



Biala

BIALA PENINSULA INC.

NEWSLETTER #1 = MARCH 2009

As this is our first Biala Newsletter for 2009, on behalf of staff and committee members welcome all new and returning families – we now have 117 places at Biala Peninsula and over 50 new children have joined us so far this year

Did you receive your 'welcome letter' at the commencement of the year???
If not please ask your staff members for a copy – it outlines new programs/venues/options /program names for all children and families in 2009

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 (with a small staff team & a holiday program in action) throughout the 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.

CONTACTING YOU...

Don't forget if any of your details have changed please let us know at Biala so we can update your files – particularly important for contacting you by phone or letter.



EASTER RAFFLE

We are again running our Easter Raffle; you should have all received a book of 10 tickets @\$2 per ticket. With one bonus ticket – whole book \$8.00.

Prizes: Chocolate Basket, Easter Soft Toys, Toy vouchers.

Any donations can be left at the front desk at Mornington.

Drawn 27th March. Thankyou you to those who have already donated items for the raffle & returned tickets for the draw.

RAZZ – MA- TAZZ.....

We have again obtained a limited number of free tickets to the Razz-Ma-Tazz concert held on **Saturday 11th, April @ 11am or 2pm.** At Melbourne Convention Centre – John Batman Theatre

"Razz-Ma-Tazz" is a live production, a non animal comedy show of local and international performers steeped in the traditional disciplines of clowning, juggling, balancing, puppetry, acrobatics and unique comedy routines, all performed to the highest degree of skill and entertainment value. If you would like tickets please contact Leanne on 03 59 751820. **FLYER ENCLOSED.**

HOLIDAY PROGRAM.....

We are offering two holiday programs – available to any Biala children in the Easter school holidays.

Program 1 'Lets Sing & Play Together' – is for children under 3.

Program 2 – 'Making Music Together' – is for children 3 – 5.

Both programs are on Wednesday 15th April & Thursday 16 April, with the under 3's program from 9.30 – 11.30am & the 3– 5's program from 1.00pm – 3.00pm pm. The staff in the holiday program are Mary (Music Therapist) Leanne R (Speech Pathologist) & Liat (Occupational Therapist) – **SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR ALL DETAILS & REGISTRATION FORM.** Places strictly limited – book and pay early. – a small registration fee is charged for each program.

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK (EYLF)...

Biala Peninsula is one of only 29 sites throughout Australia who have been selected to trial the draft **Early Years Learning Framework.** The trial will take place from mid February to mid April with all programs and staff at Biala Peninsula involved and invited to participate, together with the Inclusive Kindergarten group t Bentons Preschool in Mornington.

When introduced throughout Australia later this year, the framework will ...'guide early childhood educators in developing quality early childhood programs and informing parents on how best to support their children's learning needs. It will underpin universal access to early childhood education and be linked to the National Quality Standards to ensure delivery of nationally consistent and quality early childhood education across sectors and jurisdictions.' (from the letter sent as part of our trail documentation)

Biala Peninsula is thrilled to be able to participate and our input can hopefully ensure that the perspective and the 'voices' of children with additional needs, delays and disabilities in early intervention services as well as universal children's services, can be heard. All staff has been encouraged to participate and contribute as we reflect on and respond to the documentation provided. We are very fortunate to have Anne Stonehouse as our 'critical friend' and mentor to provide guidance and support during this process.

If you are interested to find out more – please ask staff for a copy of the framework or ring and talk with Marlene Fox – Manager – who is the lead for this trial at our Biala Peninsula site.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL – PARENT INFORMATION FORUM.....

A forum for parents with children going off to school in 2010 has been organised at Biala Peninsula Mornington. Open to **all families with children who will go off to school in 2010** from any of the Biala programs. This is a great opportunity to start the transition process, hear about the experiences of others & start collecting information to assist with school options decision making. **SEE ATTACHED FLYER.** Book in please assist with child care & numbers.

TRANSITION PILOT – SCHOOL VISITS.....

