



Biala Peninsula



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011

APRIL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

- **See the attached flyer** – a special day of respite and care in the holidays for Biala Peninsula children.
- 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)
- Take home goodies bag for every child attending
- \$50.00 per child per day
- 1x day is for Under 3's and 1x day is for over 3's during week one of the school holidays
- Music time, indoor and outdoor play spaces, sensory room, therapy room, social skills and language focus
- The Holiday Program must be paid for in advance

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES & TERM 2 AT BIALA PENINSULA

- The term 1 school holidays commence on Monday 11 April and conclude on Tuesday 26th April (note: Monday 25th April is Easter Monday & Anzac Day & Tuesday 26th April is a public holiday in lieu of Anzac Day.)
- Term 1 therefore consists of Wednesday 27th April to Friday 29 April & this is planning and professional development days for staff so children's programs will recommence from Monday 3rd May.
- Biala Peninsula is 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.

HOT CROSS BUN ORDERS

- You will have already received a flyer about our Hot Cross Bun orders – a reminder the orders and money are due in on April 1st

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.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION – IN TERM 2

- An information session for parents with children going to school in 2012 will be held early in term 2. At this informative session we invite past parents and representatives from The Association of Children with a Disability and local primary and special schools to come and participate – it is a great opportunity to get lots of information and ask questions and share experiences– choosing a school is a big decision and a process that needs to start EARLY. We will pass on an information flyer as soon as we have finalised a date – it will be at the Mornington Centre on a Thursday from 11.30pm – 1.30pm. (Child care is available between those times)

PROGRAM UPDATES

- A reminder that all families should have received a timetable 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.
- A reminder – you can discuss at any time your program options – some children need to change during the year due to changing needs or availability – we are flexible to meet children and family needs.

PARENT ROOM

- We have a parent space at Mornington – parents from any programs are welcome to come and use the space at any time – we keep it up to date with resources, flyers etc
- If you are unable to come and visit us at Mornington – let staff know of any resources you would like to have a copy of to borrow - we have multiple copies of many of these available.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE – COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- We need a second parent representative for our Committee of management. Please contact manager Marlene Fox to discuss – any Biala Peninsula family member is welcome to nominate – currently monthly meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 7.30pm.

VISUAL AID FOLDER AND TRAINING FOR KINDERGARTEN AND CHILDS CARE STAFF

- Funding from the 2x local Councils and Philanthropic sources have enabled Biala Peninsula to make and distribute a resource folder to:
- **Every** primary school kindergarten and child care centre in the Frankston City area and to every child care centre and kindergarten in the Mornington Peninsula area – we are still seeking funds to finish the distribution to schools in the MPSC area this year)
- Free professional development training for staff in schools, kinder's and child care – on the successful inclusion of children with additional needs, teaching and management strategies, communication information, sensory programs and resources, meeting individual needs etc.
- Does the kinder or child care your child attends know about the folder and the training????

HCWA – PROGRAM OPTIONS

- A reminder to families with children who have a diagnosis of autism/ASD and have been approved for the Helping Children with Autism package funding, that Biala Peninsula is an approved provider of services – individual therapy sessions, school transition support, counselling for families, resource purchasing, group programs – please contact manager Marlene fox for more information.

DON'T FORGET....

- **Sign in the attendance book when you arrive and depart each session**
- **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.**

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
 - 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
 - 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
- **BIALA@FRANKSTON NORTH – PLAY PARTNERS – COMMUNITY PLACES**
 - Our Program at Frankston North is designed to be able to offer a small number of community places within the ECIS service, aimed at families waiting for services or needing additional assistance – please speak with Marlene Fox about this program.

WHATS HAPPENING AT BIALA PENINSULA??

- **PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT – TERM 2 ONWARDS**
 - Our project for 2011 is a major one – the redesign and redevelopment of the outdoor playground spaces at Mornington.
 - We are currently in the design phase
 - The children will have access to all/some outdoor space all year so there is no disruption to programs.

- **ENTRANCE DECORATION PROJECT**

We are redecorating the entrance, parent room hallways and counselling spaces during the term 1 school holidays. We hope to make the entrance to our service more inviting and welcoming.

HAVE YOU ENROLLED??

- **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 (3's)**
- **Places will be limited in 2012 due to growing demand – so get in early!!**

FEES

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

We have some changes to our staff team with new staff commencing in 2011 and some new volunteers joining us

Updated Staff team

Marlene Fox – Manager

Leanne Bartle – Administration supervisor

Leanne Falvo – Administration assistant

Michelle Wells – Administration assistant (new in 2011)

Margaret Harris – Co-Ordinator Family Services & Support

Nola Harrison – Senior Consultant - Psychologist

Mary Rainer Perry – Music Therapist

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 (new in 2011)

Heidi McCormack - Speech Pathologist

Kylie Blair – Speech Pathologist

Tracey Ayton – Speech Pathologist

Philomena Yakopo – Trainee Program Assistant (new in 2011)

Rebecca Gourlay – Trainee Program Assistant (going on leave at the end of term 1)

Casual Consultant staff

Louise – HCWA consultant

Calvin – graphic design

Updated volunteers list

Pandy - (Monday am at Mornington)

Veronika - (Monday am at Mornington) – new in 2011

Fiona - (Tuesday am – admin and maintenance support) – new in 2011

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

Sue – (Mornington Tuesday am) - new in 2011

Kate - (Wednesday am at Mornington) – new in 2011

Michelle - (Wednesday am at Hastings) – returning to a different program in 2011

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) – new in 2011

Janine - (Thursday pm at Mornington) – new in 2011

MARLENE FOX – MANAGER

