

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone. We hope you all had a wonderful Easter. This Term at Diamond Hills we are looking forward to the pasta drives and our mother's day afternoon teas!

Thank you to all those who contributed to our collection of clothes. We raised \$133 which will go towards our wonderful Kinder.

If you see some people walking around our kinder with pens, paper and tape measures get excited! The council have allocated \$20 000 in next financial year budget for Diamond Hills preschool to undergo an extension to increase our storage space, staff room and build a little library for the children. This is very exciting for our kinder as the building is 30 years old and we have not made any changes to it in that time. With the recent government changes to ratios we now have extra staff to cater for and as you can imagine our resources have increased over time. For the staff to be able to better access this will make their lives much more easy and of course if we have happy teachers we get happy children!

We will be looking at applying for other grants to help fund this project so if you have any experience writing applications for grants can you please email me carly@osteo4families.com.au

So stay tuned.....

Carly Broadbent - President



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Hi everyone and welcome to term 2! We hope that everyone had an enjoyable break. The children have re-settled back into kinder well after the holidays.

You may have noticed that there has been a re-organisation of the room. The reason we choose to do this is to stimulate interest, assist the children in accepting that even though things may change that it is still okay and to open up areas to children that they may not have necessarily explored previously.

Last term flew by very quickly with the children being very involved in many areas. The last week of term also happened to be the lead up to Easter. The highlights of this week were an Easter egg hunt and a surprise and mysterious visit by the Easter Bunny. We look forward to celebrating Greek Easter on Thursday 28th April which is the lead up to this special day on Sunday May 1st.

Another important area that was incorporated into our Program throughout term 1 was the extension of friendships, social interaction and



the practicing of skills that are needed for the children to be successful in forming relationships. This objective is of course ongoing throughout the year.

New objectives that we are working together on as a group for Term 2 are –

Increasing and developing independence, engage in play including engaging more with peers, re-setting experiences when finished which encourages respect and caring for the environment and each other, to take the next step with sustainability - the worm farm and compost and to practice and enhance their Gross motor skills and listening skills by incorporating a formalised program - "Taekwondo". If you have any other suggestions that you would like to suggest that we could work towards as a group then please let Annmaree, Nicole or Kyla know.

As mentioned we are moving to involving the children further with sustainability. To do this we are going to begin sending home a bucket for the 'chosen' family to put their food scraps in and return to kinder. We will do this on a roster system. You can keep the bucket for the week or just for one or two days it's up to you. Further details of what you might need to know are on the buckets.



Increasing and developing independence, engage in play including engaging more with peers

Last week to begin the term we had a visit from the reading team from Diamond Valley Library. They read several books to the children and explained about what a library is and what services it offers. They run a great program for young children, why not check it out.

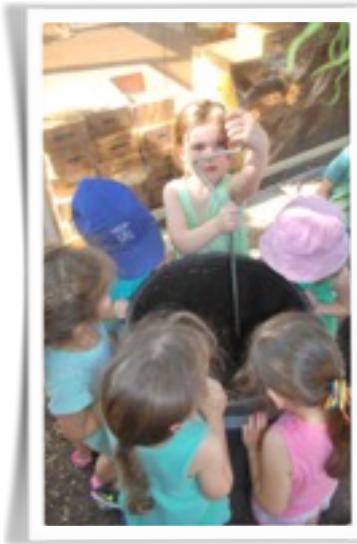


Just a reminder: it is still the Platypus groups turn to do the garden. Can you please check out the roster on the noticeboard for when your turn may be coming up. Your help is really appreciated in this area.

Kyla, Nicole and I hoped that you enjoyed catching up on your child's learning for Term 1 through their journal. Please if you haven't already done so, don't forget to have your say by completing the "Feedback Form". Remember any constructive criticism is valued and please return to Kinder ASAP so that we can keep on adding to it.

WHAT'S COMING UP - DATES TO NOTE:

Thursday 5th May – 6.00pm – 7.00pm – A Special treat for mum (a note will come out soon)



Until next month.

Annmaree, Kyla & Nicole





Welcome back to kinder everyone! We hope you had a great holiday break and that Easter bunny found you wherever you were. We have really enjoyed hearing all the children's

holiday news and we make a point of sitting down with them during meal times and at other times throughout the session, to hear their special family, holiday and Easter stories.

We have Greek Easter coming up in a few weeks and we will be dyeing some of our hens eggs with the help of Maree's mum to investigate this special custom. (belonging, community: explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings)

The last few weeks of term included some Easter art and craft activities, songs and drama. The children acted out the rhyme of 5 hot cross buns in the baker's shop, with some pretending to be 'round and fat with a cross on the top' and others choosing and buying a hot cross bun and eating it! On one of our beautiful early Autumn days in the last week, we used the large parachute on the



grass. The children were fantastic at listening for transitions and instructions so that the team project was successful – running underneath was a highlight!

