



We all look after each other

# GPBASC NEWSLETTER

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## NEWSLETTER TERM 2, 2009

Welcome back! Did you have a great Easter holiday? We hope you enjoyed a relaxing happy break. It was great to hear many excited voices and laughter in the centre as children caught up with their friends. You will notice a different theme in the centre this term. Children put their ideas down on paper and the "Haunted House" won the most votes so look out for low hanging skeletons and creepy crawlies dangling from the doorways.

Jodie White  
Coordinator

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008

The Children's Christmas Party 2008 exceeded our expectations with 200 people attending the event. It was a night of festivities with the tattoo artist, cartoonists, face painters and the roaming gamesters who were popular with both children and parents.

We would like to personally thank Peter Laz for coming in early & setting up the BBQ, which he does year after year. We would also like to thank all our wonderful parents who volunteered their time on the night helping with food service, collecting tickets, collection of orange bowls, running the guessing competition and for helping with packing up after the party.

## CENTRE WEBSITE

Cristy has been working diligently to update our website, it now has a new look which is easy on the eye and enjoyable to read. We encourage all parents to regularly check the centre website for updates.

[www.gpschoolcare.org.au](http://www.gpschoolcare.org.au)

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

All **BOOKINGS** must be made via phone, fax or completion of booking forms which can be found on the sign in desk. **CANCELLATIONS** must be made for both AM & PM bookings as vacancies are at a premium.

If you have any questions regarding fees please speak to **Megan** on 9817 3977  
**Monday** and **Wednesday** between 10am - 2pm / 4pm - 6pm, **Tuesdays** 4pm – 6pm, or via email  
[fees@gpschoolcare.org.au](mailto:fees@gpschoolcare.org.au)

## GPBASC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Gladesville Putney Before and After School Care **AGM 15<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm** at Gladesville Public School's Music Hall. All parents are welcome.

## GPBASC POLICY

This newsletter contains a copy of the Attendance Policy (attachment 1). A copy of the centre policies are kept in the office and at the sign in desk for all to read.

## GPBASC ACCREDITATION

The centre was previously Accredited in February 2005, October 2007 and is due to be Accredited again this year. **We are busily preparing for the Validator's visit and will be requiring your assistance and support in completing surveys and feedback forms.**

OSHCQA (**Outside School Hours Care Quality Assurance**) is a quality assurance system developed to ensure that school aged children in outside school hours care have stimulated positive experience & interactions that foster their self esteem and confidence. OSHCQA works by promoting and fostering continuous quality improvement and is based on 8 Quality Areas:

- 1) **Respect for Children**
- 2) **Staff Interactions & Relationships with Children**
- 3) **Partnerships with Families & Community Links**
- 4) **Programming & Evaluation**
- 5) **Play & Development**
- 6) **Health, Nutrition, & Well-being**
- 7) **Protective Care & Safety**
- 8) **Managing to Support Quality**

## ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

March 17 was a very Green Day here at GPBASC. The Children celebrated St Patrick's Day with enthusiasm creating craft, face painting and enjoying a green afternoon tea!



## CHICKS R US

CHICKS R US visited the centre from March 16 – 27. The children watched the eggs hatch daily for the first week and then observed the chicks growing. They all had an opportunity to hold the chicks and help care for them. It was a fun and exciting 2 weeks for both children and staff. [www.chicksrus.com.au](http://www.chicksrus.com.au).



## GPBASC RECIPE FAVOURITES

### CREAMY SPINACH PASTA BAKE

**Serving size:** Serves 4  
**Cooking time:** Less than 30 minutes

#### INGREDIENTS

375g small shell pasta  
2 x 300g packets silken firm tofu, drained  
2 x 250g packets frozen spinach, thawed, drained  
1 large garlic clove, crushed  
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil  
½ cup (60g) grated Mainland Extra Tasty Cheese salad, to serve

#### METHOD

1. Cook shell pasta in a large saucepan of boiling, salted water according to packet directions. Drain.
2. Meanwhile, process tofu, spinach, garlic and oil in a food processor until fairly smooth. Season to taste. Stir spinach mixture through cooked pasta and cook on low heat for 2-3 minutes, until heated through.
3. Spoon into an 8-cup heatproof dish and scatter with grated cheese. Place under a preheated grill for 5 minutes, until cheese is melted and golden. Serve with salad.

**Tip:** you can also add *crispy pancetta or prosciutto*, or try adding a little wholegrain mustard to the spinach mixture.



## TEAM MEMBER NEWS

Cristy Vercoe our creative Assistant Coordinator joined our team in March 2000 as a Child Care Worker, as she grew and progressed within the position Cristy became an invaluable part of our team as she is loved by children and team members alike. Although Cristy took 12 months maternity leave in 2008 to care for her twin boys she has returned with the same passion and drive. Look out for Cristy on Thursday morning and afternoon and Friday morning. Cristy is eager to meet all our new families, so please introduce yourself and your children to her when you come into the centre.

