



*"learning through play"*

## Greenhills Gazette

**May 2018**

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

### Reminders...

#### 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 Parents portal on the kinder website and put your name down each term. The details for how to do this are as follows:

#### Parents portal

To sign up for a duty:

1. Go to our website: [www.greenhillspreschool.org.au](http://www.greenhillspreschool.org.au)
2. Click on Portal
3. Sign in: the password is [swiftfrogs1956](#)
4. Select which day suits you to do either the laundry or gardening. Add your details.

Both duties are open to all families (previously we have had 3 and 4 year old groups do different duties each term).

Thanks for your help!

### President's Report

Welcome back for Term 2! Although we've only had one term, it's been a busy year already.

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for our Easter raffle held at the end of term 1. We raised over \$400! This year any money raised through fundraising will be put towards a sensory garden for the children.

Thank you to everyone who has put their name down on the new parents portal. There are only a few spots left towards the end of the term, so if you haven't volunteered this year yet, please check the free dates. Details about how to login are included on the left ←.

With the weather getting cooler, I'm pleased to announce that our jumpers are now in stock. The jumpers are \$35 and come in size 4 and 6. If you'd like a jumper, please put correct change in an envelope with your name and size on it and the educators will provide you with a jumper. Purple hats are also back in stock.

On the 5th May, Diamond Valley library held an Early Years Expo. Thank you to Jacqui and Beth who helped to run our stand for the day and talk to prospective parents about our wonderful kinder.

We've been very lucky to have some bench seats donated to us by the Barbesocki Family to be used around our fire pit. This is a wonderful addition to our kinder. Thank you Zoran for making these for us!

Finally it is with great sadness that I inform you that Jo Garner is leaving us at the end of May. As 3 year old teacher and Educational Leader, Jo has provided many wonderful opportunities for the children in the Swift parrots over her 4 years here. We thank her for all of her hard work and dedication over the years and wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

ECMS have informed us that the replacement process is currently underway and families will be informed when a new teacher is hired.

**Claire Hatty**

President - Greenhills Committee 2018

## Meet the Committee

The committee are still welcoming new parents who would like to be involved in the committee, especially in the fundraising team. Please email us, or speak to a committee member for details.



**Lydia Liu**  
(Secretary)



**Beth Costello**  
(Vice president)



**Zoe Bunney**  
(Social rep 3 year olds)



Vice President, Beth Costello, at our stand at the Early Years expo on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May doing a great job promoting the kinder!

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Fundraisers

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May:** Living Fundraiser Greeting Cards are due back. Please return any payments or leftover cards to kinder on this week.

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May:** Picture plate orders due back

## Mother's Day Celebrations

Mothers and special females in our lives are invited to join us at kinder for a play. On these days the committee will also be running a mothers day flower stall, see fundraising section for details.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May:** 10 -11am (last hour of kinder session): Swift Parrot Group

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May:** 12.30 - 1.30pm (last hour of kinder session): Growling Grass Frogs

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May:** 11.30 - 12.30 (first hour of kinder session): Growling Grass Frogs

## Kinder closed

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Kinder shut for Educator professional development day

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June:** Queens birthday

## Socials

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Growling Grass Frogs Parents Dinner, 7pm @ The Lower Plenty Hotel  
(Note change of venue! Please RSVP to Donna by Monday 14 May on 0400 992 727)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June:** Swift Parrots Parents Dinner @ Stix and Stones, 6pm (RSVP to Zoe by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June on 0433 454 459)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** Movie night at kinder (more details to come)

## Incursion

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May:** Swift parrots Incursion - Aboriginal kinder dreaming session run by Cultural Infusion. Thank you to Reconciliation Victoria for our grant to run this program

## Photography

Leonie from Hop, Skip & Jump photography will be coming out to take the children's kinder photos on the following dates:

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June:** Growling Grass Frogs

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June:** Swift Parrots



## Educator's Report

All of our kinder friends have returned to Greenhills this term and embraced the outdoor space, especially building with our new outdoor blocks and testing out our new nest swing.







We place great importance on belonging and doing things as a group; co-operation is a large part of our program. Both the outdoor blocks and the nest swing have provided children with many opportunities to practise skills such as negotiation, turn taking, shared decision-making, listening and respecting peers ideas and collaborative learning.







### **Student Visits**

A group of students from Living & Learning Nillumbik visited the kinder in term 1 as part of their studies. The visit provides Early Childhood students with the opportunity to see a program in practice and also helps Greenhills Preschool strengthen ties within our local community.





*"The students of Nillumbik Living & Learning highly value the opportunity to visit Greenhills Preschool as it provides them with an opportunity to see a beautiful kindergarten in action, seeing children being able to move freely between indoors/outdoors, unhurried time to pursue their own interests, connecting with nature and to gain inspiring ideas to set up and implement play and learning for young children. This spaces encourages, supports and challenges children to explore, investigate, problem solve, imagine, create and experiment. Thank you to all staff, families and children for providing us with this opportunity"* **Andrea Jenkins**

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Thank you to the Berick Family for taking care of our Stick Insect over the term break. Thanks to Abigail's family we now have a number of stick insect pets at kinder for the children to observe.



Also a big thank you to the Barbesoski Family for building and donating four new bench seats for us to use within the kinder environment. We are looking forward to setting them up around our fire pit when the weather turns a little cooler.



