

OSHClub NEWSLETTER

Outside School Hours Care



A message from the Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Just a welcome message to all our new families - if you have any questions or suggestions my door is always open. I love feedback and it's great to hear from our families. Your input allows me to change things within the service and make it the best it can possibly be. I can't wait to join in on all the fun school events. Just a few reminders:

- ❖ Please ensure children have their hats and sunscreen (if they can't use the one at the service) with them for afterschool care. We are a sun smart service and "no hat means no play".
- ❖ Please make sure all medicals are updated and returned to me, it is part of our compliance to have these done.

OSHClub News

Last year St Thomas Aquinas' OSHClub was nominated by our Area Manager and Business Manager for a service excellence award. Well, we have finally received our certificate on 12-2-2020. We were given the regional excellence award for 2019. We are super proud of this accomplishment and have been working hard the last six months to make our service the best it can be. We have been working on our relationships, environment, practices, program and being more involved in school events. We hope to continue to better ourselves and become more involved in the local community and school events this year.

Last week we welcomed our new kindergarten children and, of course, some children transitioning from the ELC as they are now in Year One. We also had a few new children come join us from other schools. It was great to see all the new faces and meet all our new families.

We were very busy over the holidays with our vacation program. Although we did have to close a few days due to weather and air conditions, we made the most of the holidays and enjoyed all our incursions and excursions.

This term we have started a leadership team within OSHClub. So far it consists of our Year 6 children, though we hope to add some Year 4 & 5 student into the team later in the year. We hope this will help the older children have more purpose during OSH and help them build life skills in leadership and gain more responsibility. They will be helping educators plan activities, help run games, help plan menus and shop, as well as helping to guide and collect our younger children in the afternoon.

Last year we introduced tinkering into our program and we are hoping to extend that this year with some loose parts play. Every Wednesday will be *tinkering* and *loose parts* club. We will utilise different materials for the children to experience open ended play and craft sessions. *Loose Parts* are open ended materials that can be, Combined, Transported and Transformed into whatever your imagination can come up with. Materials such as straws, pompoms, pieces of wood, ribbon, cups, feathers, chains, string, pipes and many more. To tinker is defined as to play around with something, put it together to take it apart or to try to change or fix it. We explored this last year by pulling apart an old phone and radio and investigated the parts and how it was put together, we hope to further explore that this year with some new items.

We have also started two new projects. Shannen has started a healthy eating display, the children helped Shannen cut out different foods from magazines and placed them in our pyramid on the wall. We strive to educate the children on good food choices, and this is evident in our menu planning, which the older children will be more involved in this year.

The second project we are exploring is bees. What started as a general conversation between myself and a few children has blossomed into a group project. First, we talked about bees and their hives, after pulling apart a box that had a honeycomb like pattern, we started to explore what honeycomb was and how it was different to the one found in chocolate bars. The following week we were able to look at and try some real honeycomb. Next week we will be looking into the life cycle of a bee and how they work together to create a hive and make honey.

We will be starting a Stem Club in Week 5. Each week we will run a stem-based experience for the children and, at the end of the 5-week course, children will get a completion certificate. For more information, feel free to come see Jess at the OSH office, where there will be more information.

We are also looking at starting a Homework Club in Term 2. We know it's hard to find time to do everything when working and we'd love to help out. Please let us know if this is something that interests you.

We have created a beautiful birthday display to celebrate each of our children's birthday throughout the year. We are very excited for the new school year and can't wait to share all our exciting adventures with you.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Shannen. She has decided to follow her teaching career and made the decision to move from full-time to casual in order to gain more experience teaching. We will miss her greatly but hope we will still get to see her in between teaching jobs. We will be hiring a new staff member and will update you when we find the perfect person to join our team.

Jessica
Coordinator



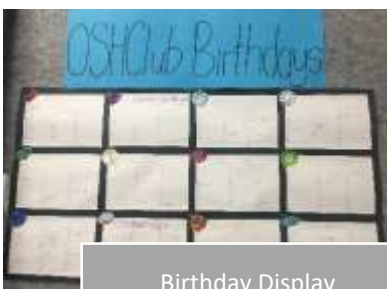
Regional Service Excellence
Award 2019



Tinkering



Reptile Show in vacation care



Birthday Display



Looking at the honeycomb



Loose Parts Craft

Nutrition and Vitality

Healthy eating display and menu planning



Healthy Food Display

OSHClub Team Star

Shannen, she's always kind and our super creative staff member. Also, a big congratulations on finishing your teaching degree last year - we are so proud of you. We love having Shannen here to help us, she's the one behind all our beautiful displays.

Thanks for being you 😊

Why we love her as told by the OSHCLUB children:

- she's funny
- she has nice hair
- she plays with me
- she helps me make pictures
- she's my friend
- she's coming to the north pole with me
- Shannen has been here for ages and we like her working at OSH



shannen and sophie

Our Community

End of last year we had the local fire fighters visit, we hope to have them again this term.

We were also lucky enough to attend and volunteer for the Special Children's Christmas party at the end of last year. OSHclub is one of the main sponsors and we were happy to help and get involved. It's such a special time for so many families and we hope they all enjoyed their day. We can't wait to do it all again at the end of this year. The educators also had a bit of fun with a photo competition, we all tried to get the best photo posing with police fire fighters, Kenny Koala and the paramedics. The photos turned out very funny. We had educators helping hand out toys and helping Santa visit all the children.

Lids for kids has put a pause on collections. We will let you know if we start up again, or if anyone else has a great charity we can collect for we'd love to hear.

Some of our services also donated toys to the South Coast. Nicole our Business Manager and Emma the Coordinator at Nicholls took the resources down to Batemans Bay to run a vacation program. We are super proud of our team members and their willingness to help those effected by the fires. Well done to Emma and Nicole.



so many lids



fire fighter's visit



Special children's christmas party



playing dress ups



say cheese



being taken away