



## President's Report

A big welcome & welcome back to all our 2018 Diamond Hills families. I hope all our Koala, Possum & Wombat children are finding the adventure that is Kinder exciting. Our Penguin & Platypus children have already been creating some colourful artwork to decorate the room. We are so lucky to have Annmaree, Brenda, Bron, Kim, Kyla, Nicole & Tania back again educating our children and we also welcome Christine to the team. It's been a very busy start to the year and a lot to catch everyone up on!

Firstly, a massive thank you to Sherwood Constructions who have done an amazing job with our extension and renovation works. Work started the week before Christmas and is nearing completion. We now have a library/quiet space, a big new storeroom, revamped bag area, larger office, children's sink, improved waste management space, walk in pantry, cleaners room, change area & modified bathroom, as well as moving the second door, painting and much more. To achieve so much and to such a high standard, in such a short space of time has been amazing. The teachers also did a great job ensuring that everything was set up and ready for the first day. These renovation & extension works have been nearly 10 years in the making and to see stages 1 and 2 nearly finished is very exciting. More details on stage 3 in the coming months.

It was great to see so many new and existing families at the AGM. Thank you to the 2017 Committee for all their hard work last year, as well as the effort put into making the handover process as smooth as possible.

Thank you all of the teachers and 8 families that put in so much effort at the Working Bee last Sunday. A lot of jobs got ticked off the list. To everyone who has volunteered for this year's committee, sub-committee and as part of our 2018 Diamond Hills Community Project already, thank you too. As part of our 2018 Community Project it would be appreciated if each family could volunteer within our Kinder community during the year. There are still quite a few activities available to sign-up to and you will find all the info at [www.volunteersignup.org/A8LH4](http://www.volunteersignup.org/A8LH4).

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It's easily forgotten that without volunteers community Preschools like ours would not be able to continue running without major fee increases or levies. Our kinder community is part of what makes Diamond Hills so special.

One of our environmental goals this year is to go paperless when possible. As such you will get newsletters, most notices and reminders via email and our Facebook. I would encourage you to join our Facebook families group if you haven't already ([www.facebook.com/groups/diamondhillspreschool](http://www.facebook.com/groups/diamondhillspreschool)) and to also like our public Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/DiamondHillsPreschoolVIC](http://www.facebook.com/DiamondHillsPreschoolVIC)).

There is also a Committee section on the notice boards near the main door (next to the photo pockets). It has a calendar with key dates, information flyers and a list of committee members. Some of the key dates include

- Welcome Night – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Fees Due Dates
- Family Photos Fundraiser - Save the Date – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- Trivia Night - Save the Date – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August
- BBQ Fundraiser – Save the Date – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October
- School Holiday

The Welcome Night is a great night for the whole family and we would love to see all our families there. The kids love showing their parents around, as well joining in all the activities including a sing along session with Jacie Gee. It's also a great opportunity for our parents & carers to meet some of the other families. The kinder BBQ will be fired up for a sausage sizzle or you can BYO dinner. Don't forget your picnic rug.

If you know anyone who is looking at sessional preschool please let them know about Diamond Hills. We still have places available in our 3 and 4 year programs. We will be open on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February between 10am-1pm as part of the Nillumbik & Banyule Preschool Open Day. We also welcome tours and inquiries during the week.

Lastly, next week our Fundraising & Events team will be handing out our Term 1 major fundraiser, Cadbury chocolates. If you require any additional boxes or have any questions please don't hesitate email [fundraising.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:fundraising.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au).

I look forward to meeting all our new families, as well as catching up with last years families at the Welcome Night in a few weeks. Feel free to introduce yourself if you see me at kinder. I'm Alexis (Penguin) and Jacob's mum and I'm usually at Penguin pickup on a Thursday and Friday. You can also email me at [president.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:president.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Cheers,  
Nikki Reid



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## Platypus Report February 2018

We would like to welcome all our families to Diamond Hills. We hope that you will find this year a fun and memorable one as you start your child's learning journey with us.

The Platypus children have started the year positively, settling in well in their first week. One of our main aims for the beginning of the year is to help the children gain a sense of belonging in their new environment. At this time of year, we begin to work towards the children feeling confident, establishing their sense of wellbeing and to help them gain a sense of identity within the group. One of the ways that we ask you to help if you haven't already, is to bring in a photo of your family, ASAP.

The children LOVE having their family on display.

