



December 2015  
**Pearl Street Child Care Centre**  
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**QUOTE: “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a progress; working together is success” Henry Ford**

**I would like to say hello to the new families who have joined our family at Pearl Street.**

Well another year is nearly over. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staff at Pearl Street for the tremendous job they have done throughout the year and also the parents for the support they have given us. Without all of you Pearl Street wouldn't be the great centre it is. I would like to let all parents know that Emma, our Kindergarten Teacher will be leaving us at the end of the year. Emma wants to further her skills and knowledge. We wish her all the best. Emma will be replaced by Alice.

I would also like to wish all the staff, parents and children a **“Very Merry Christmas and Safe and Happy New Year”**

Regards  
 Collene

### **Centre Availability**

In each newsletter we will be publishing days that we have vacant, so that any parent wishing to pick up an extra day at anytime may be able to do so.

|          | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
|----------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|
| Babies   | *   | *    | *   |       |     |
| Toddlers | *   |      |     |       |     |
| Juniors  | *   | *    | *   | *     | *   |
| Kinder   | *   | *    | *   | *     | *   |

\*Indicates availability on that day

Please Note: These vacancies may change daily



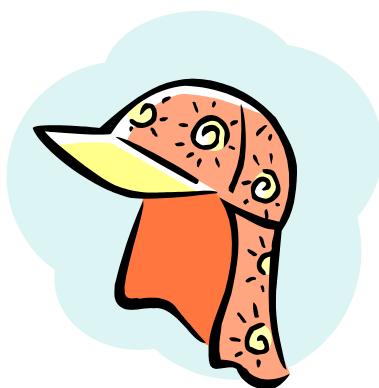
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### ***Events***

**DECEMBER:** 17<sup>th</sup> – Kinder Children's Concert and Graduation  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Centre closes at 12pm  
**JANUARY:** 11<sup>th</sup> - Centre Re-Opens

**Sun Hats:** *Pearl Street Child Care Centre is a Sun Smart centre. It is in our policy that all children wear a hat when playing outside. Please ensure your child has a hat at the centre each day, this needs to be a wide brimmed hat or a legionnaires style hat, baseball caps do not protect your child's head and face from the sun. Remember NO HAT, NO PLAY.*



**Christmas Closure:** Pearl Street will be closing at 12pm Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 and re-opening Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Fees will not be charged over this period. Fees will be adjusted for the early closure.

**Current Information:** Can parents please ensure all their information is current. This information includes home address, telephone numbers (includes home, mobile and work), employment details, immunisations, custody arrangements, Centrelink information and dietary needs. Dietary needs also includes any sensitivities that may have occurred or changed that you may be aware of.

**No Jab, No Play:** Please see the article in this newsletter. This is an important read.

### **Parent Reminders**

**\*Parent Pockets :**  
*All families have a parent pocket hanging up outside your child/ren rooms. With very important information in them. Please check every time your child comes into the centre. If you need help to find your parent pocket please ask staff in your room and they will be glad to help you find it.*

**\*Please call the service if your child is not attending on the day**

**\*Please remember hats and spare change of clothes**

**\*Remember when signing a child into the service; make sure you are entering a proper signature.**

**\*Always bring in approximately 6 nappies for your child.**

**\*Please ensure your child's nails are kept short, as long nails can scratch.**

**\*Suitable footwear is required for outdoor play**

**\*A reminder to all parents that the centre opens a 7am and closes at 6.00pm sharp, children collected after this time will be charged. Breakfast commences at 7:00am and finishes at 8.15am sharp. This is so that the day's activities can be set up for the children.**

## **Nursery news**

Our Babies Room family has welcomed lots of new friends. All of our new friends have settled well into the room and spend the day happily playing with all the experiences provided alongside all the other children.

We recently had the farm visit at our centre. The children were outside with the animals – and they loved feeding and patting and chasing them! They got to see chickens, ducks, lambs, goats, a pig, rabbits. Lots of photos were taken and these can be seen in the Reflection Book.

The children have been enjoying doing lots of artwork. They use crayons, markers and paint to create unique pieces of artwork. Some of these pieces are displayed in the room and other examples are in the individual portfolios. They recently made hungry caterpillars to go along with the Very Hungry Caterpillar book that we have been reading. They have also been doing stamping with paint which was something different for the babies – and the results were great!

