



Biala

BIALA PENINSULA INC.

NEWSLETTER #5 = AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

Welcome to any new families who have joined us at Biala Peninsula during term3

We are now full with 117 Biala children and their families & our community families from the Play Partners group.

Biala Peninsula Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 8th September - from 7pm with drinks & nibbles & a tour of the sensory room & a 7.30pm start to the AGM all parents and friends are invited to attend.

****Please see attached invitation****

COME ALONG & VIEW THE NEW SENSORY ROOM

FEES - DUE NOW.....

Just a reminder that program fees are now due & accounts have been forwarded to families - thankyou to all those who have paid promptly.

Outstanding account notices are included in this mail-out for some families.

PLEASE NOTE - *A direct payment option is available- please speak with Leanne B or Leanne F in admin to arrange this payment option.*

Without the fees from families the level of service we can offer would be severely affected- program resources, staff time & contact hours, materials and equipment etc would all be much reduced as these are all supported by the quarterly fees. The funding received from the Government only covers a part of the program we offer at Biala Peninsula.

A reminder that a discount is available for full year payment regardless of when you commence with us at Biala Peninsula.

A second or third child from a family is charged a half fee rate.

If you would like to arrange a payment plan please contact manager Marlene Fox at any time.

We are continually reviewing the materials, resources & equipment & the level

of staffing we have to ensure we can provide appropriate, quality programs for children at Biala Peninsula. Our level of contact time is in excess of what we are funded for and which other ECI agencies provide & the fees paid by parents assist us to continue to maintain this level of support.

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS - 2010

ENROL NOW

Please confirm your school enrolment details with Biala staff so our records can be up to date & accurate & we can provide assistance with any inquiries from the schools.

School enrolments need to be finalised ASAP

School transition programs & school orientation programs are offered during the latter part of the year & we encourage all families to be involved in these events at their child's future school.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS - 2010

First round offers for kindergarten places in the City of Frankston & the Shire of Mornington kindergartens have now been allocated. If you have accepted a place please confirm details with your Biala staff to ensure our records are up to date & we can assist with any planning for program days/options for next year.

If you have not yet enrolled you need to do this NOW to be considered for second round offers. Many local kindergartens have enrolments well in excess of available places. 4YO enrolments are via the Council in most cases & 3YO enrolments are via the kindergartens. Some children may be eligible for State Government assistance with 3YO kinder fees if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Health Care Card holders get fees subsidies for funded 4YO kindergarten programs. Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services for Children with a severe Disability = KISS funding. KISS funding for children in 2010 4yo kinder are now open & close on September 18th. The applications must be submitted by the kindergarten & the parent. Biala staff can assist with information for the submission.

BENTONS INCLUSIVE KINDERGARTEN - PROGRAM OPTION

5x places are reserved at the Bentons Inclusive Kindergarten for children who are enrolled at Biala Peninsula. The Biala early childhood intervention program is then offered to these children within the kindergarten program, not as a separate group. The group is the BLUE GROUP - Monday pm Wednesday pm & Thursday am with teacher Julie Campbell. If you are interested in this option please speak with your program staff ASAP to find out how to enrol for this option for next year.

CHANGING GROUPS

If you need to consider changing groups due to changing needs of families or children or as recommended by staff, please speak with your current staff members & this can be arranged at anytime. We have new families commencing in the program throughout the year as vacancies arise - we have 117 funded places & all are currently full so there may be some movement into and out of groups - if you wanted to change please contact us now so we can arrange a smooth change ASAP.

PARENT LIBRARY & PARENT ROOM

We are adding to our resources all the time - lots to borrow - come in & browse or ask staff to bring resources with them to your program at other venues.

The parent room is available to families at any time & we welcome families to use this space whilst children are attending groups

CHOCOLATES & LOLLIES FOR SALE

Thankyou to all families who sold chocolates & lollies or purchased them from our reception window display area during our small sales drive - all have been sold & approximately \$380 has been raised - please return any money still outstanding.

We will be ordering another 12 boxes shortly due to popular demand, so let admin staff know if you are interested in selling a box - we will also have them for sale at reception

YOUR PLANS FOR 2010

We know it is along way off, but many families are planning kinder/work/childcare for next year & want to know the options for Biala programs in 2010. You can confirm your options & book in for a group/program for 2010 now - please discuss with staff or with Family Service & support Co-Coordinator Margaret Harris - this will assist us at Biala with planning & staffing for next year & you with confirming other arrangements such as kindergarten groups or child care days.

