



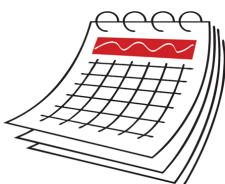
Normanhurst West OSHC

Term 1 2017 Newsletter

Dear NWOOSH Parents,

We hope the start to the year so far has been a productive and enjoyable one. The staff have certainly enjoyed the children's company as they continue to grow and develop their skills through the program and as we welcome many new families to our centre this year.

Benjamin



Dates for your Diary

22nd March 2017 – NWOOSH AGM

7th April 2017 – Last Day of Before & After School Care for Term 1

10th April 2017 – Autumn Vacation Care Commences

14th April 2017 – Good Friday Public Holiday (Centre Closed)

17th April 2017 – Easter Monday Public Holiday (Centre Closed)

25th April 2017 – Anzac Day Public Holiday (Centre Closed)

26th April 2017 – First Day of Before & After School Care for Term 2

Summer Vacation Care 2016/17



Thumbs up in Vacation Care, as the children found the secret garden in the middle of one of the mazes at Amazement Farm.

Through the crazy weather in January, the children participated in our Vacation Care program with a variety of activities. Wheelchair basketball seemed to be one of the hit favourites, with activities also including visit Madame Tussauds, duelling in Laser Tag and playing Aqua Golf. The centre would also like to thank the parents for their understanding when last minute changes were made to the Sailability excursion due to the extreme heat. We hope we can redo the excursion in the near future!

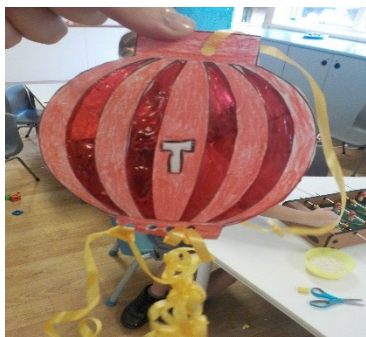
The centre would also like to thank everyone for the running of a smooth program, especially during our Cartoon Creations day as the centre was visited for our Assessment & Rating.



Hold still! One of our staff is modelling this Summer's latest fashion trend in hair styling. What do you think of it?



Up, up and away! It is always amazing to see what the children will build next in our construction area!



As part of the program, children learn about different cultures. Here is a lantern for Chinese New Year.

Assessment and Rating (A&R)

All OSHC centres providing care to children in Australia are governed by the National Quality Framework (NQF). The NQF includes many regulations and 7 Quality Areas that are used to assess centres and to ensure a standard of care is delivered to all children. NWOOSH was recently assessed during the Vacation Care period. The centre is excited to announce that we were marked as 'Meeting National Quality Standard' for 5 of these areas! These areas include Children's Health & Safety, Physical Environment, Staffing Arrangements, Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities and Relationships with Children. This is a testament to the hard work of the staff who I would like to thank for all of their efforts leading up to and on our assessment day. The assessor made specific comments about the fantastic relationships that the staff have made with the children and the care that is taken to ensure each child's health and safety which was lovely to hear. As we received 2 areas as 'Working Towards National Quality Standard', Educational Program & Practice and Leadership & Service Management, the overall rating we achieved is 'Working Towards'. You may see some changes in our Educational Program and some internal documentation procedures at the Centre over the coming weeks as we work to implement strategies to further improve our service and in order to address the two areas where we were marked as 'Working Towards'.

This has been a long time coming (over four years!) and we are excited to have our first A&R visit completed and to receive feedback from the Department of Education. Using this feedback, we will now review our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and we welcome all families to view this on our centre website at <http://www.normanhurstwestoshc.com.au/national-quality-framework/>. We look forward to working in collaboration with families as we continue to improve upon the quality of care we provide at NWOOSH.

SKOOSH (Year 4,5,6) Program

The SKOOSH program for term 1 is up and running. This was put together following feedback from the children on the activities they wanted to do. The SKOOSH program involves having either an incursion or excursion every week for the older children in years 4,5,6. We are excited this term to be going to the Brick pit Stadium for the first time! The centre has still yet to receive some permission forms for the children, which could result in them missing out on activities. Please make sure this is returned to the centre as soon as possible. There are spare copies of the form also available at the centre.

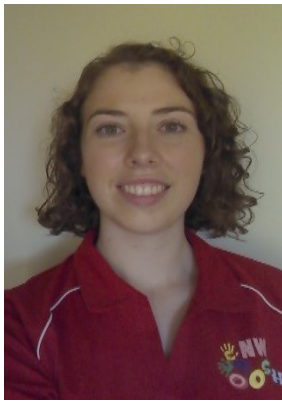
NWOOSH Committee Meetings

NWOOSH is a Not-for-Profit, Management Committee Run, Community based OOSH service and we pride ourselves on being responsive to the community needs. We would love to welcome all families to come along and have a say in our centre! We are always looking for volunteers to be on the Committee, in any capacity! Many hands do make light work! If you would like to be involved, please speak with Benjamin at the centre. The next Committee Meeting is our AGM which will be held on Wednesday night from 7pm on the 22nd March 2017.

