



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

May 2015

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President's Report.

I am astounded by the generosity and community spirit that we have at Greenhills. It has been a real honour to watch as the community has rallied around a member in need. It seems that many people are having a hard time but your support once asked has been outstanding.

I am hoping that this same generosity of spirit will continue when I tell you that there are some major needs in the community from a committee perspective. It is with GREAT sadness that I will need to change my commitment level to the Kinder in the capacity of President, as of next semester. The joy of being on a great committee and doing some important work for the running of the Kinder has been a great gift to me in what has been quite a challenging time, personally.

We are looking for people to step up and help out the committee when they can. Some of the roles are ongoing and others can be temporary (although, I would recommend that the more you invest the greater your return). Please check email and pockets for more specifics on what help we need to see if you can be a part.

Numbers are looking good for 2016 and we are nearly on the cusp of finalising what we are going to offer in terms of timetable and available spots. Next year there is a national ratio change which will see many of our surrounding Kinders not be able to offer as many spaces. Council is predicting a lower percentage receiving first preferences.

However, we are one of very few in the Council who have the space and capacity to offer enough spaces for our current numbers at present.*

Greenhills is a great Kinder and we are receiving more and more recognition for the wonderful work of our Educators and our program. We are in high demand for local Certificate and Diploma students to come and see what we do at Greenhills and currently have 3 student teachers with us and it has been great to see their help with the program. Reserve visits require less parent helpers when we have student teachers. We hope that they have a great time at Greenhills and they get to learn from our fantastic educators.

Colder weather - please continue to keep on top of clothes and beanies. Labelling of clothing will make it easier for staff and lost property.

Great News! The fight for the 15 hours of funded 4 year old program is set in stone - well at least until the end of 2017, where hopefully they will continue and put in place a more permanent solution.

*Jackie McDonald,
Committee President.*

*Note all numbers are through Council and are subject to change. Council had 26 changes to preferences in a week so everything with a grain of salt.

Reminders...

Wet weather reminder

Clothing

The weather is definitely colder and wetter. Please send your child with appropriate clothing to be able to engage in our outdoor program – waterproof coat, hat, gloves and gumboots (if you have them) . Also please change your spare kinder clothes to winter ones.

Save the date...

Upcoming Working Bee

Saturday June 13th - There will be two time slots: 9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm. Lots to do so please come along and help earn back your maintenance levy. There will be a sign up sheet with list of jobs to do.

Upcoming Movie night

"Indoor Moonlight Cinema" will be happening last week of term. 5.00-7.30pm
\$20 a family includes sausage sizzle dinner, popcorn, face painting and a movie.
Ticket information is going out Monday.

From the Fundraising Team.

Fundraising Report May 2015

Thank you to all the families who cleaned out their closets, we filled a mini van with the donated goods. These items will now be shipped off to charities overseas. We collected 284kg of donated goods which equaled a profit of \$56.80

Watch out for your raffle books for the Our School Raffle. First prize is a Toyota Prius C Hybrid valued at \$29,033!!

Educator's Report.

Mother's Day celebrations



What a wonderful time we had with our visitors. The children came up with some very special things for their Mums, Grandmothers and Aunties to do and enjoy while they were at kinder. The children prepared some delicious food including, biscuits, fruit kebabs and lemon slice to share. They played, sang, drew pictures on a massive piece of paper, read stories, had a massage and toured kinder.

There were some lovely comments from parents and children we would like to share:

"On Friday we felt a great sense of belonging and community. The relaxed and personal nature of the celebration was warm and welcoming. Sitting together and drawing ourselves was really special." (3 year old Mum)

"I liked showing Mum around the kinder and Mum loved everything." (4 year old)

"I liked my Mum pushing me on the swing" (3 year old)

"Lots of fun and very welcoming! It was lovely to spend some 1 on 1 time with my child!" (3 year old Mum)

We would like to thank everyone who came. As educators it was lovely to be part of, as these community events really bring home to us how special Greenhills is. Your children demonstrated that they were confident, comfortable and proud of their kinder.

Our Vegetable Patch

Jaxon's Grandad Peter came to kinder to share his knowledge on gardening with the children.

"The pleasure and reward of growing your own vegetables and fruit provides opportunities for young children to develop an understanding about where food comes from. Children also learn to care for and respect their environment by participation in garden activities such as digging, planting, watering and weeding." A Sense of Wonder, page 44



Share with us.

If you or any other family members have a skill or passion that you could share with our kinder friends please speak to Educators about your idea. Some ideas include: sewing, knitting, building, drawing, sport, cooking, painting, reading stories in English and other languages..... The list is endless.

