

GOWRIE NSW DRUMMOYNE & ST MARK'S NEWSLETTER



Gowrie NSW Drummoyne & St Marks Outside School Hours & Vacation Care

7am to 9am & 3.15pm to 6pm
Drummoyne P.S – Tues, Weds & Thurs
St Mark's Catholic – Mon & Fri
Drummoyne P.S – Vacation Care

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ASSESSMENT AND RATING RESULTS !!

WE ARE VERY EXCITED AND PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN RATED AS AN EXCEEDING SERVICE!!!!

In our recent assessment and rating visit we have been rated as **Exceeding the National Quality Standards** under the National Quality Framework. Achieving an exceeding quality standard rating means that Gowrie NSW Drummoyne and St Marks OSHC **exemplifies and promotes exceptional education and care that improves outcomes for both children and families.**

Just to explain a bit about this process. All approved long day care, family day care and OSHC services in NSW are assessed and rated against the National Quality Standard External link which sets a high benchmark for the quality of all services across Australia. When an assessor visits a Centre, they formally assess 7 Quality Areas that are part of the National Quality Framework. These areas are:

1. Educational Program and Practice
2. Children's health and Safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

For an exceeding rating, all elements of the above standards are met and Service practice reflects all three Exceeding themes: Practice is embedded in service operations, Practice is informed by critical reflection Practice is shaped by meaningful engagement with families and/or community.

Our overall summary comments were that our Centre is commended on its achievements in providing high quality outcomes for children. A commitment to quality demonstrated by educators and management.

We will be celebrating this achievement with our children and families soon by having an afternoon tea party ! Please look out for the invite!!!

FIND OUT MORE

To view our programs, make an online booking, or to find out more, please visit our website or scan the QR code below:

<https://www.gowriensw.com.au/out-of-hours-care/drummoyne-and-stmarks>



Visits to our program are always welcome and can be arranged by calling the Program Manager or emailing the centre.

We would love to hear from our families, if you wish to provide feedback, or if our have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact the centre via email, in person or phone.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our current team now consists of:

PERMANENT EDUCATORS

Rekha Moda
Program Manager

Amby Davies
Assistant Program Manager

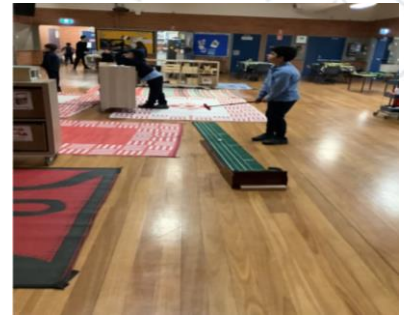
Thin
Educator

Caitlin
Educator

Neelam
Educator

CASUAL EDUCATORS

Jason, Katalina, Lucy, James, Tamara, Sam, Sophie, Rosetta and Robert.



STEM BASED LEARNING and NEW RESOURCES

We welcomed educators Tamara and James to our team. They have integrated quickly with our active children eager to interact on the field. We also have Ria, volunteering through Duke of Edinburgh program with us for this Term and the children welcomed her warmly!!

Thin's fantastic Science Club on Wednesdays has continued to be hugely popular with the children. As part of the science club so far, they have made volcanoes and their own kinetic sand. They also learnt to blow up balloons with baking soda and vinegar and the ever-popular slime. In terms of mathematical learning, the children have been indirectly developing their concepts of quantity whenever they measure ingredients during cooking club.

Seniors had been talking about resources they would like to play with, when at Before and After School Care at Gowrie. Suggestions from Hunter, Asher and Daniel C of games like snooker, table tennis and soccer goal were added to the shopping list. A group of seniors worked together to assemble some of the new Senior resources.

The Talent Show/Dancing Competition just gets better every term! Great to see more confident faces! Children choose the music they want to perform to and it's encouraging to see them improving on their choreography. Our audience has a deeper respect for those performing on stage.

Working as a team was part of the Learning. Continuation of skills learnt to produce better outcomes was evident in the Talent Show. The Intentional teaching was to give children the tools & materials to develop and translate ideas to creative objects. Fuel the latent passion.

JULY VACATION CARE:

We had a very successful vacation care in July. Children enjoyed excursions to the Circus, Archie Brothers, Our Big kitchen, Ultimate Family Entertainment Centre, and along with the excursions there was plenty of fun centre days like the Games on the bus, science day, arty party day, where children enjoyed the exploration of different art mediums. They really indulged their agency to create with no rush and sufficient time to explore paint & clay. We will soon be releasing our Spring vacation care program that has some new excursions and activities planned! YOU CAN USE YOUR BSC/ASC VOUCHERS TOWARDS THE FEES FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS 😊

This month's featured educator



Thin Nguyen

Cultural Background: Vietnamese
Languages spoken: English
Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Education
Hobbies: Music, Watching movies, Skating

What inspired you to work at OOSH?:

I am highly passionate in working with children.. As a future teacher I believed this is a good practice for me to work and help children to explore new knowledge, skills and personalities when children spend their time at Gowrie.

What is your favourite part of working at GOWRIE OOSH?