## Can you help us?

This year many children are showing a keen interest in creating and being artistic. We are looking for parents or family/friends who have an artistic talent to come and share their skills with the children. This could be anything from pottery, knitting, painting, photography etc. If you have a skill that you'd like to share, please let the Educators or Committee members know.

Emily, Jo, Karen, Debbie, Carol & Georgia  
**Educators @ Greenhills Preschool**

## Important Funding Information

### Two Years of Funded Kindergarten

As you may know, kindergarten is partially funded by the State and Federal governments. This helps reduce the cost of kindergarten, making it affordable for families to enrol their children. However, there is an ongoing problem with how kindergarten is funded.

#### What is the issue?

Since 2013, the federal government has been funding part of 4yo kindergarten so that children are attending 15 hours of kindergarten per week. However this funding has never been permanent, which has meant that every year teachers, families, the Australian Education Union and employer groups have needed to campaign for the next 12 months of funding to be secured. This has presented a lot of insecurity for the next year's timetable, for the jobs of teachers and educators and for families trying to organise their lives around their child's kindergarten hours. And of course, it is the children who will ultimately miss out if their kindergarten hours are cut.

3yo kindergarten has never been funded by either the State or Federal government. At the moment, only 15% of Victorian children attend 3yo kindergarten which means 85% of children are missing out on 3yo kindergarten. International research has shown that children who attend 2 years of kindergarten with a Degree qualified teacher do far better socially and academically once they begin school.

#### Why is this important?

As a teacher, I have seen children absolutely thrive at kindergarten. Having 15 hours per week of kindergarten has meant that there is more time to develop relationships with children. Knowing each child well is crucial for knowing how to teach each child. I also know that families are making difficult choices about whether they can afford to send their children to 3yo kindergarten or not.

It's not fair if 4yo kinder hours are cut- children will miss out and their education will suffer.

It's not fair if 3yo kinder is only accessible to children whose families can afford it- children are missing out and we know that 2 years of kindergarten provides the best foundation for children's learning and wellbeing.

#### What do we as a society need to happen?

We need:

- Permanent ongoing funding for 4yo kinder
- Funding for 3yo kinder to be established

#### What you can do?

There are a couple ways you could show your support for this:

1. The Parenthood has an online petition you can sign: [www.theparenthood.org.au/budget\\_2018](http://www.theparenthood.org.au/budget_2018)
2. You could call or email your State and Federal MPs about the benefits of kindergarten for your child/ren's learning and wellbeing and that you want two years of funded kinder for all children.

#### State MP:

Vicki Ward Ph.: 9439 1500 [vicki.ward@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicki.ward@parliament.vic.gov.au)

#### Federal MP:

Jenny Macklin 9459 1411 [jmacklin.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:jmacklin.mp@aph.gov.au)

Thank you for your support on this issue. We just want the best possible start for every child's education. Jo.



## Uniforms

### **Jumpers now available!**

\$35 each. Sizes 4 and 6 available. Please put correct money in an envelope with your name and size of jumper clearly labelled. Educators can help with the purchase of uniforms at any session.



## Fundraising

### Living Fundraiser Greeting Cards

Reminder that all payments and unsold cards are due back on the week of May 7th. Any cards not returned will be assumed to be bought and we will be requesting payment. There is no pressure to purchase the cards as we can return them free of charge to the company, however we do need them back.

If you have any problems, please contact us at [greenhills.kinder@gmail.com](mailto:greenhills.kinder@gmail.com)

### Picture Plates

Do you all remember those melamine plates you made at kinder, the one displaying your original artwork as a child? It may even still be displayed at your parent's house!

Well they are still making them, and we have decided to do a fundraiser.

Here is how it works:

1. Take home a template for the item you wish to order (see list of items and prices below)
2. Have your child create an original artwork on the template using lots of colour and creativity (draw to the edge but keep any names and dates at least 2cm from the edge as they may get trimmed in production). If they make a mistake you can

just grab another template. Remember you can order more than one item or multiples of the same items as gifts.

3. Return your template/s with full payment to kinder by **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May**
4. Payment may be made in the following ways (see below). Please note, in order to minimise delays in getting your order, attach your order form to your template and clearly indicate which payment option you have chosen so that we can cross-reference orders and payments.
  - a. Pay in cash with your template,
  - b. Pay through their online ordering service (A small processing fee applies) or
  - c. Pay via direct deposit into our kinder account (preferred)

BSB: 033 053

Account: 545224

Use your surname and 'picture' as the reference

### **Prices are as follows**

- Picture plate - \$28
- Picture clock – Large 25cm = \$32  
Small 20cm = \$28
- Water bottle – Large 600ml = \$28  
Small 400ml = \$22
- Mug - \$22
- Calendar – \$18
- Phone case – \$22
- Tablemat – \$22

Order forms have been placed in children's kinder pockets. If you need spare templates, please let us know.

### **Mother's Day flower stall**

Please see the flyer on the next page for details!



*Thanks everyone and enjoy the rest of Term 2!*

**The Fundraising Team**





**We are running a Mother's Day Flower Stall fundraiser at kinder this week**

**Our stall will be open during the Mother's day celebrations at kinder on:**

**Wednesday 9th May between 12pm - 2pm**

**and**

**Thursday 10th May between 10am - 12pm**

**Bunches will be \$10 each or 2 bunches for \$15**

**(Cash only, please try to bring exact change as there will be no EFTPOS facilities available)**