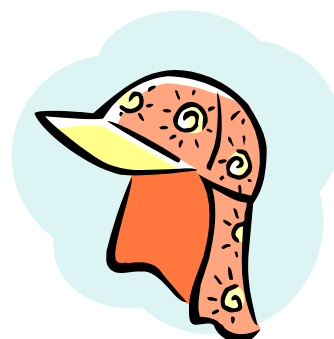
With the nicer weather, we have been spending more time outdoors. All of the children have enjoyed being outside – and run around, ride bikes together, climb on the climbing fort and have a great time. Whenever we go outside, the children wear hats and sunscreen is applied, so please ensure that your child has a hat with a brim that you pack in their bag. We do encourage the children to keep their hats on the entire time we are outside, and the children let us know if the hat falls off so we can help them put their hat back on.

.Also please ensure that there is an adequate amount of spare clothing and nappies in your child's bag. Please ensure that you keep staff up to date with your child's current milk/formula/ dietary needs.

All the children enjoy their day here and are very happy everyday.

From the Babies Room we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Thank-you  
Babies Room Staff  
Sarah, Marie, Patty and Madison



## **Toddler Room News**

Hello to our Families,

Over the past few months there have been some changes to the staff within the room. We have said good-bye to Helen and Fleur and welcomed Fotini and Maryan. Kim has now moved to the Kindergarten as the Kinder Assistant and we welcome Stephanie back to the Toddler Room.

Throughout the year, we have celebrated Australia Day, met the Easter bunny and hunted for eggs. We celebrated Harmony Week with flag making and multicultural dressups, we've had pyjama day and celebrated Naidoc Week by making damper and aboriginal art. We have had a picnic with our teddy bears and visited the Kinder room to see the chicks that were hatching. We dressed up as different book characters and footy stars, and we had a spooky Halloween dressup. We have also been able to feed and pat farm animals such as sheep and ducks.

We have celebrated many birthdays within the Toddler Room and watched our friends move to the Junior Room while new friends have joined us from the Babies Room.

Throughout the year, we have had a Family Tree in the Toddler Room which we have encouraged family members to provide photos for. The children really enjoy approaching the photos and pointing out the faces they recognise.

We have had many fun times playing with bubbles and using sensory play such as the sand pit to explore – and the children are always asking for music and dancing which has become a regular part of our day. We also have group time with the children where we sit and read stories and sing songs that they request. Most recently we were reading The Hungry Caterpillar which one of the children requested and this led the children to make their own caterpillars. Each child has been offered the chance to use paint and plastic balls to stamp out the shape of their caterpillar which has then been laminated and hung within the room for the children and their families to see.

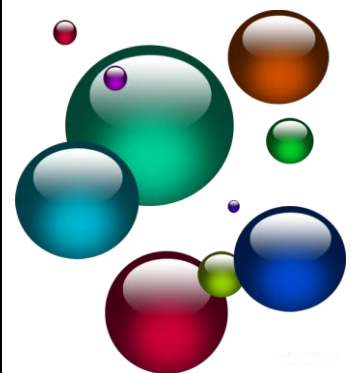
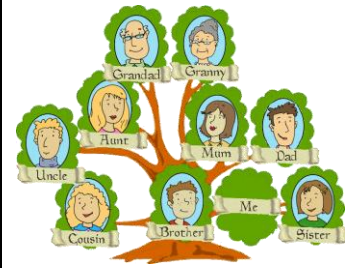
The children have also requested sea animals in the past few weeks, so we have set up a window with an ocean mural for them to add their own coloured images of sea creatures, and we will be making bubble art with the children in the coming week.

As the holiday season is approaching, the children will be given the chance to make handprint wreaths which once laminated, they will then be able to decorated to hang within their homes. We will be hanging decorations for the holidays and playing festive music in the room. The children will also be provided with activities such as playdough for their creative and fine motor skills, which will include holidays cookie cutters for them to make shapes with.

We have had a wonderful year within the Toddler Room and look forward to what the next year will bring.

Wishing all of our families a safe and happy holiday season – and looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

From Stephanie, Leanne, Fotini, Maryan and Barbara



## **Junior Room News**

Dear Junior Room Families,

Wow! We can't believe it's December already. This year has gone so fast.

During the year we have enjoyed so many things – some of the favourite play spaces have been cars, drawing, painting, playdough building and home corner. We've made trains out of big boxes, we've had car washes and drawing with cars, we've had shops, doctors, a camp site and a train station. We've enjoyed numbers, colours, letters, and days of the week through different play spaces. We've shared a lot this year through our group times, through Humphrey and through out chats with each other. We've enjoyed singing with Mary on Thursdays and enjoyed having special people and animals and people come to visit us.