I love helping the kids, especially participating in sports activities.

also enjoy listening to the children's story after they finish their day at

GOWRIE OSHC IS FUN!!



Reminders and notices

Before School Care 7:00am-9am

When dropping off your child/ren for Before School Care, please bring your child/ren to the educator in the OSHC hall room to sign them in.

Do not drop your child/ren off at the gate or in the school grounds without contacting an educator. This will ensure we are aware of each child's attendance during the Before School Care session. If your child/ren is not attending, please text, email or call us.

After School Care 3.20pm-6-00pm: When collecting your child from After School Care, please ask the educator inside to call for your child/ren over the walkie talkie. We ask families to wait in the corridor where their bags are kept/the COLA area next to the OSHC hall room. Your child/ren will come and meet you there with their belongings. Please do not go looking for your child/ren in the playground or collect your child/ren without informing the educator inside.

Unfortunately, parents are still not allowed to walk around school grounds after school hours, for security and COVID-19 restriction reasons. We truly appreciate your understanding and patience as things slowly return to normal.

Extra –curricular activities: If your child is attending an extra-curricular activity during Before and After School Care hours, you are required to sign a permission form. Please email us and ask for this permission form. All drop and pick-ups for these activities will be by the Providers of these activities. Our educators focus on supervising and facilitating experiences for children in OSHC.

Lost Property

Our lost property box is placed near the sign in area. Please remember that we take it to the main lost property box next to the school office every Friday

Re enrolment for 2023

We are accepting enrolment forms for 2023. To enrol into Gowrie OSHC for 2023 you can go onto our website www.gowriensw.com.au and fill in the Expression of Interest form. The enrolment team will contact families that have expressed interest to enrol in 2023.

Increase in licenced places and spaces

We have received the approval for increasing our licenced places from 140 children to 165 children on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (the days we are at Drummoyne Public school). With these additional spaces we will prioritise children on our waitlist first and then open places for Drummoyne school children prior to St Marks families. We will be using the demountable to accommodate the extra children.

Storypark Manage and Story Park access

At Gowrie OSHC we use the Storypark Manage software for accounts and child and family records. This software allows families to have direct access to update all emergency contacts, medical information and account details. Please let us know if you are unable to access this portal. We can resend your personal pin to you.

Storypark- This app is used to inform families of our day-to-day program by sharing our daily documentation with photos of activities children participated in. We also share our menu and weekly program through this portal. It is a great way of interacting and engaging with our families and community.

Please do contact us via email if you have not received an invite to this app.

Update change of address, medical information and emergency contacts

Please log into Storypark Manage and update any changes in your address, medical information and emergency contacts. It is extremely important you do so for the safety and security of your child

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER



End of Term 2 Treat & our Garden warriors... children picked our herbs to make our own special tea! Macy and Maya set up our Mint Tea Party in the garden with Aunty Lucy.

Children arrived at different stages and were curious at all the "things" used in today's preparation & presentation. Skills with harvesting, proportions, safe pouring of warm water and stirring were all executed with patience & confidence. Children discovered how diverse their definitions of "sweet" is... I need more honey, proved too much for some. The dialogue between children grew as Tasmanian leatherwood honey was added and bees were honored...o-oh it's distinctive flavour! Let's try adding green tea, lavender (from our bush)!!! The Mint Tea brew included many suggestions... Hugo's rosemary and Russell's lemon... who brought the lemon? We could have continued the brewing and tasting beyond the hour....

As parents came for pick up, one could see their interest in our "brewing" and willingness to participate. Hannah invited her mum as the final sweetness TASTER and concluded it was her "best ever" experience!! Hugo Cox's dad & Macy's dad were also excited to participate... marvelous! Not often does Aunty Lucy have this opportunity to share the learning & planning with parents firsthand. WE were feeling the joys of our garden and appreciating the fruits of growing our selected plants. A wave of Calmness & Joy was strongly felt by children & adults.

They learnt how Garlic grows underground and children were surprised to hear it takes around 8 months to develop! Lately, they have been cooking mushrooms that we have grown and harvested, which has been a significant part of our sustainability program. Our 2nd batch of mushrooms were ready to be harvested. Thanks to the children who started the growing back in May with Aunty Lucy and believed we would get more mushrooms.

Let's see ... can we Harvest & Cook the Mushroom in 30 mins? Educator Think was determined to complete our task. On went the Paris Apron for a bit of French inspiration with lots of butter. One child was in charge of melting the butter and estimating when to add the mushrooms. Children brought a continued experience from our 1st cook-up with Aunty Lucy. How encouraging to be able to hear the children's cooking stories from home!! Some independence growing..

Children remembered our Geranium stems left in water for roots to come through... was that 5 weeks ago? We propagated for our large Geranium plant which began its life as a propagated stem from Lucy's garden Children desperately wanted to check on the growth of our carrots from seed- how marvelous they remembered from Term 2! With umbrellas in hand, we went to check on them... my goodness the green tops are nicely growing... "they are this big, Aunty Lucy" said Macy! With calculations of how long before the roots would be ready to harvest the conclusion was... SPRINGTIME! Yes, even I still get excited about positive outcomes from our plantings and the tenacity of our Garden Club

Intentional Teaching: Playing through the child's lens in mind to manifest different positive activities & social interactions. Building confidence for the "individual" in connecting with other children and educators.

