



Biala Peninsula



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2011

On behalf of all the staff and committee members, welcome to term 2 - for all the **new** families starting this term and our **returning** families!

Our 117 places at Biala Peninsula are almost all allocated and over 60 new children and families have joined us so far this year! WELCOME TO YOU ALL

CONTACTING US

Phone: (03) 5975 1820 – for all programs, staff & management – we can pass on information to staff working off site. Message machine is available and the service is open 50 weeks a year.

Fax: (03) 5975 1187

Email: manager@bialapeninsula.org.au
admin@bialapeninsula.org.au
staff@bialapeninsula.org

Website: www.bialapeninsula.org.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAY & TERM DATE INFORMATION

- The last day of term 2 is Friday 1st July
- The term 2 school holidays commence on Monday 4 July and conclude on Friday 15 July.
- The first week of term 3 - Monday July 18 to Friday 22 July - is planning and professional development days for staff so THERE ARE NO CHILDRENS PROGRAMS THIS WEEK - children's programs will recommence from the second Monday of term - July 25th
- Biala Peninsula is always open all during the school holidays with a reduced staff team – please call us or call in if you need information or assistance or need to speak with staff members.

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

- A reminder that all families should have received a timetable (posted out) for the program they are in– it has all the details of staff, day, times, consultants in the groups etc – ask your team member for a copy if you don't have one.
- HAVE YOU RECEIVED THIS YEAR??
 - WELCOME FAMILY NEWSLETTER
 - SUMMER FAMILY NEWSLETTER
 - TERM 2 TIMETABLE
 - FREE FOLDER – TO KEEP YOUR CHILDS INFORMATION IN?
 - Ask admin staff or your team staff for any of these that you don't have – particularly if you started during the year.
- DID YOU KNOW??
 - You can discuss at any time your child 's program options – some children need to change during the year due to changing needs or your availability or their changing age – we are flexible to meet children and family needs and have a range of program options – speak with Co-ordinator Margaret Harris or the staff in your current program.

DON'T FORGET....

- Sign in the attendance book when you arrive and depart each session at any of our locations
- Pass on any changes of contact details etc ASAP so we keep our records of you up to date

Ring us if you are not able to attend a session or appointment, or if you need to confirm programs.

WHATS HAPPENING AT BIALA PENINSULA

- **NEW DOORS FROM THE PLAYROOM TO THE PLAYGROUND – MORNINGTON**
- **NEW LOGO SIGNS ON OUR BUILDING - MORNINGTON**
- **PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT – DESIGN CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED**

- **ENTRANCE DECORATION PROJECT – REPAINTING, REARRANGING THE SPACE, NEW FURNITURE IN THE PARENT ROOM – MORNINGTON**
- **NEW EQUIPMENT, RESOURCES, MATERIALS – FOR ALL THE VENUES/PROGRAMS – FRANKSTON, FRANKSTON NORTH, HASTINGS, ROSEBUD KINDER, ROSEBUD, OUT & ABOUT**
- **NEW SENSORY MATERIALS – ALL PROGRAMS/ALL VENUES – RESOURCES BOX ADDITIONS**

MUSIC THERAPY

- Music therapy is available at Biala Peninsula and any Biala Peninsula child is eligible to access the program – but places/times are limited and need to be discussed with your program staff or ring and speak with Mary our Music therapist (on Tuesdays only).
- Individual and small group sessions are offered on a term basis to children.

MOVIE NIGHT

Tickets for our movie night on June 16th have sold out – we have parents, friends and supporters coming along to what we hope is an entertaining evening for all – hope you are joining us.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

- Our Bunning's sausage sizzle BBQ is on Saturday July 16th – (the last Saturday of the school holidays) we will be looking for helpers on the day to assist with the cooking and selling – a great fun day & a fund raiser for us.
- An hour or two is all we ask – anytime between 8am and 4 pm - see the roster when it is sent out – please help out if you can!
- All money raised goes towards the purchase of specialised equipment and resources for your children – we are aiming for \$1000 profit go Biala !!!!!

KEY WORD SIGN WORKSHOP

We have a full day Key Word Sign workshop on Saturday 18th June – a wonderful opportunity to learn some basis signing to use in communication with your children. We have limited spaces left for this session and Biala families can attend for a special rate of \$25 each. This is a very popular session with great feedback from past participants. Commencing at 9.30am with morning tea provided.

