



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

November 2016

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

Reminders...

- Reminder that children will need **hats and sunscreen during Term 4**. There will be sunscreen available for children to apply themselves but it is appreciated if you can do this at home prior to kinder.
- If you can spare any time to be a parent helper or for laundry/ garden duty, please register on the rosters.
- Extra cleaning during the final week of term will be going on if you can help out!

Donations of the following would still be greatly appreciated:

- Ribbon
- Glitter
- Boxes (small and large)
- Cardboard tubes
- Rope
- Bricks
- Large/small stones and pebbles
- Wood offcuts, shells, stumps

Hello Everyone,

Hope you have all been enjoying the warmer weather that Melbourne has been serving up the past few days. It's hard to believe there are only 3 weeks left of Kinder for 2016! I hope as summer approaches the sun continues to shine so the wonderful children at Greenhills can continue to enjoy the adventures our exciting outdoor play space offers.

As we head out of 2016 I am sure many of your children are excited about the holidays and the next step in their journey of education that the new year offers, whether it be starting here at Greenhills, stepping up to 4 year old kinder or heading off to begin their first year of primary school. Whatever your families adventure may be for next year the Greenhills Committee wish you all the best for a happy, safe and smooth sailing step forward into 2017.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the start of this month, many thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the night and special thanks to Jackie MacDonald who did a fantastic job of chairing the meeting. It was a great evening and it was also

great to meet so many new faces that will be a part of the Greenhills community next year. We also had a generous show of hands for filling the roles of the committee in 2017, many thanks to those who have offered their time and help, very appreciated. We are still looking to fill the roles of the President and Treasurer so if you feel that you have the time and would love to meet new friends and contribute towards the success of the kinder please let us know, it really is a great learning and relationship forming opportunity.

Within the next few weeks there will be a few social gatherings that we hope you can all attend, we have the Kinder Disco this coming Friday which was a great success last year, a fun night for both the Greenhills children and adults, so look forward to seeing all who can, attend on the dance floor.

Important Dates...

Kinder Disco

Friday 2 Dec 5:30-7:30pm

Kinder Break-up Picnic

Monday 19 Dec 9am-12pm

We will also be celebrating the end of the year at the Eltham South Butterfly Park. Everyone is welcome to this great opportunity to bid farewell to our amazing educators, take photos with the Greenhills family and to reflect and celebrate another successful year at Greenhills. So once again I look forward to seeing you there – if you can catch me on the Flying Fox!

As I sign off on the final President Report of 2016, I would just like to take the time to thank the wonderful, committed committee of 2016 for all their dedication, time and contributions to Greenhills Preschool. What a generous, fun and great bunch of people you all are. I would also like to thank Bronwyn Ballantyne from ECMS for your support, help and guidance through the transition to cluster management. What a big, but exciting, transition it was.

Last, but certainly not least, I would love to thank our amazing educators at Greenhills for their continuing and unwavering talent, dedication, passion, love and nurturing support that they show our children at Greenhills. Their commitment to excellence in teaching and creating a safe and creative space that inspires respect, learning, compassion, independence and creativity is second to none, and has earned them a big place not only in my families hearts but also in the heart of the community.

Many thanks and all the best to you all for 2017.

Charissa Smith – Vice President

Educator's Report

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our 2016 AGM was a great night where we showcased everything that our children do and experience at Greenhills. A wonderful presentation created by Rebecca Holland (a student on placement) was the highlight of the night and captured all of the experiences that make our kindergarten such a special place for children to learn and develop. All kinder families will be provided with a link at the end of the year to access a copy of the presentation. We will also be asking your permission (via a signed form) to share this special glimpse into what we do more widely in the near future.



We urge all families involved with Greenhills Preschool in 2017 to consider volunteering for a role on our kinder committee, we need your help to continue to make our kinder great!

New Studio Benches

Thank you to the Fleming Family for creating our wonderful new studio benches



Zoe: "They are very, very handy and useful to put the art things on"

Harley: "The wheels are good so now we can have the studio in different places"

Harry: "We did a good job painting them with Mummy – they are good for working and give us more space"

Understanding our Waste Part 2

Following on from our waste audit, Megan (Charlotte's mum, Swift Parrots) came in to discuss waste, particularly relating to yoghurt pouches.

