Dear Parents,

This will be our last newsletter of the year and what an exciting year it has been. We have had a whole school year in our ‘new’ building and look forward to many more to come. There have been many exciting events throughout the year, including the Resilience workshops, the official Opening of our new centre, our involvement in the Auslan video project, our presentation at the Healthy Hearing Symposium and the Deaf Services Queensland fun day.

Christmas Parties & End of Year Celebrations
Tuesday Playgroup: Tuesday 2 December commencing at 9:30am
Friday Playgroup: Friday 5 December commencing at 9:30am
Group Program: Thursday 11 December commencing at 9am

Our Christmas parties are wonderful opportunities for us to celebrate, as a community, the end of the year and the progress the children have made and we hope that you are all able to join us. Siblings and other family members are of course always welcome. All children enrolled in the ECDP will receive a small gift (of a book) from Santa but if you would like your other children to also receive a gift from Santa, please provide a wrapped book to the value of $5. Everyone should also bring a plate of prepared food to share with other families as we celebrate the end of the school year.

Raffle
Sharyn Brown has once again been working hard behind the scenes to gather donations and organise our end of year Christmas Raffle. You can purchase tickets or collect a book of tickets to sell from Nea in the office or your child’s teacher. Tickets are one for $2 or three for $5.

Donations for our hampers would be greatly appreciated and can be left at the office. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 11 December at the Group Christmas Party.

Staff News
Colleen Buckley, Head of Special Education Services (HOSES), has decided to extend her leave until the end of term 2 next year. Sheridan Howell will continue in the role of Acting HOSES.

Angie Brayshaw is one of our awesome teachers. Angie completed her Master of Special Education (Deaf/Hard of Hearing) this year with flying colours. Angie began her teaching career with a degree in Primary Education but very quickly realised her interest lay with Deaf Education. Angie has a severe hearing loss herself and wears bilateral hearing aids. She is married very happily to Steve and has an incredibly talented dog called ‘Milton’. Angie loves to bake and plans to spend the summer at Stradbroke Island. Congratulations on completing your Master’s Angie!
Parent Panel – Transitioning to Prep
Moving onto the next stage of education and learning can be unknown, confusing and cause anxiety for the whole family. We hope that listening to and talking to past parents who have already made the transition with their child, was helpful and reassuring. Our sincere thanks to parents, Philippa (mother of Jalawlin in grade 2 at Toowong SS) and Vicki (mother of Emma in grade 3 at Yeronga SS) who have given their time and shared knowledge about their transitions to ‘big’ school.

We hope that you enjoyed this event on Thursday 27 November at the ECDP.

Things to do in the holidays
The summer holidays give us all time to catch our breath, ‘recharge’ batteries and to find new opportunities to engage with our children. Language-learning opportunities are everywhere in the life of a young child - and with fewer appointments and sessions to attend, you might find time – to bake gingerbread men, to splash in water or dig in the sandpit, to roll playdough, to read ten books a day, to play dress-ups or dollsies, to make a cubby in the back yard, to visit the beach or The Museum, to paint or draw and to make a book about your child and the things they like. Above all, have fun together and enjoy the change of pace that the holidays bring.

See flyer attached for more ideas!

Medicare Treatment Plan – access to allied professionals
This is a Medicare funded scheme that provides up to 5 referrals a year to allied health professionals (speech therapy, physiotherapy, etc). This funding is available for children with a medical condition that lasts more than 6 months. Children with a hearing loss may be eligible, including children that don’t meet the Better Start criteria. Further information is available through your family GP.

Parent Handbook
After much revision our Parent Handbook is back!
It will be available on the Yeerongpilly website at the start of the 2015 school year.

School Holidays
The last week of term 4 begins on Monday 8 December and the group programs will celebrate with an End-of-Term Christmas Party on Thursday 11 December.

Group children for 2015 will return to school on Thursday 29 January.

Toddler Playgroup will commence on Tuesday 27 January or Friday 30 January. Baby playgroup will be the following week on Tuesday 3 February or Friday 6 February.

Individual sessions will resume the week beginning Monday 2 February. You will receive a letter in the mail with more detailed information.

Wishing you all a joyful, safe and restful holiday season, and to our families who leave us at the end of the year - farewell and all the very best for the future.

The staff at Yeerongpilly ECDP