The children began attending full time sessions on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February. They are learning and adapting to the routine and structure of kinder. This includes learning our rules that are aimed at keeping everyone safe. This is a time of adjustment for the children as they learn what is acceptable and what isn't. We do have lots of discussions on this topic and at any time if you have any queries please ask.

One of the ways that we get to know the children in this early stage is through their interests. They have so far showed an interest inside in imaginative play, play dough, construction, the train set and painting. The children have also been very interested in being introduced to our pets especially Turtle. Outdoors has seen an interest in water play especially in their sand play, watering the garden, using the flying fox and the swings. The program reflects the interests that the children are displaying and where our learning is centered. This of course will alter as the children's interests change. It is also made up of adult guided and led experiences.





## Platypus Report Continued

It is very important that every child brings a recognized SUN SMART hat to kinder EACH SESSION to wear. Even on cloudy days it is vital that they still have a hat to wear.

Please make sure that their hats are clearly named.

It is great to see that so many of our parents are choosing healthy options for their child's snack and lunch at kinder. We do very much promote healthy eating and we ask that you keep 'treats' to a minimum or for having at home. It is also great to see so many of you following 'nude' food (no packaging) as this assists in cutting down on our rubbish. We do promote and teach the children about sustainability and taking care of our environment.

There is a helping roster out by the sign in book and we would love a family member to try and come to kinder and spend some time with their kinder child.

This is a great way of seeing how your child 'operates' in a group with 25 other children all of the same age. There is NO commitment on the time that you spend at kinder with us. Even if you only have a short time to stay we do appreciate this. A Gardening Roster will soon be distributed via your child's pocket. If you have any questions regarding this, please just ask. The first half of the year sees the Platypus group doing the Gardening with the Penguin group taking over when we finish.

At kinder we have 2 special kinder friends (River and Splash) The children take it in turns to take one of our special friend's home. The way that we choose who will take one of the friend's home is that we go down the list of children's names. This ensures that everyone has an equal amount of turns but it also means that everyone has to be patient as it does take quite a long time for each child's turn to come around. Each child will get to take both River and Splash home throughout the year. They loved to be cuddled, have stories read to them and be snuggled in bed. There is no expectation on journal writing etc. they just go home for the experience and to help establish a link between kinder and home. This will start over the next week or two.

If at anytime you have anything that you would like to share with us, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Please remember if you have any query at anytime no matter how small, please ask. Remember email is a great way to communicate.

Kyla, Nicole and I are looking forward to a great year.





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## Penguin Report

February 2018

Welcome' and 'welcome back' to our children, staff and parents. Bronwen, Brenda and Kim warmly welcome you to the Penguin group of 2018. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone and

sharing in lots of incredible learning and fun with your child.

We are so excited about our new renovations to the kinder. There are still a few things to finalise, so the shipping container will be in the car park for a few months.

For those of you who are new to Diamond Hills, we hope you have a positive and rewarding experience with us and that you will make lots of new friendships and experience many memories to treasure. It was great to catch up with everyone at our interviews. We hope that you felt welcome and informed. It was lovely to meet our new families and to catch up with our familiar ones! Please remember to contact us if you have any queries. We don't offer scheduled parent-teacher interviews throughout the year; but I am very happy to make a time with you if you wish to catch up about your child's progress or any concerns you may have. Your Kinder roster session is a great opportunity to catch up with your child's teachers also. Make sure you join up to Kinderloop and receive posts about the program and your child. The television facing the verandah also has weekly photographs of the children's experiences. You will also receive a 'transition' report in November and a usb of the year's photos in December.

The Penguin group has had a great start to the year and are enthusiastic, social and busy. We currently have a group of 25 children and we are really enjoying getting to know each and every one of them. (we have 1 space left if anyone knows of a family requiring a 4 year old position. The children are settling in really positively and are forming relationships with their teachers, renewing past acquaintances and making new friends. The children have been productive and enthusiastic and keen to experience a variety of learning activities. We have kept these experiences reasonably simple at this stage of the year to promote the children's confidence in themselves and their environment. It is important to offer the children certain experiences repeatedly, as research shows that this repetition is how children's brain develops and skills are, mastered/improved.

The initial weeks of our kinder program are aimed at making the children feel happy and secure in their new environment, building relationships with staff and encouraging them to participate in the sessions' routine – this is an important time to encourage and foster that sense of Belonging which underpins the Early Years Learning and Development Framework.





