in and say hello to the educators or call us on 6343 1743 for more information.

- Preschool is an opportunity for growth
- Preschool supports your child's transition to kindergarten
- Preschool promotes social and emotional development
  - Your child will get to make choices
- Your child will learn to take care of themselves and others
  - Preschool promotes language and cognitive skills
  - Preschool educators nurture your child's curiosity

And|much more.....