

# Free range Kids Newsletter

## January 2009

### **Important Dates:**

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan- Centre Australia Day activities

26<sup>th</sup> Jan- Australia Day Public Holiday (centre closed)

27<sup>th</sup> Jan- Qld school resumes and some Nsw schools

30<sup>th</sup> Jan- Stanthorpe Show Holiday (centre closed)

6<sup>th</sup> Feb- Tenterfield Show

7<sup>th</sup> Feb- Tenterfield Show

### **Director Note:**

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and new years. Hopefully this year doesn't go as quick as others. With school resuming next week we will be able to get back into routine.

Our new duckling's room has opened and will cater for children from 6wks- 2 years. Later I have listed staffing changes for 2009.

The centre notice board will be located outside the piglet's room. Please remember to look at it weekly as messages will be posted on the board.

As I am preparing for another year and making changes to benefit the centre and quality of services we provide, shortly a survey will come home. Please read and answer honestly to enable the centre to move in the right direction for 2009 and ensure we are meeting family's needs.

My baby is due early March. I will be working up until the birth and returning at six weeks. I am available during this time if you have any problems, but Miss South will be acting director whilst I am away.

### **Child care Rebates:**

The 50% rebate for the Oct- Dec period will be paid from the 19<sup>th</sup> Jan into families accounts. I am unable to let parents know when they will receive theirs as this is a centre link decision.

**JET:**

**If you are looking for work and undertaking study this year, please talk to Tracey to see if you may be eligible for extra assistance through centre link to assist with childcare fees.**

### **Sun smart:**

**The weather has been getting hotter and hotter. We encourage the children to have the opportunity to play outdoors as this is an important part of their program and development; however we are enforcing the 'No Hat No Play' policy. The staff applies sunscreen to every child prior to them going outside to limit skin cancer but a hat is a major preventer. Hats also need to be washed regularly due to sweat and help prevent the spread of head lice. Hats will be sent home in the children's bags, please ensure your child's hat returns to school the next day and is labeled.**

### **Bike Helmets:**

**As part of our road safety program all children are required to bring a bike helmet if they wish to ride the bikes. Bike helmets are to be clearly named and either left at the centre or sent home each day, please let staff know which you prefer.**

### **Head Lice:**

**We have had a number of cases recently of children with head lice. Our policy states, 'children will be sent home to be treated. They are able to return to care the day after receiving treatment'. We understand how difficult it is to remove eggs and live head lice from young children; however it is also one of the quickest things to spread. If all parents are treating their child's hair and regularly checking for re infestation, washing hats, this will minimize the spread of head lice.**

**If you are unsure of how to treat your child's hair, what to look for or products to use, please ask a staff member.**

**For girls, it is also thought that by tying their hair back it makes it harder for head lice to jump in.**

### **Staff Changes:**

**Ducklings: Catering for children from 6wks to 2 years with a ratio of 1:4.**

**Group Leader: Mrs. McKay**

**Assistant: Mrs. Petty**

**Piglets: Catering for children from 2years to 3 years with a ratio of 1:6.**

**Group Leader: Miss Fowler**

**Assistant: Miss Carroll**

**Billy Goats: catering for children from 3 years to 5 years with a ratio of 1:12.**

**Group Leader: Miss South**

**Assistant: MRS Hurtz**

**This year the Billy goats room will have a strong pre- school structure and expectation. It will utilize the early year's curriculum with an emphasis on school readiness. The program layout will vary slightly, please feel free to chat to Miss South at any time.**

**Bookings:**

**As always with a new year, children moving to school and parents changing bookings, we have some spots currently available. Our babies and Piglets are almost full, so be quick if you require any additional days or know of someone who is looking for care.**

**We do run a promotional offer, if you introduce a friend and they book at least two places a week and stay for a minimum of four weeks, you both receive 50.00 towards your fees.**