

# GOWRIE NSW Drummoyne & St Mark's NEWSLETTE

ISSUE: May 2023



## 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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**W**

## Welcome new team members😊

This month we welcomed 4 new educators (Natasha, Olivia, Gabriella and Angela to our service this term. These team members bring their passions and skills of working with children into the program. We also welcome back Sam, Thinh and Kimberly next week from their leave for practicum lessons as part of their teaching degree. We missed them all and cannot wait to get our core team back!

## JUNE St Marks Student Support Days and winter vacation care.

Just a reminder to all St Mark's Families that we are running Student Support Days on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June from 7am to 6pm in St Marks hall.

We also have our winter holiday program releasing very soon. The winter holiday program will run at Drummoyne Public School hall from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July to the 17<sup>th</sup> of July from 7am to 6pm. We have plenty of fun and engaging activities in store for children these holidays as always. We are going to The Koala park, Ninja parc and Ultimate family entertainment Centre for our excursions.

Our excursions are limited to 60 places, thus book early in order to avoid disappointment.

The program will be released on our website: [www.gowriensw.com.au](http://www.gowriensw.com.au) next week and you can make a booking by filling up the booking form .

## 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 you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact the centre via email, in person or phone.

**Fri 9th June**



**Jumping Castle & Wheelie Day (\$70)**

Bring in your bikes and scooters, don't forget your helmets!  
Enjoy bounce house fun as well.

**Thur 29th June**



**Masterchef Day & Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course (\$65)**

Build your confidence in the kitchen and learn some new culinary skills. Have fun participating in obstacle courses with sandbags, tunnels and more

**Fri 30th June**



**Recycling Day & Science Experiments (\$65)**

Do your bit for the planet and make some awesome arts and crafts with recycled materials.

# Program Highlights

**Our current team now consists of:**

## PERMANENT EDUCATORS

**Rekha Moda**

Program Manager

**Huon Saul**

Assistant Program Manager

**Rosetta**

Educator

**Thinh**

Educator

**Neelam**

Educator

**Katalina**

Educator

## CASUAL EDUCATORS

Jason, Sam, Claudia, Gabriella, Olivia, Quill, Kimberly, Angela, Natasha

## This month's featured educator



**Claudia**

**Cultural Background:** Italian

**Qualifications:** Studying Event Management

**Hobbies:** Family, Friends, playing with my dog, playing sports

**What is your favourite part of working at GOWRIE OOSH ?** I love joining in on games that the kids are playing and teaching them new games or skills, it's a lot of fun!

**What is your philosophy in working with children?** Creating a fun environment for the kids to feel free to be themselves and learn in the process.



## Happy Mother's day ☺

At Drummoyne OSHC this month, the biggest highlight was our variety of engaging activities that children participated in for Mother's Day! The activities were chosen based on children's ideas, suggestions and strengths/skills of different ages.

Some children suggested that they would like to make scented candles for mother's day, This then took to the interest of many more children on the day, and soon there was a huge queue lining up outside the kitchen to make these scented candles. Children presented creativity with colours and essential oils to make these candles extra special for mum☺

There was also a tie dye activity which involved tie dying cosmetic bags for Mum. The children got to choose their Mom's favourite colour and mix colours for added creativity. They loved their end products and could not wait to show their mum!

On the crafts table we also had bookmarks being made for Mum. Children were asked to write a special word or statement of gratitude on their bookmarks for their Mum. Some of the children produced "best Mum" "special" and "I love you Mum ". We then punctured a whole in the bookmarks and added some string to them so that they could also be used as decorations.

Baking Mother's Day cookies with our senior children was a very popular activity, everyone wanted to get their hand in to bake the chocolate chip cookies. These were looking delicious after being decorated by the junior children. It was a collaborative activity that was based on the strengths and skills of the different age groups. Not sure how many of these cookies made it home to Mum as they were too tempting!! Kindergartens used their emerging artistic skills to decorate their picture frames which had photos of them holding up a message for Mum. They were super excited to take this photo frame home to Mum!

