



*"learning through play"*

## Greenhills Gazette

JULY 2015

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### *President's Report.*

Hello everyone and welcome back to Term 3. It is lovely to see you all braving the cold weather with kids in beanies and gumboots and parents still managing to share a smile and a chat from under their umbrellas. We hope that for all families the school holidays brought some much needed down time and some keen little ones a happy return to kinder.

As you know our president Jackie McDonald has returned to her love of teaching and in doing so needs to step down as our President. I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the committee, teachers, families and wider Greenhills community to thank Jackie for her outstanding efforts as President and wish her the best of luck and support in her new role. Jackie you will be missed but we look forward to seeing you around kinder during drop offs and pick ups.

For the moment the Presidents position at Greenhills Kinder is still open so if you think you could help in any way, big or small, please chat to one of our committee members or teaching staff. I reflect as I write this on why I chose to help and so joined the committee 3 years ago and it was because I wanted my daughter to see me helping in a place that meant so much to her. What makes Greenhills such a great place is yes, its beautiful natural grounds and home like spaces, but what really makes

Greenhills amazing are the children and their families who come here, the teachers who teach here and the efforts and support of the entire Greenhills community. Joining the committee is a great way to give something back and make some great friends along the way.

As always each new term brings new rosters for laundry and gardening tasks, both of which are an easy way to help out so please remember to put your name down. Please also note the teaching staff and kids love seeing parent helpers joining in the fun during session times so please check the timetable and add your name here too.

I'd like to wish all families a great start to the coldest of terms and I'll be sure to lift my umbrella and a share in an smile and a chat on our way to kinder.

On behalf of the Greenhills 2015 Committee

*Liz De Cesare*



### *IMPORTANT REMINDER*

**NO KINDER SESSION ON THURSDAY AUGUST 13TH**

Currently early childhood teachers are not paid the same as school teachers despite having the same qualifications and responsibilities for planning and delivering an educational program. From 1 August teacher salaries will be between 8.5% - 13.25% behind school teachers. Co-educators who hold Certificate III or Diploma qualifications are also not paid wages that reflect their qualifications and responsibilities. Preschool staff are also doing an unsustainable amount of work outside their paid hours and are seeking improved conditions to alleviate workload pressures.

It is for these reasons that our educators will be joining their colleagues in a 24 hour state wide stop work action on Thursday August 13th. Please note that there will be NO kinder session on this day and the kinder will be CLOSED.

The committee supports this action to encourage the government to settle the long standing, unresolved dispute over pay parity for preschool teachers.

### *Reminders from the fundraising team*

- We hope My School Raffle tickets are selling well, we have till the last week of August to sell these.

- Please remember to collect Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers and ask family and friends to help us out too.

- SAVE THE DATE : Bunning's BBQ is Sat September 12th. During August a sign up sheet will be made available for all families to put their names down and help out on the day.

## *Educator's Report.*

There has been a great deal happening at kinder since our last newsletter and a lot more happening this term. The Programming books at the door are on display throughout the kinder sessions for you to look through. This is where educators document what is planned and what emerges during sessions. Please take some time to look through the books and add your thoughts whenever you can.

### **Community Librarian visit**

At the end of last term Marlies the Librarian from Diamond Valley Library once again came to visit the children of both groups (over 3 days) and read them a number of stories. Unfortunately Lachlan the Reading Dog was unable to come with her due the renovation of the library. We love it when Marlies comes as she knows so many of the children already from her story time sessions at the library. There is a great connection between her and the children and she is a wonderful community person for the children to meet for the first time or again. We love books as do the children, and the promotion of reading and the love of books is very dear to all of us at kinder.

### **Cubby building with Claudio**

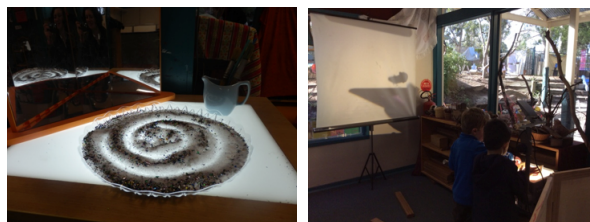
You may have noticed a new structure at kinder: our very own kinder cubby house! Following on from the Growling Grass Frogs interest in building and block design, we invited Claudio (Karen's Husband) to share his knowledge of building with the children. There were many steps undertaken to complete this project: writing a letter to Claudio, discussions and drawings of different cubby designs, thinking about what materials to use, using real tools and voting on what colours we should paint our new cubby.

