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Quality Care in an Educational Environment

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Centre's Management Committee was held on Monday 15th February. The following parents were successful in their nomination for a position.

President :	<i>Kristen Gidley</i>	Committee:
Vice President :	<i>David McAuley</i>	<i>Justine Manitta</i>
Secretary :	<i>Lucia Chambers</i>	<i>Angela Razborsek</i>
Treasurer :	<i>Cassandra Anderson</i>	<i>Shane Mackley</i>
Staff/Parent Liaison Officer :	<i>Sonya Anderson</i>	<i>Chris Yates</i>
		<i>Matt Youman</i>
		<i>Shanthy Herd</i>
		<i>Dominique Tindal</i>
		<i>Dru Russell</i>
		<i>Sherrin Warren</i>

Congratulations to all.

Committee members are identified by dots on the front of their pockets if parents need to contact the Management Committee for any reason.

Management Committee Monthly Meeting

Following the AGM, the monthly meeting was held. Lyn outlined for the committee the priorities for the year from the Strategic Business Plan that the staff and parents worked on last year.

For the staff and families, accreditation will be the focus for the early part of the year.

Our Priorities for February and March are:

- ◆ To review the current philosophy and broad goals so they reflect the outcome of the Business Plan
- ◆ To establish a fund-raising committee
- ◆ To replace the fridge in the kitchen
- ◆ To replace the timber seating around the Jacaranda tree
- ◆ To install gutter guard into the gutter on the back verandah
- ◆ To replace wetpour near sand pit which has created a potential trip hazard
- ◆ To hold a Bunnings Barbeque at Kotara on the 20th February

A Scholastic Book Fair will be held at the centre for 2 weeks commencing Monday 8th March. Order forms are available at the centre. Great idea for Easter!

Please remember to return your child's portfolio as soon as possible.



HCCC is independent of any advertising that appears in this Newsletter

Please support  at Hamilton.....

Parent Information Evening – Our Preschool Program

Following a request from parents, we will hold a Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 10th March at 6pm. We will outline the strategies that we use to prepare children for school and Jussara will outline how the Arts Program develops in children essential cognitive and creative skills that enhance social and emotional wellbeing and how skills of literacy and numeracy “ride along for free”.

We have invited Ms Kim Moroney, the Vice Principal from St Josephs School at Merewether to discuss what happens in kindergarten:-

- ◆ What skills do children need to know when they start school?
- ◆ What happens in kindergarten?
- ◆ What is the kindergarten syllabus?
- ◆ What are the ‘skills for life’ that children begin to learn in pre-school before they go to school?
- ◆ What can parents do to help their child before they start school?

The evening will go from 6pm—7.30pm and light refreshments will be served. The evening is open to any interested parents regardless of the age of your child.

Parents as Teachers

The Samaritans Foundation is the welfare agency of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and they are running supported play groups from the PAT Resource Room within Hamilton Public School. This program was previously funded by the Department of Education and Training and ceased operating at the end of November 2009.

The supported play groups recognise parents and caregivers of children as their first and best teachers and the Samaritans have decided to continue with providing a space which promotes healthy child development, and strengthens resilience in families.

If you as a parent are interested in finding out more about the supported play groups, please contact:

Kim Gleeson
 Parents as Teachers Facilitator
 Hamilton Primary School
 Ph 49697862
 Or email at: kgleeson@samaritans.org.au

Mutual Benefits Help us to help you

Are you thinking of buying your first home, swapping your existing home loan or purchasing an investment property? Newcastle Permanent has a range of flexible and affordable home loans to meet your needs.

To arrange an appointment with your local Newcastle Permanent Community Lending Manager, call 13 19 87 and they will meet you at a time and place that best suits you.

Mention that you saw this advertisement when you apply, and if your loan is successful, **Hamilton Childcare Centre will be rewarded with a donation of \$300.** For more information contact **Lyn Connors** on 4962 1334.



*For every home loan approved and advanced by the Society, the organisation will receive a \$300 donation. Applicable to new loans only. Society Fees and Government charges apply. Full terms & conditions are available on request. Newcastle Permanent Building Society Ltd. (ABN 96 087 651 992).

Overseas Visitors

On Thursday, 18th February, a delegation of Teachers and Academics from Chile visited the Centre. The visit was organised by the University of Western Sydney and the University of Newcastle as part of the *Programa Fururo Infantil Hoy*.

Last year, the participants were able to learn a little about our centre because our project about the flag was translated into Spanish for them, so the participants were keen to come here to see the boat and the flag for themselves. They have been in Australia for 3 weeks to look at the similarities and differences between contexts and pedagogies in Chile and Australia.

On Friday evening I gave a lecture for the study tour at the University and was able to share the City Project (from last year) with them.

The children enjoyed learning a few words of greeting in Spanish for the visitors :

Hola (Hello)
Bienvenido (Welcome)

REMINDER: If you are applying for a home loan with the Newcastle Permanent, please see Susan or Lyn in the office for a special voucher, then advise the loan representative (prior to your loan application being submitted) that Hamilton Child Care Centre is a part of the *Introducer Program* so that the centre can received \$300.00 towards fundraising.