The Penguins love acting out songs and rhymes and we have started the term with "5 cheeky monkeys swinging in a tree", with the crocodile being the highlight. These activities encourage the children's confidence in front of their peers, their sense of humour, rhythm, communication – lots of early literacy skills. The children practice lots of different forms of communication through play – expressing their ideas through music, art, dance and symbolic play. We are often asked by parents about teaching children to read and write during the preschool program. A vital part of the development of these pre reading and writing skills are language-rich activities like symbolic play – expressing ideas, creating scripts, extending vocabulary, using symbols in play and



also music and drama, where repetition and rhythm of language promote these literacy skills.

Autumn colours have led us onto some interesting art experiences with dye, leaves and other natural materials. The children have been using the light table to trace and colour in autumn leaf shapes. Lots of clever hand control and fine motor practice at this activity and sharing of language about shape, colour and their environment.

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Another art experience using natural materials and a framed space has encouraged the children to develop spatial awareness, pattern-making, creative thinking and fine motor control. This is known as Transitional or Emphemral art as it is not permanent, is changeable, evolving and experimental and also sustainable as a photo is taken of the child's artwork rather than its creation relying on paint, paper, glue etc. The children are able to choose from a variety of natural materials like seed pods, bark and stones and use them to create art within and empty



frame on the wooden table. It is interesting to observe the different ways individual children go about this experience – some with obvious spatial planning and representation, others making patterns and others using a layering technique. This art experience will lead us on to some indigenous elements using natural materials including sand art and paint making.

Titans Taekwondo program is commencing on Tuesday 19th April. Carolyn, past committee member and parent, is the instructor. Carolyn is skilled at adapting the physical education program to suit individual children and group dynamics. This preschool specific



program is passive and non-aggressive and introduces core values and gross motor skills in a fun and engaging way. Physical education programs are fantastic to develop receptive language skills, developing and strengthening different parts of the body and brain development. We welcome parents to come and join in and see for themselves. (Victorian Early Years Learning Framework; Wellbeing: combine



gross and fine motor movement and balance to achieve increasingly complex patterns of activity their environments demonstrate spatial awareness and orient themselves, moving around and through confidently and safely)

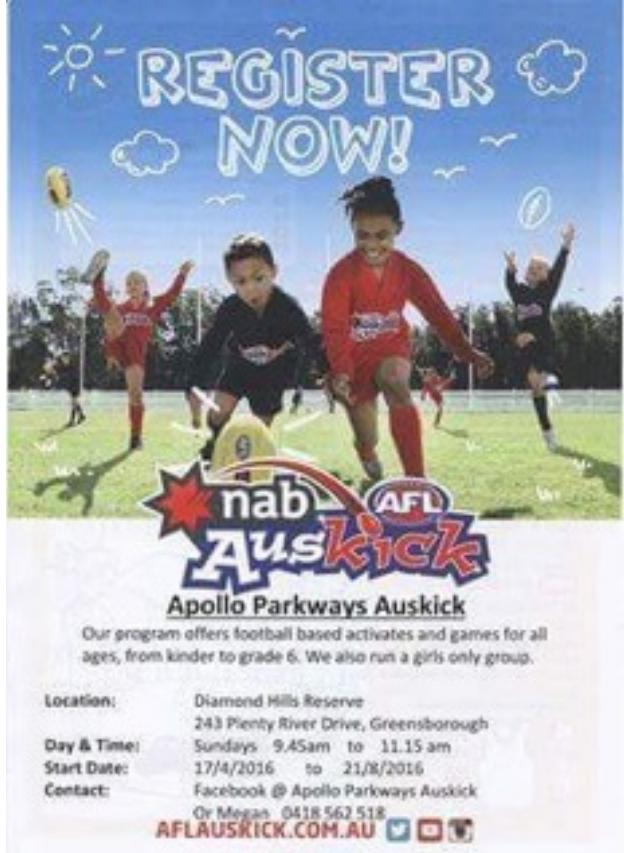
- Friday 6th May: Mother's Day afternoon tea – 1.00 – 2.00pm

Apologies to our working mothers. If you are unable to attend, please let us know. You may be able to come in on another session during the week or often another family members attend or we pair your child with a friend's mum.

Thank you for all your support and interest in our Diamond Hills program.

Looking forward to a fun filled term.

Kim, Bronwen, Brenda, Kyla



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Our program offers football based activates and games for all ages, from kinder to grade 6. We also run a girls only group.

