



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

OCTOBER 2014

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

IN BRIEF

Please remember we encourage healthy eating at Greenhills Preschool for both snack time and lunches.

Have you returned your folio?

Special thanks to **Stuart and Jackie Macdonald** for completely reinvigorating our desktop computer for staff and committee.

Have you returned your Transition Statement?

Don't forget hats and sunscreen as the weather warms up again.

Keep in touch and up to date with Greenhills Pre school on Facebook!

For those returning in 2015, our AGM is on **November 18th**

President's Report

Welcome back to Term 4 everyone. I hope this finds you somewhat refreshed after the holidays and ready for a big term New learnings, transitions and unfortunately, goodbyes. *Are you ready?*

Can I encourage you to make the most of these last weeks with your child in their respective group in Kinder? They will be in school for a long time after this and these Kinder days are so precious. Take the time to enjoy your child and the journey they have had in Kinder this year. They have all learnt and experienced so much and it is easy in the busyness to overlook these special achievements, big and small.

Can I also encourage you to think about how you and/or your child can show your appreciation to their educators in the coming weeks? Our team puts in an enormous effort during paid and unpaid hours to help our children have the most special and significant experience during their time at Greenhills. And we all love to hear about the impact that we have had on someone else, don't we? So why not take some time to write a note of appreciation with your child as part of the reflective and transitioning process.

The transitioning process will continue this term for our 4yo's with Transition Statements being filled out and visits to the local primary school.

There are a couple of opportunities to help out this Term:

Firstly, why not grab a friend and a coffee and settle in for a couple of hours to participate in *the Bicycle Victoria Count* happening on Sunday November 9th. It is a great opportunity to raise money for our Kinder and to have a natter. You just need to be able to count and talk at the same time But who can't do that?!?

Secondly, the next Working Bee happening on **Sunday November 16th**. We are hoping to get a couple of bigger jobs done on this day because the mulching and sand top up has already been done.

Please help out at either of these events if you can, even if you have only 1 hour. Remember that attendance at either of these counts towards a refund of your maintenance levy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee of 2014. The beauty of a Kinder like ours is that we as parents can help steer and strengthen the direction the kinder is going. And our committee this year has done exactly that. Members have given the time that they have been able to commit, big and small and we have had such a great bunch of people on board this year. So my heartfelt thanks to you all for helping to make this year such a great one. Whilst we didn't all agree on everything (phew!), the times we have met together have always been productive, positive and pretty good fun! I look forward to working with many of you again next year.

*Kayte Kitchen,
President*

Educator's Report

Welcome back to Term 4. Towards the end of last Term you may remember our Kinder underwent the Assessment and Rating process. We are very pleased to announce that Greenhills Preschool received an overall rating of **Exceeding National Quality Standard** for our service.

The areas cover all aspects of the kinder and both the teaching staff and Committee are responsible for ensuring they are met. The purpose of the assessment and rating process is to determine (via an independent person) whether and at what rating (Working towards, Meeting or Exceeding) level the kinder service meets:

The National Quality Standard
Requirements of the Education and Care Services National Law and
Education and Care Services National Regulations

Greenhills Preschool performed strongly and received **Exceeding** in all 7 quality areas.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff and Committee for their amazing dedication, support and hard work throughout this process.

Jo Garner

Protect Our Preschools Campaign



As you will be aware, Kinder was closed on Wednesday due to all staff taking part in the '*Protect our Preschools*' campaign. This was supported by the Committee at the last meeting with a decision to close the kinder in support of the teaching staff. We would like to thank the committee and also all the families who have supported us by signing the AEU petition.

Emily and Jo joined the throng of educators and families in the march to Parliament House.

If you would like to discuss the reasons for the campaign or would like more information please see Jo.

News from the Growling Grass Frogs

Can you believe we are in the midst of Term 4? Such an exciting time for all our kinder friends as they consolidate their time at kinder and look forward to new adventures ahead. Swift Parrot friends look forward to going to “big kinder” and Growling Grass Frog friends begin their journey to school. Our kinder friends have started visiting their nominated schools and have begun their orientation programs. Transition and Learning Development Statements have been sent home to all GGF families. *Reminder to all Growling Grass Frog Families: please complete section 1 of the statement and return to kinder by Thursday 30th October.*

In our Kinder program we help children “know about school” through the following strategies:

- Provide school uniforms in our dress up area to encourage children to role play and act out school scenarios
- Invite school students to kinder to interact with our kinder friends and talk about school
- Read stories and have discussions about school
- We will visit Greenhills Primary school to provide children the experience of a school environment (where children can find out about and see the playground, classrooms, and toilets and learn about the routines of school). Invite other local schools / teachers to kinder.
- Help advertise any school orientation dates for families to access