## Penguin Report Continued

We are displaying family photos in the play room to promote the children's sense of belonging and comfort in this environment. It is a lovely way to get to know the children and for the children to share their loved ones with their peers. We will also be introducing a folder for the children to sign in each day as well, just like their parents! This also builds their sense of belonging, identity and of course early literacy skills. (We know not all children can write their name; but they can 'pretend' or put the first letter of their name)



Cultural diversity is an important principle and practice in early childhood education and is an important part of a child's sense of belonging. As I mentioned in our Orientation pack, we would love to incorporate text, stories, songs, greetings, cooking/anything you feel is relevant to your child and his/her cultural background. If there are any grandparents out there who would like to share their cultural cooking prowess with their grandchild and friends, we would love to have you! We will be learning how to greet and farewell our kinder friends in different languages also.



As per our Early Years Learning and Development Framework,

the program is working towards the following learning outcomes:

- **Identity:** use effective routines to help make predicted transitions smoothly
- **Community:** begin to recognise they have a right to belong to many communities.
- **Wellbeing:** demonstrate trust and confidence
- **Learning:** are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning.
- **Communication:** engage in enjoyable reciprocal interactions using verbal and non-verbal language.
- Don't forget to check out the Penguin program plan, posted on the notice board near where you sign in, to see what your children are learning and initiating. Reflections about the program will be posted on Kinderloop. Please feel free to make comment/provide feedback/suggestions through the comments icon.
- We encourage you to check out the educational theory behind your child's preschool experience, which is displayed on our early childhood education 'tree' in the library area and includes principles, practices and outcomes for this curriculum.



## Penguin Report Continued

To further encourage the positive transition between home and preschool, and to foster the children's sense of community and belonging to Diamond Hills, our Penguin mascots and Friendship Book will be coming home for sleepovers in a few weeks. Our Penguin mascots will be visiting all our families this year and we encourage the children and families to share their experiences on Kinderloop/draw a picture to share with friends and teachers. (see Kim if you need some help) He/she stays overnight, and comes back to kinder at your child's next session.

### GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

We are asking for a parent group representative for the Penguin group.

This involves organising some coffee mornings for parents during kinder sessions throughout the year and helping to raise awareness with our parents about upcoming fundraising, social events etc. Please see Kim if you are interested in volunteering for the role. We would like everyone to feel welcome and included at Diamond Hills, so keep your eye out on the sign-in book for upcoming get togethers.

### Things to remember:

Kinder roster on sign in book – please place your name in where you can – really appreciated by staff and your child.

Gardening roster for the Penguins begins in 2nd half of year – will send out a note closer to our turn.

- **Don't forget a labelled hat** in your child's bag every day and please note that borrowed hats must be washed and returned asap (OHS policy)
- **We need a framed family photo from everyone.**
- Sunscreen to be applied before session
- Check photo pocket and art box each session.
- be vigilant with our **NUT FREE POLICY** . We have **3 children in the centre who are anaphylactic.**
- Remember Immunisation records of your child must be updated at the preschool throughout the year.





## Penguin Report Continued

And finally, we are looking forward to getting to know all of you throughout the year and sharing this precious time in your child's life. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries/concerns.

Kim, Bronwen, Brenda



## Reminder

All children are required to wear a sunsmart hat & sunscreen when outside during Term 4 kinder sessions.

One of these things is not like the others  



## CAN YOU HELP?

Are you happy to chat to perspective parents about Diamond Hills? Are you free for an hour this Saturday?

We are participating in the Nillumbik Preschool Open Day on Saturday 24th February from 10am - 1pm. It would be great if we could have a couple of parents answering questions, getting perspective parent details and generally promoting all our kinder has to offer. We will also have 2 staff members working.

If you are able to help out for an hour or two, particularly in the morning, please let me know either via the comments below or by emailing the kinder. Please include the time that you are available so that I can make sure we have people rostered the whole time. This is a major opportunity for us to promote Diamond Hills and we would like to make the most of it.



**Travel Coordinates**, in conjunction with Qantas Holidays brings you **Asia on Sale**, a collection of fantastic offers of holiday packages, hotels and experiences from all of our favourite Asia destinations – including **Bali, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong & Singapore**. We have included 2 Family examples below – there's so much more just ask!

