

December 2020 Newsletter

Les Shore Place, Castle Hill NSW 2154
PO Box 836, Castle Hill NSW 1765
p 9680 3361 | w castlehillfunhouse.com.au

Castle Hill
Funhouse
Before, After & Vacation Care Centre



On this month

Vacation Care Forms Due ----- 11th
Last day of School 2020 ----- 16th
Last day of Funhouse 2020 ----- 18th
Funhouse is Closed ----- 6:30pm
18th December 2020 – 7am 4th January 2021
Christmas ----- 25th

SUMMER

Hi Funhouse Families.

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2020

On behalf of the entire Funhouse team, we would like to thank our wonderful families for being a part of this community during the ups and downs of 2020. We could not have done it without you!

A reminder – Vacation Care bookings are due by 11th December 2020. Book now using your Xplor Home App 😊

Keep Smiling!
The Funhouse Team



The Funhouse Management Committee



Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**Wednesday 17th February
7pm - Online**

As a not-for-profit organisation, Castle Hill Funhouse has a management committee comprised of families who currently use our service.

The committee makes major decisions about Castle Hill Funhouse and is currently liaising with relevant stakeholders regarding Funhouse's response to COVID-19 updates as they come in.

If you would like to get involved, please contact our management directly:

management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

Funhouse Opening Hours and Closure Days

Castle Hill Funhouse is operating during the following hours:

Before School Care:

7:00am – 9:00am

After School Care:

3:00pm – 6:30pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am – 6:30pm

School Development Days:

7:00am – 6:30pm

Castle Hill Funhouse is closed during:

National Public Holidays

Kindergarten 2021 – Jan Vacation Care

Kindergarten 2021 are welcome to join our January Vacation Care Program! Please use your Xplor Home app to book now 😊

Family Survey



On Monday 7th December the Management Committee will be emailing all families a survey (part of a bi-yearly feedback cycle).

Please take the time to answer our survey and provide feedback on our current practices, as well as what you would like to see happen at the centre in the future.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Happy surveying!

Staff Farewells

It is with both sadness and excitement that we say farewell to:

Janelle

A proud new grandmother to a beautiful baby boy named Finley!

Alex

Transitioning fully into his engineering career

Maurice

Taking on a challenge with his own Kindergarten class in 2021

Matthew

Transitioning into the world of casual teaching



Summer Closure

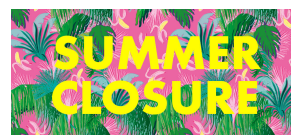
Funhouse's last day for this year will be:

Friday 18th December 2020

Funhouse will re-open:

7am Monday 4th January 2021

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back next year!



Week 8 – Arts Alive!

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, Reena worked with our fabulous children to execute an incredible Arts Alive experience!

Families walked through the exhibits and viewed a range of pieces. Children also participated in workshops led by their peers and reflected on/celebrated their achievements!



Funhouse Program

Technology Time: In collaboration with the children and their group leaders, Funhouse is currently trialing a designated week each term for children to use Technology after school in the computer room.

Week 2 | Week 3 Year 3 | Week 4 Year 2 | Week 5 Year 1 | Week 6 Kindy | Week 7 Years 4-5-6 | Week 8 Year 3 | Week 9 Year 2 | Week 10 Kindy & Year 1

Contacting Funhouse

If your family needs to contact Funhouse for any reason, these are the best ways to get in touch with us:

The team:

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

ph. 9680 3361

text message: 0423 843 917



Accounts: accounts@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

Note: our bookkeeper Pina works on Thursdays and will respond then.

Centre Manager:

isabelle@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

ph. 9680 3361

text message: 0418 687 579

Funhouse Video



Stay tuned, Funhouse is working on a video to show you the ins and outs of our centre! This will supplement our current online Family Information Sessions. See you soon!

Summer Vacation Care Program 2020/2021

IMPORTANT

Our summer vacation care program is due:

Friday 11th December

Xplor: Xplor have responded to feedback about their booking process and is aiming to introduce a new feature where families choose days on a calendar rather than individually. Stay tuned!

Excursions: In alignment with the Department of Education recommendations, we are aiming to have some excursions in our Summer Vacation Care Program. All COVID safe plans will be adhered to and our Centre Risk Minimisation Plans have been reviewed and are ready to go. They are available for families to view upon request.