Growling Grass Frogs

A current interest in the Growling Grass Frog group is camping and cooking on the fire. We have begun lighting a candle at our meeting times and are having discussion with children about fire safety. This week we had a little fairy fire. The children gathered little sticks for our fire and were active participants in the building and tending of the fire. Our friends were very excited to know if the fairies had visited the kinder that night. And yes, they did leave a note thanking all our kinder friends for being so thoughtful and keeping them warm.



Swift Parrots

The Swift Parrots have been out to the Reserve for the first time this term and it was fun! We took some hula hoops, the parachute and a ball with us. Chris' Dad helped some of the children to build with some sticks – it is a very interesting structure. Some children said it was a fire and others a shelter. Lachlan is enjoying sitting in it. We have also been doing a lot of cooking, dancing, balancing, box building, maps, pirates and experimenting with paint and colour.



Healthy Eating

We are actively promoting healthy food and eating with the children in a number of ways:

- Healthy cooking
- Chats at snack time about what we are eating, what we had for breakfast and favourite foods
- Discussions about 'sometimes' foods at meeting time
- Providing opportunities to taste, dissect/cut and discuss fruit and vegetables
- Planting and caring for vegetables in our vegetable patch

This relates to the EYLF (Early Years Learning Framework, Outcome 1: children have a strong sense of identity when they become knowledgeable and confident in recognising and choosing healthy food. We had some carrots left over today after making Pumpkin Soup with the Swift Parrots. These were noticed by a few of the children and they asked Joanne if they could have them. Once they started munching on them during meeting time, many of the other children wanted one. Jo had to promise to bring in enough for the group on Monday to pacify the children. This is such a great demonstration of how our children are choosing healthy food. So well done parents!

Dates for Kinder //

Community Librarian

We are lucky enough to have Marlies from Diamond Valley Library visiting with Lachlan the Reading Dog this week. She will be here on Monday and Wednesday of this week, so I am sure you have already heard all about it!

Photos

The photographer will be at kinder between June 15th and June 26th. Information from the photographer will be distributed to families before the date with all relevant information.

Term 3 – Flying Bookworm

An incursion is coming up in the 2nd week of Term 3. We have engaged the Flying Bookworm Theatre Company to present a show to both the 3 and 4 year old groups. They perform well known stories to the children in fun and exciting way – we can't wait!

Student teacher

We now have a third student teacher Joanne Van Den Broek (RMIT Bachelor), who is here 5 days a week for the remainder of the term.

Donations

Thank you for all the food contributions and offers of help that have been arriving at kinder over the last couple of weeks. Please keep contributing when you can to the box in the kitchen or hand it to one of the educators. Everything is very much appreciated by the family concerned.

Facebook

If you are active on Facebook please like our Greenhills PreSchool page and our Fundraising for Greenhills Pre-School page. We post great articles, events, kinder happenings, the latest fundraising information and more.



Being the parent helper...

In term 1 I was lucky enough to experience being a parent helper on the first day the Swift Parrot children went to explore the reserve. When we headed to the reserve Stephanie asked if I would take photos with the iPad and this kept me busy as I tried to capture some pictures of each child. There were a few parents that came with the children into the reserve allowing different groups to explore different things with plenty of supervision.

After some exploring I sat with the children as they ate their snack. It was a great time to learn all their names and find out a bit about them. My daughter and I then joined a group of girls playing with play dough. The girls put on aprons and chef hats and we followed recipes to make our play dough treats. The group began to expand and there wasn't enough play dough to go around so Jo suggested we make more. She had all the ingredients and a great recipe for 'no-cook' play dough. We all sat down at a long table, rolled up our sleeves and took turns adding ingredients. Even more children joined in and many tiny hands contributed to the mixing and kneading of the dough. We decided it should be blue so we added the colour and divided the dough so that everyone had some to mix. It was very soft and warm to touch so the children were happy just to sit and mix the dough for a while.

When they were called to the mat I enjoyed listening to them dance and play games while I tidied up the play dough dishes. It was nice to be able silently observe how my daughter participated in the activities.

The best part was getting to know the children and understanding what happens in the sessions. I also left the kinder that day with a happy child who loved having me there and was proud to show me her kinder.

Schools Update.

Prep enrolments and booking in for the prep transition programs are all happening. For your information, Sherbourne Primary, Greenhills Primary and Apollo Parkways Primary have provided us this information- as three of our major feeder schools. However most primary schools have the programs listed on their websites and we encourage you to visit schools and ask lots of questions. It is such a personal decision and can be quite a big and daunting experience. I would encourage 3 yo Parents to start looking this year when the time pressure is not there - it seems so far away but it comes around so soon. Being informed is our best advice.

SHERBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prep Transition Program 2015

Tours of Sherbourne

We would be delighted to show you our school. Personal tours can be arranged anytime. Please call the Principal, Ray Kaso, on 9434 7142 to arrange a personal tour.