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# TRAVEL

## COORDINATES

Hayley van Dinter | Travel Advisor & Diamond Hills Preschool Family

E: [hayley@travelcoordinates.com](mailto:hayley@travelcoordinates.com) M: 0448 338 488 | W: [www.travelcoordinates.com](http://www.travelcoordinates.com)



## Possum, Koala and Wombat Report

February 2018



Christine and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all children and families to Diamond Hills Preschool. We look forward to getting to know the children and families better and hope that together we will create amazing memories of your child's time at Diamond Hills.



It was wonderful meeting all the new families and welcoming back previous families. Thank you to all for attending the initial interviews and completing the background information questionnaire. The information provided is invaluable. I have read every one of them and made many notes which will help Christine and I to better plan to your child's interest. Photos taken of the children engaged in play experiences will be displayed on the TV facing the verandah. Please take a moment to see what your child has been up to during the session. Children's artwork is also on display inside the kinder room on the left wall as you enter and any extra work is placed in an art box which you will also find on the bench on the verandah.



Although I do not conduct parent/ teacher interviews throughout the year, if you have any questions about the program or your child's progress, please do not hesitate to catch up with me at the end of the session, or we can organise another suitable time. A catch up during kinder duty is also another time to speak with me. Please remember to add your name to the kinder duty list which is located next to the sign in book. The children really enjoy having their parents/grandparents helping. Your assistance enables Christine and I to provide a richer program for the children to engage in.

To further promote a sense of belonging to the kinder community, a friendly reminder to please bring along a framed photo of your family to kinder so that it can be displayed in the room. Often children that may be unsettled will reach for the family photo as reassurance and for comfort. The Early Years Learning Framework guides our understanding that children need to feel safe, secure and supported by their educators, peers and environment, in order to develop a sense of belonging to the kinder group. The family photos displayed in our kinder room help to foster that sense of belonging. The children also take pleasure in sharing information about their family with their peers and their teachers.



## Possum, Wombat and Koala Report Continued

During the first week of kinder, the groups were split into smaller groups enabling Christine and I the opportunity to spend some time getting to know the children and begin to develop warm and trusting relationships. Large groups can sometimes be overwhelming so smaller groups help children to settle into a calmer environment where they can begin to get to know each other and explore the kinder room. The children have settled in beautifully, engaging with experiences and exploring their environment. In the coming weeks, we will be concentrating on developing a sense of belonging, building trust, learning routines and rules so that we keep safe, and having fun. Thank you to all parents and caregivers for being patient at the end of the session as we learn whom belongs to whom.

Once the children have settled into the full session, we will be sending home some special friends which represent each group's mascots. These mascots love to be cuddled and share in the day to day life of your child/family. They should then be returned when your child comes back to kinder. More information will be provided closer to the day.

A reminder to read through the information booklet attached to emails which were sent to you earlier in February. This booklet contains all the information about applying sunscreen before kinder, appropriate sun smart hats, suitable shoes/sandals for climbing and running, food suggestions, medications, illness etc. Please note that we have **ANAPHYLATIC** children in our centre – **NO NUTS or NUT products and no EGG products. A more detailed note will follow shortly.**

Three-year-old kinder is a time where children can explore and engage in their environment using all their senses. What have the children been doing in the past week....?

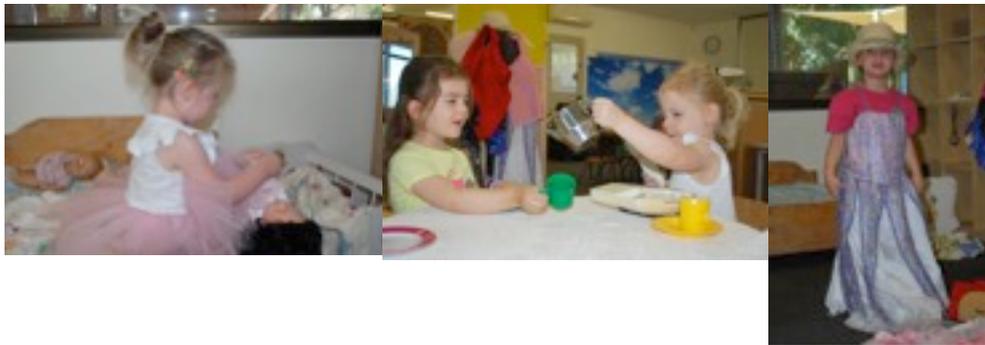
### Engaged in problem solving to complete puzzles





