



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

February 2015

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

A Few Reminders:

- Please have your children arrive at kinder with sunscreen on as well as a sun hat throughout term 1 and 4.
- Ensure that you sign your child in and out as this is a legal requirement.
- All items need to be labelled with your child's name. You can take advantage of our fundraising labels through 'Stuck on you'.
- Please bring your diary and sign up for Parent Helper, Gardening and Laundry on the rosters located next to the Swift Parrot pockets.
- As children may be involved in messy play, it is advised they wear old clothes to kinder and have a change of clothing
- Remember to check your child's pocket for kinder, social and fundraising information
- We ask parents when packing your child's lunchbox, that nuts are not included. We have serious allergies that exist at kinder and would like to avoid any risk. If you are a parent on duty, it is also important that you become familiar with the information in the 'Welcome Pack for Parent Helpers' located under the sign in book.

President's Report.

WOW! I still can believe that it is 2015! I just want to say a huge thanks to the Educators for all their hard work in setting up the space - it looks AMAZING! Also a big thanks to the team for the calm beginning to the year - it feels like home already for so many of our new Kinder friends. Jo and Stephanie have nearly finished their transition and the Growling Grass Frogs (4 year olds) are straight into their 15 hours.

Very soon we will be asking your feedback on the transition program so please jot down some memorable moments (before we forget).

We are looking forward to the Welcome Picnic on the 19th and hope that as many people can come for the first Working Bee on the 22nd. Please note that there will be a list of jobs that we want /need to get done so if you can give up some time either side of the weekend - still pop your name down. Just a reminder that we need your help and we would love to give your maintenance levy back for your hard work with Working Bees and Bunnings BBQ.

Parent Helper - if you can stay for an extra 30min or hours after drop off this is very helpful to our staff. However, if you would like to volunteer for an entire session this will help our staff even more. One of the things I like to do when I am on Parent Helper is take some photos on the iPad for the Educators to use - in portfolios, learning stories or just display at the end of a session. There is a list up on the notice board with parent helper jobs. Thanking you in advance for all your help in this area.

The committee got together before Kinder started and had an 'information overload' night and tour of our amazing Kinder and we would like to invite you to please keep us informed and talk with any of the committee about ideas that you have. The fundraising team are already got their skates on, so all our help is needed in promoting their fabulous work.

I have spoken to a number of mothers over the other side of Greensborough who when I have said that Imogen goes to Greenhills or Ethan went to Greenhills (without them knowing I'm this year's president) have said "that has got a really good reputation". Yes it has and for great reasons. We have some of the best Educators in the state, beautiful grounds, excellent program that allows and promotes risk taking and independence and it is nestled in the most amazing location. I have been looking at what a few other Kinders have to offer and we really are the HIDDEN GEM of Banyule and Nillumbik. I am looking forward to this year and I am coining the phrase "Team Greenhills".

*Jack Macdonald,
President*



Educator's Report.

Welcome to all of our new and returning families to Greenhills Preschool 2014.

Well we are one week in and we can already see some wonderful new friendships forming and old ones being reignited with gusto! The staggered starts have allowed us, parents and the children to interact in a very calm and relaxed atmosphere. The children are starting to become familiar with the routines, new faces and names. This will create a very strong beginning which will assist the children to develop a sense of belonging and security.

While the groups are smaller we will be introducing and reinforcing the routines that build the children's independence. By the end of the orientation period the routines of hanging up their bag, washing their hands, putting on their hat and deciding and organising their snacks and drinks will be second nature. Once we have the whole group in attendance we will begin group meeting times, clean up and discussions.



We ask that you please supply kinder with a box of tissues, a ream of paper and some kitchen sponges so we are well prepared for the year. There are many other items that we love to have donated as we use many recycled resources both inside and out.

Donations we are particularly looking for are:

- Plants for our veggie patch and indoors
- Huge cardboard boxes (e.g. Fridge size)
- Pebbles/glass nuggets.
- Bricks, rocks, tyres, cardboard tubes to add to our loose parts



We look forward to getting to know your children and family throughout the year!
Please remember if you have any questions, queries or ideas please come and see us for a chat.
We can't wait to see you all at the Welcome Picnic which will be held on
Thursday 19th February 5 – 7pm
See you there!

Jo, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey



From the Fundraising Team.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

We are very excited by the challenge of fundraising for our children's kindergarten program and we look forward to your support and input throughout the year.

Our first initiative for Term 1 will be a silent auction at the Welcome Picnic of toys which no longer fit the Kinders philosophy or are duplicate sets. You may have noticed a photo display of these excellent resources on the notice board, this is a great opportunity to grab yourself a bargain. If you can't make it to the Welcome Picnic, and are interested in an item, please pop a note into the fees box listing the item you are interested in, your maximum bid along with your name.

