



*"learning through play"*

# Greenhills Gazette

September 2015

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## *President's Report.*

Hello to all Greenhills families!

It is so exciting that spring is here again, we have all endured what has seemed like an endless, cold winter. Finally, time to spend more time outside soaking up the Vitamin D.

My name is Shannan Mudie and I am the new president of the Greenhills Preschool parent committee. I have stepped into the role for the remainder of the year, taking over from Jackie McDonald who resigned at the end of last term. I have a background in early childhood education and have worked in a number of early childhood services, including community run 'early learning centres and kindergartens'. I am very happy to have joined this committed group of parents and educators, to assist to manage our high quality kindergarten service.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Jackie for her contribution and dedication to the kinder for the first half of the year. Jackie was instrumental in setting up systems and processes to ensure the kinder remained both streamlined and organised.

### **Cluster contemplation**

Being a part of a 'parent run, community managed preschool' has many benefits, however it also represents specific challenges, especially in-light of the ever increasing legislative and regulatory requirements. As a result, we have decided to explore the option of Cluster management.

A subcommittee has been created to investigate a number of different cluster managers to make an informed decision as to whether Greenhills should move to cluster management. The subcommittee will report back their findings and recommendations to families at a special meeting to ensure everyone has an opportunity to be consulted and informed about the process. Stay tuned for upcoming dates...

### **Bunnings BBQ**

I'm sure you will have seen the roster for the Bunnings BBQ which is being held on Sunday 20th of September. Please put your name down to ensure we raise much needed funds which will contribute to upgrading our playground. It is events such as these that require all families to volunteer up to 2 hours so that everyone is 'sharing the load.' As they say, 'many hands make light work!'

### **Cleaning**

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for a new cleaning company to clean the kinder. If you have any contacts or recommendations, please let us know. Another idea that was raised at our last committee meeting was organising a roster for parents to clean the kinder. This would involve vacuuming, mopping and cleaning the toilets, this would take approximately an hour to complete. This would allow us to keep cleaning costs to a minimum as we would only need cleaners employed 2-3 times a week. If you think you would be able to help out with this please let us know.

### **Ratio changes**

The committee has been very busy exploring session time options for 2016. Next year will see the introduction of new ratios for children over the age of 3. Currently the ratio is one adult to 15 children but as part of National Quality reforms, from January 2016, ratios will change to one adult to 11 children. We welcome the change, as it will support high quality practice, but with it brings the challenge of remaining viable with different numbers of children and the prospect of employing additional staff. We are working through a number of models to determine the most financially viable option according to the numbers of enrolments.

As the 3rd term draws to a close I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday and look forward to Term 4 with lots of exciting adventures to be had at Greenhills.

*Shannan Mudie  
President*

### **Save the Date**

- The next Working Bee will be Sunday  
25th October 8am-12pm

- Greenhills Preschool AGM Tuesday  
November 10th 7:30pm

# Educator's Report.

## Family partnership

‘Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children’s learning’ ” (EYLF).

We greatly value the input of families in our day to day program and recognise that ‘Families are children’s first and most influential educators.’ (EYLF). Whether families are sharing an interest or hobby or helping out by reading or cooking with the children, we are all benefitting. We strongly encourage you to speak to an educator if you have something you would like to share with the children.

We will be putting the rosters up for Term 4. Three year old families will be responsible for gardening and four year old families for laundry. As always we strongly recommend you signing up for a session (doesn’t have to be the whole session) – whether you are offering an activity, helping with the program or spending time with the children, you, your child, the other children and the educator’s will benefit from you being here. This term we have had cooking sessions, origami, families sharing their musical talents and helping with science experiments.

## Sessions

Five Firemen from our local CFA visited both the Swift Parrots and Growling Grass Frogs with their fire truck. They showed the children their protective clothing, breathing apparatus and the all important fire truck. All the children were given the opportunity to both sit in the truck, and turn the fire hose on and off out in the parking area. This was a very relaxed, fun and non-threatening way to familiarise the children with important members of our community.



This visit has led to lots of fire rescue play, including police personnel, map reading and escaping from lava. The children have loved the dress ups and have created many scenarios and props to support their play. Educators are hoping to organise a visit by the local police very soon.





## Growling Grass Frogs

The interest in AFL this term lead to Mr Daley and the Sports Captains from Greenhills Primary School visiting us at kinder and setting up a football circuit. Children had the opportunity to make connections with the school students and build on their growing interest and knowledge of football.



Eve: "I had fun handballing"

Gene: "I had a great time"

William: "I liked kicking the football off the cone"

## Pet Education visits

The Responsible Pet education program visited kinder with dogs Oskar and Woody. The program teaches children how to manage and behave around dogs. Children practised the safe way to approach a dog, the non verbal cues that dogs show us about how they may be feeling and what to do if approached by a dog without an owner.



## School Kids & Transition Statements

As Primary School orientations and discussions are beginning about Prep we invited the Grade 3 & 4 Students from Greenhills Primary School to visit kinder. The students read their kinder friend a story book and then had the opportunity to play together in the kinder environment. Our kinder friends responded well to the visit, they were welcoming and brilliant tour guides and built a strong rapport with their 'buddy'. Our friends look forward to another visit from the school children early next term.