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

- A special extended day of respite and care in the holidays for Biala Peninsula children.
- \$50.00 per child per day

- BYO lunch and morning tea (no peanut products please)
- High staff-child ratios all day
- Education and therapy staff from Biala Peninsula are presenting the program at the Mornington venue (minimum of 4 staff all day)
- Take home goodies bag for every child attending
- **1x day is for Under 3's** and **2x day is for over 3's** during week one of the school holidays
- Music, indoor and outdoor play spaces, sensory room, therapy room, social skills and language focus in a small group.
- **Includes an extended music therapy session with Mary.**
- **New longer hours – 9.30am – 3.30pm**
- The Holiday Program must be paid for in advance

HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM (HCWA) PROGRAM

- Biala Peninsula is a registered provider of services for the HCWA program – it is for children with a diagnosis of autism/ASD and have been approved for the Helping Children with Autism package funding.
- We can offer individual therapy sessions, school transition support, counselling for families, resource purchasing, group programs, holiday social skills and school readiness sessions - please contact manager Marlene fox for more information.
- We have a short wait time to commence services.

OTHER PROGRAMS

- Did you know Biala Peninsula operates a number of other programs in the community???
- **PLAYCONNECT HASTINGS**
 - a playgroup for families with children with ASD or symptoms of ASD
 - Friday mornings 9am – 10.30am
 - In partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
 - Biala Peninsula staff member is the Co Ordinator
 -
- **PLAYCONNECT KARINGAL**
 - a playgroup for families with children with ASD or symptoms of ASD
 - Wednesday afternoons 1 – 2.30pm
 - In partnership with Frankston City Council
 - Biala Peninsula staff member is the Co Ordinator
 -
- **PLAY BUDDIES – MORNINGTON**
 - A playgroup for families on waiting lists for services – eg early childhood intervention, community health etc
 - A partnership between Community health & Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
 - With a Biala Peninsula staff member assisting twice a term
 - Thursday mornings

- **MYTIME HASTINGS**

- A parent support playgroup for families with children with additional needs.
- A partnership between Yooralla Westernport and Biala Peninsula.
- Biala staff member is the co-facilitator
- Monday afternoons – fortnightly

ENROLLING FOR SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

- Don't forget to enrol early for 3 or 4 year old kindergarten places for next year – enrolment is done via the local Council or the kindergartens direct (for 3's)
- Places will be limited in 2012 due to growing demand – so get in early!!

VOLUNTEERS WEEK

We celebrated Volunteers Week at Biala recently with a small gift and thankyou for all our wonderful volunteers – you may have one in your group session or know of the wonderful work they do behind the scenes to support staff, families and the children in our service.

FEES

- We have a small quarterly fee of \$100 per child per quarter (with half price for a second child/twin in the service) and with a 10% discount for a year's fees paid in advance.
- Fees can also be paid in instalments – please speak with admin staff or manager Marlene Fox.
 - **What do the fees pay for????**
 - **Additional resources such as - therapy and play equipment for all ages, art materials, children's books,**
 - **Additional staff hours to ensure we can offer extra staff in each program - these are additional hours beyond the small number of hours per child per year that we receive funding for.**
 - The second quarter fee notices are out now.

APPROVAL FOR THE CARERS ALLOWANCE

- We have been contacted by a number of families who have been rejected by Centrelink for the Carers Allowance. If you would like assistance with applying for this allowance or would like to include your concerns in a letter we are preparing to send to Centrelink – please contact Margaret Harris – Co-Ordinator of family Service and Support at Biala – so we can include your experiences.

Staff Team



Marlene Fox – Manager (full time)

Leanne Bartle – Administration supervisor

Leanne Falvo – Administration assistant

Michelle Wells – Administration assistant

Margaret Harris – Co-Ordinator Family Services & Support

Nola Harrison – Senior Consultant - Psychologist

Mary Rainer Perry – Music Therapist

Cheryl Taylor – consultant physiotherapist

Jane Unwin – Physiotherapist

Heather Taylor - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher

Jacqui Zuidema - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher

Cathy Ray – Early Intervention Teacher

Daphne Fergusson - Early Intervention Teacher

Leonie Fraser - Early Intervention Teacher

Angela Russo - Occupational Therapist

Leanne De Groot – Occupational Therapist

Liat Sifris – Occupational Therapist

Stephanie Derix – Occupational Therapist

Heidi McCormack - Speech Pathologist

Kylie Blair – Speech Pathologist

Tracey Ayton – Speech Pathologist

Philomena Yakopo – Trainee Program Assistant

Rebecca Gourlay – Trainee Program Assistant (on leave in term 2)

Casual Consultant staff

Calvin – graphic design

Volunteers list

Pandy - (Monday am at Mornington)

Veronika - (Monday am at Mornington)

Fiona - (Tuesday am – admin and maintenance support)

Jan - (COM Treasurer, maintenance officer & Tuesday am at Mornington)

Sue – (Mornington Tuesday am)

Kate - (Wednesday am at Mornington)

Michelle - (Wednesday am at Hastings)

Kathie - (Wednesday am at Frankston)

Ethel - (COM Secretary, Boardmaker & program resources Wednesday am & Friday am at Mornington)

Jill – (Thursday all day at Mornington)

Leanne - (Thursday am at Mornington)

MARLENE FOX – MANAGER

