



"learning through play"

Greenhills Gazette

JULY 2014

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Save the date:

Friday 12th September 5-7pm

Educators have been reflecting on the success of our Fire Walk night last year and would like to invite you to our 2014 Community Fire Walk event.

This celebration is planned to celebrate a number of things;

- * Gathering as a kinder community
- * Father's Day
- * The beginning of Spring

Children will be making lanterns to use on the night walk through the reserve. We will enjoy spending time around the fire pit toasting bread and marshmallows.....

Please bring into kinder a recycled glass jar for your child to decorate for this event.

President's Report

Welcome back to Term 3 everyone!

I hope that you all had a lovely holiday and were able to enjoy some of that beautiful winter sun that seems to be trying shine almost every day. This term is going to be a great one with photos, incursions and the beginning of the transition process for the 4 year olds. It won't be long before they will be wearing school uniforms!

I would like to thank all of the mums and dads who have been part of the helping roster last term. Whether you are helping at the kinder, on the laundry or gardening roster, it all adds up to a kinder that runs smoothly and feels beautiful for the children.

Did you know that our kinder has two Facebook pages? Have you liked them both? The **Greenhills Preschool** page has general information for our Kinder community and other interested people. The **fundraising** page has more specific information relevant to this year's community going through. It is a great way to stay informed and support the businesses that support our Kinder.

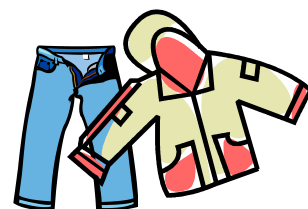
Our Committee is still looking for someone to take over the role of 'Grants' for the remainder of this year and possibly into next year if you are around. If you have any experience in this area or are good at writing, please let the educators know. It isn't an overly time consuming role however it is a very significant one for getting extra funding for 'non essentials' at our Kinder. And the educators love spending money on our children!!

Also on the subject of the committee, we have a 'Committee' folder in the office containing a description of each of the roles of the committee. If you are interested in finding out more about a particular role, please feel free to have a look at the descriptions when you can or talk to a current committee member. It is a good time to ask some questions and think about what role you could play at the kinder in 2015.

And finally, our Kinder is being assessed by the Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development in the middle of August. This is something they are doing at every Kinder over many years and we have been waiting for our turn for two years! There is a great deal of work for the educators to do to prepare our Kinder for this assessment. If you have any time between now and then, could you please ask the educators what you can do to help them?

Enjoy the rest of your newsletter,

*Kayte Kitchen,
President*



In Brief:

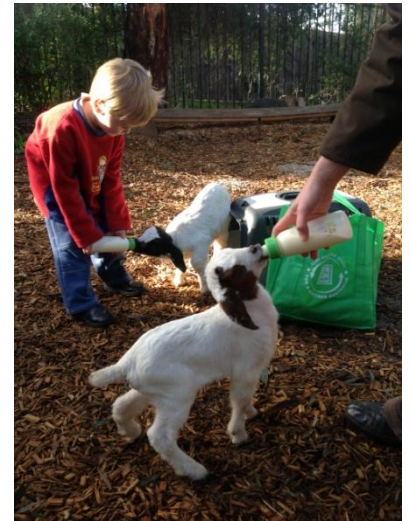
Please remember to put in a spare pair of clothing for your children, **especially** if they enjoy playing with water or dirt!

Kinder photo orders due back by
Monday, August 4th

Educator's Report

A big welcome back to all our families for Term 2 at Greenhills. We have had a wonderful start to our term with an amazing excursion to **Edendale Farm**. It was lovely to see so many of our parents able to volunteer and participate with the children. This excursion was chosen as it will reinforce Greenhills sustainable practices and foster the children's interest in and care of our environment. It has also helped link our community with a very significant place within our wider community. Edendale Farm is a great place to see animals and sustainable practices in action every day of the week. You can find out all about what is offered at - <http://www.edendale.vic.gov.au/>

The Swift Parrots were also visited by some very cute animals when Mattie and his family brought their 'kids' to kinder. Namely Patches and Blackie!

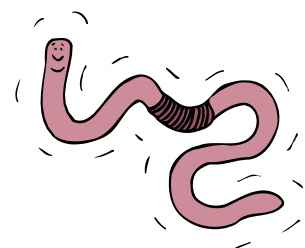


Excursion to Edendale Farm

Both the Growling Grass Frog group and the Swift Parrot group enjoyed visiting Edendale Farm recently. The children participated in the preschool programs led by the Educational Officers at the farm.

We had the opportunity to explore worms and dig for mini beasts, participate in an environmental art activity and practise sorting rubbish, helping to reinforce messages about recycling.

