



Dear Parents and guardians

3 November 2005

How time is whizzing away this year! It seems to go faster every new year and, from what families tell us, it's the same for everyone.

Your children's educators are very happy with the ways your amazing children are learning about the world and how to get along with others around them, are becoming more and more independent, and are having lots of fun doing it all.

**This newsletter is probably the most important of the year, so please read it immediately, as it contains urgent information about re-enrolments for next year.**

### **Enrolments & Re-enrolments for 2006**

An Enrolment Form is attached to this newsletter for your **urgent attention**. This is your opportunity to **change days of the week and the number of days and to add siblings**. The completed forms will be treated in order of receipt and, in any case, must be returned to Harmony by the due date on the form. In most cases families will get the days they request.

### **Shutdown period**

The last day for Harmony this year is **Friday, 23 December (closing at 4.15 pm)** and our first day back in 2006 is **Monday, 9 January**, at 7.30 am.

### **End-of-year concert & Santa**

This eagerly anticipated annual event is on **Friday, 16 December, commencing at 2.15 pm**. Everyone is welcome, including grandparents and all those families who don't normally attend the Harmony Centre on a Friday. The venue and proceedings are the same as last year, at the Perth Chinese Church, one block towards the ocean from Harmony. There is lots of off-street parking off Flamborough Street, and the auditorium is airconditioned with very comfortable seating.

We like to spoil families with refreshments and conversation upfront, and then the exciting concert at 2.30 pm. Families may leave after Santa has given out a present to your child/ren (supplied previously by parents and distributed in order of ascending age, from Joeys to Bilbies).

### **Photographs**

As families from last year will know, Lynn Gail, gets the most marvellous results from the candid shots she takes of the children, and they are well worth the \$28 (which will be added to the normal weekly invoice). There are many children and siblings and groups (and Lynn is available only in mornings) so the photos have stretched over three weeks, with the last possible day being Wednesday, 16 November.

Please note that Lynn will print photos only for those families who have written their child/ren's name on the front of each group's sign in/out file. Those same families may also order directly with Lynn any additional photos (for Christmas gifts, for example) and she will provide her business card details with the first photo order.

### **Donations**

Some more good stuff has been received from families. Our gratitude goes to Imogen's mum for a swing seat for Joeys; to dad of Lucas and Isabelle for fresh coriander and a bag of potatoes; to Seth's gran for toys; to our Janet for contact paper; to Liam D's mum and Riley's mum for recycled paper; to Sam T's mum for wallpaper cut-offs; to mum of Grace and Jayne for lots of magazines for cutting; to Claudia's dad and neighbor Milan for large drawing paper; to our own Brooke's partner for craft wood; to Sarmara's gran for lots of floristry ribbons; to relief staff Judy for dinosaur shapes; and to Henri's mum for yummy choc chip muffins for staff.

We also thank very much Elisha and Joshua's family, one of whom performed a beautiful dance in traditional costume for our celebration of their Myanmar culture (previously known as Burma).

Kudos to all those families who supported Jeans for Genes day – this year \$78 was raised for very important research.

### **Parent & Staff Night**

**Monday, 14 November, from 7 pm** is the opportunity for parents to talk with staff about their child/ren's development. Please see staff for appointment times – priority is given to parents of children attending 3 days. This is also a relaxed time to socialise over refreshments, to have staff's undivided attention, and to listen to a special speaker (we are getting someone from Princess Margaret Hospital).

### **Staffing**

Kirsty, who worked with Possums and Koalas, has left Harmony for personal and family reasons, and we wish her well – she is available for babysitting (look for her phone number on entry noticeboard). All four groups are running smoothly, with the following staffing:-

<b>Joeys</b>	<b>Possums</b>	<b>Koalas</b>	<b>Bilbies</b>
Kelly	Melissa	Teresa	Brooke
Sabina	Karlie	Erin	Yvonne
Michelle	Krystal & Emily	Laura	Béné

Of course, we can't forget Toni who does a stirring job with nutritious meals and exotic dishes from all around the world, and our Janet who keeps the wheels of the office spinning.

Laura is proving a very able and enthusiastic assistant and, consequently, has progressed from part-time with the Possums to full-time with the Koalas. She is also thinking seriously about commencing a traineeship for Certificate III in Children's Services, which is indicative of her commitment to quality child care.

Some very exciting news – Karlie has got herself engaged! to a delightful man whom all her family adores (we haven't met him yet, so we'll have to believe them!).

If you know of an excellent worker who would like to be on our child care staff relief list (especially Mondays and Tuesdays), please let Janet or Robin know.

### **Reminders**

- Please park in marked bays of Sackville Terrace parking lot (Hancock Street is for staff).
- Message pockets have new information every day – e.g. brochures, events, invoices, birthday invitations.
- Please update your email addresses with Janet. Menus and activity programs are emailed weekly – let Janet know if you don't want to receive them (e.g. because you don't have broadband).
- 3 Book Clubs visit Harmony and leave absolute bargains for purchase (especially for Christmastime).
- Please, no medications of any type, or toys, in your child's bag (for safety reasons).
- Do make sure your child has had breakfast at home (brought-in breakfast disrupts the group).
- Please iron on the compulsory child name labels as soon as you receive them (unlabelled clothing goes into our Lost Property crate and from there to the Save the Children Op Shop).

### **Important courses & events**

- *Save-a-Child Basic First Aid for babies and toddlers* (ph Steve 9378 7745/ 0402 043 181)
- *Maximise Your Child's Future Development* (ongoing) (ph Catholic Education Ctr 9212 9201)
- Bilingual Language Club – Spanish and Italian (ph 9446 2757)

### **Just for interest**

- In the first 4 months following the disastrous tsunami, Father Brian's group sent off relief items weighing 300 tonnes, in 17 planes, 6 ships, and a full freight train (and that's just one effort, thanks to many Australians' generosity).
- The Steggles chicken that we use in Harmony has no added hormones or steroids, is not genetically modified, is grain fed in large barns without cages, and meets International Quality Accreditation ISO standard 9002 and HACCP tested Food Safety System.

Robin Garbutt.....