

Funhouse NEWS



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY?

- 4th Feb: World Cancer Day
- 7th Feb: Safer Internet Day
- 14th Feb: Valentines Day
- 21st Feb Pancake Day

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

A warm WELCOME BACK to our families, carers and children. We are super excited that we are stepping into the new year 2023 with you all. We would like to give an extended warm welcome to all our new Kindergartens and their families. Funhouse are extremely excited and can not wait to see what this year brings us all.

School Car Park

A reminder -

families can park in the school car park: Before 8am and After 4pm

We ask that families do not park in the principal or vice principal spaces.

Other parking options include parking:
On Gilham St | At Castle Towers

Changes to Child Care Subsidy

From 10 July 2023, there are changes to the way we work out your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) entitlement. Child care will be cheaper for most families.

What you need to know What you need to do from January to June 2023

- The maximum amount of CCS is increasing from 85% to 90% for families earning up to \$80,000.
- The income limit for CCS is increasing to \$530,000.
- If you earn over \$80,000, your CCS percentage will go down by 1% for each \$5,000 of income your family earns. You'll either get more subsidy or have no change to your entitlement. The CCS percentage you're entitled to depends on your family's income.

For more information about CCS, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/changes-if-you-get-family-payments

Families with more than one child aged 5 or under

From 10 July 2023, if you have more than one child aged 5 or under you can still get a higher rate for one or more of your children.

If you get Additional Child Care Subsidy

If you get Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) your rates will stay the same.

From 10 July 2023, the low income limit for ACCS Transition to Work (TTW) will increase to \$80,000. Your family will still need to meet other ACCS TTW eligibility requirements.

In most cases, you don't need to do anything to get the increased rate. If you get CCS, we'll apply changes to your CCS automatically from 10 July 2023.

Updating your family income estimate

The amount of CCS you get is calculated using your family income estimate. It's important to make sure that you check your income estimate regularly and update it if your circumstances change.

If you get CCS or if you're already assessed for CCS but get 0%, you may be eligible for an increased rate. Check your family income estimate is up to date so you get the right amount from 10 July 2023.

You can check or update your income estimate at any time using:

- your **Centrelink online account** through my.gov.au
- the **Express Plus Centrelink mobile app**
- the **myGov app**.

For more information about how to update your family income estimate, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/familyincomeestimate



Making a claim for CCS

From 10 July 2023 the income limit for CCS is increasing to \$530,000. This means that more families will be entitled to CCS to reduce their child care costs.

If you want to check your eligibility for CCS, you can make a claim using your Centrelink online account through myGov or your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

If you make a claim and it's assessed before 10 July 2023, you may be assessed at 0% if your income is over \$356,756. Your new rate of CCS will automatically apply to you from 10 July 2023.

You can make a claim for CCS any time using:

- your **Centrelink online account** through **my.gov.au**
- the **Express Plus Centrelink mobile app**
- the **myGov app**.

For more information about how to claim CCS, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/how-to-claim-child-care-subsidy

What's happening from 10 July 2023

If you already get CCS or made a claim, you don't need to do anything to get the increased rate. We'll apply changes to your CCS automatically from 10 July 2023.

Your new rate of CCS will show in your online account from 10 July 2023 through myGov. Select **My family** from the Menu, then **Family assistance**, followed by **Child Care Subsidy Summary** to view your rate.

You can also use your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app. Select **Child Care Subsidy**, then **Children assessed** to view your rate from 10 July 2023.

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR INPUT

Extra Curricular

For the new year we will be continuing our extra curricular, the Cooking Club and our Sports Club. Throughout our Cooking Club we try our best to explore different cultures with in our centre by implementing recipes that reflect on child interest and cultural diversity. We would love our families to share any recipes they enjoy making at home or feel would be fit for the children to learn and explore. Please feel free to email familysupport@castlehillfunhouse.com.au any ideas or suggestions for our extra curricular's.

Autumn Vacation Care

Our staff are in the process of planning our next vacation care in April. Vacation Care will commence on the 11th of April and will end on the 21st of April. While we love the excitement of choosing excursions and workshops, we love and appreciate your ideas too. If you have any ideas on what you'd like to see in our Vacation Care program, please feel free to email familysupport@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

FUNHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

Monday. 20th February 2023
7:00 pm - Online

As a not-for-profit organisation, Castle Hill

Funhouse has a management committee comprised of families who currently use our service.