We've enjoyed outdoor play a lot with our favourite things being the sandpit, the balls and the A-frames. We've been helping our environment by recycling boxes and water, collecting our scraps for the compost and animals, and by re-using recycled materials in our play. We've enjoyed discussing ways in which we help our world, special days to us and special days in the world.

We have built special friendships throughout the year and have loved getting to know more about each other. We want to wish our friends leaving us 'Good Luck' in their new journeys, our friends going off to kinder 'good luck' with their final year of care and our friends returning, we say 'we can't wait to see you again'.

From all of us in the Junior Room, we'd like to wish you Happy and Safe holidays. We can't wait to see you in 2016 and find out how your holidays have been.

Thanks for a great year!

Kristy, Rhonda and the Junior children.





## **Kinder Room News**

Hello Everyone,

In the past month we welcomed Kim to the Kinder room as the new co-Educator for our room. Kim has worked in the Kinder room before so she has fitted in to the room extremely well.

In the Kinder Room, we have been preparing for our concert which will be held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm. If you are a Kinder family member, please be present by 2:00pm so that you do not miss any of the fun.

We have also been enjoying playing outside as the weather has been wonderful lately. We ask all families to ensure your child has a summer hat in their bag everyday.

We welcomed the budgie, Chirpy, to our room. He has joined our fish Nemo, Lilo and Bat. Chirpy is able to go home with our families over weekends so please let us know if you'd like to take part in this.

On Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November we had a special visit from Leigh's Mobile Farm. We were able to play with, and feed goats, sheep, a pig, rabbits, chickens, ducks and a goose. We were also lucky enough to feed a baby goat its bottle of milk. The kinders really enjoyed this experience and seemed to love getting up close to other living creatures.

We have continued to enjoy our yoga sessions on Tuesdays with Sandra as well as our music sessions on Thursdays with Mary. These are wonderful ways for the kinders to express themselves with their bodies and voices.

Our best wishes to our Kinder friends who will be leaving us for their first year at Primary School.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

From Emma and Kim



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## **FROM THE KITCHEN:**

**\* Please feel free to ask at the centre for any recipes that we cook at the centre, we will give you a copy. ☺**

### **Recipe of the Month-** Egg-Free Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:

655gram Sifted Plain Flour  
90 gram Dark Cocoa  
3 teaspoons Bicarbonate of Soda  
½ teaspoon salt  
660 gram (3 cups) Caster Sugar  
250ml (1 Cup) Water  
700 mls Water  
2 tabs Vanilla Essence

Preheat oven to 180° C.

Grease and flour a 22X30cm baking tin.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, cocoa powder, bi-carb soda and salt.

Add sugar and mix together.

Add oil, water and vanilla essence and mix together thoroughly.

Pour into prepared baking pan. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour or until skewer inserted in centre comes out clean.



### **Food Safety Tip ~ Food Preparation Procedures**

- \* Food preparation surfaces are cleaned and sanitised before use
- \* Food is washed in drinkable water
- \* Raw ingredients are stored away from ready to eat food
- \* Coloured boards are used for different types of food
- \* Hands are washed before and constantly throughout food preparation
- \* Gloves are worn while preparing food and changed at regular intervals (minimum every 30 minutes)
- \* Utensils are used to avoid direct contact with food
- \* Perishable foods are prepared and consumed quickly
- \* High risk foods are cooked to a minimum core temperature of 75C for a minimum of 2 minutes.



# Social Networking Usage Policy

## NQS

|     |       |   |
|-----|-------|---|
| QA4 | 4.2.1 | Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.                          |
|     | 4.2.3 | Interactions convey mutual respect, equity and recognition of each other's strengths and skills |
| QA5 | 5.2.3 | The dignity and the rights of every child are maintained at all times                           |
| QA6 | 6.1   | Respectful supportive relationships are developed and maintained                                |
| QA7 | 7.1.1 | Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to manage the service                          |

## National Regulations

|     |         |  |
|-----|---------|--|
| Reg | 181     | Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider |
|     | 181-184 | Confidentiality and storage of records               |

## Aim

To ensure that our service, children, educators or families are not compromised on any form of social networking or related website.

