



*"learning through play"*

# Greenhills Gazette

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

## VOTE FOR GREENHILLS PRESCHOOL!

Our Kinder is in the running to win \$5000 towards a bigger veggie patch, hand water pump and rainwater tank. See Fundraising section for more details, or click the link below to be taken to the voting page. Voting closes October 5th!

<http://competitions.backtoearth.vic.gov.au/entries/a-sustainable-and-child-managed-water-supply-for-childrens-play-awesome-working-veggie-patch/>

## REMINDERS

Please be respectful of parking restrictions in the car park. We share our car park with several other groups and it is important not to park in disabled or 'No Standing' zones.

If you are here at the kinder next year, please consider a role on our Committee. Information can be found in the office or by chatting with a current member. It is a great way to stay informed, have a say and be part of a great community. Your role can be big or small, it's up to you.

## President's Report

Welcome to our last newsletter for Term 3!!

*Well, we did it!* After two years of anticipation and preparation by three committees and 10 different staff members, our kinder was finally assessed.

It has been an enormous amount of work, particularly for our current group of staff and committee, but it was all worth the effort. We have achieved the highest rating a kinder can achieve. Thanks must go to the staff who have gone over and above to achieve this rating and to have some proof on paper of what our community already knows: **Our kinder is an awesome place for our children to be embarking on their educational journey.**

I hope those of you who were able to attend the Community Fire Walk had a fabulous time. The effort and energy the educators put into making that night so special was evident on the night with such a successful event. Last year it made such an impression on my own son that we ended up buying our own fire pit and having our own family night regularly during this past year.

We have several opportunities for family involvement coming up in the

final term this year so please get involved where you can:

**October 12** is our next working bee to prepare the kinder for the upcoming AGM. There is also our **Bunnings BBQ** and the **Bicycle Victoria Bike Count** as well as the regular Laundry and Gardening rosters to help with as well.

In case you were wondering what is involved in the **Gardening Roster**, all it involves is a sweep of the bricks around the sandpit and rake across the sand. You can do this anytime over the weekend and all the equipment is on site in the equipment cupboard.

Well, enjoy your holidays and the start of Term 4. It will be final day celebrations and goodbyes before you know it so enjoy the special moments when you can.

*Kayte Kitchen,  
President*

## IN BRIEF

The blackboard or 'Information Hub' is where you will find important information. Please take the time to scan the info up there so you keep up to date with all that is happening for you and your child.

Term 4 is **hat wearing** time again. Please remember to get it out and pack it on the first day.



## *Educator's Report*

### Community Fire Walk

Practice Principle: Family-centred practice.

We love providing warm, welcoming opportunities like our Fire Walk last Friday for families, educators and children to come together. What fun it was to cook marshmallows and toast with our special toasting sticks. Spend time with our friends and family and then head off with our own lanterns on our night walk.

Big thanks to **Liz Decesare** for organising the toasting bread, **Sophie McPhan** for the firewood and **Lisa Chambeyron** for the loan of the mosquito zapper. A massive thankyou also to our 'Fire Master' **Johnny** (Stephanie's stepson), who did a magnificent job not only lighting but supervising the fire.



*Swift Parrot family members have shared their expertise in the last few weeks:*



Rachel (**Liam's** Mum) assisting the children to make 'Bliss Balls'. They particularly enjoyed using the food processor!



Chris (**Kai's** Dad) who is a Firefighter came to visit and along with Jo we spoke about his work and safety around our fire pit. This was a great preparation for our Fire Walk and our choosing of the toasting stick!



Kate (**Evie's** Mum) provided recycled and natural resources for the children to make faces. This was a wonderful extension to our 'Reserve' walks and our focus on sustainability within our program.

## Venturing into the Reserve

The Swift Parrots have been taking trips out into the adjoining Andrew Yandell Reserve with great enthusiasm. We have had stories, walks, lots of listening and many parent helpers. Our children already benefit from long periods of open ended activities in an outdoor environment and expanding that to include the reserve is the natural extension of our program. This is being done in partnership with the local Rangers and of course our parents.

We are very excited about introducing this to the children and look forward to many interesting journeys.