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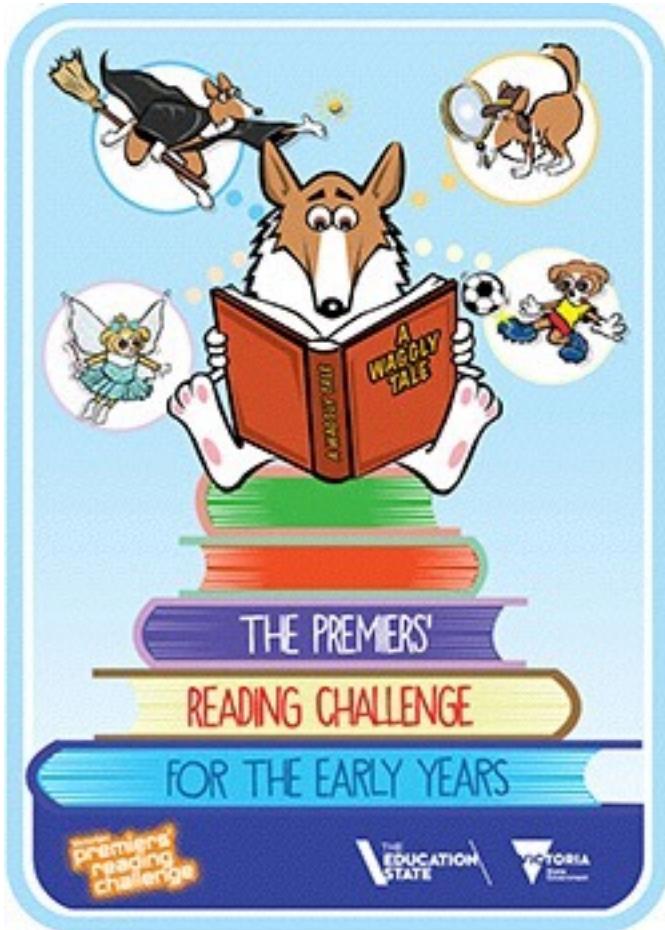
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ATTENTION PENGUIN PARENTS

We require a parent representative to organise a couple of catch up for Penguin parents. Please see Kim

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HOW DOES THE CHALLENGE WORK FOR YOUNG CHILDREN?

The Premiers' Reading Challenge is an annual challenge to encourage Victorian children to read a set amount of books over several months. The challenge includes young children from age 0-5 and encourages parents to read with their children.

Reading to young children helps set them up to be lifelong book lovers, sparking their imaginations and creativity.

To meet the Victorian Premiers' Early Years Reading Challenge, children need to 'experience' a minimum of 40 books with their family or early years educators between now and 9 September 2016.

The challenge book list includes many books appropriate for babies, toddlers and 4-5 year

olds. The challenge can be met by reading and re-reading each child's own favourite books, new books or books borrowed from the library.

Families and educators are encouraged to keep a record of the books they read with their children.

WHAT DO PARENTS NEED TO DO?

Nothing! The staff here will register the students, however we do ask that you continue reading to your child at home every night!

WHY READ TO YOUR CHILDREN?

Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their language, literacy, numeracy and cognitive skills later in life.

- Reading three to five days a week accelerates a child's reading ability by six months
- Reading to children six to seven days a week accelerates a child's reading ability by almost 12 months
- Children who are read to regularly and who have access to lots of books do better in their first years of school
- Reading to young children helps their spelling, language skills and understanding of letters.

WE CAN WIN!

By entering the challenge, we can win a two hour story time session with Jimmy Giggle





Hello to our Possum and Wombat

families,
welcome back for
another exciting Term 2.
We hope that all families
enjoyed their break and
we look forward to hearing what
everybody got up to while away.



It would be lovely to have parents/children give some feedback about their term break and if any exciting adventures took place. We encourage families to write a short piece or children to draw pictures about their experiences and we will be able to extend on these experiences through our programming.

I would personally like to thank Brenda for taking on my role whilst I was on Practicum Placement at the end of last term. I know she did a wonderful job looking after the interests and needs of all the children. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Bronwen, Kyla and Nicole for assisting in the sessions.

On another note, for those of you that are not yet aware.... From all the staff at Diamond Hills, we would like to congratulate Brenda on the exciting news of her pregnancy. All going well, Brenda



will continue to be with us until late August, early September.

What have the children been up to?

Construction

Before term break, the children have been engaging and learning, using the magnetic blocks, to build helicopters, cars and space ships. Construction builds on children's imagination, manipulation and strengthen fingers in their fine motor skills (*EYLF: Learning*). This has continued into term two.

