



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

June 2017

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

Reminders...

- **Students**

You may have noticed we have had a number of students undertake their placement with us this term. We believe it is important to share what we do at Greenhills with Early Childhood students and you will continue to see new faces throughout the year.

- **Kinder Photos**

Leonie from Hop Skip Jump Photography has taken some wonderful photos of our kinder friends – proofs will be made available to families to order when we return to kinder after the term break.

- **Snack Boxes**

Remember we are encouraging growing independence within our program – please pack your child's snack in a lunchbox / container that they can open and get out of their bag independently. Some of the food packaging can also prove challenging and we would suggest that you trial the containers/lids with your child at home.

- **Updating details**

If you have changed / updated enrolment information such as address, telephone & mobile numbers, email address – please provide staff with current information.

President's Report

With only two weeks to go until the end of Term 2, this year seems to be flying. So far, the Fundraising team, Melissa Moore, Jemma Rossel and Kristie Marciano, have raised enough money to buy the high visibility vests the children can wear into the reserve. These vests have already been put to good use and the teachers are loving being able to readily identify the children belonging to Greenhills Pre-School. With the rest of fundraising money, the teachers are now looking into buying Splash Pants for the kids during wet weather play. So, a big THANK YOU to the fundraising team for doing such a good job. There is a Tupperware fundraiser going at the moment so remember to check that out!

Also, a big WELCOME to Alana Ward who has graciously put her hand up to become Vice-President of the Committee. Thank you for accepting the position. There are still positions vacant for Fundraising and general committee if anyone would like to join us for the next half of the year.

You might have noticed the big mound of rubbish at the front of the kinder over the last few weeks, the teachers on their day off came in and cleaned out the shed. A few of the children had noticed the old trampoline being thrown out. You will be happy to know that there is a new one on order and on its way. So they will be back jumping on the new trampoline soon!

Important Dates

Term Dates:

End of term 2 - Friday 30th June

Beginning of term 3 - Monday 17th July

Growling Grass Frogs - Term Break Park Catch-up:

Petrie Park

Wednesday 5th July 10:30am

(Weather permitting)

As to the outdoor area the kinder does not have a gardener to attend to the watering, weed pulling and just general maintenance so that is why there is a gardening roster required. This outdoor area is a community garden for everyone to enjoy and look after. You can even take some herbs from the veggie box if you like. You will see the Gardening roster next to the sign in sheet and if it's not there please don't hesitate to ask the educators where it is. The gardening only requires an hour or two out of your weekend, you can choose either Saturday or Sunday, and you can bring the kids so they can play in a great outdoor area as well. Please don't hesitate to ask and put your name down on any weekend you can do. Then pick up the key and ask what needs to be done! We need to keep the area looking healthy and beautiful.

Keep an eye out for the social events coming up for 3 and 4-year-old groups. Please let Vanessa Dall'Amico (3-year-old) or Zoe Bunney (4-year-old) know if you can go. It's a great way of getting to know people, and the kids love seeing each other.

With the implementation of Storypark this year the educators have found it has been a fantastic tool to communicate with us any information about what our kids are doing at kinder. I know that I love seeing what Tilly does. The teachers have said that any feedback is welcome, and that we should post pictures of what the children are doing at home or on holidays. The educators love seeing what our children are getting up to, and it's a great way for the children to talk about different topics. The educators have also asked that if parents have anything to share with the children, such as reading in a different language, music, some special talent, what we do for work, please let them know – they love having family come in. There is a Storypark families app that you can download so you can take photos and comment there and then. If you don't know what app to download please ask the teachers.

Have a safe and happy holidays,

Jacqui Armstrong,
President Greenhills Preschool Committee.

Educators Report

Growling Grass Frogs

Can you believe we are nearly half way through the year! As we near the end of Term 2 we are proud to say that many of our kinder friends seem very comfortable and confident in their kinder environment and continue to demonstrate growing independence, curiosity and enthusiasm.



This term we have seen many varied interests emerge from the children. Their love of cooking, engaging in sensory play, conducting experiments and dress ups have stood out as favourites. Also popular is the use of real tools within the environment.

We have introduced a sewing machine, hot glue gun, electric beater and the hammers and nails for woodwork projects. We are currently building a collection of "tinkering" items for children to explore. If you have any old appliances that can be pulled apart, please bring them into kinder.



We have also had a visit from Grade 3 & 4 students from Greenhills Primary school. Educators believe it is important to provide opportunities for children to begin developing relationships with "schools" prior to school entry. It was great to observe our kinder friends confidently building relationships and interacting with the students and for Educators to reunite with former Greenhills Preschool students.



As the weather drops in temperature we have retrieved our fire pit from the shed. Children are able to experience fire in a safe environment and learn about how to be safe around a flame. Through these experiences, children are able to understand that fire can keep us warm, fire is essential for cooking and also chemical changes are occurring; burning wood to make charcoal.