A new program for 2010 is the Inclusive Kindergarten program at Rosebud Kindergarten, replacing the Biala@Rosebud am program.

The days for the Bentons Inclusive Kindergarten group (now Blue group) have changed to Mon pm, Wednesday pm & Thursday am.

CAN WE HELP?....

Please speak with staff if you need assistance with or information about -

- Carers allowance*
- ECIS EXTRA Packages*
- Applications for KISS funding for 4 year old kindergarten*
- Helping Children with Autism Package - registration (we have the packages from Autism Victoria)*
- Funding support for 3 year old kindergarten for some high needs children (from DEECD)*
- Information on the Monash study - which includes a **free assessment** for children in the age range up to 48 months around behaviour & developmental delay*
- Community support groups and free courses for families and young children - locally*
- Information on community playgroups*

Check out our ever changing resources and displays in the parent room at Mornington.

Check out the handouts provided by staff in group times or on home visits

BIALA PENINSULA = BUNNING'S BBQ FUNDRAISER

*We have one day a year at Bunning's operating the fundraising BBQ - our allocated day for 2009 is **Tuesday November 3^d** (Melbourne Cup Day) at Bunning's Mornington.*

Assistance for families for an hour or two that day would be much appreciated. Put your name down with Admin staff to assist with planning

SENSORY ROOM

The Sensory room project IS NOW COMPLETE - this area is already being well used by many Mornington based groups and programs & programs at other venues are now organising to visit the sensory room as part of their term 3 & 4 programs.

We hope to have an 'official' opening soon & the room is open for a tour on the AGM night.

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

An application to the Telstra Grants has been successful - \$1200 (maximum) for new outdoor equipment for the Hastings program will now be purchased. A big thankyou to Trish Maddock (Hayden in the Hastings program) & her brother-in-law Frank for their assistance with the application - a family member must work at Telstra to be eligible - so THANKYOU FRANK!

A \$1000 donation was received from the Flinders Art Show - at their request this will be put towards the music program & and children's books

A \$700+ donation was received from Community Real Estate from a recent house sale - the sellers nominated Biala Peninsula as the recipient - thankyou Mr & Mrs Lane of Frankston South - this money will assist with the purchase of specialised equipment.

NEW RESOURCES.....

As a result of grants, donations, fundraising & allocation of funds this term, we have been able to recently purchase/make:

- visual communication resource boxes for each program site - thankyou Ethel*
- 2x Boa Constrictors - drama/ music aids - thankyou Ethel!*
 - children's story books*
 - 'A' frame*
- Walking & balance boards*
 - Switch toys*
- staff resource books*
- specialised children books*
 - weighted teddy*
 - magnetic blocks,*
 - small table size light box*
- Imaginative play tray insert*
- stretchy band - group time*
- parent information books*
- storage boxes for library shelves & equipment containers*

HAVE YOU CHANGED ANY DETAILS WE NEED TO KNOW PLEASE

Don't forget if any of your details have changed please let us know at Biala so we can update your files - eg = phone number, address, work details

Also - have you let us know if your child has allergies or is anaphylaxis or epileptic or asthmatic - we need to have a management plan in place for any of these medical conditions

SIGNING IN AND OUT OF GROUPS

It is a requirement of the Children's Services Regulations that all children in a program are signed in and out when at Biala Peninsula.

Many families are forgetting to do this & we then do not meet requirements, don't have an accurate record of attendance or a record for emergencies.

THE ATTENDANCE BOOK IS:

- AT THE ENTRANCE TO ANY OFF SITE PROGRAMS

AT THE RECEPTION WINDOW AT THE MORNINGTON ELIZABETH STREET VENUE

VICTORIAN EARLY YEARS LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - (VEYL&DF)

Biala Peninsula in partnership with Bentons Inclusive Kindergarten has been asked to trial the draft VEYL&DF.

Key staff involved are Georgina McCallum, Heather Taylor, Jacqui Zuidema, Margaret Harris, Marlene Fox & Julie Campbell (Bentons).

Copies of the draft document are available from staff in each program if you would like to view this important document. When finalised it will be the framework that guides and informs the development of early childhood programs across all areas in Victoria - child care, early childhood intervention, kindergarten, occasional care, family day and the early years of school.

Biala Peninsula is the only early childhood intervention service invited by the state government to take part in this trial from August to October this year.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Just a reminder that Biala Peninsula operates a range of programs and group options - a general pamphlet with all the different options as coloured inserts can be collected from a display stand at reception. The level of contact time provided by Biala is currently well in excess of the requirements under our funding arrangements and we work very hard at maintaining a high quality, time effective support to children and families. We continue to review how/where/when we offer service and program options & combinations to families to ensure we are meeting children and family needs, offering best practice options and supporting children in their communities.