Term 3

Experience Sherbourne

Throughout the term the children can experience Art, Storytelling and PE (movement, games, skills etc) during these fun Friday sessions. Bookings are essential as there are limited places. All sessions are from 2.40-3.30pm.

Story Time in the Library - Friday July 17th, August 7th & August 28th

Art Time in the Art Room - Friday July 24th, August 14th & September 4th

PE Time in the Hall - Friday July 31st, August 21st & September 11th

Term 4

'Take Off'

The prep transition program, 'Take Off,' is held in the Prep classrooms. The program consists of four sessions and an Information Evening. The Information Evening will include more specific information about your child starting school at Sherbourne as well as announcing the 2016 classes and teachers. This enables us to have the children in their 2016 classrooms with their teacher and classmates during the final two transition sessions.

Session times 9.15am - 11.15am.

Session 1 – Friday November 13th

Session 2 – Friday November 20th

Information Evening Thursday November 26th 7.00 – 8.00pm

Session 3 – Friday November 27th

Session 4 – Friday December 4th

Apollo Parkways Primary School

October - Welcome Afternoons

Children visit our school with their parents. Children receive a 'show bag' which also includes further information and orientation details for parents.

November - Small Group Sessions

Children are timetabled to visit our school for three sessions. They will spend two sessions in Prep classrooms and on the third visit they will experience specialist classes.

November - Information Evening

An evening for parents with more specific information regarding starting school. School information booklets form part of the package distributed to parents.

January - School Commences

Prep children begin school a day later than other students. Starting times are staggered on this first day to help children settle into the classroom.

February

During February the Prep children finish at 2.00pm. All children undertake School Entry Assessment to provide teachers with information regarding children's learning.

Greenhills Primary School

2016 Prep Enrolments - Tours Now Open

For Prep 2016 enrolments, a process has been developed. We do anticipate that Prep places for 2016 will be available for families who reside outside of our Neighborhood Area. We will be accepting enrolment forms for 2016 from 9.00am on February 16th 2015. Prep enrolments of children who reside closer to another Primary School will be placed on a waiting list. The list will be based on the date a completed enrolment form is received at Greenhills Primary School. If you have a Prep for 2016 and would like a tour with the Principal, Rowan Kayll, please contact the school.

“Experience Greenhills Sessions”

The main aim of our ‘Experience Greenhills’ transition program is to familiarise parents and children with our school environment and facilities. We endeavour to provide an enjoyable introduction for your child and a smooth beginning to their years at Greenhills Primary School. Our “Experience Greenhills” program offers children the opportunity to experience a Music, Art, Physical Education, Italian or Computer session with our quality specialist staff.

The dates for 2015 are as follows:

Art: Monday 10th August, 2015

Physical Edn: Tuesday 18th August, 2015

Music: Wednesday 26th August, 2015

Computers: Monday 31st August, 2015

Italian: Tuesday 8th September, 2015

Session times are 9.30-10.30am 11.30-12.30pm & 2.00-3.00pm

Bookings for these sessions will open in Term 2 2015

School Tours

We extend an invitation to all parents considering a quality educational environment for their children to contact the school to arrange a personalised tour. During these tours, you will have the opportunity to visit our classrooms to get a feel for our school and see our school in action.

Our website is designed to give you an overview of our school, however we welcome an opportunity to show you around. If you are considering Greenhills Primary School for your child, we would love you to come and visit us so that we can show you the programs we offer. To organise a tour of the school and to meet our school Principal, Rowan Kayll, contact the school via email or phone 9435 4181.

After Enrolling

All enrolled families are invited to attend an informative session to assist families in preparing for 2016.

Thursday 22nd October 2015

Morning session 9.30—10.30am

Evening session 6.30—7.30pm

Prep 2015 School Attendance during February

During February, Prep children will attend full days on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, individual student interviews will be scheduled throughout the first month. Your child's teacher will conduct preliminary literacy and numeracy assessments of your child. This assessment enables our staff to plan effectively for your child's learning.

Prep Blog

Have a look at what our current preps are doing on our Prep Blog!

<http://prepsatgreenhills.global2.vic.edu.au/>



Friends of Greenhills PreSchool

Trade and Service Directory



The Eco Toys online toy store provides beautifully crafted toys made from natural, sustainable and recycled materials.

Our toys are elegant, simple and unique and inspire creative and imaginative play. Also eco lunchbox options and free pick up in Montmorency.

Daniel Stiglich
0408 521 004

Matt Fleming
0414 434 105



FLETCHERS



Has Buying, Selling or Leasing Real Estate crossed your mind, but you're not sure where to start?

If I can assist with any questions you may have or point you in the right direction, then please don't hesitate to give me a call. I would love to hear from you.

Kaye Hoverd

0417 325 577 | kaye.hoverd@fletchers.net.au