



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

AUGUST 2014

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/GreenhillsPreschool>

Due to an error at the Council, we have unexpectedly found ourselves with 4 year-old vacancies for 2015!!! If you know of anyone who might be interested, it isn't too late!

Call Banyule Council on 9490 4222.

Greenhills Preschool SMS Service

We have recently set up an SMS system to use to notify families in the case of an emergency evacuation at kinder. In such an emergency you will be contacted via SMS to collect your child from one of our three evacuation points.

Mandatory Closure of Kinder on Code Red Fire Danger Days

Please be aware that Greenhills Preschool is listed on the Bushfire at risk register (BARR). The kinder will be closed on a day that has been forecast / declared to be a code red rating day or otherwise as directed by DEECD. You will be informed of Kinder closures via SMS / email and a notice will be attached to the gate to advise families of the closure

THANK YOU TO...

* **Naomi Warden** for donating and planting some succulents and native plants near the front gate entrance.

* The families who helped out recently at our extra Working Bee in preparation for the Kinder's assessment.

President's Report

Hello everyone,

Well we are at the halfway point of Term 3 and so much is happening for both the children and the Kinder community. The children are learning so much about themselves and each other and the world around them. It is exciting to watch.

Behind the scenes, our Educators have been working incredibly hard to prepare our Kinder for the assessment which will have occurred by the time you are reading this (Monday August 18th). There has been an enormous amount of work to do as often little things get overlooked or put off for years (by both Educators and Committee!!). It is only because we have such a dedicated team of educators that we will head into this assessment in the best shape possible. If you can, please thank our educators for all the time and energy they put in behind the scenes as well as with our children. They certainly deserve it!

I have to mention **Stuart Berick**, **Jodie** and **Ben Hammond** and **Jayne Kerford** who have all contributed prettying up the kinder in the lead up to the assessments.

And to the Committee, many of whom have also done extra jobs to ease the load on the educators. And to those of

you who I don't know that have also helped, thank you all so much. Many Kinders have a compulsory roster for parent helpers but ours relies on you all volunteering your time willingly. I can't thank you enough for the help that you offer when you can. It makes our kinder pretty special.

On another note, as a result of the fabulous fundraising efforts of Term 1 and 2, our Educators have been able to purchase a new iPad that the children will be able to use at the Kinder. Oh how techno savvy these littlies are!!

As always, if you would like to know more about potentially being part of the Committee for 2015, please have a look in our committee folder in the office. In there you will find job descriptions for all of the roles.

Stay warm,

Kayte Kitchen,
President

IN BRIEF

Our webpage and Facebook pages are being updated all of the time. Take a look!

There are still some outstanding Term 3 fees. Please pay them as soon as possible.

Reminder: **Community Fire Walk** to be held on Friday, 12th September 5-7pm.

Educator's Report

Partnerships with Families

We continue to forge great partnerships with our Kinder families and have had many family members share their skills and expertise with the children.



We also discussed some aspects of "stranger danger" and reminded children to think about their personal safety.

We practised this song with Craig:

When playing outside and a stranger comes near, be safe and call out so your parents can hear.....

Sergeant Craig (Emily's Dad) discussed with the children his role as a police officer and how he helps people in our community. Police Officer Craig also discussed road safety issues with the children such as holding an adults hand when crossing the road and to always wear our seat belts in the car. He also reminded children of the importance of wearing a helmet when riding their bike / scooter. We also practised saying what number to ring in an emergency: 000

Relaxation with Shona (Greta's Mum)



Movement class with Stuart (Ethan's Dad)



Toby (Violet's Dad) shares his love of music



Raquel (Juanita's Mum) reads a story that was given to Juanita from her Grandparents when holidaying in the Northern Territory

Practice Principal: Partnerships

Learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when early childhood educators work in partnership with families.

Thank you for your contributions to our kinder curriculum. We would love to continue utilising families' skills, knowledge, passions and hobbies. Some ideas include: sewing, gardening, playing a musical instrument, reading your favourite story book, cooking, aerobics, sharing information about your occupation, woodwork, painting..... The list is endless; please see Educators if you have an idea you are keen to share.

Potter

We have recently purchased some clay for the children to use and would particularly love to see a potter using a wheel if possible? Again please see one of us if you know of anyone.

