



109 Angle Road,
Grays Point NSW 2232
(02) 9540 2020
0427 741 779

admin@gpactivitycentre.org
www.gpactivitycentre.org

Before School Care:

7:30am – 8:50am

After School Care:

3:15pm – 6:00pm

**Vacation Care & Pupil Free
Days**

7:30am – 6:00pm

Welcome.

Welcome to 2020:

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Chinese New Year
Happy Australia Day, Happy 1st Day of School and Happy
Valentines Day!!!!

Wow, what a year it has already been. First we had the smoke, the catastrophic fire ratings, hail, then the flooding rain – what a country we live in! We send our thoughts to the families within our community and their families and friends who have sadly lost their homes, properties and beloved holiday destinations. If you have been affected, please let us know and we can further discuss options for your family.

KEELY THE KOALA:

As a result of the devastating fires, GPAC are proud to advise we have become a Taronga Zoo Parent in 2020 and adopted a Koala under the Horizon Level.

We have called our Koala 'Kelley'



Welcome to Term 1.

We would like to welcome all our returning families and also our new members of the GPAC community. We have been very lucky that most of our new GPAC children have had the best transition from preschool/ primary school to GPAC. Some of the children had visited us in 2019 when we hosted Anchorage Child Care and Grays Point Preschool visits.

Many of our new children commenced care with their friends in Vacation Care, it was really nice to see their smiling faces throughout the day.

We hope our new enrolments have enjoyed their new welcome bags and seeing their photos on our door each day!



HELPING OUT A GPAC FAMILY:

The West Family is part of the Grays Point community. Sadly 8 year old Zane was diagnosed on Christmas Eve with an aggressive and inoperable type of brain cancer (DIPG).

You can find more about his journey and donate on the link below:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/fight-to-save-zane-west?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet.

Even a small donation could help the West Family reach their fundraising goal. We also ask if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word.

BOOKINGS:

We would also like to remind families that if you wish to change your booking for Term 1, we have a three week notice period, so if for example your child is commencing band tutorials, or soccer training please ensure to let us know as soon as possible.

If your child will be absent for Before School Care (BSC) or After School Care (ASC), please send us a text message (best option) or call before 2:30pm to ensure GPAC Educators are aware for the afternoon collection. If you do not advise, we will commence calling parents/ guardians and you will be charged an administration fee.

If your child is participating in any extra-curricular activities while booked into the Centre you will need to complete our extra-curricular form for 2020 – this is located on our website. Please see Teri for further information.

MEMBERSHIPS & FEES:

A friendly reminder that many family's annual membership forms are due back.

As GPAC is community-based not for profit Centre, it is a condition of enrolment that at least one member of each family registers.

You can download a copy of the membership form from our website www.gpactivitycentre.org/enrolments or pick up a printed copy at the Kiosk sign-in desk.

The annual fee of \$50 is billed to your Term 1 invoice.

Memberships are valid for 12 months from when care started, if you joined GPAC mid-year, you will be prompted to return the membership form at that time.

Please ensure you pay your membership and fees for this term. Teri has sent out fee invoices for term and full fee payment is due 20th March 2020.



Visit from Before and After School Care Reform Program

As many of you know, we are a community based centre, a centre that originally started with the support of the GPPS Principal and some pro-active mothers. Grays Point Activity Centre was founded in 1988 and incorporated in 1997. At the time GPAC was the second before and after school care centre to open in the Shire.

Over the years the Service operated from various locations/classrooms at Grays Point Public School run by the GPAC parent managed committee which is a separate entity from Grays Point Public School and the P&C.

In 2016, GPAC was the first Service to undertake and complete the installation of a purpose designed and built demountable on school grounds.

This week, we will be having a special visit from the "Before and After School Care (BASC) Reform Program" which has been established to deliver the Coalition election commitment to invest \$120million to expand before and after school care across the state. The commitment includes a \$50 million Infrastructure Fund for new facilities and equipment to ensure all parents of children at public primary schools that need before and after school care have access to a Service.

As we are a purpose built Centre, built on school grounds in a state of the art facility, we were asked by the Government if we could tour the BASC Reform Program team around GPAC and explain our insights, experience of the development, construction and utilization of the space.

GPAC Committee

We will be having our AGM is 25th March 2020 from 7pm. All community members and new families are welcome to attend.

2019 Management Committee Members:

Tim Robinson – President
Justine Williams – Secretary and Public Officer
Kate Foster – Treasurer
Laura Applebee-Jones - HR Director

Non Office bearing Committee Members

Karen Graham
Nicole Giezekamp
Jonathan Elcombe



25th March

7PM

Please ask if you would like to know further about positions or becoming a volunteer on the committee or a project.