For children commencing school in 2009 who attended Biala Peninsula in 2008, we were able to continue contact with these children as part of our one-off Transition Pilot Funding grant from DEECD. We were able to offer two professional development training sessions in February for school staff and each child was offered a support visit to the school by a Biala staff member during term 1 2009 and we have almost completed these visits. Schools and families have been very positive about the value of these visits together with the training and the Visual Aid folders made and distributed by Biala Peninsula to

each family and school involved in the pilot. We hope the experiences from this funded pilot program will have benefit to all families by helping us to design the ongoing program we are able to offer Biala children and families in the future, for the important transition to school process.

HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM PACKAGES UPDATE.....

If your child has an autism diagnosis you may be eligible for funding under the Helping Children with Autism packages funded by the FaHCSIA – Federal Government.

In the first instance families need to contact **Autism Victoria** at any time on **9885 0533/1800289177** (24 Drummond Street Carlton) to discuss the process, confirm eligibility & commence the process.

Additional information is available on the website – www.fahcsia.gov.au

Biala Peninsula is approved provider – what/ when/how we can offer additional ‘purchased’ programs and services will be provided to families as soon as we have received final details from FaHCSIA. We will also provide information on our Biala website.

STAFF LIST....

We have a great team at Biala – staff, volunteers & students on placement over the year – we have many continuing staff & volunteers and some new team members. **A LIST FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS ATTACHED.**

GRANT SUCCESS.....

All the hours of writing and researching have paid off with some successful applications for funding and special projects for Biala Peninsula for 2009.

\$1841.20 = Myer Community Fund – Frankston Myer – to be put towards new resources for all programs = bikes/trikes, purpose-made OT resources – weighted vests, weighted blankets, movement sacks, ‘finish bags’, finish cloths & finish boxes.

\$700 + = from our work with Mt Martha Lions Christmas trailer raffle – to be put towards purchasing music resource kits for all programs

\$39,435 = Literacy, Numeracy & Special Learning Needs Grant– Federal government funding allocated via the State Government – to develop a sensory room (\$35,881) and to equip the Bentons Play Partners program which had to be relocated in the Community Centre from the kindergarten (\$3,554).

We are working hard to ensure all the projects are completed as soon as possible and families and children can benefit from the additional resources and teaching and therapy materials we are developing and purchasing.

DONATIONS.....

We have been very fortunate in late 2008 and then again in early 2009 to receive wonderful donations from the Brotherhood of St Laurence Resource Bank. They have provided us with – boxes of new toys and equipment suitable for our many programs and age ranges of children and these items are already in use throughout Biala Peninsula. We also received other toys & items that we were able to include in fundraising raffles at Christmas time. In addition we have received this year – additional toys, games & resources & good quality second hand furniture – staff desks, 3x 4 drawer filing cabinets, a bench, and a 4x locker cabinet – all of which will be most welcome for our new office room and for several relocated program venues requiring additional storage, These donations mean that other Biala funds can now be focused on other program and resource needs.

A big thankyou to staff member **Georgina** for her organisation of this contact and a very big thankyou to **Tim Pownall** and his team at The Brotherhood for their very generous support to us at Biala Peninsula.

FOYER AND OFFICE REDEVELOPMENT.....

During the Easter school holiday break we will be reorganising the office/entrance/foyer area to provide additional space for our wonderful administration staff to work in and to provide additional work/storage space for making and storing specialised resources and materials. It will also make the entrance a more professional and welcoming space for families, children, staff and visitors. A giant thankyou to Jan and Andrew Jones who are leading this work project and to the Committee of Management for funding the work. **DO WE HAVE ANY PARENTS WHO KNOW ABOUT MOVING/RELOCATING PHONES??** If so contact us as we need some advice.

VACANT COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT POSITION.....

Due to the resignation of Ann Shaw – now the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council – for our Committee of Management (COM), we have a vacancy for a committee member. We have one parent representative – Trish Maddock – but would welcome a second representative – so if you are interested please contact us at the office & we will pass you onto the COM President to discuss – we welcome your input!

