



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

February 2018

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

Reminders...

How can you be involved in 2018?

Parents

To help the kinder run smoothly, we need parents to help with laundry and gardening. Each term the Swift Parrots and Growling Grass Frogs alternate on these rosters. Please check the board at drop off to put your name down each term.

Laundry: collecting the washing at the end of the week, washing and drying these at home then returning them the next week.

Gardening: collecting the key for the gate from Educators at the end of the week. At a time that suits you over the weekend, come in for an hour to weed, sweep and tidy up outside.

Parent helper: Put your name down to help out at a session (you don't have to stay for the whole session). Grandparents and other family members can help too! Do you have a special skill (music, cooking, sewing, science etc.)? Let the educators know! The children love having a family member come in to share their time with everyone.

President's Report

Welcome to all new and returning families to Greenhills preschool for 2018. We hope all the children are settling in and parents are getting a feel for how the kinder operates.

Did you know that Greenhills preschool was started in 1956 after a group of local residents fundraised for a kinder in this area? That is a long history of local families and the community supporting our great kinder. We hope that this year our current families will get involved as much as they can to continue to help the kinder run smoothly.

This year we have a dedicated committee who are helping to raise money for our kinder, organise social events and help promote Greenhills to prospective families. Throughout the year we will be asking for additional support from families so if you have a skill that you think may be useful, please let us know. You can contact the committee via email: greenhills.kinder@gmail.com.

We also welcome donations of goods and services for our raffles and fundraisers throughout the year. If you have contacts with local companies that may be happy to be involved please let us know.

I look forward to sharing the fun of kinder with you all this year and meeting you at the Welcome Picnic on March 1st.

Claire Hatty

President - Greenhills Committee 2018

Meet the Committee

Over the next few newsletters we will be profiling our team, feel free to ask us any questions if you see us!



Claire Hatty
President



Keira de Hoog
Newsletter/IT



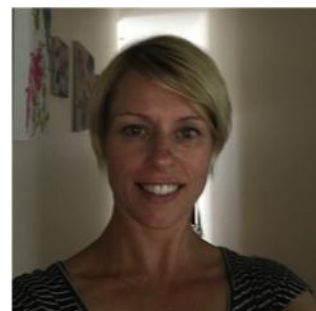
Julian de Hoog
Maintenance



Donna Anderson
Social co-ordinator
Swift Parrots



Despina Barbesoski
Fundraising



Bonnie Layton
General committee

The committee are also looking for parents who would like to be involved in the **Grants officer** position.

This position involves working with our Educators, the committee and ECMS representatives to apply for grants for the improvement of the kinder. You will be working with a small team of other parents so the workload is shared.

Does fundraising sound more like you?

Come and join the team to organise raffles and fundraising events throughout the year to raise money for toys and equipment.

If you are interested in either of these positions or would like more information, email us at greenhills.kinder@gmail.com

Welcome picnic

Please join us on Thursday 1st March at kinder from 5.30 -7pm.

This is a lovely opportunity for families to mingle in a relaxed atmosphere while the children play. Please BYO picnic food and rug.

See you there!

Educator's Report

Growling Grass Frogs

A very warm welcome to our 2018 children and families. We are filled with excitement and anticipation about all of the growth and wonderful learning experiences that we will share throughout the year at Greenhills Preschool.

As we head into the middle of term, our kinder friends are starting to become familiar with kinder routines, new faces, and names. This will create a very strong foundation, which will assist the children to develop a sense of belonging and security in their kinder environment.

Our digging pit has proved a popular area with children turning over the dirt and splashing in muddy puddles.



We believe play is an intrinsic tool children use to become active, passionate learners who enjoy gaining knowledge and information by discovery, investigation and invention, in their own way and at their own pace.

The very best way to give children what they need is an environment that is interesting to explore, that is safe and is filled with people who will respond and support the child's emotional needs.

There are already many varied interests emerging within the Growling Grass Frog program, ranging from: the swings, jumping on the crash mat, moulding with the kinetic sand and creating in the kinder studio.



We have also implemented the "Who is here today?" board, where children sign into kinder each day they arrive by placing their photo on the board. This is helping the children understand who they will see on each kinder day, and it also creates a sense of belonging to our kinder community.



We look forward to getting to know your children and family throughout the year. Please remember if you have any questions, queries or ideas please come and see us for a chat.

Emily, Karen, Debbie and Carol

Swift Parrots

Welcome all our friends and families to Swift Parrots. It has been so wonderful to meet our new friends and see how well they have settled into Swift Parrots. The first few weeks have been about learning lots of new things: routines, snack time, wearing a hat outside, and lots more. It has been amazing to watch how well everyone has adjusted to all these new expectations.



Life at kinder has been so busy already, with so many new things to play with and areas to explore. It has been great to watch the interactions between kinder peers begin to develop. The children have enjoyed gathering outside to picnic, jumping onto the crash mat, meeting our stick insect, creating with the playdough and working in the sandpit.



We look forward to getting to know your children and family throughout the year. Please remember if you have any questions, queries or ideas please come and see us for a chat.