## Related Policies

Educator and Management Policy  
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy  
Technology Usage Policy

## Who is affected by this policy?

Child  
Staff  
Families  
Management

## Implementation

A social networking website can be defined as a website used to socialise or communicate. These include but are not limited to Facebook, MySpace and Twitter (including usage on any device such as the internet, mobile telephone or tablet).

- Our stance on social networking websites is that they are for personal use only and should not be accessed while the staff member is at work.
- Educators who can access a social networking site via their mobile phones are not to do so during their shifts at the service and are not to use their camera or video phones to take photos/pictures while at the service.
- No information about what happens at the service should be posted on a social networking website, nor should any photos taken at the service or on an excursion, be put on a social



networking website. If an educator does put photos of a child or children enrolled at the service on a social networking website, families will immediately be contacted. If possible, the social networking website will be contacted to delete the photos. The educator will face an inquiry into their actions and possibly face termination of employment.

- Please be aware that social networking websites are not a private means of communication but can be accessed by the public, therefore, it is important not to share private information about service families or other educators on social networking websites. Should you do so, the staff member will face an inquiry into the situation by Nominated Supervisor and any involved party and depending on the severity of the situation face possible termination of employment.
- Staff are not add current enrolled family members on any social networking website. Staff are also not allowed to accept friend requests from any current enrolled family members on any social networking website. Should you do so, the staff member will face an inquiry into the situation by Nominated Supervisor and any involved party and depending on the severity of the situation face possible termination of employment.
- Should harassment of any kind take place on a social networking site, such as, but not limited to, sexual or verbal harassment, educators will face an inquiry into their actions and depending on the severity of the situation face possible termination of employment.
- Should a family member related to the service harass an educator via a social networking website, the Nominated Supervisor will conduct an inquiry into their actions and depending on the severity of the situation face possible termination of employment/termination of their child's place at our service.
- This policy also complies with state and national laws regarding social networking websites. Should a staff member break the law on a social networking website, such as, but not limited to, defamation, the service will contact the police and other relevant authorities.

## **Sources**

**National Quality Standard**

**Education and Care Services National Regulations**

**Privacy Act 1988**

**<http://djmir.com.au>**

## **Review**

The policy will be reviewed annually.

The review will be conducted by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

**Last reviewed: November 2015**

**Date for next review: November 2016**

## Christmas Messages!

### IT'S NOT CALLED THE SILLY SEASON FOR NOTHING!

Christmas is a great time for children to enjoy family and friends. But it can also be a time when they learn some dangerous lessons that could make them more vulnerable to abusers. Let's take a look at some of these lessons we are teaching our kids and make sure we don't get caught in some of these common traps.

Make sure you tell parents about this – and encourage them to do the **7 Steps 2 Safety** course to ensure they protect their children over the holiday season and into the future. Your advice could be the best present they get this Christmas!

#### **Santa is a Stranger**

What have we been thinking all this time?!!! We sit our children on a strange man's lap – he's dressed in a ridiculous red suit, has a weird long white beard and facial hair, and talks in a spooky low voice saying "Ho ho ho" all the time. Then – when our children's perfectly good instincts tell them this could be dangerous, they scream and cry with fear. But instead of validating this fear and nurturing the very instincts that could one day save them from a predator - we encourage, beg and plead with them to stay on the man's lap on their own while parents step away to have the photo taken!! Then we cap it all off by saying, "Smile!!"

If very young children are scared of Santa then there's no need to push them to interact with him. If you're desperate for a photo then hold your child while you're standing beside Santa – but if even this is too scary – then the most sensible thing to do is photo shop him in later! Let children learn the lesson that when they let a parent know they're scared, then they will be protected and will feel safe again. This is the very beginning of teaching children to listen to their instincts and feelings and then making good choices to feel safe.

If children are a little older you can talk with them about how they're feeling. Make sure you validate their fear so they learn to listen to their instincts instead of ignoring them. You could say, "I can see you're feeling scared and frightened. That's okay – Santa looks scary and he's a person we don't know." Then you can discuss how the Santa at the shop isn't real, and it's just a bit of fun at Christmas, and then ask them whether they'd like to have a photo or not – but reassure them that they have the choice. You should also let them know that you'll stay with them and watch them the whole time while they are there and anytime they want to leave they are free to do so. Make sure you talk to them later about how they listened to their feelings and told someone about feeling scared and now they feel safe – so they learn that trusting their feelings and talking to people about them is good.