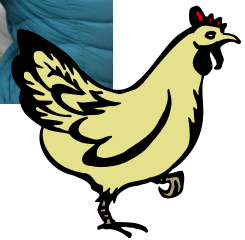
Juanita: "I found a big grown up worm"
Annika: "I loved the art"
Arlen: "I liked playing the rubbish game"
Jai: "I liked feeding the chickens"
Georgette: "I liked everything"



The Swift Parrots participated in the Art activity and Wonderful Worms led by Diane. The children loved using flowers and leaves to create a print on their very own bag. When we had finished we held them up and they were all very different.



Next we learnt all about worms, fed the chickens and visited all the other animals on the farm.



Why is road safety education important?

Children and young people are at significant risk on our roads. Road trauma is the leading cause of death and the second most frequent cause of hospitalisation among children in Australia. (World Health Organisation, 2008). We all need to learn to use the road responsibly. There is evidence that children start learning about the road system from a very early age and that this can lead to safer behaviours in life. Road safety education plays an important role in shaping the attitudes and behaviours of children and young people – ensuring they become responsible drivers, passengers and cyclists. For more information, visit roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au



Towards the end of last term **ThingleToodle** came to visit the Growling Grass Frog children. This fun and interactive presentation had the children and educators both captivated and entertained. Our sessions led by presenter Professor Eric Speriment, featured educational songs and activities to support children's learning about road safety. The children were very excited to meet ThingleToodle the VicRoads road safety mascot who appears in television commercials funded by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

The children helped teach the forgetful ThingleToodle important road safety messages before helping ThingleToodle celebrate his 4th birthday.

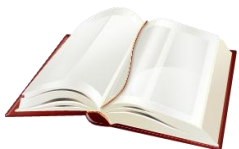
Upcoming Incursion

This term has seen lots of interest in puppet shows and performances. Children are enjoying taking on the roles of puppeteers, dancers, singers and actors. Children are also learning what it means to be part of an audience and what's involved in working "backstage" to prepare for the show.



*To extend on this interest we have booked John from
Don't Move Puppet Theatre
to perform puppet shows for all our kinder friends on
Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th August*

Journals



We hope you enjoyed sharing your child's journal with them over the break. If you haven't already returned it to kinder please do. The 'Family Reflection' you have provided have been a joy to read and we thank you for your positive, interesting and helpful thoughts.

Bathroom Renovation

To ensure children feel a sense of privacy at kinder when using the bathroom we have had a new wall divider and small self closing doors installed. You may have noticed our newly constructed bathroom cubicles; if not make sure you take a look. The children and educators are very happy with the design and would like to thank Zack Hammonds Pop, Gary (from Gary Mac Projects) for our new installation.



Photo Orders

Please ensure you have collected your child's order form and photo proofs from kinder. Orders need to be returned to kinder no later than **Monday 4th August.**

Donations

At the moment we are in need of:

- Tea light candles
- Plastic pockets for journals
- Reams of paper for photocopying
- Bricks (the children have enjoyed building with our limited supply of bricks), logs, pebbles, rocks and stumps

We would love the following donations for

our **“tinkering area”**

- Remote controls
- Old toys
- Hairdryers
- Cassette players
- Screws
- Nails
- Dvd players / videos

Have a rummage through the shed, your spare room and kitchen drawers.....
Remember your “trash” is our kinder “treasure”



Rosters

Rosters are on display for this term, so please help us out with Laundry (Swift Parrots), Gardening (Growling Grass Frogs) and as a Parent helper by choosing a date that suits.

Thank you,

Jo, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey

Stop! Look! Listen! Think!

At our service, the children have been introduced to the road safety ideas of stopping, looking, listening and thinking.

However they need the important adults in their lives to provide them with plenty of supervised practice in the real road environment to help develop their understanding of these ideas.

Walking and talking together with your children is a great way to help develop their skills in the road environment. Try these activities:

Stop!

- Show them how some traffic can take a long time to stop.
- Watch traffic stopping at road signs or crossings. Show your children that traffic doesn't always come to a complete stop and it is important to always check that traffic has stopped completely before crossing the road.

Look!

- Look for vehicles reversing from driveways. Talk about the 'clues' that tell you that a vehicle might appear. For example, people waving goodbye, something moving, exhaust fumes, reversing lights or a beeping sound.
- Point out the traffic signs, signals and road markings and talk about what they each mean.

Listen!

- Does a car and truck sound the same?
- Do some vehicles sound fast or slow?
- Are some vehicles harder to see and hear?

Think!

- Do you think we have time to cross the road?
- Do we have a long way to walk to cross the road?
- Have you looked everywhere for traffic?

For more information, visit
roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au



Starting Out Safely