Our puppet show incursion

Continuing on with the children's interest in puppet shows we booked John the puppeteer from Don't Move Puppet Theatre to perform his show *Three Animal Stories* for all our kinder friends. You may have already heard about some of the characters at home such as Silly Billy the dog and Sammy the Seal. During the performances the children were very engaged in each of the three storylines and were a captivated audience.



Practice Principal: Responsiveness to children

Educators are responsive to all children's strengths, abilities and interests. They value and build on children's strengths, skills and knowledge to ensure their motivation and engagement in learning

Community Fire Walk

To be held on Friday 12th September – 5 – 7pm.

This is an opportunity to bring our kinder families together in a communal activity. The children who participated last year have been recalling events and are eagerly awaiting the following:

- ❖ The beginning of Spring
- ❖ The gorgeous lanterns that our children have created for our walk
- ❖ A time to have our Father's at kinder in recognition of Father's Day
- ❖ The sharing of yummy food prepared over the fire - such as marshmallows and toast with jam.



Remember to bring in a recycled glass jar for your child to decorate and use as a lantern on the fire walk night.

Some new resources purchased with fundraising money

Money raised at our Kinder Trivia Night has gone towards purchasing some new resources at kinder. Our new crash mat and set of 5 sand timers have provided children with further opportunities to develop and practice their skills within the kinder environment.



Soft Plastic Recycle Bin

Following on from our Edendale Farm excursion and our activity on sorting rubbish, Educators were interested in the idea of recycling soft plastic. We notice that in many lunch boxes at Kinder there is lots of soft plastic evident such as glad wrap, zip lock bags, food packages, cheese wrappers etc.....



We have decided to set up at kinder a **soft plastic recycle bin** which can be used by children, educators and families.....



If you can scrunch the plastic into a little ball then it can go into the soft plastics recycling bin

When the bin is full Educators will take the soft plastic to a supermarket soft plastic recycle bin where it will be collected, transported and recycled into products such as bollards, park benches, signage and boardwalks from recycled plastic products.

What are soft plastics?

They include:

- Shopping bags
- Fresh fruit and veggie bags
- Bread bags
- Biscuit packaging
- Confectionery packaging
- Rice & pasta packets
- Frozen food bags
- Reusable or 'green' bags



Practice Principal: Intentional Teaching

Educators actively promote children's learning through worthwhile and challenging experiences and interactions that require high – level thinking

Thank you,

Jo, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey

From the Fundraising Team



Remember to like the Greenhills Preschool Facebook page. The fundraising team has also created a '**Fundraising for Greenhills Preschool**' Facebook page as well - please if you are on Facebook could you look us up and 'like' us.

Last year we raised over \$300 from the Toy Catalogue. There were a few mums who were keen to have this again so although this was not on our annual plan - we are excited to include more money into our budget for the year and Pauline has offered to help out. So please use the catalogue to get some bargains, do the Christmas shopping or get some birthday presents for the numerous 'parties' our kids get invited to during Kinder or Prep.

Thanks again for your support.

Sponsor's Feature spot

Skaterz is hosting all 4 year olds and any pre-schooler Kinder siblings for a free lesson and skate Aug 22. This should be a great social occasion for our Growling Grass Frogs but it is also a great opportunity for our Kinder families to experience the goodness of one of our sponsors. get skates on and be ready for the lesson. Thanks to Anita for organising this great playdate outside of Kinder!

Below is the list of times at the Roller Rink for all family fun:



2014 school term 3 general session times

Saturday & Sunday
11am to 1.30pm & 2.30pm to 5pm
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
1.30am to 1.30pm
Tuesday & Friday Super Sessions
4.30pm to 9pm
Thursday
4.30pm to 6.30pm

Our Ongoing Fundraising

If you need any labels for clothing - for a new drink bottle or some new clothes as everyone is growing up so quick. Please use **Stuck On You Labels**. The Kinder receives up to 20% commission for each purchase by Kinder families. Enjoy some new designs and some options for bags and lunch boxes. You will need to use the code **GREENHILLSPRESCHOOL** during the order process for the Kinder to benefit. Thank you.

Remember the **Scholastic Book Club Catalogue** that comes out each month - look out for the great bargains, always a \$2 or \$1 special. I picked up 5 birthday presents through one \$2 special - hard cover book with a CD when the RRP was \$16.95. Make sure you have a look - cash, cheque or online credit card. A huge thanks to Pauline who keeps this going and 20% of sales goes directly to the Kinder getting more books.