The Transition Learning & Development transition statements are a tool for the consistent sharing of information about a child's early learning and development. The information in the statement helps prep teachers to get to know the children entering their classes before they start; and to plan for each child's learning and development when they start school. The statements are a collaborative document filled in by educators, families and children. Educators are currently working on their section of the statement and will meet with families early Term 4 to chat with parents and provide them with the family section of the document. The statements once complete will then be passed on to each child's nominated primary school in November. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 14th October (there will be no kinder session on this day).

### **Swift Parrots**

The children have been exploring flight after Chris asked Jacqui (Zoe's Mum) if she could make him a paper plane like Dad does. We made different types of paper planes and tested them, and then we made straw rockets and flew them at the same time to see which went the furthest.



Cooking has been quite prominent in our program this term and it has been wonderful to have parents contributing recipes and assistance. We have made, Weetbix balls, Hot Chocolate, Coconut Bliss Balls and Birthday Cupcakes for Alasdair.

Following on from watching 'Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'The Giant Turnip' during our drama incursion we have extended this with the children. We have listened to 'Going on a Bear Hunt' in two ways – Jo reading it and also listening to it from a CD. We have definitely had fun acting out the actions. Akiko (Hayden's Mum) came in and read 'The Giant Turnip' in Japanese that she has in her library at home. The children were very engaged during all of these group sessions.



## Reminders

### Hats on in Term 4

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.

### Rosters

As mentioned previously we will have rosters available before the end of this term for Term 4. We have heard from a number of parents that they have found the current format confusing so we will be creating a new easy to follow sheet. Please consult your diaries and see if you have some time to spend as parent helper or for laundry/garden duty.

### Donations

As always we appreciate donations of craft items, loose parts for outdoor play etc. We would particularly like the following:

- Ribbon
- Glitter
- Boxes
- Cardboard tubes
- Marbles
- Rope
- Bricks
- Large/small stones and pebbles
- Plumbing fittings

### Student Teacher Reflection

Greenhills is a sought after kindergarten for student placements by a number of institutions due to our reputation and program. We have had a number of students this year and we thought it would be nice to share their voice with our community. I invited Joanne who was one of our students during Term 2 & 3 to reflect upon her time at Greenhills.

Over the period of a six week student placement, I was welcomed by the Greenhills Community. I observed deep respect for the children, a nurturing philosophy based on educator and family views, a connection with the natural environment, and most importantly learning that is meaningful. Conversations don't stop at the end of the day - instead, they are carried throughout the program with experiences and projects based on individual interests.

This opportunity opened my eyes to the possibilities - I never would have thought to provide a hammer and nails to this age group, and to see the inspired haunted cubby house that resulted is something for the frog's to be proud of.

It was a pleasure to be here, thank you for having me. Regards, Joanne (Graduate Diploma in Education (Early Childhood))





### **Get your Christmas toy shopping sorted whilst supporting our Preschool.**

Do you aspire to be one of those 'organised' people who have their Christmas shopping sorted in October?? Well the Greenhill's Fund-raising Team is here to help you achieve this!!

#### **TOY Catalogues**

Each family will receive 2 toy Catalogues CHALK & PARENT DIRECT – 20% of the total value of your order will be donated back to the Preschool to purchase valuable learning resources.

If you think Grandparents or friends would like a catalogue too, please pick up an extra one from the kinder.

Orders will be delivered free to the kinder or you can choose delivery to your home.

#### **TOY NETWORK DISCOUNT SHOPPING NIGHT**

Start spreading the word to friends and family we will be selling \$10 tickets to TOY NETWORKS SHOP TILL YOU DROP NIGHT – Tuesday 28th October 7.30 pm.

Up to 40% off normal retail prices on brands such as Fisher Price, Tonka, Barbie, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, Tomy, Crayola, Playdoh, Avengers, Peppa Pig, Octonauts, Little Tykes, stationery and much, much more.

Keep an eye out for ticket order forms and don't forget to bring friends or relatives with you!!

Any queries please contact Jane – juryjane@hotmail.com - Thank you for supporting the Preschool by collecting Woolies Earn and Learn Stickers - we are currently at 3000 and counting! One more week to go - keep them coming.

A big thank you also for selling Our School Raffle tickets, fingers crossed someone from Greenhill's scores a prize!!

**Bunning's Eltham BBQ** Saturday 12th September- a big thank you to the kind volunteers who have put their names down to help out on the day. We still need a few more people to fill a couple of spaces during the middle of the day. Sign up board is at the kinder.



## **HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

#### **School Holiday catch ups for the Three year old families:**

Friday 25th September at 10.30am at The Butterfly park at Eltham Lower park

Friday 2nd October at 10.30am at The Butterfly park at Eltham Lower park

#### **School Holiday catch ups for the Four year old families:**

Play and explore at Edendale farm (30 Gastons Rd, Eltham VIC 3095) at 10am on Wednesday 30th September, followed by a BYO Picnic at Eltham North Adventure playground (Eltham North Reserve - Wattle tree Road) from approximately 12 noon



## *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.

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