



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

August 2019

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President's Report

PRESIDENTS REPORT AUGUST 2019

Only 2 more weeks of winter and we will be moving into warmer, more sunnier days.

On Saturday we had a working bee at the kinder and were so impressed with the turnout. Many families came along to do some jobs around the kinder including cleaning the outdoor kitchen and sand pit, planting lavender, tidying up indoors as well as much more. Thank you to everyone who came along, especially Emily, even in the pouring rain, this is so appreciated!

It seems this year we haven't had much success with weather for our events (too hot, too cold) but we are hoping for the upcoming Fire night on Friday August 30, we will be lucky! The fire night is such a great event for the kids and the families. This year we will have some soup and hot chocolate available to buy and all proceeds will be donated to the kinder.

Enjoy the rest of the season and we look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks, weather permitting!

Lauren Angel

President - Greenhills Committee 2019

Email: greenhills.kinder@gmail.com



IMPORTANT DATES



Community Fire Night

To be held on **Friday 30th August 5-7pm**

This is an opportunity to bring our kinder families together in a communal activity. The children who participated last year have been recalling events and are eagerly awaiting the following:

- The beginning of Spring
- The gorgeous lanterns that our children have created for our walk
- A time to have our Father's at kinder in recognition of Father's Day
- The sharing of yummy food prepared over the fire - such as marshmallows



Reminders

- **Parking reminder:** Families are reminded the turn circle area directly out front of kinder is a no standing zone. Banyule City Council infringement officers patrol this area on a regular basis and issue \$161 fines to vehicles standing in this zone. It's important we keep this area clear for emergency vehicle access to kinder and the adjoining reserve. We appreciate your co-operation in using the marked parking bays.
- If you have changed / updated enrolment information such as address, telephone and mobile numbers, email address – please provide staff with current information
- Please make sure you pack a warm jacket, beanie, gloves and gumboots and a spare change of clothes.
- Please help us keep everyone at kinder safe and healthy by keeping your child home if they are unwell.

Notice Board

Parents portal

To help the kinder run smoothly, we need parents to help with laundry and gardening. 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:

To sign up for a duty: 1. Go to our website: **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.

Thanks for your help

Snack boxes

Remember we are encouraging growing independence within our program – please pack your child's snack in a lunchbox / container that they can open and get out of their bag independently.

Some of the food packaging can also prove challenging and we would suggest that you trial the containers/lids with your child at home.

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

On our last day of term 2 we all enjoyed making gingerbread man cookies with Vinci, Ethan's mum. We are happy to say everyone had a turn in measuring, stirring, cutting and decorating. We also listened to the story the 'Gingerbread Man' before eating our delicious creations. Thank you to Vinci for all your patience and help.





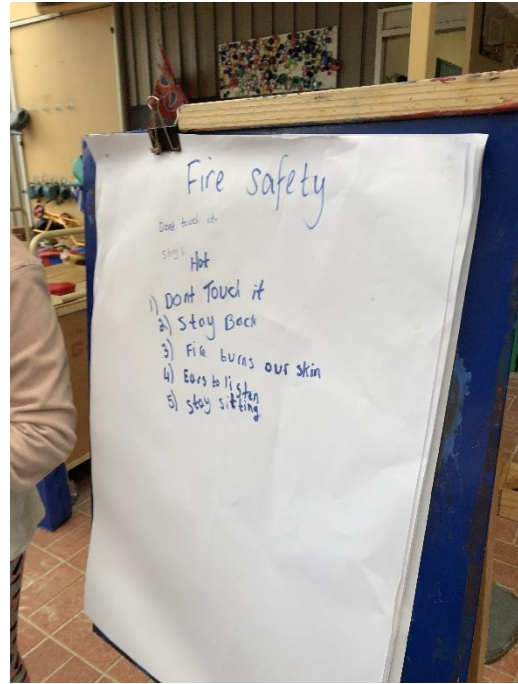
Group games such as 'doggy doggy' and the 'lycra song' have been introduced this term. These games help develop and improve skills such as listening, attention, turn taking, patience and co-operation. We have seen a great improvement in the abilities of our Swift Parrot friends to 'keep the surprise' regarding which friend is hiding the bone. Earlier in the year many of our friends found it too tempting and would call out '...s got the bone'. It's been wonderful to see the development of understanding of the game as well as the self-control to 'keep the surprise'.



We will be introducing our visits to Yandell reserve in the next few weeks. We are planning for some initial short visits that will include a song and a game. Our group will be engaging in nature play within a marked boundary. For our reserve visits to occur we need 3 parent volunteers and will put a list out closer to the date. We will have a risk management form available for parents to read and permission forms with more information will be distributed shortly.

If you have any questions regarding your child's progress in the program or your child's transition into a four-year-old program next year, please let us know. Roseanne will be happy to organise a time after session on Tuesday/Thursday to have a chat.