The committee decides on matters of policy and meets once a month to make other major decisions about Castle Hill Funhouse.

If you would like to get involved, please contact our Management via email management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

MEET DYLAN



Dylan will be taking on the roll as our Kindergarten Group Leader. He will support the children in their transitions from school to Funhouse and will ensure that all your children feel safe and secure within our service. Dylan would love to welcome you and your families, so don't be shy, and come say hi.

The Team:

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au
ph. or text message: 0423 843 917
ph. or text message: 0418 687 579

Centre Manager:

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au
text message: 0423 843 917
text message: 0418 687 579

Group Leaders:

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au
text message: 0423 843 917
or see us at the Centre!

A message from our WHS manager

Moving into 2023, through collaboration with key stakeholders the WHS Team will be focusing on implementing engaging and educational activities into our weekly program that have a key focus on Children's Health and Safety. Each week there will be a new focus topic and an array of hands on activities for our children to choose from. We will be focusing on hand hygiene and sun safety as our areas of focus for the beginning of the term. Our Quality Area 2 Children's Health and Safety Program will be available online for our families to access shortly. If you have any feedback or activities you would like us to program in relation to children's health and safety please reach out to us as we would love your input.
-Katherine.

MEET BEN



The WHS Team has grown by one! Welcoming Ben to the team. Ben is currently undertaking his Bachelor of Nursing and brings with him an abundance of knowledge and motivation. Ben has worked at Funhouse for nearly two years with a big passion in working with children to improve their health, safety and wellbeing.

Sadly, this term we will be farewelling our lovely Hannah on the 24 Feb as she starts a new chapter in her life and Centre Manager for a new service. Hannah has been with Funhouse for just under 6 years and is very much part of the furniture here at Funhouse. It will certainly take some getting used to, coming in in the mornings and not seeing her bright smile to welcome our families to Funhouse. . Hannah has been an integral part of our journey over the years and the service will have a very large gap in it when she leaves. We sincerely wish her everything of the best for her new role.

With the world opening up for travel again, we will be seeing a few of our staff taking off in the summer months to travel through Europe for a few weeks. One of which will be Dana, who will be commencing her adventures through Europe at the beginning of May. We don't know how long she will be away for at this stage, but will look forward to welcoming her back one day when she is ready.

We are extremely proud of Wendy and Joel who have completed their Supervisor training and have now officially joined our Supervisor team in the mornings and afternoons. Harry, Jack and Sylvie have also stepped up and will be commencing their Supervisor training soon.

Congratulations to Ashleigh D who officially started the term at our Educational Leader. Please take the time to have a look at the full and fun packed program when you walk through the door in the connect area. She has been doing a wonderful job and keeping all of our children entertained and busy.

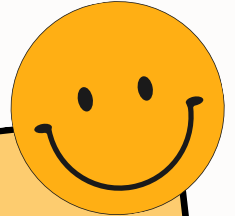
OUR SUMMER VACATION CARE RECAP

WEEK 1

Contiki Tour
Jollypops Christmas
Science Show
Event Cinemas
Christmas Spectacular

WEEK 2

First Aiders Day
Maritime
Museum
Minute to Win it
Picnic in the park
No limits Sports



WEEK 3

Funhouse Fair day
Gamerz Bus
Australian Reptile Park
Paint & Sip
Ninja Playground & Fitness

WEEK 4

Sweet & Savoury Cooking Day
Canoelands Orchard
Splashtastic Day
Taronga Zoo
Dress Up Day

WEEK 1 & 2 RECAP

We started summer vacation care off nice and strong in week 1. Monday the children enjoyed a contiki tour, travelling around the world and creating crafts like jewellery, flags, passports, fake snow and even had the chance to cook and taste different types of foods from around the world like Anzac biscuits, rice paper rolls, guacomole and chips and experienced blind taste testing. On Tuesday we had a day filled with lots of Christmas carols, dancing and science experiments like melting ice colour burst, glitter surface tension and slime and skittle patterns. The Educators and children ventured out to watch Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile with some delicious popcorn and took part in making Sugar plum fairy play dough, recycled armour, magical wizard jars and snowflake slushies when arriving back. We ended our week with a Christmas Spectacular! The children enjoyed cooking lots of treats in the kitchen and LOVED our glow stick filled disco with lots of music, games and a visit from Santa!