Welcome to our newest staff members Lisa Knight & Nick Maggs, both work as casuals at the centre as they pursue their studies. You will notice 2 more new staff members have started this week on a trial basis please make Sajel Patel and Jung Jang feel welcome and introduce yourself and children to them.

**CONGRAGULATIONS** to Claire on her engagement to Will, they are making plans for a 2010 wedding.

## TEAM MEMBER PROFILES



**MEGAN - Director**

**Experience:** 25 years.  
**Interests:** keeping fit, dining out, travel & Bailey.



**JODIE - Coordinator**

**Experience:** 22 years  
**Interests:** caring for my 15 month old son Jackson, tennis, travel & dining out-Greek & Thai.



**NATALIE – Assistant Coordinator**

**Experience:** 9 years.  
**Interests:** music, travel, dining out, cooking & renovating.



**CRISTY - Assistant Coordinator**

**Experience:** 9 years.  
**Interests:** art, painting, dining out & caring for my 15 month old twin boys Eddy & Riley.



**WANDA – Team Member**

**Experience:** 49 years.  
**Interests:** caring for grandson, volunteer at New Children's Hospital, knitting & gardening.



**CLAIRE – Team Member**

**Experience:** 4 years  
**Interests:** beach, soccer, dancing & going out for coffee.



**LISA – Team Member**

**Experience:** 6 years with 0-5's, & 2 months with 5-12year olds.  
**Interests:** music, cycling & reading.



**NICK – Team Member**

**Experience:** 2 months  
**Interests:** movies, concerts & skateboarding.

## IMPORTANT DATES

2009 School Terms		
1 <sup>st</sup> day of Term 1, 2 & 3 is a Staff Development Day		
Term 1	Tuesday 27 January to Thursday 09 April	<b>11 weeks</b>
Term 2	Tuesday 28 April to Friday 10 July	<b>11 weeks</b>
Term 3	Monday 27 July to Friday 02 October	<b>10 weeks</b>
Term 4	Monday 19 October to Friday 18 December	<b>10 weeks</b>
2009 School Holidays		
1 <sup>st</sup> day of Term 1, 2 & 3 is a Staff Development Day		
Term 1	Friday 10 April to Friday 24 April	<b>2 weeks</b>
Term 2	Monday 13 July to Friday 24 July	<b>2 weeks</b>
Term 3	Monday 05 October to Friday 16 October	<b>2 weeks</b>
Term 4	Monday 21 December to January 26 (2010)	<b>5 weeks</b>

## **Attachment 1**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

#### **ABSENT & MISSING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1) We aim to ensure the safety and welfare of the children by ensuring clear communication and co-operation between the centre, parents and the school.

#### **ABSENT CHILDREN**

- 1) Parents/ guardians must advise the centre if their child will be absent on a day that they are booked into care. If the centre is not contacted the parents will incur a ***non cancellation fee of \$5.00.***
- 2) If parents are aware before hand they must:
  - Complete a cancellation form and place it in the folder above the sign in /out roll.
  - This information must be recorded on the appropriate roll.
- 3) If parents do not know until the day they must:
  - Phone the centre and leave a message on the answering machine at any time.
  - This information must be recorded on the appropriate roll.
- 4) Parents must indicate the expected time of absence.
  - If a child only attends after school care, then the parent must phone and inform the centre of when the child will return.

#### **Should a child not be present and waiting in the designated area when expected, the staff member will:**

- Ask the children if they know of where the child might be; and
  - Contact the staff at the centre to follow up with parents.
- 5) Parents will be called and if needed reminded of the importance of contacting the centre when their child will not be attending.
  - 6) If parents are not available staff will continue to call and/or leave messages with the authorised emergency persons.

#### **SIGNING IN & OUT OF CHILDREN**

- 1) All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or authorised person when signed in and out of the centre. The parent/guardian or authorised person must sign the actual times of arrival and departure on the roll sheet.
- 2) Any parent instructing their child to arrive or depart without supervision will be contacted by centre staff. If the parent chooses not to comply with the centre policy, the Police will be notified and the child's place at the centre will be cancelled.
- 3) Children are not to be left at the centre at any time prior to the opening hours of the centre. The person dropping off the child must ensure that a staff member is aware of the child's presence before leaving the centre, and that any special needs are communicated.
- 4) The parent/guardian or authorised person must ensure that a staff member is aware that they are taking the child from the centre.

#### **AUTHORISATION TO COLLECT**

- 1) The staff must be informed if a child is to be collected by a person other than the parents, or the persons indicated on the enrolment form under "authorised persons". The authorised person is required to give proof of identification to staff if they have not seen them previously.
- 2) Children will not be allowed to leave the centre if the staff have not been given prior warning by the parent/guardian.
- 3) Remember to notify the Centre if there are any changes to the collecting of your child. Children must be brought to and collected from the Centre by a responsible adult.
- 4) Children who are dropping off or collecting their siblings from the centre must have written authorisation from their parents/guardian, (12yrs-16yrs).