Swift Parrots have begun our preparations for our annual Greenhills Preschool fire night on Friday 30th August. On this night we will be having a fire at our kinder and sharing a walk around the edge of the reserve with our 4-year-old Growling Grass Frog friends. During our walk each child will be holding their own decorated lantern with a tea light candle. This month we had discussions as a group regarding what to expect for our fire night and fire safety. Below you can see our poster where we recorded children's ideas and knowledge regarding being safe around fire.



In the sandpit we started a small 'fairy fire' using leaves, branches and twigs the children had collected. It was wonderful to see and experience the 'hush' that came over the group as we watched the flame. We felt a great sense of togetherness as we sang our favourite songs. Everyone is eagerly awaiting our next 'fairy fire'.



If any families have jars they could donate for our lanterns, these would be much appreciated. Jars that have a wide mouth such as a salsa jar are ideal. Please let family/friends know so we can have enough for each child to participate.

Looking forward to seeing all our Swift Parrot families at fire night.

Roseanne & Debbie

Growling Grass Frogs

August already – the year is definitely starting to speed up!!



Keeping warm and cosy in our pyjamas, we recently enjoyed a couple of days at kinder watching movies, eating popcorn and snuggling up together. You may have noticed our new smart screen located in our kinder room (provided through an IT grant). Educators will be using the screen to access information for children, source relevant you tube videos and encourage children to display their own photos and create their own "movies."

At the end of term 2 the children made and sold vegetable soup to raise money to purchase a wedge mat for kinder – we raised \$230!!! Thank you to all the family members who helped by purchasing a cup of vegetable soup. Many friends have been practicing their gymnastic skills and we still have \$100 remaining to spend. We have been discussing some ideas and putting together our next wish list!

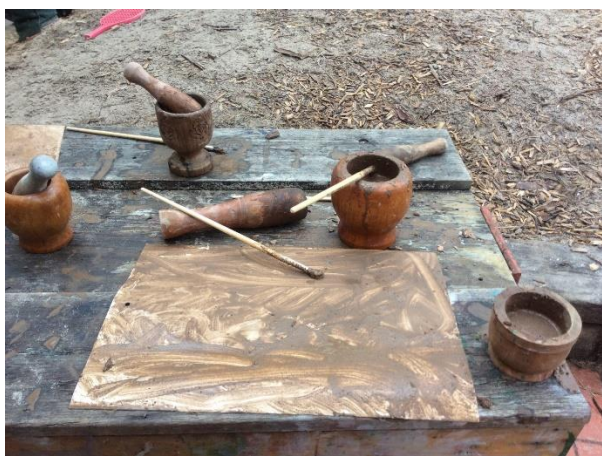


Also earlier this term we had Mia from St Helena High School join us for her work experience placement. It was lovely to watch the children extend on their growing social skills by welcoming a new face to the kinder environment. Later in the term we will have Erin and Stella working with us at Greenhills – both students are completing their Teaching studies and will join us for their final year placement experience.

We invited Uncle Trevor (Aboriginal elder) to kinder recently to share his Indigenous culture with us. We danced, sang, made ochre and learnt about the Aboriginal flag and some bush tucker.



Since the visit our kinder friends have been inspired to create their own ochre paint. We have seen ochre paint on paper, the outdoor cubby and used as face paint!



Thanks

Emily, Karen, Debbie and Carol

Fundraising

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Greenhills Preschool has been lucky enough to secure a place in the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on October the 27th!!! We are very excited as this is a fantastic opportunity for us to raise funds for our kinder and has been very successful in past years. We will be asking for help from families for donations of food items/time to assist on the day so please keep a look-out for these and help us to make this a successful event!!

Fire night

There will be delicious Soups, Hot chocolate, Marshmallows to toast and Glow-sticks available to on the night so please bring some cash if you would like to purchase any of these items. All money raised goes to Greenhills Pre-school. We ask also that you please bring a plastic mug if possible, for soups/hot choc to help reduce our waste.

Personalised Boomerang Bags

Boomerang Bags are made by volunteers from recycled or donated materials. It is a worldwide initiative set up to divert waste, start conversations and foster sustainable behaviour.

We have some blank bags that have been handmade especially for Greenhills Kinder. They fold small and snap shut, so are ready for when you need a bag!

Place an order and your child will decorate, creating a unique bag just for you.

Check out the sample bag on display

\$10

a bag

**Monies raised will
be split:**

\$8 to Greenhills Kinder

and \$2 to Greenhills
Neighbourhood House to
support their Boomerang
Bag Group



If you would like to order a bag, please place order slip and money in collection box.

PERSONALISED BOOMERANG BAG

Name: _____

Group: Swift Parrots / Growling Grass Frogs