



March/April 2014



President Report

Welcome to the end of term 1 2014 - What a terrific start to the year.

I would like to provide a special mention and thank you to our event & fundraising teams. The Welcome Dinner "Disco Party" was a huge success and I have received lots of comments from families saying how much they enjoyed it. Also THANK YOU to all those who contributed to the sweets table. Lots of chocolaty smiles could be seen dancing around. Thank you to the hard working families that attended the working bee on Sunday morning. We were a small but mighty team that transformed the yard in a few short hours. As attendance was low we still have a few jobs that need to get done over term 2. If you can lend a hand with some painting please speak with your teacher.

A further thank you to: Karina King, Carolyn Tsioulos, Margaret Lambeth & Erin Kefalas who have put up their hand to help on the subcommittee, in regard to the redevelopment of our preschool. This project will be a huge undertaking, but with great reward. Hopefully obtaining necessary grants to allow Diamond Hills to be redeveloped to cater for the new kinder regulations that will come into effect for the class of 2016.

Looking forward to another fun term working with and meeting more fantastic families that make up this great preschool. Have a safe and enjoyable break and I hope the Easter Bunny finds you

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Wombat & Possum Monthly Report

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of first term. It has gone by so quickly. What have the children accomplished so far?

Most of the children in Possums and Wombats have settled in really well. Their emerging autonomy is developing when they enter the room, place their bags in the lockers, take out their lunch, place it on the trolley and with confidence, quickly engage in an activity. Their sense of identity and their capacity to self regulate is evident as they begin to initiate and negotiate sharing behaviours and cope with transition routines. For others it has taken a little longer to feel comfortable in their environment. It's a learning and constantly evolving process for the children, the parents and the educators. Nicole and I constantly reflect on ways in which to make the transition times for children run smoother and what may work one week, won't necessarily work the next. We do ask for your patience and support as we continue to adjust the program, in particular when dropping off or picking up your children. Please remember to give your child a big hug and kiss, tell them that they will have fun and that you will be back at the end of the session. Children are very perceptive and a delay in your departure can sometimes heighten their anxiety. We can guarantee that if your child does not settle quickly, we will call you, but please feel free to call us 10-15 mins after you leave. Nicole and I are so proud as the children have come such a long way and have learnt so much already. **(VEYLF : Identity, Wellbeing)**

With some hot days still occurring, the children continue to play with water. Our river bed is a popular, cool place for the children to take off their shoes and experience the fresh, cool running water trickling over their feet. Painting the fence, the pavers and play equipment continues to draw the children in, as does playing with watering cans and adding water in the sandpit to create a waterhole in which to jump into. The children have also helped to fill the small pool with water watched as Dodge has had many baths.

Dinosaurs have featured heavily this month, particularly in Wombat group. The children have used their imagination to create 'worlds' for the dinosaurs to live in and scenarios in which the dinosaurs engage. The children are drawing on their knowledge of dinosaurs in the context of their everyday and through reflective dialogue with educators they are developing and expanding on their own interests and ideas. Their sense of identity is developing as they show interest in other children, respond to ideas and suggestion from others and in being part of a group. **(VEYLF: Identity, Wellbeing, Learning)**

Colour continues to interest the children. We have continued to explore colour combinations using red, blue and yellow. This month we have used pipettes to drop coloured water onto absorbent paper to create the most beautiful colours. On the light table, the children have used paint brushes to paint their pictures, the illumination giving the colours another dimension. There have been sad and happy days at kinder. As some of you may be aware, we lost our beautiful rabbit Smudge earlier this term. He was an important part of our kinder and he was even lucky enough to go home with the children. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered. Bronwen was fortunate to hear about another baby rabbit that needed a new home. Rosie the Rabbit has now joined our kinder family. Please say hello and give her a cuddle. We have also had the exciting news of seeing new baby chickens hatch and the children have had the opportunity to give them a pat. With Easter well and truly upon us, the children will end the term with an Easter Egg hunt. Nicole and I hope that you will all have an exciting Easter and that the Easter bunny comes to your house with lots of yummy chocolate Easter eggs.

