



Norwest CCC News – December 2008



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Setting the Standard for High Quality, Affordable Child Care in the Hills District

Director's Update

HILLS EXCELLENCE



We have had another successful few months at the centre and were extremely happy to be awarded the Hills Excellence in Business

Award for Employer of the Choice and Staff Development. Nesha was also a finalist for the prestigious Telstra Young Business Woman of the Year Award



I am sure most of the parents would agree that it has been a great year here at Norwest and we have made a lot of positive changes and developments to the centre, especially the physical environment. We would not be able to maintain such a high quality centre if not of our extremely dedicated staff who have done an exceptional job as always and now deserve a well earned break!

Staff News



Belinda in the Ocean Room has gone on maternity leave for a few months. We wish her lots of luck with the upcoming arrival of a baby daughter in January and look forward to her returning in mid 2009.

ask that all

Belinda will be replaced by a fantastic new trainee called **Marina**, who many of the Ocean Room parents would have met throughout the year when she completed work experience here and volunteered throughout her holidays.

Amy from the Bush Room has made the exciting decision to travel for the next year, and will be leaving in early January. We also wish her and her partner lots of luck and hopefully we will see her back her after she has explored the world.



Dates for your diary:

8th December Ocean Room Christmas Party

9th December Rainforest Room Christmas Party

10th December Bush Room Christmas Party

24th December Centre closes at 4pm for the year

12th January Centre reopens for 2009



It's Party Time!

Our Christmas Parties are on next week from 6pm to 8pm each night. This year we are going to be catering for the parties so you only need to bring your family and friends along, just be sure to book your tickets so we know how many are attending!

Christmas Closing



Please note above that the centre will be closing at **4pm** on the 24th December and reopening on the 12th January. Please ensure that you make arrangements for your child to be picked up on time as late fees will apply after

4pm. Families do not have to pay fees during the Christmas and New Year shut down period. We also

accounts be finalised before the 19th December so that we can give you your portfolios. If you have any problems with that, please speak with Jayne as soon as possible.

Christmas Gifts

Christmas is a fantastic time of year to show appreciation, and here at Norwest we really do appreciate all the wonderful gifts that families give us to say Thank You each year. Our focus this year at the centre has been about the environment and making the place more 'green' and with this in mind the staff thought that families might like to join us in the 'greening' of the centre by saying thank you with a plant.



Portfolios and End of Year Photo CD's

Portfolios and end of year photo Cd's will start to be given out very shortly. If you wish to meet with your child's teacher prior to the end of year, please speak with them directly as soon as possible to make arrangements.





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Norwest Child Care Centre Library

During most of 2008 we have been trialing a centre library for the Kangaroo Group which has been very successful and allowed the families to borrow some fantastic books that we have available. In 2009, we thought we might extend this library to the rest of the centre and allow all families to join.



The joining fee is \$5 and it enables you to borrow a book for a week. You are able to borrow as many books throughout the year as you wish. More information will be available in the new year about joining.

Doggie Rescue

As Christmas draws nearer you may be considering purchasing a new pet for your growing family. Animals are such a great addition to any family, teaching children many life skills around responsibility, and being good for your family's overall health.

Owning a pet is a big commitment and many people underestimate the effort involved - some cats and dogs can live for up to 20 yrs. Unfortunately the festive season is also a time when many animals are surrendered to the Pound, RSPCA and Doggie Rescue. At the RSPCA alone, over Christmas 3000 extra dogs and cats are dumped at shelters. It's heartbreaking and the excuses are shocking.

If you're planning on getting a pet this Christmas why not consider adopting a pet from one of the following charitable organisations, you can view the animals online. There are so many lovely animals who need a lovely family like yours to love them. There's also opportunities to foster animals; provide volunteer support; and make charitable donations to these agencies.



www.doggierescue.com

www.rspca.com.au

Non Perishable Food Collection

Once again this year we'll be collecting cans and non-perishable foods for donation to charities. When you're going through your cupboards, wondering how to make space for your Christmas feasts, grab those old cans of food that you're never going to get around to eating and drop them off to the centre.!

Trivia Night

Thank you so much to all the parents and friends who supported our Trivia Night. It was a **huge** success and we all had a wonderful time, so much so, that we will be having another one again next year so if you missed out make sure you get involved next October!

Embizwini Child Care Centre

We are still collecting donations for the Embizwini Child Care Centre in Soweto. The last of the donations will be picked up at the end of this week, so don't miss out on making a difference to the lives of these kids.



Thanks from the Team!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and families for their support throughout the year. We really do appreciate everything you do to be part of the centre, from coming in and doing activities with the children, donating equipment and materials, coming to our events or just stopping for a chat to share something special about your child and their day. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the very best for the year ahead. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2009!



**Staff
Norwest Child
Care Centre**