

GOWRIE NSW

Drummoyne and St Marks

OSHC

NEWSLETTER

October Edition

CREATE · DISCOVER · PLAY



CONTACT US

Gowrie NSW Drummoyne
Outside School Hours Care

7:00am to 9:00am & 3:15pm to
6:00pm,
Drummoyne P.S – Tues, Weds &
Thurs

St Mark's Catholic – Mon & Fri
Drummoyne P.S – Vacation Care

A Drummoyne Public School
Rawson Avenue,
Drummoyne NSW 2047

M 0436 616 744

E oshc.Drummoyne@gowriensw.com.au

W www.gowriensw.com.au

Summer Vacation Care and Christmas closure dates:

We will be operating one week of vacation care from the 19th of December to the 24th of December at Drummoyne Public school from 7am to 6pm. We will be closed from the 25th of December to 5th of January. Reopening from 6th of January to run a vacation care program till the 5th of February.

All new Kindergarten children are eligible to enrol to our summer vacation care program in January. It is a great way for them to transition to OSHC and make friends before starting big school. All bookings can be made through the Gowrie website <https://www.gowriensw.com.au/vacation-care/drummoyne>

Gowrie Book-Blitz:

From the 19th of December to the 5th of February, we will be partaking in the Gowrie Book-Blitz. This is a reading competition between Gowrie OSHC services, to promote reading in a fun way through a healthy competition. Children, Family, and Educators can all join in on the fun as Gowrie challenges us to read as many books over the course of the competition as possible. There is a prize to be announced at a future date for the most books read (By children enrolled in the service). To make sure every book counts, please share your progress with us; send us a pic of the book, its title, and who read it (child, guardian, etc.). Let's win this thing Drummoyne!

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:



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 you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to ask.

Non-Notification of absences:

As part of our Gowrie NSW policy, we have a charge for non-notification of absences during Before School Care (BSC) and After School Care (ASC). This just means that we need to receive a notification, through an email or text message to the service before the commencement of our service. For BSC notification needs to occur before 7am that morning, ASC before 3pm that afternoon. The fee is \$5 and will be automatically added to bills at the end of each week. We encourage you to please notify us as soon as possible if your child will not be attending the session he/she is booked for to avoid this fee.

Re-enrolment 2024:

All families must return a completed Update to Enrolment Details Form for us to continue the provision of care for your child/ren in 2025. You can do this by heading to our website at www.gowriensw.com.au.

Spring Vacation Care Highlights:

As always, we had plenty of fun and engaging activities for the students these past holidays:

We went on some awesome excursions like the Sydney Zoo, we saw The Wild Robot and Runt at the movies. For the senior students, Time-Zone was their favourite excursion, and Monkey Mania for juniors. Our incursions during vacation care included a rock-climbing wall, a big chemistry show, robotics, an obstacle course, and carnival day. The students loved the rock-climbing wall, and whilst the chemistry show was very engaging, there were some loud balloon excursions that both shocked and surprised everyone!

On our in house days we had a variety of free play, designated crafts, and other spontaneous activities such as hama bead creations which were hugely successful. So much so that some students came back the next day just to collect their creations!

Some of the activities we got up to included a color run, Creating Messy Slime, Oobleck, Playdough and Putty, Build a Bear and a glow-in-the-dark Disco! You can peruse through all the days and activities on Storypark. We had so much fun during Spring Vacation Care and can't wait to see you all again for the Summer!



Some of the feedback from families on our Program from the last term:

P. Silva:

"Great program, caring and professional staff, great facilities."

U. Hammet:

"Always enjoyed the excursions and incursions. Great variety of activities"

M. Munkhtsetseg:

"M son always happy to go to Gowrie and he loves all teachers."

A. Downs:

"It helps with taking care of our child after school. School holiday activities"

D. Davis:

"Rekha and her team do a fantastic job."

Program Highlights

What's been happening?

Following our Spring vacation care program we have dived straight into Term 4. Some highlights from our program this term includes our Halloween and Diwali celebrations.

On Thursday the 31st, we celebrated Halloween. The senior demountable was fitted out with decorations – dubbed the spooky demountable. There were prop skeletons, spider webs, jack-o-lanterns, and lights. All the children who got to enjoy this were delighted by their Halloween escape! On the craft table we had monsters in bags and ghost paper plate making.

Diwali is a Hindu celebration of light, taking place on the day of the new moon in October, it is a celebration of knowledge over ignorance. We had some great activities to celebrate this important cultural event, including Rangoli art on the floor and with paper plates. We also shared traditional food such as Papadums and semolina Halwa which everyone enjoyed. As part of the Rangoli art, students used Holi powder and stencils to make shapes such as flowers and lightning candles on the ground, whilst using coloured paper to make their own unique Rangoli patterns on paper plates. This was a lovely shift away from the 'spookiness' of Halloween and provided a great opportunity to share in cultural celebrations significant to both students and staff alike. It proved to be deeply interesting to learn about for the students, something we will continue next year.

