



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

September 2017 Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/GreenhillsPreschool>

Reminders...

Parents

Please bring your diaries and sign up for parent helper (even 30 minutes is worthwhile), laundry or gardening.

Ensure that you are vigilant when entering and exiting the kinder and remember to close the front gate

Donations

We are in search of "loose parts" for our outdoor area. What are Loose Parts?

In a preschool, loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

Loose parts include:

stones,	buckets,
stumps,	baskets,
sand,	crates,
gravel,	boxes,
fabric,	logs,
twigs,	rope,
wood,	tyres,
pallets,	shells and
balls,	seedpods.

President's Report

Only 2 more weeks until the end of term! Wow this year is going fast. Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all of those families who came and helped at the Working Bee. I'm sure you have noticed the sand pit is now literally overflowing!

In the next few weeks the council will be erecting some shade sails for summer. These were a part of a \$20,000 Grant that the kinder was awarded last year by the council. The sails will finish off the outdoor play area.

You may have noticed the vegetable boxes and fruit trees outside the gate of our preschool. These have been placed there by the Greenhills Neighbourhood House. Growling Grass frogs were fortunate enough to plant some vegetables there for them to grow and for the Community to pick. It is a great way to show the children where our produce can come from and to give back to the community.

If you have some spare time please put your name down for Parent Helper, the Weekend Gardening roster or Washing roster. Your help is greatly appreciated.

For all of those families returning next year Greenhills Preschool will be holding our AGM Tuesday November 14th at 7:30pm.

At the AGM you will receive information packs for next year and our Committee for 2018 will be elected. The Committee will be looking for new members next year as the parents of the 4 year old group will be moving on to primary school. Thank you for all your hard work this year and we wish you all the best!

To all those families returning next year please have a think over the next few months if you would like to join the Greenhills Kinder Committee. Joining the kinder committee is a positive way for parents and caregivers to play an active part in the life of the Greenhills Preschool community and help the preschool flourish. It is also an opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, have a say in kindergarten matters and have fun. You don't require previous experience to be on the Committee- we are just looking for parents and caregivers who have enthusiasm!

Since becoming externally managed by ECMS, this has meant that the majority of the workload within the roles of the Committee has been significantly reduced. If you would like to become involved next year please email Jacqui Armstrong: greenhills.kinder@gmail.com, speak to one of the educators or if you see a committee member please don't hesitate to let us know if you are interested.

Enjoy your holidays,

Jacqui Armstrong

President - Greenhills Committee.

Meet Some of the committee. They are doing a great job.



Kristie Marciano
Fundraising



Jamie Smithson
Grants

Educators Report

Growing Grass Frogs

One of our ongoing group goals this year has been to provide children with the opportunity to actively engage with a range of people within our local community, and we were able to begin establishing these links this term. You may have noticed the big planter boxes that have appeared outside the front of kinder. The local horticulture club & a group of Bachelor Students from Latrobe University are working to set up an edible community garden. In conjunction with the Neighbourhood house and Kate from Bunnings we lent a helping hand to plant a range of seedlings that we will help to nurture.



A big thank you to all the family members who have come into kinder this term not only to share their skills & culture but have also spent time lending a hand with a range experiences.

Carmen (Lucas's Mum) reads the "Wheels on the bus" in Cantonese.





Graham (Charlotte's Dad) lends a helping hand during the session and is rewarded with his very own pizza.

Other visitors we have invited this term include: ThingleToodle – the road safety mascot, Police Officer Tracey, The Litter Sisters & Kate from Bunnings to help plant veggies and a lemon tree to celebrate National Tree Day!

We have indeed been very busy....



Interests this term have been varied ranging from basketball, creating obstacle courses, grating chalk, growing seeds, our bones, mastering the trapeze, our pizzeria shop, dress ups and dinosaurs. We also introduced our soft plastic recycling bin and are currently raising money with our kinder friends to purchase a bench seat made from our recycled soft plastic. We made delicious pumpkin soup and baked bread to sell and raised an amazing \$85.

Educators will begin to work on each child's Transition Learning and Development Statement. This document works as a tool for the consistent sharing of information about each child's early learning and development. The information in the statement helps prep teachers get to know your child before starting school and to plan for each child's learning in 2018. The statements are a collaborative document filled in by educators, families and children. The statements will be sent home early term 4 for families to complete and then passed on to each child's nominated primary school in November.

Below are some websites with helpful information on transitions.

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/early-childhood/resources/starting-school>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/learning/Pages/family.aspx>

Emily, Karen, Tracey & Debbie

Community Fire Night Walk

Thank you to all who came together on Thursday night to celebrate our annual Fire night and lantern walk.