Hope you enjoyed your child's creativity and passion in making these wonderful presents☺



# Gowrie NSW St Marks OSHC ASC Collection Procedure

As a process of continuous improvement and critical reflection, we have made changes to our children pick up procedure At St Marks as below:

- Two Gowrie NSW Drummoyne OSHC Educators along with a Responsible Person will support the daily transition of children between St Marks Public School and Gowrie NSW OSHC onsite at Drummoyne from Tuesday – Thursday After School Care
- Gowrie OSHC team members will ensure they have the following resources for the transition:
  - - Service Phone
  - - Walkie Talkies
  - - iPad for sign in procedure and emergency contact list of families
  - - Gowrie NSW vests for children transitioning
- Two Gowrie NSW staff members will collect the Kindy children from their classrooms at 3.10pm (5 minutes prior to the school bell) whilst the third staff member stays at the central collection point at St Marks to prepare for the arrival of the remaining children.
- If there are any absent Kindy children a Gowrie NSW educator will confirm with the classroom teacher, they are absent and attempt to contact with the account holder and confirm if the child is absent from school and not attending OSHC. If any Kindy children who are not on listed on the roll say they are booked for Gowrie NSW OSHC the educator will attempt to contact the account holder before leaving the school site. If contact cannot be made in either of these instances the Responsible Person onsite at the Gowrie NSW Drummoyne OSHC location will continue to attempt to contact with the account holder and emergency contacts.
- Two Drummoyne OSHC staff members will do a final head count of the Kindy children before exiting St Marks to walk them across to the Drummoyne OSHC program, one staff member at the front of the line and one at the back scanning and always supervising. Once onsite at Drummoyne a roll call is completed before the children enter the OSHC service and one of the Gowrie NSW educators walks back across to the St Marks site to assist with the collection of the remaining St Marks children.
- Remaining St Marks children to meet the Gowrie NSW educators at the collection point and commence being signed in. For any children who do not arrive, the missing child procedure will be actioned. One educator to go to school office to confirm if they attended school and then contact account holder then emergency contacts. A search of the school will take place. For any children who say they are booked in but are not on the roll, the account holder will be contacted to confirm. If account holder cannot be contacted in either of these scenarios, then the Responsible Person onsite at Gowrie NSW Drummoyne OSHC will attempt contact again and contact emergency contacts in case of the missing child.
- Gowrie NSW educators will complete a final head count before leaving the St Marks site. One educator will walk at the front of the line and one educator at the back of the line, any additional educators for ratio will space themselves out between the children and the group will walk back to the Gowrie NSW Drummoyne OSHC site. A final roll call will be completed before the children transition into the service.

Please let us know if there is anything we could further add or change to this procedure to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

# Highlights



## Gardening/Mindfulness /Sustainability Club:

This month at Gowrie we have continued to maintain and transform our garden into a wonderful patch of fruits, vegetables and colourful plants! It has taken months of work and the help of many children guided by Rosetta, incorporating a mindfulness aspect to the garden. We run a gardening program which is thoughtful and aimed at teaching the children the importance of the environment that surrounds us whilst learning how to plant, care and grow the plants in our garden. From the sorry state it was in 2022, the garden has now blossomed and becoming a neat, organized garden patch. We are currently working around the construction work, but gardening will be back in full swing in just a few weeks!

## Cooking Club: Mondays and Wednesdays

Cooking is always a great activity for the children to engage in, at Gowrie OSHC we have been running tailored cooking activities for the different age groups. The senior children get to research and choose a recipe , collect the ingredients and then cook for the other children too. The food made as part of the cooking activity is then shared with all the children as a late afternoon snack.

Recently we had a year 1 child borrow a cookbook from the school library and show us 3 recipes that he had selected for the seniors to cook as part of the late afternoon tea snack. This just shows how empowered the children feel to make choices and contribute to their world.