- Aunty Lucy

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

VACATION CARE HIGHLIGHTS

NO-BAKE BROWNIES



PREP 10 min | SET 60 min | MAKES 12-16

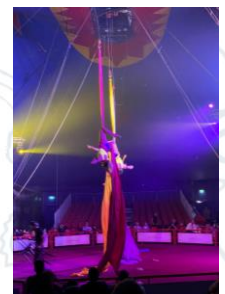
INGREDIENTS :

- 1 cup rolled traditional oats
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 1 cup pecans (walnuts or cashews)
- 1 cup cacao powder pinch of sea salt
- 10 medjool dates, pitted
- ¼ cup pure maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste
- Frosting:
 - 100 grams dark chocolate ¼ cup (60 ml) milk
 - 1 tablespoon coconut oil
 - 1 Tsp vanilla bean paste pinch of sea salt
 - Dried rose petals (optional)

METHOD: Line a 20cm x 20cm square tray with baking paper. Set aside. Place the oats, coconut, pecans, cocoa powder and sea salt into the large bowl of a food processor. Blitz for 2-3 minutes or until very finely chopped. Add the dates, maple syrup and vanilla and blitz again for 2-3 minutes, or until lusciously combined and smooth. Place mixture into prepared tray and spread evenly. Place in the fridge for an hour or to 'set'.

To make the frosting: Place the dark chocolate, milk, coconut oil, vanilla and salt into a small saucepan. Place over low heat, whisking continuously until melted. Pour the mixture into a bowl and pop into the fridge. Every 5 minutes or so remove the bowl from the fridge and give it a good whisk (this whisking creates a gloriously smooth frosting). Once cool, spread the frosting over the brownies. Cut into 12 or 16 bars and serve. Store no-bake brownies in fridge or freezer.

(NUT FREE VERSION: replace pecans with an extra ½ cup oats and ½ cup coconut) Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'



Less is more when it comes to kid's toys



A recent trip to the movie theatre had me brimming with excitement to reunite with Woody, Buzz, and the crew of Andy's (er, Bonnie's?) toys in the Toy Story franchise's new instalment.

Sure enough, my family laughed at the adventures of the cast, but it was a newcomer to the gang that really stole the show: a plastic spork named Forky. While his reluctance to accept his place was charming and sweet, Bonnie's creation of Forky, and her subsequent attachment to him as her new favourite toy, points at a bigger picture—what constitutes a toy? Likewise, what does a child really need to be entertained? The film's inclusion of such a common, utilitarian object as a chosen plaything serves as a reminder that children's imaginations are a powerful thing, and—when left to their own devices—kids are quite capable of having fun with far less than our society typically deems necessary.

Forky is a throwback to a time when less was more, and when families' homes weren't miniature toy stores. I remember recently being spellbound as I watched my daughter engrossed in play with a handful of rocks.

Each pebble had its role—mummy rock, daddy rock, baby rock, etc.—and she carried on with a captivating scene encompassing equal parts comedy and tragedy.

It was a rock family saga, and frankly, I was mesmerized. Despite a house full of flashy, modern, (and sometimes expensive) toys, I've found that some of the most creative play comes from the most unexpected "things" that most adults would consider non-toy. Kids have a unique way of looking at things, and often the items they gravitate toward as their preferred toy may leave parents not only scratching their heads, but also howling in laughter. Kitchen accessories seem to be a favourite for many little ones, as I remember my own niece insisting on carrying a serving spoon everywhere with her.

These inanimate objects function as the perfect plaything for children, as their minds are free to create whatever story or fantasy they desire. The make-believe is endless. Other favourite for my kiddos include shoelaces, ropes, or yarn, which have infinite aliases—stuffed animal leashes and zip-lines being their go-tos.

And who can forget the magic of cardboard boxes and of course bubble wrap. We're talking hours of fun and play. After watching the film, I looked around my house at the abundant number of toys that my own children possess. Then I turned around and watched as they chose to stack Tupperware containers and throw foam koozies (stubby holders) at them in a competitive game of kitchen bowling. So yeah, we're all probably a little guilty of overindulgence with it comes to our kids. To be honest, it's fun to watch their eyes light up upon receiving a new toy at their birthday or other holiday. And I'm not arguing that those practices need to change completely. Rather, let's not forget the power of minimalism and its place in our lives. Let's encourage resourcefulness and creativity. Behind the fun and nostalgia of the Toy Story series are important lessons and messages. In today's culture where more is more, Forky is a reminder that parents don't necessarily have to break the bank in purchasing toys for the little ones in our lives. In many cases, a "spork" will do.

Source: Craven, Jennifer (2019, July 10). Watching 'Toy Story 4' reminded me that less is more when it comes to my kid's toys Retrieved from <https://www.mother.ly/life/watching-toy-story-4-reminded-me-that-less-is-more-when-it-comes-to-my-kids-toys>