Without a committee GPAC cannot operate.

Staffing



As you may have noticed, Jacky our beautiful Office Admin commenced her maternity leave in December 2019.

Jacky's family welcomed a sweet little girl, Dylan into their family over the Christmas break. Jacky's family are settling into their new routine and even visited us last week!!! Jacky is expecting to return towards the end of this year.

We have been very fortunate to have found two candidates to share Jacky's Office Admin role.



Teri: Our current Team Leader has decided to take on some of Jacky's administration role as well as managing her usual Team Leader position. You will be able to see Teri working on the floor or in the office most mornings and afternoons.



Jai: is our new employee, some of you may have already communicated with her over the phone, in the office or over email. Jai has worked in Children's Services for the last 9 years she will be working in our office and also supporting Educators on the floor.

Jai will be available in the office from 3:30 – 6pm each Monday – Thursday.

We would also like to share big congratulations to two of our young team members, Sophie and Jess.

Sophie has been studying her nursing degree over the last few years and is now a fully qualified nurse!! She will be visiting GPAC in between her busy nursing schedule.

Jess, as some of you may know has been studying her Bachelor of Education and has recently graduated. Jess is currently holding a position as a qualified high school teacher this year, so we look forward to Jess visiting us during Vacation Care.

Vacation Care

Our Summer Vacation Care program was a blast – we have had great feedback from the children who informed they really enjoyed their time with us after their Christmas break. We do however hope to visit Como pools as we know many children were disappointed that we missed that day – but we hope to re-schedule this excursion very soon!

We know most families are settling into the new year, however we have now uploaded April Vacation Care Program. We would like to remind families that these applications must be returned prior to the return date. Any applications returned after due date will encounter additional fees. We appreciate that your family does require care, however we must ensure that we have appropriate staff: child ratios throughout each day (especially on excursions).

We would like to remind families who enrol for Vacation Care that you must ensure your child appropriately dresses for their day at the Centre. This includes, covered shoulders, walking shoes – no thongs! You child must bring a hat, sunscreen, raincoat, umbrella, jumper, spare clothing, water bottle and enough food for the whole day. If we are on an excursion that visits water, all children must have rash shirts, hat, sunscreen, water and a towel. We will post regular posts on our Facebook page to remind families of what is required for upcoming incursion/ excursions. It is the parent/ guardians responsibility to ensure your child/ children has the essential requirements for their day of care at the Centre.



Our April Vacation Care Program is available online now and booking some Monday (02/03). We will be closed on the Easter Public Holidays, so please anticipate.
Bookings close Friday 13th March.

Have You Seen?



We have a new addition to our physical environment called the "Chill Out Area", we have purchased an arched bed frame and a calm cube to ensure our children have the opportunity to have a quiet and calming space where they may wish to relax and enjoy reading a book or participating in a quiet activity with their friends. We will also be introducing some additional calming and sensory resources.

ARC

ARC (Activity Representative Council) was founded Term 4, in 2019 which encouraged children to have further opportunities to be in decision making and contribution to some aspects of the program. We will be electing new captains and vice captains (mid term) each term. The ARC team meets once a week throughout the term and discussed options on improving the quality of the Service and resources within the Centre.

This term, the ARC team is exploring the option of purchasing a turtle as a Centre pet!



We need your help!

Do you know a carpenter/kitchen maker etc. We are looking for quotes for 2 cupboards and shelves and cannot find a tradie to help !



We are also looking for anyone that can recommend a great performing timesheet app or can help on a project to facilitate the implementation of a streamlined timesheet project for our staff payroll.

If you would like to donate your time to assist in anything throughout the centre, plumbing, electrical, technology, construction, gardening, educate our children or Educators, assist in a project, we would love to hear from you.

Please send us an email at admin@gpactivitycentre.org

Policies

Some of the Policies and Procedures we are currenting reviewing/creating or amending this Term are :

- Family Handbook
- Telephone, Mobile and Internet Policy
- Staff Handbook
- Parental Leave Policy
- Remuneration Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Code of Conduct and Expectation Charter
- Reportable Conduct
- Restraint of a Child
- Sun Protection Policy
- Absconding Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Providing a Child Safe Environment



Upcoming Dates

Monday 2nd March 2020
Friday 13th March 2020
Friday 20th March 2020
Wednesday 25th March 2020

Vacation Care bookings open
Vacation Care bookings close
Term 1 Fees dues
GPAC Committee AGM - 7pm