In week 2 the children experienced how it felt to be a first response First Aider! A lot of the children here at Funhouse love playing Doctors and Nurses so having to experience and learning what it meant to do first aid on someone from a professional was very exciting. We had an adventurous day in the city exploring the old ships and submarines at the Maritime Museum which the children found much enjoyment in. They were able to enjoy some rest with a movie and quiet games after a long day of exploring. On Wednesday we had a 'minute to win it' game filled day where the children raced against the clock with games such as shooting as many hoops in 1 minute, using chop sticks to colour coordinate skittles, partner work in mummy wrapping with paper towel, hurdle races and so much more. Funhouse ended the week on two exciting events. The children got to team up and play bowling where a lot of our older boys showed great sportsman ship when helping the younger children. They also enjoyed choosing teams with their friends in a match of laser tag. They then experienced a day filled with loads of sports, team work and new skill work.

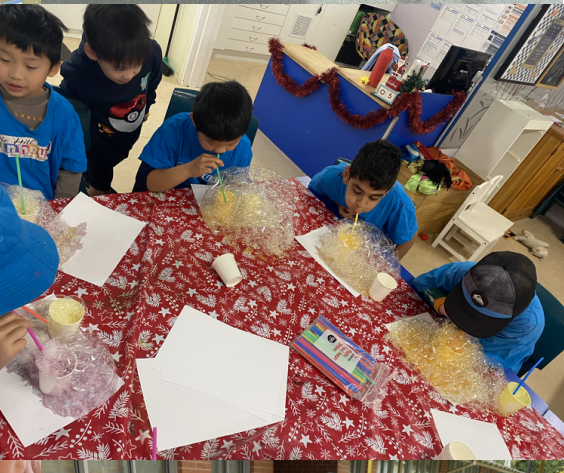
WEEK 3 & 4 RECAP

In week 3, the children enjoyed participating in circus themed activities along with fairy floss, lemonade making and loads of dancing. They also had the chance to experience their love for technology and video games on their very own gamerz bus. We had a full day in the sunshine adventuring around the reptile park where children explored different reptiles, learnt about crocodiles, spiders and even had the chance to watch a dinosaur show, which they loved! The children's creative, arty sides were put to test with their very own sip and paint day. They were able to learn step by step on how to paint coral and turtles while drinking juice punch and snacks made by our team. We then ended our week going through ninja obstacle courses, climbing walls, ropes and swinging on bars.