On returning in term 2 Jack and Flynn were busy constructing a train track around the room, going underneath and around chairs and tables. Jack and Flynn worked together, compromised, discussed, suggested how and where the track should go. They are developing their sense of Identity, Wellbeing and Community connections through their negotiation, cooperation, collaboration and contributing to play by the sharing of ideas. Skills = problem solving, experimentation, inquiry, spatial awareness. Dispositions = creativity, imagination, co-operation, enthusiasm.

Painting and sensory play

Many children are still enjoying their painting and sensory activities such as play dough. The children have been very busy making little cakes and pizzas using the plastic muffin trays in the

toy microwave. When having conversations with the children, many families have been making some delicious pizzas at home. The children have been continuing with painting and we have extended our experience from finger painting to roller painting. The children are forming many patterns with the paint and mixing colours and at this stage we are still continuing to concentrate on the primary colours. As the year continues, the children will gain knowledge on different techniques and ways of painting. (*EYLF: Identity, Wellbeing, Community, Learning, Communication*)

Creative making cultural celebration

We had some beautiful and interesting Easter baskets decorated by the children, using fluorescent coloured paint and cotton buds. The children also decorated their baskets with feathers and anything else they were interested in. (*EYLF: Community*)

Outside play

Our small trampoline was introduced and added to our outdoor activities. The children have been building on their co-ordination and learning to jump with both feet together. This takes a lot of concentration for some and the children have achieved great balance and strengthening in their leg muscles. This activity also incorporated learning to share with peers by taking turns and respecting others. The children were counting their jumps adding a mathematical concept to the activity. (*EYLF: Wellbeing*)

Library Session

Sophie from the local library came to Diamond Hills on Wednesday morning for a story telling session with the children. She read many stories to the children including, "There was an old Woman", "The big wide mouthed frog", "The wheels on the bus", "Dear Zoo", and another story about a girl's imagination of soft toy animals that 'come to life'. Sophie was engaging and the children responded well to her storytelling. By inviting Sophie to our centre, we are building on children's sense of community and broadening the children's understanding of the world in which they live. Research shows that "oral language in social settings is a profoundly critical



component of [children's] cognitive development and one of the most important factors in their learning" (Lawrence Sipe, 2008, p.37). We hope to invite Sophie back later in the year. In the meantime, so that the children have another opportunity to revisit these stories, we will be setting up a literacy book area with the feature book and props for the children to explore and engage in imaginative play and recount the story using the props. This reinforces the connection between oral language, the written words and the pictures, extends children vocabulary, strengthens their recall memory and extends their attention span. (*EYLF: Identity, Community, Learning, Communication*).

Till next time,

Tania and Brenda

Term 3

Kinder photos (Dates to be confirmed)

Possums - Monday 25th July

Wombats - Tuesday 26th July





ATTENTION POSSUM PARENTS

We have a few spots available for children who would like to do an extra day (Tuesday Afternoon). Please contact Faye (Enrolment Officer) on 0411 134 458 if you are interested

FUNDRAISING

We collected a massive 535kgs in our clothes drive last month. Thanks to all the families for your participation.

You all have a little more room in your homes and the kinder has added \$133.75 to the fundraising efforts.



In isolation 5 cents is not much, but collectively these little silver pieces will raise funds for educational resources.

**Running from
11th April - 28th October**

A collection tin will sit on our mailboxes in side the class room. We will post regular updates.

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2016 TEACHERS

Annmaree Watkins (4yo Platypus) Kim Walker (4yo Penguin)
Tania Mantovani (3yo Possum & Wombat Groups)

CO-EDUCATORS & ASSISTANTS

Bronwen Gear (4yo Penguin Group) Kyla Ridgeway (4yo Platypus Group) Nicole De Cata (3yo Possum & Wombat Groups), Brenda Anderson (Penguin, Possum & Wombat)

2016 COMMITTEE

Administration Officer: Kerrie Haynes
President: Carly Broadbent (Platypus)
Vice President: Melissa Kayrooz (Platypus)
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Assistant Secretary: Michael O'Keeffe (Penguin)
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Events Co-Ordinator: Melanie Mackertich (Possum)
Maintenance Officer: Bob Jovanovski (Platypus)
Staff Liaison: Bev Ashley (Penguin)

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Duty Roster: Regan Sailah (Possum)
Fundraising Sub Committee: Katrina Naish (Wombat),
Natalie Gouldthorpe (Platypus) & Stacey Howard (Platypus)
Events Sub Committee: Laura Wade (Possum),
Rebecca Zappia (Wombat) & Liz Georgiou (Penguin)
Environmental Officer: Katherine Gibbins (Platypus)

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 Editor: Michael O'Keeffe

email: michael@mrgpro.com.au

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