



Daylesford Outside School Hours Care (DOSHC)

Newsletter July 2014

We now have a Facebook page called
Daylesford Outside School Hours Care

Dear Families,

Time has come for an update of what is happening in After School Care and our Vacation Programs. Please take time to read the following as there is relevant information for you and your child.

Vacation Program – WinterFest - Feedback

As you may know our Vacation Program was part of the inaugural WinterFest, a festival that coordinated the holiday activities offered by several of the organisations in the shire. We would appreciate any feedback about WinterFest, the organisation of any of the events or the program.

We are also happy to say our campaign to communicate the need for children to wear suitable clothing and footwear has been successful with children coming well rugged up and in gumboots for most days during the Vacation Program. It was also great to see so many children with plenty of food in their lunch boxes. Please remember next holidays the weather is warmer so **hats and drink bottles** are essential.

We will soon begin to plan our next DOSHC Vacation Program for September October. ***Please give us your ideas for what your children would like to do.***

The Team

As you know Libby and Joe are the mainstays of the DOSHC team supported by Julie at the Child Care Centre. However we also have a great team of casuals who you may have met and will be working with us when required throughout 2014. Our casuals are Tegan, Stephanie, Amanda, Monica and Sue.

Educators' Leave

Libby will be on leave from Monday 29 July until Friday 8 August. Joe will then go on leave from Thursday 11 August until Tuesday 2 September. During this time Tegan and Amanda will work at After School Care whilst both Libby and Joe are away. The children are familiar with both Tegan and Amanda, from either the Vacation Program or After School Care. Whilst Libby is on leave, Joe will step into the role of Team Leader. Julie, our Coordinator is also available for contact on ph **5348 3702**.

Excursions

During terms 3 and 4 we are hoping to go on a few short local excursions when the weather improves. Destinations include the Community Park (Skate Park) with the community food garden and

playground, nature walks for our Science Club, a visit to a parent's work and perhaps afternoon tea at a local café. The rationale for including excursions in our program is to provide the children with continuity between DOSHC and their engagement in the local community. We require your permission for any excursion your child attends so we have attached a ***general excursion authorisation form for you to sign and return*** to cover any future local excursion during the After School Care Program. We will inform you prior to any excursions and provide you with a specific time of return so that your child will be at the hall at pick up time. There is no extra cost for any excursions. If you have any concerns about excursions, please feel free to contact Libby at the **DOSHC hall on 5348 1940** between 3.00 and 6.00pm or contact Julie on **5348 3702**.

After School Care Routine

At After School Care we provide the children with access to as many activities as possible within our hall and outside yard and schedule specific sessions of craft, science, games, cooking and a range of other experiences each week, often, as requested by the children. If there is anything you would like your child to be doing, such as practicing reading, or anything you are not happy with them doing, such as using the Wii, please let us know.

With so much equipment in the DOSHC hall, the children have learnt and are expected to practice tidying up skills to the level of their development. In fact, we now have a routine whereby the children wash their own plates after afternoon tea which is a great way for children to be responsible for themselves. However, each day the DOSHC team are required to routinely clean the hall, kitchen, yard and toilets as well as a thorough extra tidy up after children have used areas such as the craft table. Due to the time it takes for us to continue supervision and engagement as well as cleaning, the team has decided that particular activities such as craft, painting, dress ups, Lego and bike riding and outdoor games need to be finished by 5.30. Alternative activities such as reading, puzzles, card games, computer based activities, the Wii and drawing can all be done after 5.30 until close at 6.15pm. Therefore, you may find your child at the computer or on the Wii if you pick up after 5.30. We still limit screen time to 15 minute sessions.

Active Kids

The DOSHC team have noticed that some of the children who attend the service often choose not to engage in physical activity of an afternoon. We acknowledge that some children may be tired after a day at school so we provide the children with time to rest on arrival and a time to sit and relax to eat afternoon tea which usually takes about 30 minutes. A recent publication *Active Healthy Kids Australia (2014) Is Sport Enough? The 2014 Active Healthy Kids Australia Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Young People* (Adelaide, South Australia: Active Healthy Kids Australia <http://www.activehealthykidsaustralia.com.au/>) has identified the need for children from 5 to 12 years old to engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate to intense physical activity each day. AT DOSHC we encourage the children to develop engagement with this kind of activity for part of their time at the service and not develop sedentary habits. Therefore during the fine weather we have been suggesting to the children to go outdoors and participate in either organised games or other moderately active experiences. As the weather is often not suitable for outdoors, we have now purchased a Wii *with Wii Fit Plus* and *Wii Sports* for the children to use. The children are recording and monitoring their own sessions of activity. Please take time to ask your child about their progress to encourage them to engage in activity.

Hand Washing and Disease prevention

Children being children, we have noticed some children aren't washing their hands after using the toilet so we are promoting disease prevention with good hand washing. You may wonder why your child provides you with a graphic description of how faeces can be spread from toilet button, to door handle, to cup to mouth or how colds are spread by snotty fingers. We have found by explaining the reality of how germs are spread, children seem to 'get it' and take hand washing seriously. Without being overly germ phobic, by encouraging hand washing we can help reduce the spreading of infection in our environment.

Computer Games

Many of the children attending the service love to play computer games. We have a few simple arcade type games, car driving games and a few strategic or creative games. We would like to move entirely away from arcade games to more creative games such as Minecraft or Zoo Tycoon where children have to create a zoo, looking after animals by providing them with the right habitat, feeding them and cleaning their enclosures etc. ***Do you have any suggestions for challenging, creative or educational computer games?***

Science Club

As you may be aware, we ran a Science Club In term 2 on Thursday afternoons. The club was hugely successful as demonstrated by the children's enthusiasm. We are continuing the Science Club during term 3. ***If you know anyone you think may have something scientific to share with us*** and could spare an hour on a Thursday after 4.00pm, please let us know.

If you have any requests for other clubs we are happy to hear about them. We have had a suggestion for a Lego club and some of the children are interested in writing and have been working on software that assists with character and plot development. ***Anyone interested in a Writing Club?***

What has your child been doing at Outside School Hours Care?

We now have a digital tablet with documentation about the children's experiences at After School Care and the Vacation Programs. Please take time to click on your child's name and view stories about their learning and development.

Reminders

Just a few usual reminders:

- If your child is booked in but is not going to attend, please ring Julie on 5348 3702 (even at the last minute) as this can impact our staffing levels and how we coordinate school pick ups
- If your or your authorised emergency peoples' contact details change, please let us know
- If your child is having any concerns either at DOSHC, school or home that may impact their time at DOSHC, please talk with the educators – you can always make an appointment with Libby during the day if required
- If an unauthorised person is collecting your child, please ring beforehand to let us know

Thanks for reading and keep us in the loop!
Libby, Joe and the Team