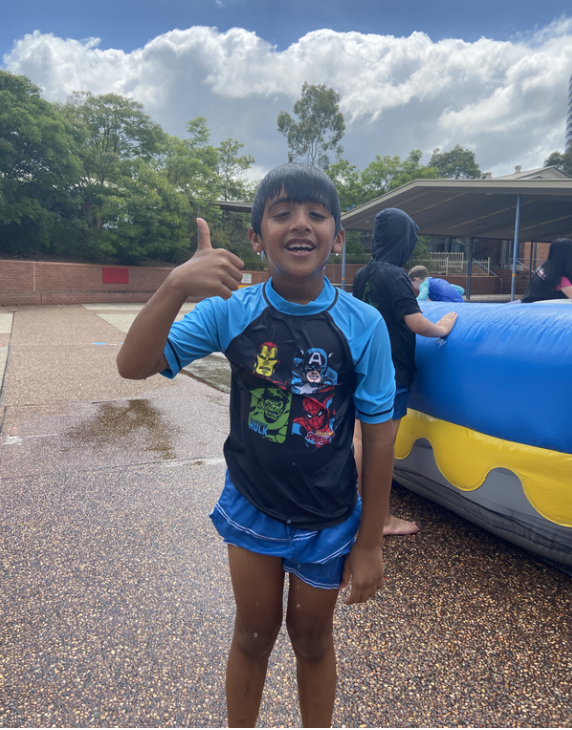
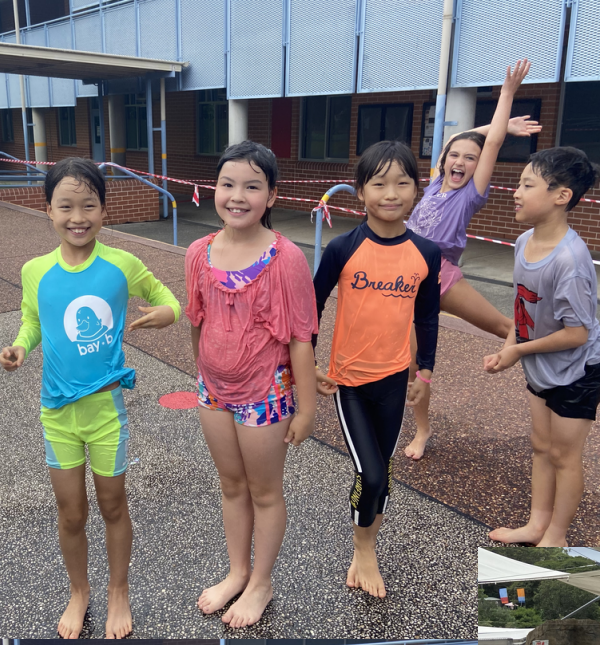
Our last week of Vacation Care! The children made lots of sweets like funny face cookies and candy sticks. We also made cheese and vegemite scrolls, rice paper rolls and fruit kebabs which the kids got to pack in their own boxes and take it all home to enjoy what they had made with their families. The children and our team of educators then ventured out on an excursion where we got to walk around a farm, pick fruit, feed animals and even ride a tractor.

The staff on our excursion also prepared an awesome learning experience for the children on bees, ending the lesson with tasting their very own honey which the children absolutely loved. On Wednesday, we spent a sunshine filled day on a big water slide, played with water balloons and water pistols. Lastly, the children had a fun day out at Taronga Zoo where we got to watch seal and bird shows, see giraffes, elephants and monkeys!


Vacation Care was an absolute hit for the kids and we appreciate all the children being there to participate and enjoy their holidays. We can not wait for the next Vacation Care and would love any ideas on what you and your children would like to see in our next one. We hope the children enjoyed their Christmas break as much as we did here at Funhouse.











Sustainability Special Events Term 1

2 February - World Wetlands Day

It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. Since 1997, World Wetlands Day has been used to: raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits. promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

3 March - Schools Clean Up Day

A Schools Clean Up is a great way to inspire students to learn about the impact of rubbish on their local environment while playing an active role in their community. It's a day when students and teachers work together to clean up an area which is special to you.

5 March - Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day which helps to implement high quality educational teaching lessons, which engages students in sustainability education and is a great way to inspire children to learn about the impact of rubbish on their local environment while playing an active role in their community.

4-12 March - Sea Week

Sea Week is Australia's major national public awareness campaign to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. Sea Week gives us a fantastic opportunity to promote educational issues of relevance to the marine environment.

4-12 March - Parks Week

Parks Week is about hundreds of organisations across Australia and New Zealand holding events to celebrate the vital role parks play in creating livable cities and thriving communities. Parks Week 2023 will focus on the how spending time in our parks and open spaces positively influences our well being.

21 March



International Day of Forests

The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

22 March

World Water Day

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.



RAP Special Events

TERM 1

13 February – Anniversary of National Apology Day

On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology to Australia's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the injustices of past government policies, particularly to the Stolen Generations.

16 March – National Close the Gap Day

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event that raises awareness and seeks to close the gap with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, educational and employment outcomes between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and non-Indigenous Australians.

Recipe Of The Month

Apple and cinnamon muffins. (Makes 12)



INGREDIENTS

2 cups plain flour
1 tbsp baking powder
2tsp cinnamon ground
2/3 cup brown sugar
2 medium apples, cored, chopped
125g sunflower oil
180ml rice milk

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180C. You will need 12 medium muffin pans. Line the pans with paper muffin cases.
2. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder and cinnamon in a bowl. Make a well in the centre.
3. Combine rice milk, oil in a bowl. Add chopped apples to the bowl and mix. Stir until just combined. Spoon mixture into the muffin cases.
4. Bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

