

June-July 2009

## Pelican's Nest Early Learning Centre: "News from the Nest"

The half-way mark of 2009 is approaching and we are all wondering, "where did the year go?". Our centre is enjoying 100% occupancy with a very extensive waiting list which is making us a rarity within the industry at the moment and I must thank all our lovely families for your on-going support and your patience when we cannot immediately accommodate changes to your care needs!

### COMING EVENTS:

#### June:

Friday, June 26

RED NOSE DAY- wear something red!

#### July:

July 5 – July 12

Tuesday, July 14

NAIDOC Week

Brett Campbell, musician 9.30am (\$5.00)

Grandparents Day

Wednesday, July 23

Pyjama Party- come dressed in your PJ's!



#### Change of details

It is very important that we have all the latest contact details for every parent and guardian. In the event of illness or emergency precious time is sometimes wasted when we cannot contact parents directly. Next time you are at the office if you could check your details with Sandra or Kristy it would be most appreciated.

#### Grandparents Day

On Tuesday, July 14 we will be having musician, Brett Campbell, performing here at the centre at 9.30am. We would also like to invite all our extra special GRANDPARENTS along to enjoy the show with us! We are hoping there are some singers and dancers among you so you can show the younger generation how it's done!!



#### Mayfair thanks

The P&F Committee would like to extend their sincere thanks for the huge show of support from our Pelican's Nest families with the donation of a MOUNTAIN of pancake mixes for the Mayfair. This generous contribution represented a large amount of cash which did not have to go towards purchasing ingredients for this particular stall and therefore all sales became a profit for the benefit of the school and the children. Well done!!

#### Accreditation

If you have been around Child Care centres before you will be aware of the Accreditation process- as with most industries these days, we are regularly evaluated and assessed to ensure we are providing, at the very least, a standard of care deemed to be the "minimum" standard appropriate in this country. The body responsible for this process in Australia is the National childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC). Of course, the minimum standard (which is also quite high) is not what anyone wants to be recognised for so Management and Staff are constantly evaluating and improving practices to ensure that our service is in a constant state of improvement. Accreditation

can be a stressful process, but it is also a satisfying one as we take time out to value our achievements as well as constructively assess areas which could be improved. Parents play a very important role in this process. Your on-going comments and suggestions reflect parent interest in the programs which is an area we will be assessed in. Parent input also helps us see if we are providing an appropriate level of care across a diverse range of expectations and needs. Parents may make little suggestions which can result in big changes to benefit all. Parents may also have skills and ideas which are of great value when providing dynamic programs. We encourage your input on many levels- you may join the Parent Committee, volunteer to help out on an activity session, share a resource or just stop for a quick chat about the program with your Group Leader. We always want to be sure our families and children are receiving the best level of care possible.

Our first Self Study Report is due to be lodged in September this year. The Self Study Report is supplemented by surveys completed by staff and parents. Over the months to come I will be seeking informal survey input regarding the different Quality Areas from parents so that I may be confident that any areas of need are being dealt with prior to the formal surveys later in the year. Your assistance with this process will be greatly appreciated.

### **Medication**

With the season for illness upon us here are some guidelines regarding medications- just in case your child requires any whilst in care.

**Prescribed** medications must;

- be in your child's name
- be in date
- be labelled with the Doctor's instructions

These medications must be given directly to a staff member upon arrival at the centre and a Medication Form must be completed.

**Non-prescribed** medications are not generally administered to children in care due to potential complications for which we would not be equipped to deal with. Exceptions may occur in the event that the medication is accompanied by;

- a detailed Doctor's letter with full instructions for staff
- a Chemist's label with full instructions

**Panadol (or other pain relievers) may only be administered as one dose in the event of a high fever.** We cannot administer pain relievers under any other circumstances unless they are covered by the exceptions as stated above.

These guidelines are for the protection of both children and staff and we appreciate your understanding.

### **Illness**

Don't forget to adhere to our stated Exclusion Guidelines (Queensland Health) for certain illnesses. This is very important to protect the other children and staff from the spread of contagious conditions and it also protects your child as they will receive more appropriate, 1:1 care at home. Following illness (or if potential contagious conditions have been cleared by your Doctor) please provide the centre with a Doctor's letter stating that your child is fit to return to care. If we do not have this letter we are required to exclude your child based upon the symptoms they present with as we are not medically trained to make this distinction.