Important: while the aim is to incorporate excursions in our program, Funhouse will be monitoring the COVID situation closely and will inform families if the program changes.

Excursion Permission Form:

<https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/excursion-permission-form>

Peak Pursuits Waiver:

<https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/peak-pursuits-waiver>

Booking Guidance:

<https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/making-a-vacation-care-booking>



COVID19 Update

If your child comes to Funhouse with COVID symptoms we will:

1. Call you immediately to collect
2. Inform CHPS

Your child cannot return to Funhouse or CHPS without a negative COVID-19 test result

We are continuing to monitor the Department of Education guidelines and will provide updates as they arrive.

thankyou



Sustainability Focus

The end of the year means a lot of different things for different people. For many it's a time of gift giving and Christmas cheer. While this is a great time of year filled with joy and happiness, unfortunately, the reality can be very different. Tonnes of wrapping and packaging for our Christmas presents ends up in landfill, dumped or recycled incorrectly.

However, we can all work together and take little steps to help reduce our waste and plastic consumption to protect the environment!

This was the theme for our Staff Sustainable activity and termly Sustainability Week here at Funhouse. We demonstrated this by focussing on the creation of Beeswax Wraps as an alternative to plastic wrapping to communicate with the kids and staff, it is possible to be sustainable this Christmas. These wraps can be used as an alternative to cling wrap and foil to help preserve food and other perishables. We hope this activity can inspire you to help make a small change which will have a great sustainable impact.



Funhouse is still collecting Bread Tags for **Bread tags for Wheelchairs**. This local organisation recycles the tags donated and turns them into products to be sold in Australia. The funds are then donated to help people in South Africa who are unable to afford wheelchairs. An amazing way to teach that small recycling efforts can still create a big change in someone's life! Please drop off your tags to our Funhouse Kitchen



Be You offers information and resources specifically designed for Educators on specific mental health-related topics. At Castle Hill Funhouse, the team is engaging with different modules and meet termly to consolidate information in the Funhouse context.

This month, the team focused on Empowerment in Childhood.

This involved understanding that children have the capacity for expression, decision-making, exploring ideas with their peers and directing their learning. They're increasingly able to express their likes and dislikes, make choices about who and what they want to play with, and contribute ideas about their learning experiences.



Transition strategies – which involve early learning services, schools and home – support continued growth of self-determination when they highlight children's opportunities to make choices and manage their learning.

Please catch any of the managers: Isabelle, Sue, Tamika, Louise, Emma or Selina if there's anything you'd like to chat about

Alternatively, please complete our online Feedback form:

<https://castlehillfunhouse.com.au/forms/complaints-incidents-grievance-form/>

Feedback 
is always welcome



COVID-19 Resources

If you have symptoms



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath

- **Self-isolate first.** Call your GP or visit a public COVID-19 clinic: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
- Travel in your own car or a private car driven by a family member or an existing close contact. **Do not travel by public transport, taxi or ride-share service.**
- **Wear a surgical mask.** If unavailable, ask for one immediately when you arrive.

If you need a test, you can visit a COVID-19 clinic:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/clinics.aspx

www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/coronavirus-covid-19-gp-respiratory-clinics

Testing is available at the following public clinics in Western Sydney:

Castle Hill Showground Drive Through	Westmead Hospital	The Children's Hospital, Westmead
Showground Road, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154 8am - 4pm, Mon-Fri	Level 2, E Block, Corner of Hawkesbury Road and Darcy Road, Westmead 7am - 9pm, 7 days Phone (02) 8890 5555	Corner of Hawkesbury Road and Hainsworth Street, Westmead 10am - 8pm, 7 days (02) 9845 0000

COVID-19- need more information or help?

Call 1800 020 080 (24/7) for health questions or to check symptoms

Call 13 77 88 (24/7) for non-health related questions

Call 1800 512 348 (24/7) for mental wellbeing support

Visit www.healthdirect.gov.au to check symptoms

Visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19 for all other COVID-19 related information.

Call 13 14 50 for FREE help in your language



Protect yourself and others.



Practise good hygiene



Practise social distancing



Stay home if you can

Please catch any of the supervisors: Isabelle, Sue, Tamika or Louise if there's anything you'd like to chat about

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