At meeting time we discuss the safety rules of the fire pit:

Juliet: stay outside the red barrier

Nyah: don't run near the fire

Jasmine: don't touch the fire

Lachlan: don't go near the fire

Nova: stay safe

Akane: don't go too close

Emily: there is always an adult near the fire pit

Naomi: don't touch the hot sticks



We have also ventured into the reserve a couple of times wearing our new safety vests, and we look forward to purchasing a class set of splash pants to wear in the reserve on damp and wet days.

The above photos have been captured by our kinder photographers Isaac and Jackson.

Emily, Karen, Tracey and Debbie

Educator's Report

Swift Parrots

Wow! This term has flown by, with only two more weeks to go. The children have been very busy engaging in new activities, such as music. By providing opportunities for music it allows the children to use their imagination and creativity whilst engaging in symbolic play. Through music, children develop confidence to be free and express their ideas, while using their gross motor skills. To extend on this interest further we will provide more opportunities for the children such as story books with a cd for them to listen too.



Cooking is still very much an interest with the children. Next week we will make Salt Dough and muffins the week after. The children have been having fun and cooking in the sandpit. Some of the food we have tasted are mud pies, sand pies and strawberry cakes, which have all been delicious! More sensory and very messy experiences we have implemented are cotton bud painting and shaving cream.

At group times, we have been talking about who helps us in the community. For outside, the children enjoy using the trucks, work men's hats and yellow vests. We have also discussed the rules for going into the reserve. As a group, we all gathered on the mat, put the orange vests on and

walked holding hands to the picnic rug in the reserve. As this is a new experience for the children, the process takes time as we need to make sure that the group understand all the rules in the reserve before we can go ahead and make it happen. Now that we have all had the opportunity to experience being in the reserve, it can happen again.

It has been fantastic to see the children developing a strong sense of well-being. This has been evident through the children showing confidence in personal hygiene and asking for help when they need assistance. We have been encouraging the children to be responsible for their own belongings e.g. lunch boxes and coats. This is a very important life skill for them to learn and one that takes lots of practice.



On **Thursday 22nd June** we have Miller's mum staying to help the children make something special. On the same day we have the library lady too.

On the **last day of term** we are having a pyjama day and making some muffins. The children can come dressed in their pyjamas or have them in their bag too if they want too. What fun it will be.



I would like to sincerely thank Deb for everything this term. It's been a pleasure working with her, Emily, Tracey and Karen. I would also like to thank the parents too, not just for helping but making me feel a part of a wonderful community.

Kirsten Mudford

Early Years Expo

On Saturday May 27th, we had a stand at the Diamond Valley Library's Early Years Expo. It was a great chance to publicise our kinder and talk to families in the area. We were able to hand out flyers about Greenhills Preschool and answer questions from parents. Hopefully we'll be able to see some of those parents here in the future.

Thank you to Claire and Kristie for running the stall on the day. The committee is always on the lookout for events and opportunities to promote Greenhills Preschool. If you hear of an opportunity, please let the committee know.



The New Ramp

We finally have a new double-door ramp at Kinder to replace the single-door one, care of our maintenance man Graham.

It's pretty sturdy and can hold 2 blokes, a kinder kid and a pregnant lady, as the Cassidy family demonstrate here.



Social Update

Growling Grass Frogs - Term Break Park Catch-up

Petrie Park

Wednesday 5th July 10:30am

Weather permitting.

Greenhills Fundraising

Tupperware fundraiser orders due:

Reminder for anyone interested in ordering Tupperware that all orders are due by **Thursday 22nd June**.

Bunnings BBQ fundraiser:

Greenhills Preschool was selected in a ballot to hold a fundraising BBQ at Eltham Bunnings. Our BBQ date is **Saturday September 9th**.

We will be needing help from lots of volunteers on this day (we are required to be there from 8am till approx 4:30pm).

We will place volunteer sign-up sheets next to the Kinder sign-in book at the start of term 3.

Thanks for your support

Thank you to the following businesses who were very generous with donations for our Easter raffle.



Jets Gymnastics

<http://www.jetsgym.com.au/>



WaterMarc

<http://www.watermarcbanyule.com.au/>

Stuck On You Labels

Our Stuck On You labels fundraiser is still in progress. These labels are a fantastic way to keep track of your child's belongings and reduce the ever-growing pile of lost property at Kinder! When you visit <http://www.stuckonyou.com.au/> to order from a fantastic range of kids' labels and gifts simply enter the code "GREENHILLSPRESCHOOL" for us to get up to 20% commission!



Newsletter Advertising

We are still selling advertising space in the Greenhills Newsletter. If you, or anyone you know, owns a business that may be interested in advertising in our Newsletter, which reaches all Kinder families as well as prospective families who may be perusing our website, please contact melissa.moore@live.com.au to get further details on the newly revised prices.

Facebook Page

Please take the time to "like" our Facebook page – "Fundraising for Greenhills Pre-school" to keep up to date with our various events.

Uniforms

Our new purple and green uniforms, in line with the kinder colours, have arrived they look awesome! They are up on display at kinder, so check them out next time you're in.

It's \$15 for a hat \$20 for a t-shirt or \$30 for both.

Please see the Educators if you would like to purchase something.

The Fundraising Team