A quick hands up showed how many of the children use these pouches in their snack box, and we discussed their convenience.

We then made our own fruit yoghurt - the children were able to chop up the fruit and scoop out their own serve.

We encourage families to use nude food - food with minimal packaging. Packing yoghurt in reusable tubs or pouches is one example.

By focusing on the changes we can make, the children can take responsibility for their actions and learn to understand their impact on the environment, as well as the nutritional benefits of preparing whole foods and knowing what they eat.

For more information and the ideas discussed with the children, refer to the poster at the end of the Educators Report.



Discussions with Children

We acknowledge that every child and family have unique ways of celebrating. To continue our child – focused program we will be providing children with the opportunities to share how they wish to celebrate their time at Kinder. We will be having conversations with children about different ways and reasons for celebrating

- End of the year
- New beginnings
- Friendships that have been built
- Families & Celebrations

Ideas on how to spend our last sessions at kinder include:

Stella. H: play on the swings

Kendra: make a thank you poster

Orson: blow out our meeting time candle together,

Hayley: bounce on the trampoline



Harry: make food

Ellie: play

Jaxon: make potions

Family Hampers

Although receiving gifts is exciting for children, we thought it would be a valuable experience for all of us at Kinder to be able to give to others. Thank you for your generous donations to our family hampers which will be distributed to families in need with Diamond Valley Food Share Inc. We will be taking donations up until Friday 9th December.

Suitable grocery items include:

- Cans of soup, spaghetti, baked beans, vegetables, meat meals, fish, fruit
- Packets of pasta, noodles, rice, sugar, flour
- Long life milk
- Cereals
- Tea, coffee, milk
- Pasta sauce
- Biscuits, cake mixes, desserts
- Spreads – peanut butter, jam, vegemite
- Toiletries – toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, sanitary items
- Pet food
- Special Christmas goods – plum pudding, fruit cake, tinned ham, bonbons, sweets, shortbread

End of Year Cleaning

We invite family members to stay for an hour at drop off time in the last week of our kinder session Monday 12th – Friday 16th December, to help with our end of year cleaning. Many hands make light work and we would appreciate help with washing equipment, cleaning easels, tidying storeroom, sorting through books, cleaning out drawers..... you get the idea. If you cannot spare any time at kinder please see Educators for a bag of washing to take home.

Orientation for Growing Grass Frogs 2017

Educators will be spending time with our Swift Parrot friends on **Tuesday 6th December** during their normal kinder session. We welcome Swift Parrot families to come in at 10.30am to meet and greet with Educators and drop off their child's 2017 enrolment form.

Families new to the service in 2017 are also invited to attend kinder on this date from 9.30 – 10.30am. During this hour children will have the opportunity to play in their new kinder space and meet with Educators and peers.

Orientation for Swift Parrots 2017

Educators look forward to meeting the families of the 2017 intake of 3 year olds at an orientation session on **Monday 5th December** between 2 – 3pm. This will be an informal and relaxed hour to provide an opportunity for everyone to become familiar with the space and Educators.

An email has been sent with details of forms etc. that you need to bring on the day. Please let us know if you are unable to attend.

Farewell



We will sadly be saying farewell to Sylvia Rothwell at the end of term as she finishes up her time as our additional assistant.

Sylvia has been working with the GGF group on Mon, Wed and Thursdays and has been invaluable to staff and the children.

Please take the time to have a chat with Sylvia and say goodbye before the end of term.

End of Year Kinder Celebration

To celebrate our time together this year we invite you all to join us at the

Lower Eltham Park on Monday 19th December between 9 – 12pm.

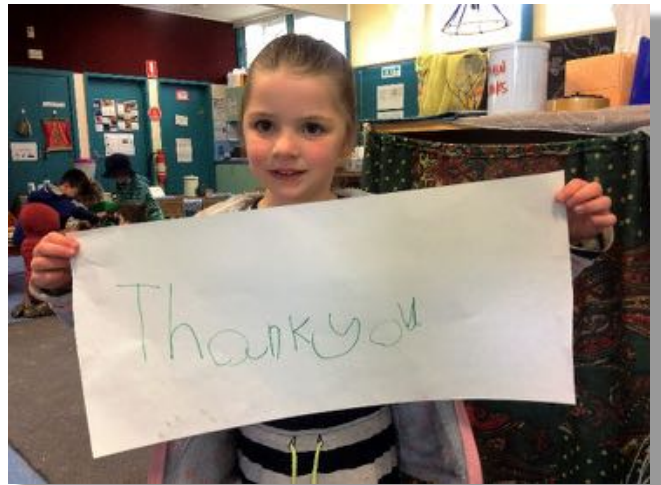
This has proven to be a great way for staff and families to celebrate the year together. The large playground allows us to all come together in a relaxed and fun way, with hopefully some favourable weather thrown in.