"Active involvement in learning build's children's understandings of concepts and the creative thinking and inquiry processes that are necessary for lifelong learning. They can challenge and extend their own thinking, and that of others, and create new knowledge in collaborative interactions and negotiations. Children's active involvement changes what they know, can do, and transforms their learning." (EYLF p33)



### **Light Cube**

Fundraising money has been used to purchase a portable and rechargeable 'Light Cube'. This is a great addition to our existing light table and overhead projector. We love that it is much more accessible for the children (no need to be near a powerpoint), can be used on the floor, is quite durable and came with loads of accessories.



Through open ended exploration children are encouraged to experiment with light, reflection and shadows. As children engage in these play spaces they develop their inquiry skills and seek answers to their questions:  
How do objects change when placed on the light box?  
How does the size of materials change on the projector?  
Why are some objects brighter than others?

## Arts in the Early Years

The 'Arts' is a very important part of the children's experience at Greenhills and the children have been exposed to a varied array already this year. We will continue to intentionally teach the arts and take the children's lead (such as dancing to 'Frozen') and extending it wherever we can.

"Engagement in the arts provides numerous benefits for learning in these important early years. Basic literacy, numeracy and scientific concepts are introduced through music, movement and visual arts making. Social skills, important for tolerance, understanding and celebration of diversity, are developed through arts experiences such as dramatic play, singing and dancing" (National Advocates for Arts Education)

## The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company

On Monday 20th July both groups had a very entertaining performance by Liam and Flo from 'The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company'.

The Swift Parrots watched Bear Hunt, Caps for Sale and The Gigantic Turnip. The Growling Grass Frogs saw The Little Red Hen, The Gigantic Turnip and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Some of the children put their hand up to be part of the show with costumes and actions to perform.



These stories were chosen by the educators to complement our program and children's interests. The stories involved co-operation, helping others, colour, counting, literature, and mathematical language. We got to use our imagination, acting skills and how to be an appreciative and attentive audience.

## Swift Parrot

The children have enjoyed exploring musical instruments inside and outside. Joanne (student teacher) created some hanging instruments and we added more instruments inside. Joanne also provided materials for the children to make their own shakers which we used at group time to play rhythms. Dancing with capes continues to be something that many children love and continue to ask for.

Water, sand, cars and fish have been a great combination. The sandpit is always a fun place to be whether they are cooking, fishing, searching for treasure or just digging.





## Growling Grass Frog

Our soup store last week was very popular and we managed to raise lots of money to purchase our IPOD portable docking station. Now our musical friends can sing and dance and listen to their footy songs anywhere they choose at kinder. We have been eagerly measuring the veggies in our patch and charting their growth – the lettuce is almost ready to harvest so we will be sampling our produce soon. Treasure bag has begun this term, each child will have a turn of taking home the bag and bringing in some treasure to show their peers.

This term also starts off with many visitors:

- Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th July: visit from Pet Education program
- Tuesday 4th August: visit from Greenhills Primary school student to run a footy circuit at kinder
- Thursday 6th August: visit from CFA – fire fighters & fire truck

**Welcome back to Tracey** – Tracey has just returned from her African adventure and has shared her experiences and photos with the children. We have been practicing how to say hello in Swahili: Jambo



## Yalka Dayan Educational Program Incursion

On Monday 7th September both 3 year old and 4 year old groups will be participating in an interactive workshop involving Traditional Games, Aboriginal dance, Artefact Workshops and Story-telling.

‘Yalka Dayan’ (pronounced ‘Yal-ka Day-an’) is from the Yorta Yorta language group and translates to ‘Child’s Play’.

-Swift Parrot sessions will run from 9-10.30am

-Growling Grass Frogs will run from 12-1.30pm

**-D Group please note** - Incursions can only be run at kinder on a Monday so we can accommodate both groups. We realize that this means that Growling Grassfrog D group are not in attendance but they are invited to join us at kinder on the Monday if possible. If your child is still unable to attend a refund will be applied to your account.