Enjoy your break, relax with family and friends and see you all refreshed and ready for next term.
Nicole and Tania



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Penguin Monthly Report

Hi everyone,

We can't quite believe the end of term one is here - it has flown by. The Penguin's continue to develop and practice skills, process new information, develop awareness, extend their learning, build relationships and increase their vocabularies and language skills. Over the past few weeks we have developed the following



learning areas:

Healthy eating: as an extension of our dental visit, the children made fruit snacks for morning tea. We were very impressed with the children's enthusiasm for the task, use of fine motor skills and their awareness of healthy foods and 'sometimes' foods. The fruit sticks were devoured very quickly! (*Early years learning framework: Wellbeing: awareness of*



nutrition and healthy lifestyles, developing competence in sensory capabilities)



We often use puppets during group times to engage the children more deeply in the experience. The Penguin group have particularly loved this part of singing and discussion times, so we have

extended this to the craft area of the program with a variety of puppets being made over recent weeks. The sock puppets were lots of fun and the children used their puppets to communicate with friends and develop stories. The 'making table' and 'making shelf' area is a very popular learning area for this group. By providing the children with lots of different materials and tools, they are able to create, use their imagination and develop



physical skills of hand strength, eye-hand co-ordination, dexterity etc. Language is also developed, while many children share their ideas and the interest area extends to others. It is fantastic to watch the children's motivation in their own learning. (*EYLF: Wellbeing: Increasing competence in management of variety of tools. Communication: use language and representations from play, music and art to share and project meaning.*)



There has been great excitement at Diamond Hills with the hatching of baby chickens. The Penguins were lucky enough to see the first chicken when it was only a few hours old. They called him/her 'Twinkle'. The children have been learning about how the chickens hatch out of their egg using their egg tooth (a nodule on their beaks) As the chickens grow, the children will be





involved in observing and discussing the changes they observe. *(EYLF Community: developing awareness of other living things, Learning: make predictions and generalisations about aspects of the natural world and environments)*

Recycling: to develop the children's environmental awareness and the connection between themselves and other living creatures, we have a project to involve the children in this area of learning. The children are collecting food scraps from home to build up the worm farm at kinder. This area of learning will be ongoing throughout the year as they see the process between the feeding of the worms, to using the worm by-products to help our vegetables and plants to grow. *(EYLF Learning: make connections between experiences, concepts and processes. Community: understand different ways of contributing through play and projects)*

Special person's night: the children enjoyed sharing their kinder with their Dads, Papou, Nana and uncles. We taught the dad's the pirate song at the end of the night, which caused great excitement. Don't forget Dad's, you are welcome to come and spend time with your child any time you have some time spare and we will be having another night in September.

New staff members: there have been a few changes to our new staff members provided by government funding (Kindergarten Inclusion Support funding) We will now have Trish working with us on Tuesdays and Fridays and Lucshumi on Thursdays. Please help us to make them feel welcome at Diamond Hills Preschool.



Our celebration activity this term was Adventure Play day; but we will be having a little Bunny fun on the last day of term. Thank you to everyone for your interest and help with our program and a special thank you to our working bee helpers, fundraisers and welcome night organisers. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Easter break, and we will see you all back here on Tuesday, 22nd April. (Please note; No kinder on Friday 25th - ANZAC day holiday)

Kim & Bronwen

Platypus Monthly Report

Even though it's only been 3 weeks since our last update, it's been a busy time especially with the end of term at the end of this week. We have been very lucky with the weather and have been taking full advantage of it where we are able to, who knows how long it will last.

What has the learning environment included recently?

We have been encouraging the children to extend their friendship by including other children from the group into their play. This is to help them realise that they are also part of a group. (identity) Being able to be inclusive of others is a great 'life' lesson. We don't need to

be 'best' friends with everyone but developing tolerance and acceptance is important. We have also been aiding the children in developing independence and self awareness in the area of helping them to make a decision of what they need to do when their bodies tell them they are thirsty, hungry etc.. (Well Being). Developing self reliance and making decisions is also an important skill. The children have also been provided the opportunity to explore creative arts such as drawing, painting etc. and encouraged to use these forms of medium to express ideas and make meaning (Communication). They have also used play to investigate, project and explore new ideas (Community) and are continuing to develop an awareness of the kinder environment especially in learning about our kinder environment in the area of sustainability and our pets. (Learning) These outcomes are taken from the Early Years Learning Framework and are chosen specifically through observations of the children, staff/community/parent interests and where there needs lie at the time. To help us work towards achieving the outcomes and objectives with the children the following learning (play) experiences were chosen. A pretend insect 'habitat' was set up, insect x-rays was chosen for the light table, a backyard bugs matching game was provided, reference books and story books about mini beasts were included, the children made 'butterflies' through mirror painting followed the next week by marble painting, outdoors bug catchers and adventure bags were added to the outdoor program and box construction as always is popular.

Each week Kyla and I record the children's interests which helps us to determine the learning program for the following week. If you would like to know more please check out the program on the noticeboard.