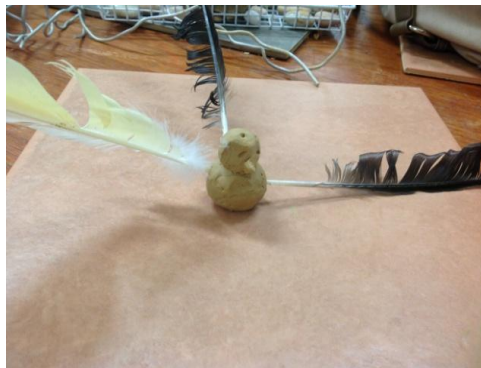


The Growling Grass Frogs have also started their ventures into the reserve. In discussions with the children some of their favourite parts so far include “collecting gum leaves”, “exploring”, seeing all the beautiful things in the reserve” and “hearing all the birds” We look forward to venturing out to the reserve more frequently in Term 4.

### Student Teachers

We currently have **Jeannette Dreier-Putland** (Deakin - Bachelor) and our very own **Stephanie Trow** ( Diploma) doing placements here as part of their studies. We have just said goodbye to **Clara Nickson** (RMIT - Bachelor) who was here for 4 weeks. Greenhills is a very sought after Kindergarten for student placements and our children, the educators, the profession and the Kinder community benefit from their time with us. They allow us to reflect on our practice as we guide them, bring fresh ideas, provide one on one time with the children and promote our program to their institutions. They all comment on how welcome they feel and how much they enjoy our program and children.

In the Growling Grass Frog Group many friends have been exploring and sculpting with the clay. Clay is very different from play dough, it comes from the earth and is organic. Children have slowly been building a relationship with the clay exploring how it can be manipulated, what can be added and the many ways in which it can be used. We have seen some wonderful and inspiring clay creations from our Kinder friends.



*To help extend on the children's current interest in pottery we would love for a local potter to come to kinder and share their skills & knowledge..... Do you know someone who may be interested?*

### Supporting Children's Transitions

In looking ahead to term four Educators are beginning to plan and reflect on strategies to help support children and families through transition periods. Swift Parrots moving into the Growling Grass Frog Group and our current GGF friends transitioning into the school environment.

#### **What does effective transition look like?**

A combination of approaches and processes is required to support effective transition which is achieved when:

- Respectful, trusting and supportive relationships are maintained among all those working with children and their families
- Information about the children is well understood, shared and valued
- Children have the opportunity to have their say about what is important to them
- Process are adapted in response to the local community
- Children and families who require additional support are identified early, and support is planned and delivered through a collaborative approach

*Early Years Learning Framework, pg 33*

Look out for further updates and information next term about ways we will be helping with your child's next transition in their learning journey.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday.

*Jo, Emily, Karen, Stephanie and Tracey.*

## From the Fundraising Team

*Congratulations to Greenhills Pre-School.*

A sustainable and child managed water supply for children's play + awesome working veggie patch is in the running to win up to \$5000 of assistance from the Back to Earth Initiative. Voting opens on Tuesday 16 September and closes Sunday 5 October.

You can vote ONCE per day but this also means that you can vote every day during this period. Spread the news, share with your social networks and our Kinder can be in the running to spruce up its outdoor space with a rainwater tank, hand water pump and larger vegetable garden!



**To vote and read about in more detail what this project will offer our Kindergarten, see link below:**

<http://competitions.backtoearth.vic.gov.au/entries/a-sustainable-and-child-managed-water-supply-for-childrens-play-awesome-working-veggie-patch/>



## Our Ongoing Fundraising

If you need any labels for clothing - for a new drink bottle or some new clothes as everyone is growing up so quick. Please use **Stuck On You Labels**. The Kinder receives up to 20% commission for each purchase by Kinder families. Enjoy some new designs and some options for bags and lunch boxes. You will need to use the code **GREENHILLSPRESCHOOL** during the order process for the Kinder to benefit. Thank you.

Remember the **Scholastic Book Club Catalogue** that comes out each month - look out for the great bargains, always a \$2 or \$1 special. I picked up 5 birthday presents through one \$2 special - hard cover book with a CD when the RRP was \$16.95. Make sure you have a look - cash, cheque or online credit card. A huge thanks to Pauline who keeps this going and 20% of sales goes directly to the Kinder getting more books.