#### **A Less Stranger Kind of Danger**

Christmas is a great time to catch up with those friends and relatives we only see once a year. But sometimes there's a reason we don't see these people more often! And sometimes we see friends and relatives more often but we *wish* we only saw them once a year! But if you think it's hard dealing with this as an adult – try being a kid!

Remember when children are greeting or saying goodbye to friends and relatives – let them decide how they'd like to do that. Don't trample all over children's instincts by forcing them to kiss furry Aunt Thelma, or hug smelly Uncle Dave. Children have a right to make choices and a right to feel safe. If they don't feel comfortable with kissing or hugging others, don't push them to do it.

Make sure you stop yourself before you say things like, "Don't be rude – give your Auntie a kiss" or "Uncle Dave loves you – he bought you that lovely gift – now you go and give him a hug goodbye". Don't let other relatives do this either – interrupt them and explain that you don't expect your children to be forced to do things that make them feel unsafe.

If children are scared or apprehensive, validate that feeling and let them know it's okay to be a little worried about people sometimes – and then encourage them to make a choice to feel safe. They may choose to do a high five instead of a hug or kiss, or just a friendly smile and wave if they don't want to get even that close.

It's important to remember that when it comes to child abuse, statistics tell us that friends and family are more likely to be offenders than strangers – so don't drop your guard and don't squash your child's instincts even around family and friends.

## **‘No Jab No Play’ – legislation passed**

The ‘No Jab No Play’ legislation has been passed by the Victorian Parliament and is intended to commence on 1 January 2016. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is currently finalising an *Immunisation enrolment toolkit* (pictured) that will be available soon to assist services with implementation.

The ‘No Jab No Play’ legislation applies to the point of enrolment. This is when the child’s enrolment at the service is confirmed.

Any new enrolment in a service after the legislation commences cannot be confirmed unless:

- the service has obtained a copy of the child’s immunisation status certificate that demonstrates the child is:
  - fully immunised for their age; or
  - on a vaccination catch-up program; or
  - unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons
- the service has confirmed that the child meets the criteria for the grace period (in which case a copy of the grace period eligibility assessment form should be attached to the child’s enrolment record). Further information about the grace period and eligibility criteria will be available in the *Immunisation enrolment toolkit*.

Enrolment processes vary from service to service. Some services have new enrolment processes every year, for example, a place in a 3 year old kindergarten program does not guarantee a place in the 4 year old kindergarten program. These services would need to meet the No Jab No Play requirements every year. Other services seek to re-confirm existing enrolments for the following year. Updating enrolment details such as emergency contacts at the start of each year is not considered a new enrolment.

Please note that services can offer provisional places, pending receipt of the immunisation status certificate.

An immunisation status certificate must show that the child has had all the immunisations that are due for their age, for up to two months prior to the date of their first attendance at the service.

These laws will apply to all early childhood education and care services in Victoria providing:

- long day care
- kindergarten
- occasional care
- family day care.

The legislation will not apply to:

- enrolment in primary or secondary school
- outside school hours care services (after school care, before school care, vacation care)
- school children enrolled in long day care, family day care or occasional care
- casual occasional care services that offer care for no more than 2 hours per day and less than 6 hours per week
- playgroups.

**Policy of the Month**  
(Please find Attached)  
***Social Networking Usage Policy***

**Parent Input**

At Pearl Street Child Care Centre we encourage and appreciate parent input. Parents can offer suggestions on such things as our menu, routines, policies, programming, ideas for centre events and provide us with valuable insight into their child. We are continually trying to improve the quality of our care and the service we provide for families so all feedback is appreciated and taken on board.

**We hope you enjoyed this edition of our centre newsletter. Please remember our door is always open and we look forward to your feedback.**

Until next time,  
Collene and the staff at Pearl Street Child Care Centre.

# RESOURCES

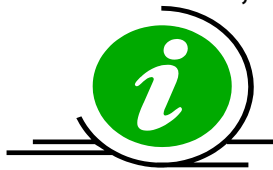
Please take time to look around the Centre foyer as we have a large range of resources available for you to look at.



- Song Books
- Family Resource Library
- Craft recipes
- Fact sheets
- Brochures
- Copies of the current newsletter
- Parent Handbooks
- Recipes
- Centre Menu
- Centre Events
- Centre Information



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Please feel free to take any of our information from the Centre Foyer.  
We have several pamphlets, books, hand outs, posters and much more for  
your information,



**If there is any particular information you require come and see me and I would be happy to help you.**

**Regards**  
**Collene Lowry**