Last Thursday 27th March we held a F.U.D.G.E (Friends, Uncles, Dad's, Grandparent or Extra special person's night.) The children were able to choose one special person in their lives and bring them to kinder for a visit. Thank you to all those who could make it on this night. We had lots of fun. The children made scones to share. Experiences were chosen that the children enjoy and wanted to share with their special visitors also on the night some of the children were able to 'shave' their dads and then asked could their dads 'shave' them. We had a great night. The children were very excited to be able to share and 'show' off their kinder. This Thursday 3/4 is our last day for Term 1. We are having a small celebration, normally we would have ended the term with our Adventure/messy play day but due to this term being longer than normal we wanted to get that day in while the weather was still warm. (Little did we know that the nice weather would continue.) The children will be involved in some fun experiences like drawing a group treasure map and then going on a Treasure Hunt (this time their will be real 'treasure' to find.) Term 2 resumes for us on Wednesday 23rd April due to Easter falling on the last weekend of the holidays.

As always we know the importance of involving the wider community in our program. Over the past few weeks we have had 2 Year 11 work experience students and on a Friday 1 student doing an 1hr a week of community service. Two out of the three students who have been involved were ex-Diamond Hills students. It is always so nice to have contact with these students. Everyone should have received a letter explaining about Pee Wee PE. The staff have decided to have a go at providing this formalised, structured experience ourselves. This will be held once a week for approx. 45 minute sessions.

As everyone knows we lost our very special friend in Smudge Bunny last month and I just wanted to let you know that we were given the opportunity to 'adopt' a new friend. This wasn't at all planned but the chance came to give this little bunny a much needed home. Her name is Rosie and please get to know her as she becomes accustomed to the busy life of kinder.

THANK YOU -

A big thank you to the committee for organising such a wonderful Welcome Night and Disco. The children had been looking forward to the disco and they certainly enjoyed it on the night. This event certainly provided the opportunity for new families to get to know others.

ALSO John our cleaner is retiring after 25+ years of being involved at Diamond Hills. The staff will miss him greatly but we wish him all the best as he takes things a little bit easier.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -

The 4yr old groups will be having their photos taken on Thursday 1st May. More information will be provided as the time draws closer. Also starting next term we have a mature age student doing her Certificate 111 placement with us. Kyla and I wish you all Happy Holidays. We hope you find time to rest and re-charge. Also have a Great Easter. We hope Easter bunny finds his way to you.

Annmaree and Kyla



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2014 Staff List

2014 Teachers:

Annmaree Watkins (4yo Platypus)

Kim Walker (4yo Penguin)

Tania Mantovani (3yo Possum & Wombat Groups)

Co Educators/Teaching Assistants

Bronwen Gear (4yo Penguin Group)

Kyla Ridgeway (4yo Platypus Group)

Nicole De Cata (3yo Possum & Wombat Groups)

2014 Volunteer Committee List

President: Linda Wein (Possum)

Vice President: Josta Barton (Penguin)

Secretary: Shannon Fitzpatrick (Platypus)

Assistant Secretary: Rebecca Fisher (Penguin)

Treasurer: Emma Jones (Platypus)

Enrolment Officer (4): Robyn Bolger (Penguin)

Fundraising Co-Ordinator: Nicole Webster (Penguin)

Events Co-Ordinator: Robyn Nicholas-Scott (Penguin)

Maintenance Officer: Paul King (Penguin)

Fees Officer: Kylee Chesser (Penguin)

(3): Rochelle Tousaint (Wombat)

Staff Liasion: Jenelle Graham (Platypus)

Sub-Committee Members

Purchasing Officer: Carly Veale (Penguin)

Duty Roster: Rebecca Spagnol (Platypus)

Fundraising Sub Committee: Anita Staffieri (Penguin) and Deanna Constantin

Events Sub Committee: Sarah Selkrig & Lauren Pilakis

Centre contact Information:

Hours- Monday- Friday 8am – 5pm

Phone: 9435 8694 Email: diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Web: www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au

Postal: PO Box 56, Greensborough, Victoria 3088

Newsletter Contact:

Rebecca Fisher- rubyfish11@gmail.com

(photo's, stories or things you would like to share with the kinder community.)



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Marble Painting - practicing fine motor skills - control

Making scones for our special visitors - cooking involves maths & science



Hunting and finding insects & bugs from the garden - science & discovery

The weather was great so we took inside out to take full advantage while we can.



Reading - finding out about Dad.

Our new friend - Rosie



F.U.D.G.E Night - what a lot of fun!



4YO GROUP PHOTOS MAY 1ST

