



## Director's Report

As we farewell the 2016 group of preschoolers and say goodbye to the families who are moving on, one can't help but be a little sad. Some of our families who are leaving have been a part of the Heritage community for many years; seeing their first, second and in some cases, third child move through all the rooms at Heritage. You will all be missed very much and we hope you drop back with your child/ren from time to time, as Heritage has been a huge part of their early education and nurturing years. We thank those families for allowing us to share in your child's important early years.

It has been a busy year with the centre going through accreditation and updating many policies, as well as working on a new website that we hope to launch in Feb 2017. A big thanks to everyone who read and contributed to the updating of the policies.

**We will move to the new payment system on February 1st 2017 if you have not returned your EZIDEBIT form please do so as soon as possible.**

The strength of the Heritage community was shown on a number of occasions in the way the families supported many fundraising and social events throughout the year. It was great to see the number of families who came along to share in the Christmas and graduation celebrations. Thank you for the wonderful contribution to the lunch table. There certainly was a delicious selection of many cultural dishes. Heritage is an amazing example of multiculturalism. We have 78 families and

represent 17 nationalities. The children respect each other, play together and love to hear stories from other cultures. Many parents have shared their culture with the Heritage children and have made lifelong friendships with other families during their time at the centre. We have proved that many cultures can live, learn and grow together in harmony.

It has been a pleasure working with all the Educators at Heritage and a privilege to have led such a dynamic team.

I wish you all the best for the festive season and 2017.

Vicki McDonald



**Heritage reopens  
on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2017 at 7:45am**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

## Educational Leader's Report

Well what a busy end of year! Our Educators are wanting to spend as much time as possible with the children (particularly the preschool educators) before their children transition to their new rooms or schools next year. So we are doing a group message from all the rooms.

One thing we will definitely be needing next year is Alicia's boot camp, after receiving all the thoughtful (many edible) gifts from children and families. But all jokes aside we are very grateful and love these thoughtful treats and read such amazing praise and feedback on the lovely Christmas cards.

One of the big changes this year was implementing the email system within each room to share our daily stories. This caused an unexpected result which was the increase in sharing from families, particularly pictures and stories from holidays and what you did on the weekend. The educators would really like to thank you for this as it really helps children to feel a sense of belonging and enrich our programs. While we're on the subject of sharing, **don't forget to store up your pictures and stories from your Christmas break to continue with the sharing next year.** We also enjoyed the great positive feedback families gave us after reading about your child's day.

Of course, Christmas has been of big interest lately with a magical elf visiting the preschool room, cooking, presents, music and craft all being part of the programs recently. It was also great to see Santa on his yearly visit to Heritage and we hope your children have been enjoying the books he delivered.

Santa's visit to Heritage wasn't the only big event at the end of year party. We had our grown-up preschoolers wearing their academic robes to participate in their own special graduation and musical performance. They have been practicing for this event for more than a month and I would like to commend our wonderful preschool team for doing such a fantastic job.



One family told educators that their child gets them to stand and sing the National Anthem (even when they are just watching sport on the television). The team's hard work has continued to make this event more special each year and most importantly it's still fun for the children. This also reminds me of the hard work many of the educators (from all the rooms) and parents/committee put in on the day to help it run smoothly. Thanks so much, it wouldn't have happened without you.

Finally I would like to say how proud I am of the Nursery, Toddler and Preschool rooms for their stellar effort with the busy end of year documentation, ongoing support with children's learning and preparation for any transitions next year. **So much hard work and care goes into the children's portfolios so we really appreciate the return of interview feedback forms ASAP.** This means your child's current room and/or transition room will be able to work on goals for next year.

On top of all this hard work many of our educators have been studying and I'd like to give a shout out to Ryan, Alicia, Dilini and Eranga for finishing their diplomas in 2016. How did you find the time?

The end of 2016 also brings a few goodbyes, with Marichu (who is currently on maternity leave) leaving Australia for an overseas posting with her family and Ayesha returning to Sri Lanka. We will miss you guys but you will always be part of the Heritage family.

We hope you have a wonderful, safe, happy and restful holiday.