## Sports:

Playing sport helps children learn to control their emotions and channel negative feelings in a healthy way. It also helps children develop patience and understand that it can take a lot of practice to improve their skills. Outdoors this month we have been excited to release our new order of sports equipment and a dedicated sports cage for the children to be able to access in a safe manner. This has enabled us to introduce new games like dodgeball and AFL as per popular demand by the children, not only has this further improved our outdoor program in the afternoons but in the mornings too with our daily AFL or Soccer games being run on the outdoor area' by our sports educator James. We have received some great feedback from one of our parents about how good our outdoor program was and how well it was being run by Educator James!!

# Kids in the kitchen

## Easy Vanilla Slices



### Ingredients:

- 1 Pk Sao's
- 1 Vanilla Instant Dessert Mix
- Thickened Cream
- Icing Sugar

### Method:

1. Pour the milk and cream into a large mixing bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer. Add the vanilla instant dessert mix and beat until thick and creamy (around 1-2 mins).
2. Line a square baking dish with baking paper and place a 3x3 grid of Sao biscuits (sugar glaze down) into the tray. Pour whipped dessert mix into the centre, gently pressing it out towards the edges and smoothing out the top as you go.
3. Top with another 3x3 grid of Sao biscuits (sugar glaze up). Pop in the fridge for 1 hour to set.
4. Sprinkle with icing sugar, then cut into slices by gently running a knife between the biscuits.

# Feedback from Families

We thank all the families who have taken the time to give us high scores and huge positive feedback on our last holiday program. This is so motivating for us as a team and helps us to strive harder to achieve better outcomes for our children and families.

We share below some of the feedback we received and will also work on improvements based on suggestions and comments from some Parents.

*"My son loved and wanted to be there every day"*

Renata Oliveira

*"My daughter loved her holiday activity to Timezone. Thankyou"*

Amber Johnston

*"Great variety of activities, staff and equipment"*

Lauren Mackay

*"My son comes home happy and said he had a good time"*

Carmen Maisenbacher

*"Friendly Staff"*

Kanyarat Maibida

*"Our daughter had so much fun at the two incursions she attended...."*

Laura Paul

*"My daughter loved all the activities and the staff"*

Tatiana Cagnola

*"Age-appropriate activities and familiar environment made first vacation care and easy transition"*

Melissa Cain



# Why play is important

Being interested and supportive of a child's play helps them to feel connected, valued and accepted. Having fun together during play time enables children to experience pleasure and joy.

## Play helps children develop social skills

Play is important for learning the social skills (including language and communication) that develop over time and will be the foundation for future relationships.

Through play, children learn about:

- the give and take of relationships with friends (negotiating)
- how their behaviour can affect others and to develop empathy
- how to lead and follow
- repairing relationships.

## Play helps children develop emotional skills

Through play, children can express their feelings, even before they have the words to say how they feel. Play also fosters imagination and becomes the basis for creativity in art or music or other ways of self-expression. These ways of personal expression can help people cope with feelings all their lives.

Play can also help children learn impulse control. They learn to think about what they want to do, to plan and to be patient. If they're building a castle and get frustrated and knock it down, they have lost their castle. In these ways, children gradually learn they need to control their impulses to achieve what they want.

## Play helps children develop physical skills

Children like games that test their physical abilities (motor skills) – running, climbing, jumping and exploring. These games bring children happiness and build their confidence.

## Play is a way that children can work through and resolve problems

For example, a child whose family has separated may feel very anxious about what's going to happen to them. These feelings and possibilities can be explored through play. The child can practice having two homes set up with two houses and different dolls. There's no need for you to take part, but being near while the child plays shows support and acceptance.

## How do School aged children play?

School-age children can have fun with the following objects and activities:

- Furniture, linen, washing baskets, tents and boxes are great for building.
- Home-made obstacle courses can get your child moving in different ways, directions and speeds.
- Rhymes or games like "I spy with my little eye, something that begins with..." are great for word play and help develop literacy skills.
- Simple cooking or food preparation like measuring, stirring and serving food is great for developing numeracy and everyday skills.
- Your child's own imagination – with imagination, your child can turn themselves into a favourite superhero or story character.
- If your child is interested, you could think about getting them into some sports or team activities for school-age children. Other possibilities include after-school or holiday art and craft activities.