



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

APRIL 2014

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

IN BRIEF...

PARENT HELPERS

If you come to help, could you please get in the habit of wearing one of our Helper nametags. You can find them in the office.

CAP PARKING SPACES

Please don't park in the No Standing zone at the front of the Kinder. This must be kept free for emergency services and easy movement for all cars. If there is a reason you are unable to walk from the car park, please let the educators know.

KINDER CLOTHING

Kinder jumpers are on sale! Get one cheap and say goodbye to the morning arguments about what to wear to Kinder!!

LATE COLLECTION POLICY

This year, Greenhills Preschool will be implementing a Late Collection Policy as a reminder to families that prompt pick-up of your child at the end of their Kinder session is required, otherwise an additional fee may be charged. It can be quite distressing to a child when they are waiting for their family member to arrive long after the other children in the group have left for the day.

President's Report

Welcome everyone to the end of Term 1! Oh how the weeks are flying by and we have gone from hats and sandals to beanies and scarves in a very short space of time!

Firstly, some thank yous. Our **Working Bee** was a great success, with a great deal of work done by the dedicated people who came and worked all morning to spruce up our Kinder. Special thanks to **Stuart Berick** who has taken on the role of 'Maintenance person' and was thrown in the deep end with the working bee. You did a top job Stuart!!

Thanks also to our **Fundraising Team** who have organised the Easter raffle and are constantly on the lookout for ways to raise funds for our Kinder. (Any ideas? Let them know!) The money raised each year by the team goes directly into the staff and children's 'Wish list'. Watch this space to find out where the raffle money is going!

In an article in the 'Melbourne's Child' magazine, I read something that reminded me of the Kinder's position at the forefront of '**Best Practice**'. In a UK study of 3000 children, it was demonstrated that

extended periods of play based education made a significant difference to learning and wellbeing through primary school years. It stated that considering the contribution of play to children's development and learning, the outcomes of beginning 'formal learning' later than 4 and 5 years of age are very persuasive. Know that you have made a great decision in sending your children to Greenhills!

Finally, our **Open Day** is coming up on May 3rd. Please let your friends know about our beautiful Kinder and tell them to come and see it for themselves on that day. Enjoy some extra time with your family these holidays Oh and some extra chocolate too. Any excess can be donated to our staff at any time!!!

*Kayte Kitchen,
President*

SAVE THE DATE

*Greenhills Preschool
Trivia Night Saturday,
June 14th
More info to follow!*

Educator's Report

It's amazing that we are at the end of Term 1! This term seems to have flown by. It's been wonderful to watch the children grow in confidence as they build warm and trusting relationships with Educators.

This year one of our kinder objectives is to make further links with people in our local community. Recently we had a visit from Marlies, Librarian from Diamond Valley Library and her dog Lachlan.

Marlies read some of her favourite story books to the children and we had the opportunity to pat the beautiful and very relaxed Lachlan. It was great to witness many children confidently interacting with our visitors and recognising Marlies and Lachlan from their visits to the library with their families.

If you know of any local community groups that you think would enhance and benefit our programme let us know..... We always look forward to welcoming new ideas.

Cultural competence and respect for diversity are an important part of the *Early Years Learning Framework*. We aim to provide children with examples of the many ways identities and culture are recognised and expressed.

"Educators recognise that diversity contributes to the richness of our society and provides a valid evidence base about ways of knowing." We are also aware that this includes "promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being" (EYLF, page 13)

To help us achieve respect for diversity Greenhills Preschool is a member of the FKA – multicultural resource centre where we continually borrow a range of early childhood multi cultural resources. This term we have introduced different languages to children, in the Growling Grass Frogs our friend Alyssa has taught us a song in Italian and Isabella's Mum Louisa has read us a story book in Greek. Throughout our kinder environment we have introduced some Aboriginal dreamtime stories, music and other materials to the children in our play spaces to ensure an awareness of different cultures is embedded in our program. The Swift Parrots enjoyed using Clapping Sticks to play along while singing 'Twinkle, twinkle little star' and exploring the many ways you can use the sticks as instruments.



Indigenous resources borrowed from FKA set up for children to explore.



We would love it if you could send along any objects that are important to your family's culture for the children to share next term.

We have sent your child's journal home for you to read over the holiday period. The children are very excited to share their special books with their family. To promote and enhance our partnerships with families we encourage you to add to your child's journal. We have provided areas for you to contribute ideas and suggestions and to also provide some insights and perspectives about your child. Please return the journals to kinder after the holidays for us to add further documentation as the year progresses.

We wish all our kinder families a wonderful term break!

Happy Easter

Jo, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey

Fundraising Report: EASTER RAFFLE

Greenhills Pre-School would like to thank all of the businesses (see over the page) for their generosity and support.

We are so pleased to announce that **there were 27 happy winners** for our fabulous prizes!

Thanks to all the families that participated. **Ethan McDonald** won the Jenny Macklin Chocolatier hamper for his 86 tickets sold. He took this challenge very seriously and set up a little shop at his dad's business and captured the heart of those getting Fish n Chips on Friday night Greenhill Road. The raffle raised over \$1000 for the Pre-School and we are looking forward to all the new resources.



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EASTER RAFFLE

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