Well…. school is out for 2014, where did the year go?? We are looking forward to a change of pace now as we change tack, trim our sails and venture out on our Vacation Care programme for Christmas and the long hot summer. We have endeavoured to find a happy mix of busyness and downtime for our children….slipping in opportunities to keep cool with water play in one form or another as the weather warms up. We look forward to your company on the journey….all aboard!!!

PS Please remind your children to bring a hat as well as a drink bottle each day. We are more than happy to keep filling their bottle up for them.

A special note of thanks must go to Stephen Heuzenroeder for his dedication to our newsletter cause. We hope that everyone will enjoy reading his latest offering!

Mercedes College OSHC Newsletter
Term 4 ~ 2014

With Christmas stepping up to greet us, members of our Mercedes College OSHC staff gathered at the warm and inviting Vietcharm Restaurant situated in the quieter quarter of King William Street to celebrate the festive season and the end of another happy year together. We were particularly keen to experience the culture and cuisine of this restaurant, as it is owned by one of our families, Tim and Su Ngo and daughter Annie.

On arrival, we were greeted by a very excited Annie and were then shown to our table which was nestled in a little alcove that looked out on to King William Street. It was not long before our host, Tim, officially welcomed us and spent time chatting to us about how the evening’s dining would proceed. We were very interested to learn about the rich family heritage of his family still living in Vietnam who cook and serve meals to hundreds of people each and every day. Tim reminded us that Vietnamese food is heavily influenced by French cuisine so we were definitely keen to sample some of the ‘street food’ which would serve as our entrée dishes. Deciding on what to order for our main meals was a challenge, we were very spoilt for choice, everyone was delighted with their meal and some of us were a little more adventurous than others.

The atmosphere was very conducive to good conversation and there was lots of good-natured and animated banter around the table, no one wanted to go home!

We are looking forward to forging a new relationship with Tim and Vietcharm next year when we take the children to visit the restaurant and learn to make one or two traditional dishes. Our children will have an opportunity to have a real emersion experience and will come to see why the Ngo family are so proud of their family’s heritage.

Summer Vacation Care 2014-2015

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A special note of thanks must go to Stephen Heuzenroeder for his dedication to our newsletter cause. We hope that everyone will enjoy reading his latest offering!
At the end of 2014 we have said farewell to five members of our OSHC family.

Nathaniel Kennedy started with us when he was in Reception - it has been lovely watching him grow and develop into a lovely young man. Nathaniel was a great friend to many and we particularly loved his quirky sense of humour and his willingness to try his hand at different activities.

We also enjoyed his company during Vacation Care when on occasions we were also joined by his young sister, Miranda. Nathaniel and his family have moved to Darwin and we trust that they will enjoy a new lifestyle in the northern part of our big country.

Goodbye Nathaniel

We very much enjoyed getting to know Isaac and Amelie and their mum and dad while they were with us in our OSHC programme. We loved Amelie’s big smile, I don’t think that we ever saw her without it! She was quite shy and reserved at first, but by the time she left at the end of the year, she was much more chatty and happy to get involved with the different creative activities on offer.

Isaac was a bouncing ball of energy and loved his sport, especially soccer. He was probably most happy when he was out kicking a ball with his friends.

We especially enjoyed chatting to Isaac and Amelie’s grandparents when they picked up the children. It is a reminder of the important role that grandparents play in the lives of many of our children.

Amelie and Isaac have moved to Sydney and we are sure that they will settle in very well to their new school.

Goodbye Isaac and Amelie

We would also like to wish Zara and Declan all the best at their new schools. We remember Declan with all his clever designs and interventions... surely he will be heading for the ‘Shark Tank’ programme! Zara too is a creative genius and just loved taking part in ‘Just Dance’ competitions and karaoke sing offs. We got to know the whole family over the years and greatly appreciated Tosha’s contribution to the OSHC Advisory Committee. We hope to see Declan and Zara back during the holidays.

Goodbye Zara and Declan
Christmas Activities

‘Active After School Communities’

Martial Arts

“Ready Stance!”

Every Thursday afternoon, Dave, from Golden Knights Martial Arts joined us under the Marquee to practise our jabs, hooks, formations and kicks. The children were keen to establish their self defence skills with friends and they listened closely as Dave shared some of the principles of this ancient martial art. Dave engaged us with demonstrations using punching bags, gloves and some foam nun chucks. He provided us with a weekly physical activity that was both entertaining and engaging. The children explored balance, coordination and cooperation and were rather proud to have mastered the art of their ‘ready stance’ by the end of our seven week programme. Dave was a great inspiration to many of the children with his dedication and passion for this branch of martial arts.