We also continued to integrate and refine our set up for the morning, which has proven to be beneficial to students, parents, and staff.

Our continued integration of the three demountables – specifically in the mornings for Before School Care has received great feedback and response from families and children. The children love the spaces. The mindfulness room has now been opened during Before School Care. Our esteemed mindfulness practitioner and Educator Rosetta has headed up a new program, specifically designed for starting the day right and grounding students before a big day of learning.

The multiple demountables continue to be an asset to our service, and children can be found in them all afternoon. As we find ways to better utilise our new spaces, we have begun doing the afternoon roll call on the grass area closest to the big demountable. This has provided the children an opportunity to keep playing, where we would usually have to get them to all sit down. With their play less interrupted, staff can continue to engage in play with the students while senior staff conduct head count verbally and visually.

Thank you to all families that have provided us with positive feedback on this change, and those who continue to make the effort to sign their children in in the morning. It is imperative all families sign their children in for child safety and childcare subsidy benefits.

Community partnerships:

We would like to hear from you if you have ideas and suggestions for us to further promote sustainability in our program or if you could contribute to our program by sharing some of your skills and talents with children e.g. dance, drawing, gardening etc either for before / after school care or vacation care



This Month's Featured Educator



Jason

Cultural Background: Australian

Qualifications:

Certificate IV in Youth Work, Certificate III in Transport and Logistics.

Hobbies:

Art and Craft, Fishing, Skateboarding, Mountain Biking, Listening to music, Drawing

What is your favourite part of working at GOWRIE OOSH?

My Inspiration to work in OOSH came from my past studies in youth work which had a strong focus on youth mental health.

What is your philosophy in working with children?

Treat every young person with respect and that every action has a reaction.

Gowrie Bake Sale:

The leadership group have got together and created our inaugural Gowrie Bake Sale. They started working on this at the end of last term and have a locked in date: the 28th of November. The money raised will go towards the Cancer Council and raise awareness of cancer-control policies the organisation has. The baked goods will be made in house, and we encourage all families to come along and grab themselves something yummy to eat. Below are the details they laid out in their most recent Leadership Group meeting:

GOWRIE BAKE SALE!

When: November 28th on a Thursday.

Why: For a cancer council.

Isana, Hannah, Arabella and Illy will do a bake sale with many things like:

- Cake pops \$1.00
- Cupcakes \$2.00
- Cookies \$1.50
- Popcorn \$1.50

Including Drinks:

- Apple juice. \$1.50
- Orange juice \$1.50
- Water: free



Clubs at Gowrie

Gardening Club

In the gardening club, students have been cultivating plants from children's choices. These include carrots, peas, cherry tomatoes, herbs, lettuce, and spinach. The students love to watch them sprout, eventually harvesting them. This club is a great way for students to learn about sustainability by composing dried leaves, papers, fruits, veggies, and coffee filters. They also learn about using the right coloured bin for the right kind of recycling. The children come into the garden with a sense of responsibility for the plants in the garden, they have learnt the names of each plant and how to recognise them at different stages of their growth. The upkeep of the garden involves weekly fertiliser, weeding, and daily watering. To decorate the garden, the students choose items they have crafted from our craft program and adorn the space with dinosaurs, funny faces, fairies, and windwheels. We would also like to say a special thank you to the Downs family, who donated seeds to our garden for the students to plant, Thank You!

French Classes

In the past few weeks, French classes have started with our Assistant program Manager Hela teaching them. Hela is Tunisian and speaks fluent French and Arabic. She has taken the opportunity to teach those interested in French on a Monday afternoon at St Marks in the calm room. This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn a new language and has already been taken up with a keen interest from students, specifically students from Drummoyne. It is a great way to engage with other cultures, through language. Hela is taking them through the basics of 'Hello', 'Goodbye', 'My name is', etc. As well as counting and even some sentences like 'How are you'! Come see Hela on a Monday afternoon and you could be speaking French in no time.

Crochet Club

We recently had a crochet activity as part of our regular arts and craft program, and many students have responded really well to this, so much so that a crochet club has officially begun. This was initiated by some of the senior students and has been taken up by a few educators, Neelam leading the charge. Crocheting is slightly easier than knitting, as it only requires one long and thick crochet needle, forming the knots directly onto the piece you are creating. This makes it the perfect introduction to knitting for junior students who lack some of the complex dexterity required for knitting. Neelam has got this program underway, but we are seeing now that the senior students who suggested it are taking upon them the role of leading the junior students in the club. The seniors, who already have some experience with crochet are encouraging, patient, and eager to help anyone who wants to try their hand at it! We have even heard reports that students are going home and continuing to make wonderful creations with their needle and thread.

Homework club

We run a homework club during After school care. Our homework club is facilitated in the big demountable. Children from St Marks have access to our wi-fi to complete online homework. If you would like your child to do their homework during Gowrie OSHC times, please let us know. We can remind your child to do their homework, however we cannot enforce it.

