Dear Parents,

First term is always extremely busy, but this year we think we have definitely 'beaten' all other years - and hopefully the next move for Yeerongpilly is at least another sixty years away! Our buildings are becoming more familiar to us all and the children have settled well into their programs and sessions. As always, we continue to welcome our new families who have joined us this year.

Thank you
Thank you, thank you from all the children at Yeerongpilly to the parents of Matthew Amato for their kind and generous donation that has enabled us to buy a new 'cubby' for the playground.

Thank you from us all to J. & P. Richardson Electrical Contractors and Engineers for restoring and painting our very old play frames.
The ‘CommuniCate’ Manual
‘Deaf Children Australia’, with the financial support of Queensland Health has a number of these manuals available free to families who are using Auslan Sign with their children. The manual also has information about early language acquisition, tips for families starting to use sign language, and strategies for parents to use that support a child’s language development. CommuniCate has four parts - the manual, game cards, story cards and DVD and are available from Deaf Children Australia. There are a limited number of manuals so parents need to be quick - an application form is attached for your convenience.

Baby Sign
Free Daytime Baby Sign Courses are available at Deaf Services Queensland, Moorooka in Terms 2, 3 and 4 in 2014. Courses are free of charge for parents and sibling of a Deaf or hard of hearing child at Yeerongpilly ECDP. Places are limited so if you would like to secure a place, please complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible to Deaf Services Queensland. Please see the attached flyer for further details. You can also contact Sharon Wilkinson, ph 38928540 for further information.

Easter Raffle
By now you will have all received your tickets and we would like to thank Sharyn Brown (mother of Delinda) for organising this. Please return your ticket stubs and money before the drawing of the raffle on Friday 4 April in the last week of term.

Quilts
Our lovely quilts are created by many wonderful ladies who give them to ‘Linus Quilts’ and they are then donated to Yeerongpilly. All children who are new to our centre receive a quilt of their own, some are used during sessions and some up on the walls for us all to enjoy. We love our quilts and we are very grateful to the ladies ‘who love to quilt’.

Parent Information Sessions
Our first Parent Information Session for the year was on Friday 28 February when Sheridan (Teacher of the Deaf) and her daughter Jamie (15 years old) talked about the decision they made for Jamie to have a second Cochlear Implant in December 2012. Our heartfelt thanks to you both for sharing so much with the rest of us.

HICTI presented an Information session about their services at Yeerongpilly and how to make the most of Better Start on Thursday 13 March. This session will be presented again at a later date in the year.

Our next Information session for parents is focused on The Role of an ALM and the ‘who, what, where and how?’ of communicating with a Deaf person. This will take place in Sheridan’s Room on Friday 21 March from 9.15 to 10.15. Morning tea is provided and the opportunity to talk with our ALMs (Auslan Language Model provided by a Deaf adult) and with other parents is absolutely invaluable. All welcome.

The proposed Parent Information Sessions for term 2 are listed at the end of this newsletter.
‘The Resilience Doughnut’ arrives at HICTI
Thanks to a grant from the Australasian Hellenic Progressive Association (AHEPA). Three HICTI therapists attended training in Sydney on the Resilience Doughnut. This is a model for supporting the development of resilience in both children and adults by considering both personality and environmental factors. Workshops will be held for Yeerongpilly staff and, in the coming months, parents. It is wonderful that we will soon be able to offer this highly-regarded course here!

Toowong Child Care Centre - TCCC
Parents who are interested in places for their 3 - 5 year old child with a hearing loss are still encouraged to contact Toowong Childcare Centre, where Auslan Sign and strategies for the acquisition of language are employed.

To assist parents, safe transport for children can be provided at a minimal cost.
Keri Gilbert
k.gilbert@nabs.org.au
0403 555 275

Playgroup dates for the remainder of Term 1 and for Term 2

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<tr>
<th>Toddler Playgroup</th>
<th>Baby Playgroup</th>
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<td>March 28 Easter Morning Tea</td>
<td>March 21</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Easter Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Australian Hearing Visit</td>
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<td>School Holidays</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
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<td>April 25 ANZAC DAY - No playgroup</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<td>May 9 Parent Information Session: “The Role of Parents in Therapy” HICTI Speech Pathologist Visit</td>
<td>May 16</td>
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<td>Australian Hearing Visit</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
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<td>May 30 Parent Information Session: “Describing our Group Programs”</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>June 13 HICTI Speech Pathologist Visit</td>
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<td>June 20 Australian Hearing Visit</td>
<td>June 27</td>
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Parent Information Sessions for Term 2
Friday May 9  The Role of Parents in Therapy
- Presented by HICTI Therapists

Friday May 30 Describing our Group Programs
- Presented by YECDP Teachers of the Deaf

Friday (TBA) Transition to Prep
- Presented by YECDP Guidance Officer

End of Term
Friday April 4 is the last day for term 1.
Term 2 begins again after Easter on Tuesday 22 April.

Thanking you for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to a very happy year in 2014.
Colleen and all the staff at Yeerongpilly