PARENT ROOM.....

Did you know we have a parent room at our Mornington 'main building'? This is available to all families during office hours – we have gathered resources, brochures, information on community programs, support services for families and children that we update regularly and we have a computer that families can use at any time.

WEB SITE.....

During the school holidays we will be updating our Biala Website – we hope that this can be another way for Biala families to keep up to date with what's on and what's happening and provide additional information and links to support you. We are at – www.bialapeninsula.org.au

FEES – DUE NOW.....

Just a reminder that program fees are now overdue and payment would be appreciated. As previous indicated, the extra resources, staff, program options, and contact hours are made possible by the payment by families of a small quarterly program fee. Without these fees as part of our budget, the work that we do at Biala Peninsula for families would have to be scaled down and offered on a reduced scale. A discount is available for full year payment

MAKATON TRAINING.....

Stay tuned..... we are organising a Makaton training session in early term 2 on a Saturday at Biala Peninsula – this full day program will be open to children's services staff and parents & family members & is a great information and training package with a well regarded trainer. The cost is based on the number of participants & Biala families only pay a small discounted registration fee.

Marlene Fox – Manager

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

STAFF

Marlene Fox - Manager (f/t)

Leanne Bartle - Administration supervisor (M, Tu,Th,F)

Leanne Falvo - Administration assistant (W,F)

Eddie Bateman - Finance Consultant

Margaret Harris - Family Services & Support Co-Ordinator (Tu,W,Th)

Nola Harrison - Psychologist (Tu,W,Th)

Maree Grover - Early Intervention Professional (Tu,W)

Ann Osborne - Program Assistant (F)

Mary Rainer Perry - Music Therapist (Th)

Georgina McCallum - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher (Tu, F/ flexible)

Jacqui Zuidema - Early Childhood Intervention Teacher (Tu)

Daphne Fergusson - Early Intervention Teacher (M, Th)

Cathy Ray - Early Intervention Teacher (Tu, Th, F)

Leonie Fraser - Early Intervention Teacher (F)

Jane Unwin - Physiotherapist (M, W)

Cheryl Taylor - Physiotherapist (Tu)

Leanne De Groot - Occupational Therapist (W, Th)

Angela Russo - Occupational Therapist (M, W)

Liat Sifris - Occupational Therapist (M, Tu, W, Th-am , F)

Tracey Ayton - Speech Pathologist (W, Th)

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

Leanne Redfern - Speech Pathologist (Tu, Th)

Heidi McCormack - Speech Pathologist (F)

Lee- Ann Renton - relief staff member - Qualified Child Care Worker (flexible)

OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEER TEAM

Ethel - (boardmaker & resources Wednesday & Friday)

Kate - (Monday am at Mornington)

Pandy - (Monday pm at Mornington)

Jan J -(maintenance co-ordinator & Tuesday at Mornington)

Jill - (Tuesday at Mornington)

Belinda - (Tuesday at Bentons Community Centre)

Kathie - (Thursday at Mornington)

Bronwyn - (Wednesday at Hastings)

Jan F - (Wednesday pm at Frankston)

Rebecca - (Tuesday at Bentons Kindergarten).

STUDENTS ON PLACEMENT - long term

Bec - (Fridays (and from term 2 Wednesday afternoons) at Mornington) - Certificate 11 in Community Services - Yr 11 Padua/Holmesglen TAFE

Karen - (Mondays & Wednesday at Mornington) - Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistants

OTHER STUDENTS ON SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Can include medical students for a single community visit (Monash University), physiotherapy students & occupational therapy students, Early Childhood Education & Early Intervention students (Monash University) - 2 to 10 week placement, Work Experience students from local secondary schools - 1 week, CAP - year 9 & 10 students from Padua - (a series of students on 2x 2 hours visits each group to help with administration and resourcing tasks), other tertiary and secondary students by request.