



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

February 2014

Reminder TERM 1 KINDERGARTEN FEES ARE NOW DUE

Current Needs within the Kinder Community

The kinder has been fortunate to have been donated three older working laptops. However, we are in need of **someone gifted in IT**, who is able to look at the three of them, see which one is the best and get it set up for use by the educators. Anyone who is gifted in that way, please let the educators know!

If anyone knows of someone with a background in **permaculture or sustainable landscape gardening**, we are in need of a master plan for our kinder grounds. We have some funds available to allocate to this area of our Kinder maintenance so it wouldn't need to be a voluntary role. Again, please let an educator or committee member know if you know someone.

Special Thanks to...

Lisa Chambeyron, Naomi Warden, Jackie McDonald, Adam Erratt and Andrew Kitchen for their help in filling up our sandpit to a safer level last Friday.

President's Report

Hello everyone and welcome to our first newsletter for 2014! It is lovely to see both new and familiar faces around the kinder as we embark on what is going to be an exciting year. Like the children, we too as parents have a lot of information to take in, particularly if this is your first experience at Greenhills. This newsletter is packed with lots of things to remember, so grab a cuppa and take a deep breath, and enjoy!

We have two new staff members this year, **Jo** and **Tracey**, who along with **Emily**, **Stephanie** and **Karen** have put in an enormous effort to transform the kinder into the beautiful, welcoming environment that it was on the first day, in only a couple of days. So thank you very much staff and well done.

I would like to encourage all parents to sign up to help at the Kinder in some way. Many Kinders make it compulsory for parents to help. At Greenhills, we would prefer parents to feel free to help as much as you can, understanding that for some, this is difficult. With the longer session times for 4 year olds, please feel free to stay for however long you can. If you can only stay for 1 or 2 hours, that is great! And if there is already a name on the day you want to help, add yours. Better to have lots of helpers doing small amounts of time, than a few doing it all. Any help is appreciated and you can either enjoy spending time with your child, or help the teachers with their

tasks or preparations.

Speaking of needing help, unfortunately our maintenance person has had to step down and so we are in need of someone to fill that role. It might involve some small tasks but mainly involves organizing two working bees for the year and liaising with council or tradies when the need arises (which isn't very often). You don't have to attend every committee meeting although it is helpful. Please contact a committee member or an educator if you are available. It really is vital that we have someone in this role.

*Kayte Kitchen,
President*

In Brief...

The *parent resource area* is located outside in between the couches and the clock, so please have a browse when you have a few moments before a session ends. There is plenty of information there on a wide range of topics and if you have any parenting resources you don't use anymore, we are always looking to update our collection.

The council have sent through this link regarding safety in the car. Please read it carefully.

[http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcv2pdf.nsf/ByPDF/Child_safety_in_the_car/\\$File/Child_safety_in_the_car.pdf](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcv2pdf.nsf/ByPDF/Child_safety_in_the_car/$File/Child_safety_in_the_car.pdf)

Some Helpful Information

We have a *Family Liaison Officer* on the committee who is your point of contact if you have any concerns that need to be addressed at a committee level. If you have something you would like taken to the committee meeting, you can contact Jennifer Griffin either personally or through the kinder webpage.

If you bring a payment to kinder, the *money box* is located next to the office door.

If your *child is unwell*, please call the kinder on 9434 3379. You can leave a message on the answering machine if the office is unattended.

Please also check the *gardening and laundry rosters* for term 1 and fill in your name where possible. The key for gardening duties and a list of what to do is located on the storeroom door.

Where possible, we prefer children to *bring water* as their drink each day.



Educator's Report

Welcome to all of our new and existing families to Greenhills Preschool 2014.

It has been a very busy start to the year and we are delighted at how quickly children are settling in to the Kindergarten program. It's a time for the children to become familiar with their kinder environment, routines, expectations, new faces and names and they are all doing an exceptional job within both the 3 and 4 year old programs! It has been remarkable to already witness children helping others, slowly placing trust in their educators and developing friendships.

Over the last couple of weeks the educators have had the opportunity to observe children's strengths and skills and begin to form relationships with all our kinder friends. It is important to us to build warm, emotional relationships during this period as we know they are the foundation for helping children develop a sense of security and belonging.

We are currently in the process of organising each child's kinder journal. The journals are an interactive way to share our understanding of your child's learning and development. Just a reminder to please just look at your own child's journal as there are privacy issues we need to take into consideration. The journals will be located on the shelves beneath the sign in book. Also please take note that our program book is located outside, on the bookcase, just before you walk into the room. Please have a look through our group learning book as it contains the group goals we have set for the term, learning stories and reflections. Please feel free to write a comment in the family sections. We love to get feedback.

In both the Swift Parrot group and Growling Grass Frog group the children are enjoying gathering together for "meeting time" We use this time to discuss different ideas, routines and safety rules. Children are encouraged and provided with opportunities to feel empowered, to be an active member of their community as they share their ideas and thoughts. Another gathering time takes place at the end of the session where we sing some songs and read a story.

At Kinder we use many recycled resources to enable the children to create their beautiful masterpieces, to play imaginary games, to use in the sandpit and outdoor kitchen and many more experiences. Thank you to our families for all their donations and contributions to kinder. It is much appreciated.

Maybe you or a family member works in an industry that would be able to provide us with some materials. Here are some ideas:

- Builder - Off cuts of small timber for hammering
- Printing Company - Off cuts of paper, card, stickers etc
- Packaging Company - Polystyrene plates, trays, boxes etc
- Plumber - Small pieces of PVC pipe for sandpit and digging patch.
- Other things we can use every day are envelopes, stickers, old cards, corks, wrapping paper, beads, old computer disks, old keyboards, bottle tops, ribbon, buttons, material, scarves, small boxes for pasting, straws, paper plates, baskets and glass jars.

So before you throw anything out, please consider that we might be able to use it. If you do set yourself the task of collecting for us, then it would be most appreciated if you could make sure everything is cleaned and washed and suitable for the children to use.

Other donations we are currently seeking include:

- Potted plants
- Huge cardboard boxes
- Mirrors
- Plastic display pockets for use in the children's journals
- Pebbles/glass nuggets



A few reminders....

- Please have your children arrive at kinder with sunscreen on as well as a sun hat throughout term 1 and 4
- 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
- We ask parents when packing your child's lunchbox, that eggs and nuts are **not** included. We have serious allergies that exist at kinder and would like to avoid any risk. If you are a parent on duty, it is also important that you become familiar with the information on our 'Health & Safety Information' notices (found on our bathroom wall).

Thank you for your support and help so far. 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, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey



We can't wait to see you all at the **Welcome Picnic** which will be held on

Thursday 27th February 5.30pm – 7.00pm

See you there!

Fundraising Report

Welcome to Greenhills 2014!

The Fundraising Committee have started this year with a bang!

You should all have received a Find Marketing Banyule voucher booklet in your child's Mail pocket. We require your donations for this booklet by Friday 28 Feb in the Returns Box next to the office door. If you would like to give friends and family a booklet, you can order another (Banyule or Whittlesea Shire) for \$14 by returning the slip to the Returns box as well.

We are also having a Family Picnic on Thursday 27th February. Some fun activities will be available for small change – so bring along some cash and join in. We are hoping to have a face painter, lucky dip, count the marbles, etc.

The members of the Fundraising committee are new to the job. We want to provide fun activities and good quality products that are value for money. We welcome any feedback regarding ideas for fundraising- what you think will work or what doesn't. Email us or leave a note (or fliers) in our in tray in the office.

Thanks so much for your support!