In discussions with our kinder friends we have set up a “school classroom.” We had lots of suggestions from our friends:

Julius “iPads for maths”

Mayah “lots of books”

Lennon “desks”

Emily “school kids”

Toby “school clothes”

Greta “computers & buddies”





We recently borrowed a story from the multi-cultural centre titled *Bread, Bread, Bread*. It looks at how families all over the world are eating bread and that there are many kinds, many shapes, and many sizes.... After reading the story with the Growling Grass Frog group and as a follow up to our experiences with using the fire pit we decided to make damper using the staple ingredients, flour, water and salt. Then as a further follow up we decided to make a loaf of bread to share with our kinder

friends and families. We once again use flour and water but this time we add yeast to help our bread rise. We find a nice sunny spot in the garden and wait for our bread to start expanding...*"It might be the biggest bread ever"* comments **George**.



We wait and wait and eventually we see our loaf of bread grow. We then bake the loaf in the oven.... And then enjoy eating our slice of bread.

News from the Swift Parrots

We were so happy to see all of our Kinder friends after our holidays. The children are a very sociable and busy group and readily involve themselves in play with others at every opportunity. The children are blossoming and growing up so quickly. They are growing physically, becoming more vocal, adventurous and confident.

The exploration of water has been expanded this term with coloured water in spray bottles, squirt bottles and test tubes being used pretty much everywhere outside.

The provision of large tubs of soapy water with many different vessels such as cups, jugs, buckets etc. was enjoyed by many of the children in lots of different ways. Stephanie also made frozen hands with embedded jewels that needed to be freed from their icy prison!



The freedom to experiment through play in this way leads to many concepts involving volume, size, colour change, depth, direction, liquids/solids and more. Some of the conversations between the children were around comparisons about how much water they can get into a particular container, negotiating to use an item, sharing the joy of water spilling and discussions about what colour water to ask for next. They were also practicing and mastering motor skills involved in pouring into different size containers, holding two items at once and using the triggers on the spray bottles.

Jo, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey.

Cup Eve Arrangements

We have approximately half of our Kinder friends in both groups taking advantage of a 'long weekend' on Cup Eve. This has led to the decision to take the opportunity to bring the 3 & 4 year old groups together and run **a combined session**. This will have great social benefits for both children and educators with the added benefit of a sleep in for Swift Parrot parents. Sessions will run from 9am with Swift Parrots finishing at 12pm and Growling Grass Frogs at 2pm.

From the Fundraising Team

What an awesome day for 'our' Bunnings BBQ - Saturday 18th October. Even McHappy Cay couldn't spoil all the DIYs and happy spring Gardeners and their need for a sausage. A HUGE thank you to all the fabulous people who volunteered. Each shift was like a well oiled machine. People's skills coming out of the woodwork and new skills learnt. Special mentions to **Eva** with organising supplies (including 10kgs of sliced onion from the factory) and **Mel** for buying things and her team on set up in the morning. Also the the great pack up team who did a 4 hour shift -**Anita**, **Bruce** and **Simon** who left the BBQ sparkling in the end. Some stats -we went through 60.5kg of sausages. 11kgs of onion, approx 36 loaves of bread, 600 serviettes, 121 cans of drink or bottled water. But all this to say that we made a grand total (profit) of **\$1704!**

EXTRA MONEY

We are so thrilled to announce also that 10% of all the photographer's money has come in to and is added to our total (see table below).

BIKE COUNT

The final fundraiser for the year. We have 5 stations or spots allocated to us in the Nillumbik shire for 4 hours (9am-1pm) November 9th. Please speak to Mel and/or Sophie to get yourself a spot (or share 2 hours with another family).

Projected annual		
Event	Projected	Actual
Welcome Picnic	\$ 120.00	\$ 72.85
Find Booklet	\$ 350.00	\$ 314.00
Easter Raffle	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,046.00
Trivia Night	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,206.70
Bunnings	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,704.00
Bike Count	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00
other	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00
Total	\$6,170.00	\$6,643.55



Photos care of Narelle - 1.Narelle, Sarah, Vesna, David. 2. Jackie and Anita (Jackie counting all the money ☺)

Sorry Jen, Liz, Eva, Mel, Sophie, Jeff, Bruce, Simon, Ben & Jodie, Shannan, Craig, Rachel and Lisa that we didn't get your picture. Sensational work everyone!