Jo & Debbie

General Reminders to all our Greenhills Families

- Please have your children arrive at kinder with sunscreen on as well as a sun hat throughout Term 1.
- Ensure that you sign your child in and out as this is a legal requirement.
- All items need to be labelled with your child's name. You can take advantage of our fundraising labels through 'Stuck On You' (see last page of newsletter).
- Please provide a family photo for our photo board.
- Remember to pack "healthy" food options for your child to eat at kinder – some ideas include sandwich, wrap, fruit, yoghurt, crackers, cheese, dip, sushi, popcorn, vegetable sticks
- We ask that you please refrain from packing nut based foods in your child's snack box. We have 2 anaphylactic children enrolled at Greenhills Preschool this year who have severe nut allergies.
- Please bring your diary and sign up for Parent Helper, Gardening and Laundry on the rosters located near the sign in book.
- As children may be involved in messy play, it is advised they wear old clothes to kinder, and have a change of clothing.
- Remember to check your child's pocket for kinder, social and fundraising information.
- If you are a parent on duty, it is also important that you become familiar with the information in the 'Welcome Pack for Parent Helpers' located under the sign in book.
- Please ensure you only leave kinder with the child you are collecting and be vigilant about keeping the gate closed when entering and departing the kindergarten.
- If you are going to be late at pick up time please call the kinder to inform Educators.

Donations

Our kindergarten utilises a lot of materials that are generally considered to be throw away items. Some are things you may have at home (and want to be rid of) and others are items such as natural materials that may be collected on a walk. As we are non – profit organisation we would greatly appreciate any donations or collections.

The list includes but is not limited to:

- ❖ Shells
- ❖ Vases
- ❖ Stones
- ❖ Trays
- ❖ Buttons
- ❖ Ribbon
- ❖ Wool
- ❖ Beads
- ❖ Sheets
- ❖ Wire
- ❖ Boxes
- ❖ Cylinders

Etc.!

Working bee

On Sunday 18th February, many intrepid Greenhills Preschool families turned up to help out with the first Working Bee of the year. Seven cubic metres of mulch had been delivered. None of us had ever seen that much mulch before ... well, at least not since the last working bee!

Everyone got to work immediately — mulch was spread, weeds were pulled, windows were cleaned, toys were repaired and tidied, and yet more mulch was spread. Many of the smaller workers got involved too and did a great job helping out. Many hands make light work, as they say, and after only 2 hours the playground was in top shape and all that was left to do was to enjoy a donut and get to know the other families better.

Thank you so much to everyone for helping out! The turnout was amazing and the kinder looked fantastic when we were done — all ready in time for Open Day.

We had brilliant help from the following — hopefully we didn't miss anyone and apologies if so :)

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| - Berick family | - Jeremy Fayant | - Dean Murray |
| - Famili family | - Steven Hatty | - Matthew Munro |
| - De Hoog family | - Don Deieso | - Simon Cerra |
| - Kerry Crockett | - Connor Eames | - Melissa Mason |
| - Ann Stack | - Beth Costello | - Peter Tremoulis |



Open Day

We held our annual kinder open day on Saturday 24th February. We had a great turnout of prospective parents who we will hopefully see in the future. We even ran out of showbags and had to make more.

A big thank you to our Educators, Emily and Karen, and our parent volunteers, Claire, Jemma, Beth, Lauren, Despina and Jess who helped talk to parents and show them around the kinder.

A reminder to current families who have younger siblings:

3 year old enrolments are through ECMS; they open in March for 2019.

4 year old enrolments are through Banyule council; they open March 1st for 2020.



Did you know that Greenhills Childcare at the local Neighbourhood house offers occasional care that links in with our kinder sessions?

Greenhills Neighbourhood House offers occasional childcare as part of their program. They offer set days and sessions for your child to provide them with security and consistency of care. Bookings are made on a term basis. At Greenhills Occasional Care they offer three or four hour sessions at their Limited Hours Type 2 Childcare Centre. Options available to pay by the term or half term.

Greenhills Neighbourhood House works closely with Greenhills Preschool to provide extended cover in Childcare. Please call the Greenhills Neighbourhood House for more information.

Monday and Fridays:

9.00am - 12.00pm (for under 3yrs),

9.00am - 1.00pm (3yrs+)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday:

9.00am - 12.00pm and,

1.00pm - 4.00pm

Greenhills Neighbourhood House

Community Drive, Greensborough. Ph: 03 9435 9287 www.greenhillsnc.org.au

Uniforms

Unfortunately we have run out of purple hats. A new order will be placed soon however we still have plenty of green, red and navy blue hats to purchase.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey regarding uniforms. If you have yet to complete it, the survey can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T7PFJM2>



Fundraising

In late 2017 we were lucky to secure a grant from Banyule council to put towards a sensory garden at the kinder. This year we will be raising money to contribute to this garden as well as purchasing additional equipment and toys for the kinder.

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!

stuckonyou®

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.

Coming soon

- Bakers delight Hot cross buns drive
- Living fundraisers
- Litter free living
- Easter raffle

Stay tuned for more information on these through your email and in your kinder pockets.

And remember if you have contacts at businesses that can help us out with raffle prizes (goods or services), please let us know.

The Fundraising Team