Katie Pickering and the Heritage Team



**Please return your EZIDEBIT FORM**  
Invoices created on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of Jan with EZIDEBIT  
deduction on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb



# SEASON'S GREETING FROM HERITAGE EDUCATORS



STAY  
SAFE AND  
HEALTHY

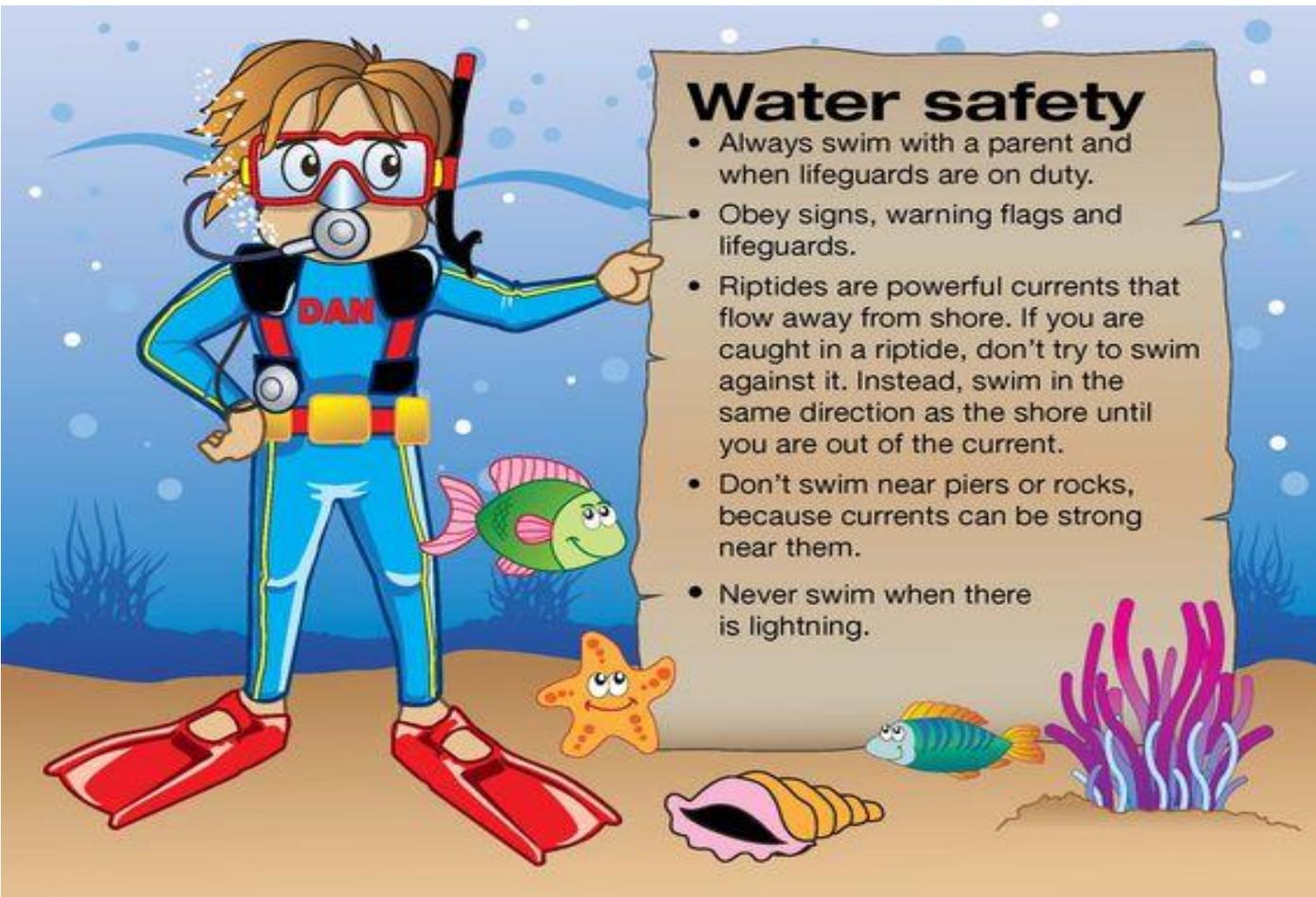
MAY YOUR  
HOLIDAY SEASON  
BE BLESSED WITH  
PEACE, LOVE, AND  
JOY



LOOKING FORWARD  
TO SEEING YOU ALL  
NEXT YEAR



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



## Water safety

- Always swim with a parent and when lifeguards are on duty.
- Obey signs, warning flags and lifeguards.
- Riptides are powerful currents that flow away from shore. If you are caught in a riptide, don't try to swim against it. Instead, swim in the same direction as the shore until you are out of the current.
- Don't swim near piers or rocks, because currents can be strong near them.
- Never swim when there is lightning.



## Sun safety

Protect yourself while playing at the beach.

- Apply waterproof sunscreen.
- Play in the shade during the hottest periods of the day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
- Stay cool and covered with a wide-brimmed hat.
- Drink water to stay hydrated.