This is not an excursion so as such there is no need for permission forms and the children will need to be supervised by parents at all times. Please bring a picnic, water, sunscreen, hats and something to sit on.

To all our kinder friends and families

A big thank-you for your support, warmth, willing participation in sessions and contributions throughout this year of transition and change.

Our Educator's report to the AGM covered our year but there are a couple of things that we'd like to highlight again. Our year has seen us welcome new staff and farewell old ones, our staff are always special. We have refreshed and reinvigorated our outdoor space and created a more sustainable and greener place to play in and enjoy. The reserve has become a familiar and frequent part of our program and will continue to grow in importance. Finally, the embedding of Indigenous culture and understanding in our kinder community as a whole, has been deepened by Joanne van den Broek and Leilani's family, Nanny Joanne and Emma.



We are excited for our kinder friends who are moving on from Greenhills and we wish you all the best. For those who are returning in 2017, we can't wait to see you in the next year and hear about what you have been doing.

On behalf of all educators at Greenhills we would like to thank the 2016 Committee for their continued support, time and dedication to our kindergarten.

Love from all the Educators @ Greenhills Preschool

Jo, Emily, Karen, Joanne, Tracey & Debbie

A Year of Yoghurt Food Pouches

The Cost

Single-Use Yoghurt Pouch

Average Pouch = \$2ea

Single Use = 10 x \$2 = \$20/wk;

\$20 x 52wks/yr = \$1040



Reusable Yoghurt Containers

- Natural yoghurt to fill 10 x 140g squeeze packs/tubs = 1.4kg @ \$8.4
- 3 bananas = 500g = \$1.50 (\$3/kg)
- Punnet blueberries in season = \$3 = \$12.90/10 packs



\$12.90 x 52wks/yr = \$670.80

Plus cost for reusable food pouches @ \$36.95 = \$707.75/yr
OR even less if you buy reusable tubs

Saving = \$330/yr

Waste Footprint

10/wk x 40 families = 400/wk
= 20,800/yr

Enough to cover the entire floor of a 4 bedroom house, or make a tower over 3km high, higher than Mount Kosciuszko!

1kg tubs needed to hold the same amount of yoghurt = **2912**.

Plus these tubs can mostly be recycled or used again for other purposes.



Sugar Content

The American Heart Association recommends that children between 2-18 only have **up to 6 tsp/day** or **25g**.

An average yoghurt pouch contains around **12g/100g**



1 pouch = half your child's recommended 'free'/added sugar for the whole day!

So what can we do?

Use reusable containers and teaspoons, or reusable pouches. Fill them with natural yoghurt and mashed up fruit of your choice. Because you are putting in the whole fruit, you are also putting in all the fibre and other nutrients too - much better than the jam that is in most yoghurt pouches.



It will take you a little bit more effort, but when added up, it would only add a few hours over the whole year. Plus the kids can take ownership of this task too.

It's also good to remember that to earn \$330 at an average job today, you would have to work 11 hours. Because you are gaining back those 11 hours of work, you are saving time and money for something more important - it's saving in reverse!

Greenhills Fundraising

It's hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for 2016! Thank you to everyone for all your support throughout the year. We have raised **\$5640.30** so far with a few more events to come before the year is finished.

We also want to say a very big thank you to our new Fundraising Team for 2017 – Melissa, Kristie and Claire. Thank you for volunteering to look after Fundraising at Greenhills for 2017, no doubt there will be some great things happening next year. There was another person who put their name forward at the AGM, however we don't seem to have your details – if that was you please get in touch - we would love to have you!

Picture Plates

We have had an update from the Picture Plate Company and they are hoping to have the plates back by 19 December in time for our Break-Up Picnic. We should have a more definite idea of dates in early December.