Group programs for under 3's = the play partners group and the autism specific groups are for 8 weeks each term.

Group programs for over 3s = (Tuesday & Thursday at Mornington, Wednesday at Hastings & Frankston, Thursday at Rosebud) are for 6 weeks with the other 2x or 3x weeks for individual time for children and families - these can be - kinder and/or child care support visits, individual therapy sessions, family support meetings, funding application planning time, school transition support visits etc.

Out & About Program = for any age is a service based in the community (i.e. no group session with the e support provided in child care/kinder/at home) on a fortnightly or equivalent basis.

At Biala Peninsula the first week of each term is set aside for staff professional development and planning time with staff working in the office and available for phone

contact with families as needed.

Holiday programs are offered to any interested families and a small additional cost most holidays - if there is enough interest.

Parent information sessions, at no cost are offered throughout the year on different topics of interest.

Training such as Makaton is provided a reduced rate for Biala families to attend.

Families are provided with information/flyers about other programs, community events, resources etc via notices and handouts or access to our parent room & library.

Marlene Fox - Manager

+++++

Contacting US...

Phone: 59751820 - for all programs, staff & management - we can pass on information to staff working off site.

Fax - 59751187

Email - biala.peninsula.manager@bigpond.com & biala.peninsula.staff@bigpond.com

Website www.bialapeninsula.org.au

We are open 50 weeks of the year (with a small staff team & a holiday program in action for all school holidays), so please contact the office if you require any information and leave a message if staff are not in, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

+++++

THE STAFF, VOLUNTEER & STUDENT TEAM AT BIALA PENINSULA in 2009

STAFF

Marlene Fox - Manager (f/t)

Angela Russo - Occupational Therapist (M, W & flexible)

Ann Osborne - Program Assistant (F)

Bronwyn Callow - provisional psychologist (Thurs am)

Cathy Ray - Early Intervention Teacher (To, the, F)

Cheryl Taylor - Physiotherapist (To)

Daphne Fergusson - Early Intervention Teacher (M, The)

Deb Fletcher - Speech Pathologist (M or flexible, W)

Eddie Bateman - Finance Consultant (monthly)

Georgina McCallum - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher (To, F & flexible)

Heather Taylor - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher (W)

Heidi McCormack - Speech Pathologist (F)

Jacqui Zuidema - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher (Tu- am)

Jane Unwind - Physiotherapist (M, W)

Leanne Bartle - Administration supervisor (M, to, the, F)

Leanne Faldo - Administration assistant (W, F)

Leanne De Groot - Occupational Therapist (W, The)

Leanne Redfern - Speech Pathologist (To, The)

Leonie Fraser - Early Intervention Teacher (F)

Liat Sifris - Occupational Therapist (M- seconded to Mornington SDS), Tu, W, The-am, F)

Maree Grover - Early Intervention Professional (To - am, W-am)

Margaret Harris - Family Services & Support Co-Coordinator (To, W, The)

Mary Rainer Perry - Music Therapist (The)

Nola Harrison - Psychologist (To, W, The)

Tracey Ayton - Speech Pathologist (W, The)

OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEER TEAM

Ethel - (board-maker & sewing resources Wednesday & Friday)

Jan - (maintenance co-ordinator & Tuesday all day at Mornington)

Jill - (Tuesday all day at Mornington)

Karen - (Wednesday am at Mornington)

Kate - (Monday am at Mornington)

Kathie - (Thursday am at Mornington)

Michelle - (Friday am at Tootgarook)

Pandy - (Monday pm at Mornington)

STUDENTS ON PLACEMENT - long term

Bronwyn -provisional psychologist -completing hours of supervised placement - across the Biala Peninsula programs (& also working for Biala half a day a week)

Beck - Certificate 11 in Community Services - Yr 11 Padua/Holmesglen TAFE (Fridays at Mornington)

Michelle - Occupational Therapy student - 10 week prac block (Monash University) - all term 3

Danielle - Monash University Early Childhood Education Student - 3 week block in Aug/Sept

OTHER STUDENTS ON SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS IN TERM 3 & 4

- medical students for a single community visit - Wednesday am (Monash University)

- physiotherapy students- 2 week prac block (Monash University) - Aug & Sept

- CAP - year 9 & 10 students from Padua - Monday or Wednesday am (a series of students on 1x 2 hours visit each group to help with administration and resourcing tasks)