Many families enjoyed a picnic dinner or snack in the kinder playground, as well as the chance to come together as a community. The children enjoyed toasting their damper and marshmallows on the sticks they had collected from the reserve.

Once it became dark the children's attention then turned from the fire pit to the lantern walk around the reserve. Many excited children collected their lantern and family members and enjoyed the night walk through the reserve and back to kinder using their lanterns to light the way.

Children's voices:

Akane: I liked how we could eat damper

Lily: I heard a bat sound in the reserve

Emily: my brother had a Chinese lantern on the fire night

Marco: At the fire night there were people around the fire

Tahlia: I burnt my marshmallow and it nearly fell off the stick!

Family voices:

Kristie: Thank you so much for the lovely lantern walk and fire night. Our entire family really enjoyed it.

Charlie's fav thing was "toasting marshmallows and everything" Isabella's fav thing was "roasting marshmallows on the fire with Daddy



Educator's Report

Swift Parrots

As always, the term has flown and I (Jo) have really enjoyed getting to know this amazing group of children. Over the last 8 weeks I have noticed the children considering their peers more, articulating their needs more clearly, able to independently deal with their belongings and personal care most of the time, contributing to discussions and making group decisions and I sense their feeling of belonging to their group and our kinder.

They love the sandpit, water play, magnets, puppets, dress ups, stories, music, dinosaurs, the studio and everything else on offer.

STEM Education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

This is one of the areas that we teach in kindergarten and may not always be visible but is always there. We thought we might highlight some of our STEM learning over the past term.



here <http://coolscienceexperimentshq.com/bottle-diver-science-experiment/> and also has instructions if you would like to make one.

We are really looking forward to doing more with John who has a whole list of things he would like to share with the Swift Parrots. We love having family members sharing their hobbies, interests and expertise with the children and staff. Please let us know if you are interested.

Art and science

We've had lots of different art experiences for the children to engage in. Rolling marbles and golf balls within boxes, splatter painting with fly swatters, spinning painting with lettuce spinners and observational drawing of fruit and vegetables.

Where's the STEM in those you ask, well here's some:

- Force and motion
- Cause and effect
- Observational skills
- Colour mixing
- Curiosity
- Trial and error



Diver in a bottle

STEM was front and centre when John (Gemma's grandfather) came to kinder to assist the children to make a diver who floats and sinks within a bottle. The children enjoyed this from the filling of the bottles, placing the diver inside and then making him move. This experiment is also referred to as the Cartesian Diver Experiment and it is a simple and fun way to teach children about density and how it impacts whether an object will float or sink. More information can be found



Reserve visits

We have had a few walks and we had our first major venture down towards the big open space last week. We aim to spend most of our last kinder session for the term down in the reserve, which is very exciting. We have discovered moss, eggs, bugs, holes and fungi and been curious and thoughtful about all of those things. We've balanced on logs, learnt a little about the Eltham Copper Butterfly and listened to all the birds. For us as educators, it has been wonderful to observe the children being so engaged and interested in the landscape and we know this will grow over time. The learning and links to STEM are in everything to do with the Reserve and we will enrich, extend and scaffold that over the remainder of the year.



The Litter Sisters

Last Thursday both the 3 and 4 year olds groups had 'The Litter Sisters Do Lunch' performed for them. This is an initiative of Banyule Council's Rethink Centre and covered topics that are part of our intentional teaching at Greenhills. Using songs, actions and information this was a fun way to reinforce our learning about:

- Avoiding waste (food and wrappings) in our lunch boxes
- Healthy eating
- Nude food – what is it?
- Reusable lunch boxes, containers and wrappings
- Recycling of food waste through composting



The Rethink centre runs many education programs which can be found here - www.rethink.vic.gov.au

Jo & Debbie

Working Bee

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the working bee in August. We got a lot done and had a lot of fun too! Watch out for the date for the last working bee of the year, coming up in Term 4.

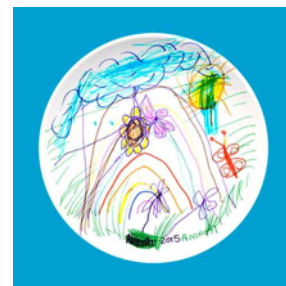


Greenhills Fundraising

Picture Plates:

This is the final call for Picture Plates. Please return all templates and money by **Thursday 14th September**.

We need to post them to the company and it will take approximately 9 weeks to receive the plates.



Bunnings BBQ fundraiser:

Thank you very much to all of the parents who volunteered their time to help at our Bunnings BBQ.

This was our biggest fundraiser for the year and we managed to make a profit of around \$1700! Fantastic result!!



Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers

Please return your completed sticker sheets to Kinder this week. The promotion ends 19th September.



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