Absence from NWOOSH

Please let us know if your child/ren will not be attending OOSH, either for a morning or afternoon session. Notifying the school does NOT count as letting us know. You can let us know if your child/ren will be away via phone or email. A Non-Notification Fee of may be charged for failing to notify the centre before commencement of the session.

Staffing Changes



It is with great sadness that the centre says farewell to both Jessica and Sam from our team.

Jess has been offered a Coordinator position at YMCA West Pennant Hills. It has been a pleasure to have her in the role of Assistant Co-ordinator and to help the centre through the recent Assessment and Rating process. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best in her new role.

Sam who has been with the centre for many years is leaving us for the sandier beaches of Perth. The centre has seen many changes while Sam has been part of our team, with a fair few of the older children having grown up with him around. We thank Sam for all his hard work over the many years at the centre and wish him all the best in his future endeavours across the continent.



Out of Centre Activities

As the term gets under way, many out of centre activities have started to commence (e.g. cricket, band, dance etc). In line with Regulations, NWOOSH staff are unable to release your child to another activity without written permission. As such, if your child has an out of centre activity, please be sure to complete and email the appropriate form available on our website (<http://www.normanhurstwestoshc.com.au/2015/02/out-of-centre-activity-form/>)

Also, please notify staff if any activities do cease during term as this assists with the smooth running of each session and avoids confusion at the centre!

Parking

A reminder to all parents that the School Staff Carpark is for staff only between 8am and 4pm. During these times, could you please park on the street when dropping off or collecting your children from NWOOSH.

Daily Diary

As part of our Educational Program at NWOOSH, we have the black daily diary that sits at the sign in area next to the Touchscreen. This is on display for all parents to see what the centre has done for the day which includes the children's voices through their drawings and thoughts on the day. It also includes reflection from the staff on how the children developed their skills. We use these diary entries to see current children's interests and areas for development to further inform the activities we put into our weekly program! Please feel free to read through the diary anytime!

Parent / Child Suggestions and Feedback

NWOOSH always strives to provide high quality care for our children that is responsive to the needs and wishes of the community. If you have any Suggestions / Comments or Feedback, we would love to hear them! Please email these to nwoosh@hotmail.com or complete a suggestion form at our sign in / out desk.



The centre would also like to thank the children for their feedback from the recent Vacation Care Program. The children completed a short survey with likes, dislikes and ideas for the program, as part of the centre's way to improve the program and tailor it to the children's suggestions. It was great news to see that over 75% of the children mentioned they had nothing they disliked about the Vacation Care. Some common likes included the children stating they enjoyed the Wheelchair Basketball, seeing their friends, the Skoosh program, the water fights, laser tag and even a comment about a child enjoying the meatballs for afternoon tea! It was great to see so many positives from the children but also the amount of ideas! Flip-out was a popular option but unfortunately this has now closed, so instead these holidays, we are visiting Boing Central. With the Autumn Vacation Care so short, many of the ideas will be used in upcoming Vacation Cares, so keep an eye out!

Mid last year we also surveyed families about Vacation Care. We received a number of responses and have consciously made changes to our Vacation Care program because of the results we received. Majority of respondents said that they would prefer an equal number of incursions/excursions and a lower number of in-centre days, with a medium cost associated. We have worked tirelessly to make this possible – and we got there! To reduce our costs overall but still have a higher number of incursions and excursions, we have teamed with a local OSHC for all of our excursions this Vacation Care – therefore, splitting transport costs (which can be huge!) and reducing the on-cost to our families. We hope you are loving our Vacation Care programs as much as us! If you have any feedback, please let the centre know.

Community Corner

NSW Government Department of Industry – Energy Rebates

The NSW Government currently runs the Family Energy Rebate and Life Support Rebate which are open to families that meet eligibility criteria. For more information, please visit their website at: <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/financial-assistance/rebates>

**Department of Industry**
Resources & Energy

Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills*



Help is available to pay your energy bills.

For information on rebates and emergency assistance go to:

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates

or phone Service NSW on 137 788

* eligibility criteria apply

STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION is presenting MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE 10K – A WALK WITH A FINISH FOR FOODIES.

A 10K WALK WITH A FINISH FOR FOODIES!



YOUR 10% DISCOUNT CODE IS: STARLIGHTKIDS

When: 26 March 2017

Start time: from 10am

Who: Anyone and everyone, walk or run to meet your friends in the middle. Under 7's free. Family tickets available.

Where: There are four starting points: North Sydney, Alexandria, Rozelle and Double Bay. Meet in the Middle at Barangaroo Reserve for Sydney's first Picnic Market.

What: Once you get to the Middle (Barangaroo reserve) there will be a gourmet picnic market for you to enjoy, alongside the 'Middle' Bar offering wines from SubRosa Wine & Lisa McGuigan Wine, Beer from Young Henry's and some Gin and Tonics from Archie Rose.

What: The event is proudly supporting the Starlight Children's Foundation who will also be hosting a huge kids zone at Barangaroo for the kids to enjoy while you picnic with a view! The kidszone will include: a jumping castle, a sandpit, a photo booth and magformers!

Sign up anytime between now and 25th March and receive 10% off current ticket price.

URL for tickets: www.meetmeinthemiddle.com/tickets