



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

February 2019

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President's Report

Welcome to 2019 at Greenhills Pre School.

A fresh start for everyone, with many familiar and new faces around. For those returning, it feels familiar and like a second home, for new families can take a while to get into the swing of things. Where to sign in? How much food to pack? Do I need a change of clothes? Before you know it, everything becomes familiar, and the children are excited to get to kinder and see their friends, and of course their educators.

Greenhills is a beautiful kinder in the Greensborough community and is lucky to have such a long history, being opened in 1956 by local residents. The kinder is now run by ECMS, however, the committee which is made up of parents, work hard to raise money for important items which help to create a safe, educational fun environment for all of the children who attend.

This year our goal is to bring the families together and create a supportive and friendly community. Social events are a great way to help and support the kinder and to establish friendships with fellow parents.

If throughout the year there is anything you feel you can offer, whether it's some of your time or an item to donate, please don't hesitate to touch base with us.

Email is best: **greenhills.kinder@gmail.com**

If you are the owner of a local business it can also be a great way to promote yourself through donations for our raffles, or if you know someone who wants to be involved simply pass on our details.

The Welcome Picnic is on **Friday 1 March**, the perfect opportunity to meet and greet. See you all there!

Lauren Angel

President - Greenhills Committee 2019



IMPORTANT DATES



**Kinder Closed:
Wednesday 6th of March**

All Educators will be attending a Professional Development Day

**Welcome Picnic:
Friday 1st of March 5:30 – 7:30PM**

This is a lovely opportunity for families to mingle in a relaxed atmosphere while the children play. Please BYO picnic food and picnic rug to sit on.
See you there!

Reminders

- 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'.
- Please provide a family photo for our Greenhills community 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. Also please remember that we only have water bottles (not milk or fruit boxes).
- 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 (roster located near attendance book). We love having family members stay for a play and help out with any odd jobs.
- 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.



Notice Board

Are you a Telstra employee?

If so, please inform either Educators or committee as we may be able to access an Early Childhood grant with Telstra.

Do you like to sew?

We have some material that needs to be hemmed for use on our kinder tables. If you have a sewing machine and some spare time, please let us know.

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
- Stones
- Trays
- Buttons
- Ribbon
- Beads
- Wrapping paper / old cards

Box construction is becoming popular in our kinder studio, so please think of recycling your boxes by bringing them into kinder for our kinder friends to utilise (just remember not to include toilet rolls or any food boxes that have contained nuts).

Also we have lots of interest in playing with gadgets. So if you have any old keyboards, phones, walkie talkies, cameras and other gadgets please send them our way.

Educator's Report

Swift Parrots

Welcome to our 2019 Swift Parrot children and families.

We have had a busy start to our term meeting our new children, their families and settling in.

We have focused on becoming familiar with the environment, routines, and most importantly, the relationships we are beginning to form. Building and nurturing relationships with families and the community helps strengthen links between home, our kinder and the wider community.

Separating from family into the care of educators is a big milestone for many children. We aim to work closely with families to make the transition from home to kinder as smooth as possible. We encourage families to attend our welcome picnic as it is a great opportunity to further strengthen these links.



Learning experiences that the group have enjoyed and demonstrated an interest in included large block play, digging and making tracks in the sandpit, creating pretend food with the playdough and painting. These experiences have given children the opportunity to interact with peers and begin to establish friendships.

Routines around snack times, hand washing, hats outside, independence skills and arrival and home time offer ongoing learning. We have started to have a group meeting time where we

gather to sing, talk with our friends and enjoy a story. Songs the children have enjoyed include 'Fuzzy the clown', 'Imagination', 'Let's clap our hands' and 'The wheels on the bus'.



We look forward to shortly introducing our Swift Parrots to 'Meddy Teddy' and including some yoga into our day. We are always happy to have a chat after our home time procedure, so please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Roseanne and Debbie

Growling Grass Frogs

A very warm welcome to our 2019 children and families.

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.



At Greenhills Preschool 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, painting, bridge building and lots of role play.





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.

Fundraising

We are very excited to be holding our annual Easter raffle to raise funds for Greenhills preschool!



We are currently approaching local businesses to ask for donations to be put towards our raffle prizes.

If you are a small business owner or are able to donate a gift voucher or item that may be used towards our Easter hamper this year it would be very much appreciated.

**Please contact Rachel from the fundraising team on 0401 193 627
or rachelnardella84@gmail.com**



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!

Yours sincerely,
The Fundraising Team