



**Rekkha Moda**  
Program Manager

## TERM 2 – MAY ISSUE

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**OPERATING HOURS:** Mon - Fri

7:00am – 9am and 3pm – 6:00pm



## TERM 2 – KICKS OFF WITH A BLAST!

We are excited to share with you all the exciting times we have had over the past Autumn Vacation Care, and how the start of Term 2 has gone. Safe to say it's been a great time as students settle back in, and our new kindies are finding solid footing here at Gowrie!

The two weeks of Autumn Vacation Care were filled with crowd-pleasing activities, both new and old. We went to see the Minecraft movie, Monkey Mania and Timezone, rock climbing, ultimate slime day, obstacle course, and a carnival day! Our students had a blast, with record numbers on some of the days! We look forward to welcoming you back at the end of term 2 for our Winter Vacation Care (psst, the program will be out soon.)

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK!

We love to hear from our children, families, and community! We pride ourselves on the successful implementation of these suggestions.

- If you wish to provide feedback, or have questions, comments, or concerns, please email us. Our email is [oshc.drummoyne@gowriensw.com.au](mailto:oshc.drummoyne@gowriensw.com.au)
  - Some recent suggestions our team has implemented include the new toilet pass system, designated play spaces for outdoor sports for senior and junior students, and a new play slide.





## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

- **Cooking Club**- Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, some of our dedicated educators lead students in a cooking activity; some recent highlights include Honeyjoys, cookies, and Burrata. These are some great healthy treats that promote independence and practical life skills, all while having fun.
- **Sketching Club with Denise**- A new club is about to begin! Our new Assistant Program Manager (APM), Denise, comes to us with a passion of hers - sketching! The club will see Denise leading students in pencil sketches of life. Aiming to start small with everyday objects found around Gowrie, Denise hopes to entice the interest of our creative students, imploring them to refine their skills. We aim to have some great sketches of landscapes soon enough!
- **Gardening Club** - A huge thanks goes out to our green thumb educator, Kamala and the students who have taken a keen interest in the garden in recent months. With the addition of some great birdhouses and decorative items made in our recent Vacation Care, the garden is bursting with life! In the mornings, we have found there is a newly formed bug squad, who have observed all sorts of bugs, insects, and spiders!
- **Kindy Craft** - Educator Elena has worked hard on the kindy program. She is our consistent staff member in the kindy room, and over the past few months has strengthened her relationships with the students. One of the recent highlights is our Mother's Day candle making.



## OUR TEAM

Our dedicated team has had a few changes over the last few months, The current team of hardworking staff are:

Rekkha Moda (PM)

Huon Saul (APM)

Denise Lam (APM)

Educators: Rosetta, Jason, Kamala, Neelam, Elena,

Casual Educators: Koen, Olivia G, Jacob, Oliva D, Xavier, Katalina, Jill, Hayden

## EDUCATOR SHOUT OUT!

Each newsletter, one staff member will receive a special shoutout. This edition our educator shoutout goes to Elena! Thank you for your hard work and continuous dedication to the service, specifically your work with the youngest members of our community, the kindys! Elena holds a Bachelor of Inclusive Education & Disability Studies, bringing a wealth of knowledge and practical skills to the team! Thanks Elena!

## STAFF TRAINING

Over the past few months, our team have undertaken some team training from Anna Banas, a parental engagement coach. Over the course of five sessions, our team developed their knowledge of how behaviours present in an OSHC setting, and learnt some new approaches to engagement with students. We are also proud to announce that we are revamping our partnership with Beyond Blue to integrate the BeYou program in our service. This program is a collaborative effort between Beyond Blue, Early Childhood Australia, and headspace, providing educators with resources, tools, and professional learning. This allows staff to be equipped with strategies to help children improve their mental wellbeing and create an inclusive environment.



## IMPORTANT UPDATES:

### Non-Notification Fees

We would like to once again warmly remind families that there is a five-dollar (\$5) fee for non-notification of absences for BSC and ASC. This is an admin fee in line with our fee policy. We warmly remind families to let the centre know by email, phone, or text that their child will be absent before the session begins to avoid this fee.

### Vacation Care Absence Notification

Cancellation of any Vacation Care Sessions requires 7 days written notice. In the absence of the required cancellation notice, the regular session fees for the day will be charged and is non-refundable (this includes if the child is ill – a medical certificate will not cover this).

### Toilet passes

For kindergarten students, we have introduced a toilet pass system to facilitate safe and responsible usage of the toilets. This system has been trialled over the last few weeks and has been met with great success.

### Device Free Zone!

After consultation with families and the schools, Gowrie will now be a Device Free Zone. This includes any BSC or ASC sessions. For students who use a device for homework, they will need to complete any work assigned outside time at Gowrie.

### Kindy Program

Our new and steadfast educator, Elena has been creating some great programs for our kindy students. Part of this has seen the kindy room transformed into an inviting haven for students. Elena has created the affirmations station, bringing a strong sense of identity and community to the kindy care environment.