Nadia O’Grady - Educator

Volley Ball

Tuesday afternoons found the children racing down to the gym to attend volleyball sessions. Each lesson began with a warm up game, the favourite being a game called ‘go stop’ great fun and quite a challenge! Next we spent time practising our major skills, ‘setting, digging, spiking and serving’. Each week the children improved — the year 1 cohort were particularly impressive. After week 3 we integrated the nets to support the next step, and we also included some of the rules. We also found time to incorporate a game situation, teaching the kids where to stand and how the scoring works. For the younger children, we used a tennis net, and for the older group a badminton net, which seemed to be a perfect height for both groups to practice getting the ball over. In week 4, we practised serving the ball over the net, making allowances for the capabilities of the littlies. By the end of the course almost every student could dig, set, and serve the ball over the net, and had a fair understanding of how to score. It was pleasing to see how enthusiastic everyone was, and how much they learned considering the complexity of the game. It is one of the most enjoyable sports to teach, and I believe the majority of kids truly relished the chance to be able to play - hopefully some of them will look to play when moving into the Middle School.

Danny Pettas - Educator
Cooking with OSHC!
A Christmas Recipe

Ingredients

225g good quality dark chocolate, broken into small pieces
175ml double cream
Icing sugar, to dust
Cocoa powder, sifted, to roll

Method

Place chocolate in a large mixing bowl.
Place cream in a saucepan and bring to the boil, then immediately pour over chocolate.
Mix until chocolate has melted (This is called ganache). Cover and set aside at room temperature for 1 to 1 1/2 hours to cool completely and set.
Use a teaspoon to spoon out bite-sized pieces. Dust your hands with icing sugar to prevent the truffles sticking and roll mixture into balls in the palm of your hands. Roll in cocoa and you are done!

OSHC Christmas Corner!

Christmas is fast approaching and in the OSHC Room, we have been busy getting into the Christmas spirit. We now have the Christmas tree beautifully decorated by the children. It has taken pride of place in front of our window which makes it visible to everyone who walks by.
Stars and tinsel, not to mention the fruits of children’s Christmas activities have also started to appear around the room and the joyous and festive feelings are definitely in the air!

I’m a poet and I didn’t know it! Christmas Acrostic Poems

Celebration
Helping each other
Reindeer
Icing on the Ginger Bread house
Snow
Tree
Magic Cave
Advent Calendars
Santa

Christmas
Holy
Ripping presents
I love presents
Santa Claus
Tree
Mary
Angel
Star

Christ
Happy
Rudolph
Igloos at the North Pole
Snowman
Tree
Merry
Angel Gabriel
Singing Carols

By Zoe Furness
By Mitchell Burns and Amelie Brooks
By Claudia Colangelo
OSHC Activities

Term 4, 2014
**OSHC Christmas Corner**

We asked the children to tell us what they like best about Christmas and the holiday season -

“Lots of people come over on Christmas Day” - Matthew Gomersall

“It is fun because all of my family comes to visit” - Amelie Brooks

“I get to go to really nice places like The Great Ocean Road” - Konrad Kawecki

“Being able to go to my friend’s place more often” - Cassius Kawecki

“My favourite thing about Christmas is putting up the decorations” - Michael Adams

“Seeing the Christmas Tree and opening presents” - Lara Gobec

“Getting my presents” - Mariella Stokes

“Eating lollies and opening presents” - Mitchell Burns

“I love presents because they make me happy” - Cooper Searle

“We get to go to Bounce” - Kate Doyle

“Opening presents because I love them” - Olivia Dietrich

“The fact that it is Christmas!” - Hamish Starbuck

“I get to make Christmas things with my Nanny and she decorates her house with it” - Lucy Dachs

“I can have long sleepovers with my friends” - Willard Gorman

“Hanukah—I like the food and the songs” - Ethan Dwyer

“My Birthday” - Angus Furness

“I get to make Christmas things with my Nanny and she decorates her house with it” - Lucy Dachs

“Kris Kringle, because it is fun” - Imogen Wilmot

“I am going to England in the holidays and I’ll be back for Christmas” - Oliver Wilmot

“Going to Port Elliot” - Scarlett Evans

“Opening presents and getting out of school” - Madison Evans

“Christmas and New Year - Having a break” - Zoe Furness

**Community News**

Do you have a child who is in need of a way to express themselves creatively? Look no further, this is the deal for you!

**For Sale!**

Second-hand 7 Piece Children's Size Ashton Drum-Kit (blue)

$400 or nearest offer—please contact