Identity Direct and Centre Clothing

HCCC has received a cheque for \$192.05 for our fundraising earnings from Identity Direct. Thank You to those who have ordered items. Remember this is a continuing fundraising project—just quote our Customer number when ordering—**10546**. Orders can be placed online at www.identitydirect.com.au/fund.

We are running our Clothing order once again—Fleecy tops are \$20, T-Shirts are \$13, and Bucket Hats are \$10. All of these items come with the HCCC logo on them. Take the worry of what to dress your child in! These items are optional, and are available as a form of fundraising. Order forms are available at the sign in desk.

What is an Artist?

Jussara asked this question to a group of children to ascertain knowledge and understandings about what an artist is, who can be an artist and if it is possible to make art with any kind of materials.

- Danica: *It's a person like us*
 Tim: *Artist make lots of things*
 Ryan: *Artist could draw a bird or pictures, faces and lots of other things*
 Aragorn: *Artists draw using crayons and paints on paper*
 Eden: *An artist is a person that can paint very well*
 Zara: *Artist makes things like people, lions and other things. Sometimes you can make artist (sic), using paint, pencils and the special black pens*
 Lexi M: *Artists make pretty stuff. When we are doing work in here (art studio), you can be an artist and everybody can be an artist*
 Sophie E: *An artist is a gentle person and is a very good drawer*
 Jack: *Artist is a good painter with paints and textas and other kinds of pens the black ones*
 Oliver: *Artist likes to do paintings with brushes*
 Charlotte: *Artists can draw and make things with clay*
 Riley: *Artist is a person that can make stuff using materials, all sorts of materials, paints, pencils and watercolours.*

Looking back through the children's responses, it is clear they know a lot about who an artist is and what an artist does. Through the use of natural materials, Jussara has proposed to the children that art can be many different things, beyond painting and drawing. The children responded by making compositions or collages, that were not glued down, but arranged on a backdrop. Their work is in a folder at the sign-in desk. We will continue to explore this idea through-out the year.

Fund-Raising

We have a number of projects this year that require fund-raising. The staff and Management Committee have identified an update of the kitchen and completion of the outdoor environment as important and essential areas. Last year a parent survey was conducted to ascertain if there was sufficient interest in forming a fund-raising committee or if a levy on parents was more suitable. If we are unable to get a committee together at the next monthly meeting, then the levy will be introduced this year and reviewed annually.

Two of the staff have indicated they would like to work with parents to achieve our fund-raising goals this year. They have lots of ideas, so we need some parents willing to help them. The fund-raising committee meets separately to the Management Committee and reports back to it each month. The group is quite social and generally meets at night at a coffee shop, although this can be negotiated at a later time.

If you are interested in helping, this complete the slip below and return to the fees box.

Our fund-raising is off to a stellar start with the Bunnings Barbeque on Saturday raising \$1,170. Many thanks to all the helpers and the very generous support of Somerset Meats and Brumbys Hamilton.

The Centre is preparing for Accreditation and this will take place in May/June this year.

*Put me on the fund-raising committee.
I would love to help.*

NAME : _____

The best night to meet for me is:

Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri (please circle)

**Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing
Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation**

Use of Pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines in children 0—10 years of age

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Children aged 6 months to 10 years planning to receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010
 - a) Previously received two doses of seasonal vaccine
 - i) One dose of Panvax as soon as practicable
 - ii) One dose of seasonal influenza vaccine 28 days after Panvax
 - b) No previous seasonal vaccine or one dose only
 - i) One dose of Panvax as soon as practicable
 - ii) Two doses of seasonal influenza vaccine, separated by at least one month, 28 days after Panvax.
2. Children aged 6 months to 10 years either not planning to receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010 or traveling to the northern hemisphere before the availability of the 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine:
 - a) two doses of Panvax, 28 days apart

Administration : Panvax is administered intramuscularly

(Thanks to Victoria Carr for this information)

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission

SAFETY ALERT

Blinds and Curtain Cords

Steps for Protecting Children

Take these four simple steps to ensure that blind and curtain cords/chains in your home are out of reach of children, particularly children under six.

1. Check your blind and curtain cords
 - ◆ Do this anywhere you are staying, including on holiday
 - ◆ Check for loose or looped cords that your child can reach from the floor or by climbing on furniture
 - ◆ Immediately tie cords out of reach and move away any furniture children might climb onto reach them
2. Secure loose cords out of reach
 - ◆ Buy cleats or tensioning devices from a hardware shop
3. Choose safe blinds and curtains
 - Only buy new curtains and blinds which :
 - ◆ have warning labels to remind you of the dangers to children
 - ◆ provide a way to secure cords/chains so there are no loops or strands that children can reach, or operate without exposed cords/chains.
4. Keep children away from all cords/chains
 - ◆ Move anything a young child can sit in, stand in, or climb in (like cots, highchairs, beds, sofas, tables, chairs and bookshelves) away from cords/chains—even those tied around a cleat, as your child may be able to untie them
 - ◆ Do not let your child play near cords/chains they can easily reach
 - ◆ Never leave your child alone in a room with cords/chains they can reach.

For more information www.accc.gov.au.