## Photographs

All families will have received their photo packs which we are sure you love! Return dates for these are:

Swift Parrots – Monday 27th July

Growling Grass Frogs – Wednesday 29th July

## Voices of Families

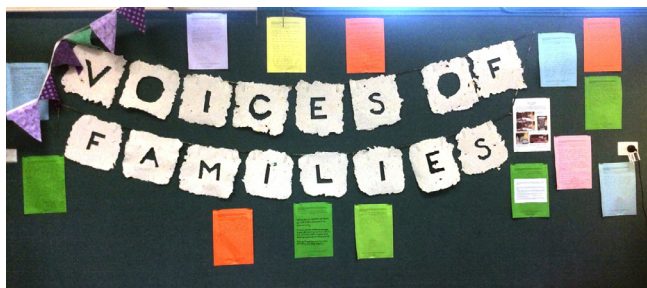


Figure 1: Our student teacher Joanne used paper made by the children to create a ‘Voices of Families’ heading.

Figure 1: Our student teacher Joanne used paper made by the children to create a ‘Voices of Families’ heading.

Families all received a sheet entitled “Voices of Families” in their child’s portfolio at the end of last term asking them to contribute to the review of our current philosophy. Sheets that have been returned are now displayed on the wall in the kinder room. Extra blank sheets are available at the sign in book and we would urge you to add your voice to aid us in our review. Some of the comments we have received so far have been:

*“Expression – We feel our son is in an environment which encourages him to express himself and be creative which we feel is important for his emotional development”*

*“Explicit teaching of social and relational awareness is valued and important to us”*

*“Our family likes that children are encouraged to take safe risks through exposure to real-world tools and materials, regular exploration of the Reserve next to the kinder, and cooking experiences.”*

## Master plan for kinder outdoor play space.

Last year it was decided by Greenhills educators, committee and families to work towards the creation of a 'Masterplan' for the outdoor play space at our kinder. This was brought on by the need for future planning and direction, to utilise the great bush setting we have, to ensure areas are safe and to continue to create opportunities for children to explore and learn.

Our kinder community was then encouraged to share their ideas about areas of the outdoors that needed improvement, areas that are working well and lots of creative plans and ideas to further develop the playground.

This year we are combining these ideas with the expertise of Ryan, from Ryan Young sustainable landscape design, who is in the process of putting together the draft plan. As well as the big picture, the plan will be designed in smaller sections which will allow us to potentially complete some areas as a kinder community (eg at working bees) and apply for grants to fund some of the more costly areas.

Other key components/ideas for the plan include;

- Maintaining the natural looking/bush space/link to the reserve

- Retaining walls for hill area

- Children having access to water within close proximity to sand, mud and veggie gardens (manual children's water pump, creek bed, water tanks)

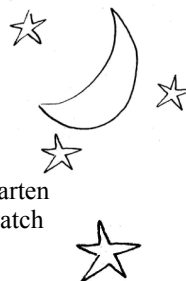
- More veggie and herb gardens....

- Encompass the Greenhills philosophy of providing children with challenges and opportunities to take risks, providing a warm and welcoming environment, offer and utilise natural materials, lots of opportunities to explore, and to support and encourage a strong focus on sustainable ideas.

We look forward to seeing the draft plans shortly and still welcome input, considerations and ideas from all families. To pass this feedback on email Naomi (naomi.daw@hotmail.com).



### Greenhill's Preschool Indoor Moonlight Cinema



It was lovely to see so many excited little faces arrive at the kindergarten in their PJ's, ready to enjoy a sausage, have their face painted and watch a movie with friends and family.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event, especially our educators and committee members who helped set the room up for the night. Thank-you to Briar Hill Bakery for donating bread and Bertie's Butchers in St Helena for the sausages, Ruthi for the wonderful face painting and Abby's Dad Ben for supplying a projector and speaker for the movie and our BBQ chefs!





## *Friends of Greenhill's PreSchool*

### *Trade and Service Directory*

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**

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