### Possum, Wombat and Koala Report Continued

Engaged in dress ups and dramatic role play with their peers



Engaged with sensory experiences



Expressed their creativity using various arts and crafts





## Possum, Wombat and Koala Report Continued

### Constructed train tracks, blocks and cars



The preschool program provides the children with the opportunities to practice and achieve mastery of critical skills such as cognitive, physical and social skills. As educators and teachers, we seize opportunities to scaffold their learning to stretch and extend areas of strength and provide additional opportunities and support where it is needed, all within a play-based environment that encourages children to enjoy learning. Christine and I look forward to sharing more time with the children to extend their learning through play opportunities.

Till next time,  
Tania and Christine



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## Fundraising Report

Dear Diamond Hills Families

On behalf of the Events and Fundraising Committee we wish to welcome you to the Diamond Hills community and explain our role to you.

As you know, Diamond Hills is a not-for-profit, community-run kindergarten administered by a committee of volunteer parents. In order to continue to deliver quality programs, Diamond Hills Pre-school undertakes a variety of fundraising programs each year.

Last year, government funding for 4-year-old kinder basically covered staff wages and work cover insurance. That's it – the funding didn't even cover staff superannuation!

Your fees pay for day-to-day essentials required to keep the kinder running, things like:

- Staff superannuation
- Electricity, water & gas – so our kids have light and heating/cooling
- Phone bills and office supplies – so our staff can communicate with you
- Cleaning – so we can provide a lovely environment for our kids to learn in
- Staff training – so our teachers can continue to develop their skills
- Kinder consumables – paint, craft materials, cooking and garden supplies, etc. So our kids can have a wonderful play-based learning experience.

The funds we raise are vital to supplement government funding to keep the kinder running in 2018 and beyond. This is a task that couldn't be achieved without the help of our Diamond Hills families and the local community.

We do appreciate that families are busy and we are truly grateful for any support that you are able to give. Please remember that every dollar raised goes directly into the kinder and thus, into your child's positive experience.

Our first fundraising program for 2018 will be a Cadbury Chocolate Drive. This fundraiser is both simple and delicious! Every Freddo & Friends box we sell will raise \$20 for Diamond Hills. We're asking all our families to sell at least one box but feel free to grab more!

**Cadbury Funpacks will be distributed during the week of 20th Feb. Each box contains 50 chocolates with a sale price of \$1. \$50 payment is due by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March – but families are welcome to pay upon collection.**

With your support, we're confident we can raise \$1600. Proceeds from this fundraising drive will be used towards purchasing new climbing frames for the playground.

Warm regards,

Diamond Hills Events and Fundraising Committee



## Diamond Hills 2018 Community Project signup sheet

Dear Diamond Hills Families,

You are invited to participate in our Diamond Hills Community Program for 2018.

One of the many reasons why a lot of families choose Diamond Hills is because of our community 'feel' and this is in part thanks to our kinder families. We would like to give all our families a chance to be involved in our pre-school community and show our children the value of volunteering and community involvement. The children will be learning about community and volunteering throughout the year and this is a fantastic opportunity to show your child these values in practice. This program is also an opportunity to meet other families, help our fundraising efforts in a non-monetary way, keep our maintenance costs low and help to keep our pre-school fees as low as possible.

We have approximately 70 families attending Diamond Hills Pre-School and we would be grateful if every family would nominate to do one or more activity throughout the year. Below is a list of opportunities that we would appreciate your assistance with. Please follow this link <https://www.volunteersignup.org/A8LH4> and select one or more and complete your contact details to sign-up. Opportunities are filled on a first in basis, with some having limited capacity. We would recommend completing the signup as soon as possible. When the time comes someone from the staff or committee will be in contact with you regarding your participation.

Opportunities to participate include;

- Term 1 Working Bee – Sunday 11th February
- Term 3 Working Bee – Sunday, August TBC
- End of Year Clean Up – Thursday 20th or Friday 21st December
- Welcome Night BBQ (Cook/Prepare/Server) – Friday March 2nd
- Christmas Party BBQ (Cook/Prepare/Server) – Sunday, Early December TBC
- Fundraising BBQ (Cook/Prepare/Server) Saturday 20th October
- Sharing a skill, hobby, cultural activity or interest with classes as a 'special day' eg, Diwali traditions, emergency services visit/talk, Lunar New Year traditions, sports coach, Orthodox Easter traditions, quilting etc
- Volunteer for committee or sub-committee (Sub-committee positions still available)

Families that have already volunteered for the committee or sub-committee are already participating in our Community Program and do not need to sign-up for another activity if they don't wish to. Please note this program is separate to the in class parent helper and the gardening rosters.