In the next fortnight our 'Living Fundraisers' will launch with each family receiving a purple bag and 10 grow in the bag herb packs (basil, parsley, chives, coriander and rocket). We ask each family to then sell these herb packs to friends and family, just like you would with a chocolate drive, only this is a healthier alternative, and I'm sure our preschoolers will enjoy caring and observing the growth of their herbs. Watch out for your purple bag!!

And lastly, as we move towards the Easter Holidays, an order form for delicious, fresh Bakers Delight Hot Cross Buns will be available. Don't forget to ask friends and neighbours for their orders too.

If you have any ideas for future fundraising initiatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

Emma (Audrey 4yo), Magdalene (Christian W 3yo), Bonnie (Indie 3yo) and Jane (Harry 3yo)



Please remember...

No Kids in Hot Cars

On hot days, it's important to remember that children should never be left alone in cars. **No Exceptions. No Excuses.**

Leaving children in hot cars - even for a moment - can result in injury or death.

The temperature inside a car begins to rise as soon as the door closes, and within minutes it can be double the temperature outside. So if it is 30 degrees outside, it can be more than 60 degrees or more inside a car in just a few minutes.

With smaller bodies and under-developed nervous systems, young children are at much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

Three new video ads about the dangers of leaving kids in cars on hot days have recently been launched.

Please help spread their important messages by sharing the videos with your friends, family and community.

For more information, see:

- No kids in hot cars - YouTube
- Children Left Unattended in Cars – Kidsafe Victoria
- Kids in Hot Cars

Kinder Fees:

To make processing your fees easier, we ask parents to please ensure you include a reference when paying fees. We ask that the reference be your child's first name, surname initial, 3 or 4YO and then the year, for example JohnS4YO15.

If you are interested...

Nature, play and your child – a workshop for parents

Find out how to make the most of gardens and other natural settings to stimulate your child's imagination, creativity, learning and enjoyment of the natural world. This workshop includes discussion about the value of free and structured play, hands-on experiences designed to support you in your role as parent or as facilitator of nature play experiences. Explore the play potential of plants and landscapes in the Children's Garden and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

When: Thursday 16 April

Where: RBG Melbourne

Time: 10am-12pm

Cost: \$25

GREENHILLS PRE-SCHOOL

OPEN DAY

February 28



Learning through play

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 9434 3379

Community Drive, Greensborough.

www.greenhillspreschool.org.au



'What's On'

Parenting with Less Stress!

Do you have a child under 12 and find parenting stressful at times? You're not alone!

Would you like to:

- Enjoy parenting more?
- Help your child be better behaved?
- Use positive parenting strategies to manage misbehaviour?

Then come along to our next Parenting With Less Stress Group!

When: 4 March, 11 March, 18 March & 25 March 2015 (runs over 4 sessions)

Where: Diamond Creek Maternal and Child Health Centre
28 Main Hurstbridge Road Diamond Creek

(Around the back of the Community Centre which is opposite McDonalds)

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Cost: \$80.00 (\$40 for health care card holders)

To Book: Return completed application form to Joan Lauricella. An invoice will be sent to you in due course.

Childcare: Provided at Occasional Child Care Centre Diamond Creek (behind the Community Centre) for an additional cost. Phone 9438 2719 to book.

PARENTING WITH LESS STRESS!

Application Form

To confirm your booking, please complete the form below and return to:

Joan Lauricella
Nillumbik Health
917 Main Road
Eltham VIC 3095

OR

joanl@nillumbikhealth.org.au

Unless otherwise notified, your place in the group is confirmed upon receipt of completed form. An invoice for \$80 (\$40 for health care card holders) will be sent to you in due course.

Your Name:		Date of Birth:	
Partner's Name		Date of Birth:	

Children's Names:		Date of Birth:	
		Date of Birth:	
		Date of Birth:	
		Date of Birth:	

Address:			
Telephone:	Home:		Mobile:
Email address:			

Do you have a health care card?	Yes	No
Were you born in Australia?	Yes	No If not, where were you born?
Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent?	Yes	No
How did you find out about this group?		
Which Maternal and Child Health Centre (if any) do you attend?		



CHILD CARE

Childcare is provided for an additional cost at the Occasional Child Care Centre Diamond Creek, Nillumbik Community House, Reserve Circuit, Diamond Creek (behind the Community and Maternal and Child Health Centres). It is essential that you book for child care prior to the first session to ensure a place is available. Contact the Centre on 9438 2719 for details. Mention that you will be attending the Parenting Group.