**You will note that as a part of Caloundra City School we adhere to the guidelines that the school observes. As such, any relevant literature and policies relating to the current Swine Flu epidemic will be communicated to our families as soon as it comes to hand. These directives come from the Queensland Department of Education and Training, Queensland Health and Childcare Queensland.**

### **Parent committee**

Due to the poor weather and other circumstances no-one was able to join me for the meeting scheduled for June 3 so I will try to re-schedule at some time in the near future.

### **Authorised persons**

Need someone else to collect your child? Please advise staff- not just so we know what is going on but also so we can communicate this information to your child so they are aware of what is happening also. For those you wish to frequently collect your child, see Sandra or Kristy so that they

may be added to your Authorised Persons list. See us also if you would like to have someone removed from this list .

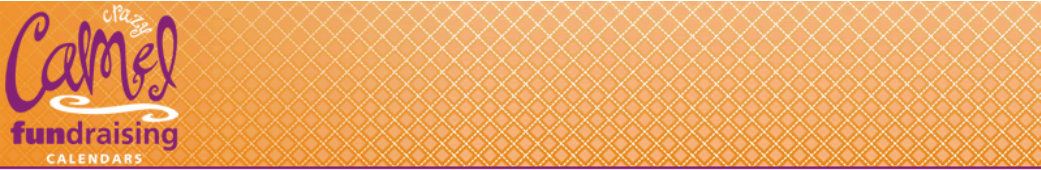
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## YES, I would like to be involved in the Pelican's Nest Parent Committee!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Fundraising suggestion: expressions of interest sought**  
As you may know, I am happy to host fundraisers at the centre providing they are of benefit to the families (because it is a great product or service they are receiving for their money) and there is sufficient interest to justify the time spent organising the event.  
To this end, I like to get "expressions of interest" regarding fundraisers that parents or colleagues suggest and this interest will guide our decision to proceed.  
CRAZY CAMEL creates personalised calendars that are created using your child's artwork and/or photo images. The calendars are laminated and of a high quality. The finished product is sold for the price of \$10.00 each (multiple items may be purchased for other family members).  
If you are interested in this opportunity or would like to see more information (including samples) please see Sandra.  
<http://www.crazycamel.co.nz>



**Carparking**  
Parents are reminded that the car-park area directly in front of the centre is strictly 15-minute parking only. Please assist with the smooth arrivals and departures by adhering to this rule. If you wish to stay a little longer, please do feel free to use the large school car-park adjacent to the centre.  
  
In our eternal quest to make the world a safer place for our precious children may I please pass on a request from several parents: "Please DO NOT park on the gutter at the short term parking area in front of the centre". I know how frustrating it can be when the carpark is at it's busiest (at school start and finish times) but parking in this area is dangerous for pedestrians and can also block traffic. Your help is appreciated.

**Opening time**  
A number of early arrivals lately have commented that their code does not work in the mornings- please note that parent codes are set to only operate during our official opening hours. Due to insurance liabilities, we are not allowed to permit parents and children onto the premises until 6.30am. We are sorry if this causes any inconvenience.

*New arrivals...*  
Congratulations to the Smith family on the arrival of baby Oliver!



**Settle Petal: “Being a Toddler”**

Jan Murray has operated “Settle Petal” here on the Coast for several years and has helped countless parents with issues relating to the many different stages of childhood development. We receive a lot of questions and requests for assistance regarding behavioural and developmental issues relating to children aged 1 – 3 years and this is exactly what the “Being a Toddler” session focuses upon.

When: Tuesday, June 16  
Where: Here at Pelican’s Nest  
Time: 6.00-8.00pm  
Cost: \$15.00 per person

RSVP and payment (**cash only please**) by Friday, June 14 please.



... to all the Fidgety Fish parents who were able to come along to help with our mini excursion to the wonderful Under Eight’s Day at the school on May 29<sup>th</sup>!

... to Buster’s mum, Tracey, for bringing in lovely strawberries from their farm for us to have for morning tea! Yum!

... to Ms Grant from the Resource Centre for her weekly library sessions with the Fidgety Fish and for sharing other books and resources with us!

This space is available for any families to place free ads for items to sell or upcoming events of interest to share!

Email details to [staylor@ccs.qld.edu.au](mailto:staylor@ccs.qld.edu.au)