### Recycle Your Child's Diamond Hills Uniform!

Did you know that you  
can donate uniform  
items back to the kinder  
for the Second Hand  
Uniform Sale!

A donation basket is  
located near the sign in  
book.

All proceeds go back into  
the kinder.



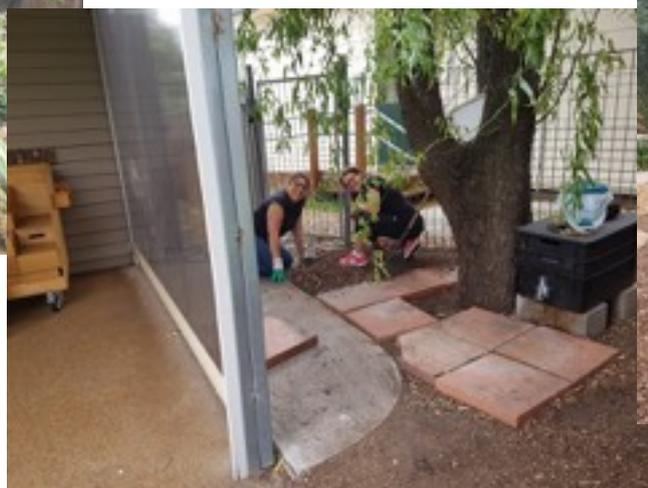
## Working Bee

A big thank you to the families and educators who donated their time at the working bee on Sunday the 11th of February. You all did an amazing job!

Thanks also to the Hanan family who organised and delivered the soft fall mulch.

Some of the jobs completed on the day included removing the old stairs, cleaning up, mowing the back yard, cleaning out the hen house, pruning & cleaning up the gardens, moving and spreading of soft fall mulch, removing the debris from the sandpit, cleaning and pressure washing the deck areas and much, much more.

We appreciate your help to maintain and improve the kinder.





### DID YOU GET YOUR FREDDO'S?

Freddo boxes are being handed out this week. Please ensure you collect yours. If you can help to sell extra boxes please let us know.

Payment is due back on the 5th March



Thank you to all the families that collected earn and learn stickers last year.

We received 2 big floor cushions, a microscope and book



### REMINDER



2018

Welcome Night

Friday 2nd March

5.30pm-8pm at Diamond Hills

- ★ Activities For The Whole Family ★
- ★ Meet & Mingle ★ Sausage Sizzle ★
- ★ Explore ★ Entertainment ★ Raffle ★
- ★ Contribute to our 2018 Group Art Project ★

BYO Picnic Rug/Chairs,  
Sausage Sizzle Money or Dinner & Drinks

Cost \$10 Per Family

Please email [Fundraising.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:Fundraising.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au) if you have any questions

RSVP & Payment By Friday 23rd Feb

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# Committee of Management 2018

President: Nikki Reid  
Vice President: Jessica Martin  
Secretary: Karina Papadakis  
Treasurer: Sahan Fernando  
Communications & Social Media: Megan Agar  
Fees Officer: Amanda Tull-Boyle  
4 Year Old Enrolment Officer: Kate Fleet  
3 Year Old Enrolment Officer: Vida Dukic  
Staff Liaison Officer: Hayley Van Dinter  
Fundraising & Events Coordinators: Rebecca Zappia  
& Laura Wade  
Project Manager: Dan Wood

## Sub - Committee

Fundraising & Events:  
Jessica Blunt, Melina D'Amico,  
Hayley Ingram, Fiona Jackman, Alyce Marks, Megan  
McLaughlin, Casey Sheedy, Jessica Tidd  
Maintenance Officer: Damien Hanan  
Duty Roster & Purchasing Officer:  
Stacey Howard  
Grants Officer: Position Available  
Environmental Officer: Position Available



## Contact Information

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Facebook: DiamondHillsPreschoolVIC

[diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

### Teachers

Penguin Group (Kim) - [penguin.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:penguin.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Platypus Group (Annmaree) - [platypus.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:platypus.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Koala, Possum & Wombats (Tania) - [3yo.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:3yo.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

### Committee

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