Tupperware Party

We are lucky to have Melissa organising a Tupperware Party for us at the Kinder on 24 November. Hope to see you there for a fun evening with a cooking demonstration, raffle and Tupperware demonstration. Thank you to everyone who has put your orders in already. Greenhills Preschool will be receiving 10% of all orders!

Living Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who helped to sell our Herb and Flower growing kits. We sold over 500 kits raising a total of \$1164.05!!

Christmas Raffle

We have started selling tickets for our Christmas Raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$12 and prizes include a flight lesson voucher, a Skaters Party Voucher, a Strider Balance Bike as well as books, wine, museum tickets and a WaterMarc Family Swim & Slide Pass.

See any of the fundraising team (Amanda, Jacqui, Meg or Rachel) for tickets. We will be selling them at pick up and drop off times, if possible, and also at the Kinder Disco and End of Year Picnic.

Winners will be drawn at the End of Year Picnic.



Tickets: \$5 or 3 for \$12

- ◆ **1st Prize:** Flight Voucher – either one flying lesson or a joy flight for 2/3 people from Melbourne Flight School, Moorabbin valued at \$400
- ◆ **2nd Prize:** \$200 Skaters Party Voucher
- ◆ **3rd Prize:** Balance Bike
- ◆ **4th Prize:** WaterMarc Family Swim & Slide Pass, Melbourne Museum Family Pass, Children's book pack
- ◆ **5th Prize:** Brazilian Butterfly \$50 voucher and moisturiser, The Little Speckled Hen hand poured soy candle, necklace and Pointe to Pointe Dance discount voucher
- ◆ **6th Prize:** \$30 voucher for Mabel Jones Café and book pack

Prizes will be drawn at the Greenhills Preschool end-of-year Picnic on Monday 19 December 2016

Kinder Disco

Surely it's not just my two children who have been coming home from Kinder practicing their dance moves for the upcoming Kinder Disco! It sounds like all the Kinder Friends are getting very excited. Not long to go – the Kinder Disco will be held next Friday evening, 2 December, from 5:30-7:30pm. Music will be provided by our very own ARIA Award winning DJ Noel Michalovic.

We will be providing a sausage sizzle. Tickets are on sale now for \$20/family. You should have received an invitation in your child's Kinder pocket, but spares are available if you need. Please fill in the slip at the bottom and return to the Fundraising Box with your \$20 (or you can do a bank transfer online).

If your child has a special song they would like to request, please fill in the space at the bottom of the return slip. We will do our best to get it for you on the night. Looking forward to seeing you all there for a fun night!

Litter Free Living

At Greenhills we are committed to reducing lunchbox waste and one excellent way to do this is through the use of reusable food wraps and bags. Litter Free Living (www.litterfreeliving.com.au) has an amazing selection of lunch boxes, food wraps, reusable sandwich bags and reusable fridge bags. Please take the time to check out their website and make an order. At checkout, enter the code "GREENHILLS" to receive a 10% discount as well as a 20% commission for our preschool fundraising! There's a small display with some sample products next to the sign in book.

 **Litter free living**

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 www.stuckonyou.biz to order from a fantastic range of kids' labels and gifts simply enter the code "GREENHILLSPRESCHOOL" for us to get up to 20% commission!

stuckonyou®

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 amanda.furber@live.com to get further details and 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.

Upcoming Dates

Mark these dates in your diaries to keep free for some exciting events coming up.

Kinder Disco – Friday 2 December 2016 5:30-7:30pm

Final Day of Kinder and Break-Up Picnic – Monday 19 December 2016 – We will be drawing our major Christmas raffle at the end of year picnic. Make sure you plan to be there!

Regards,

The Fundraising Team

Uniforms

Our new purple and green uniforms, in line with the kinder colours, have arrived they look awesome!

They are up on display in the bag area, 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.



Social Catch Ups at Greenhills Kinder

3 Yr Olds' Mums Dinner

Sunday 4th December – 7pm

Maroush (Lebanese) Restaurant
1092 Main Rd Eltham

Friends of Greenhills Pre-School

Trades and Services 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.

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Advertising

Thank you to **Briar Hill Bakery** and **Karve it Up**, Greensborough, for supporting our Kinder Disco sausage sizzle.

