



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

[WWW.DIAMONDHILLSPRESCHOOL.COM.AU](http://WWW.DIAMONDHILLSPRESCHOOL.COM.AU)

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi everyone and welcome to an exciting 2016 at Diamond Hills Preschool. On behalf of the committee I send a warm welcome to our returning families and a very warm welcome to all new families joining us.

We at Diamond Hills are extremely lucky to have a wonderful bunch of teachers who through this beautiful kinder will share a wonderful journey with you and your child. We hope your child enjoys this year as much as we do.

We also would like to welcome Brenda Anderson our new assistant in the Penguin and 3 year old rooms to our Diamond Hills family.

As this is my first report for the year, I would like to acknowledge the work of the outgoing Committee of Management and thank them for their efforts over the last 12 months. It is also great to see that some of the 2015 Committee members have stayed on this year to support the work of the Committee and the Preschool. Parent involvement at kinder is important to your child's development and education. Helping children make the transition to kindergarten and later to primary school through parent involvement can assist in a child's future success. Whether you work, or are at home, there are plenty of opportunities for all parents to get involved during the day, evenings or on the weekends. Whatever suits your lifestyle! For example get behind the working bees, assist with fundraising activities, and don't forget the kinder duty roster. It is a great way to be involved and our children love it when a loved one is on duty.

This year the committee decided not to participate in the Nillumbik Preschool Open Day. Our reason for this is every day at Diamond Hills is an open day. If you have any family, friends or neighbours who may be interested in attending in 2017 please encourage them to come on down and see Diamond Hills in true action when it suits them.

The Committee of Management is here to ensure the effective running of the kinder. If you have any concerns about your child or the kinder, it is best to raise these with your child's teacher in the first instance. Members of the committee are always available if you have any concerns that are unable to be resolved. The names for the members of the Committee can be found on the kinder website and at the back of this newsletter.

Wishing you all the very best for a fun and exciting 2016!

**Carly Broadbent** - President



**WELCOME NIGHT**  
FRIDAY 4TH  
MARCH @ 5.30PM



**WORKING BEE**  
SUNDAY 20TH  
MARCH @ 9.30AM



**TERM 1 FUNDRAISER**  
CHOCOLATES  
NOW AVAILABLE



We welcome not only our Platypus families to Diamond Hills Kinder but we extend a warm welcome to everyone. We hope that each family finds this year full of learning and fun.

Kyla, Nicole and I are happy to report that the Platypus children have started the year positively, settling in well in their first couple of sessions. We can now state that we have 15 girls and 11 boys in the group. As Kyla, Nicole and I get to know your children we welcome you to stay and have a chat at anytime.

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 us with this, is for you to provide a family photo. The children LOVE having their family on display. We would appreciate you sending in a family photo ASAP.



Over the next few sessions the children will be learning and adapting to the routine and structure of kinder. As of the week starting Monday 15th February the children will attend full time sessions.

**“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”**

One of the ways we are beginning to get to know the children is through their interests. They have so far showed an interest inside in imaginative play, play dough, dinosaurs and painting. Outdoors has seen an interest in water play especially in their sand play, using the flying fox, the swings and our animals especially watching Dodge and Elliot (the ducks) take a bath. Hopefully the program that is displayed on the noticeboard each week reflects the interests that the children are displaying and where our learning is centred. This of course will alter as the children’s interests change.

Also can we please ask that every child bring 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. Over the Summer I have had friends who have been burnt on cloudy days and we want to protect the children as much as we can.

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.

We would also like to say welcome to the new Committee, without your commitment the Preschool would struggle. We look forward to working with you closely this year.

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



And just on a personal note I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the staff, families and the committee for all of your understanding with the loss of my mum.

I would just like to especially recognize the commitment of all the staff who helped out so willingly while I went through this very difficult time, especially Kim, Kyla and Nicole. I can't thank you all enough for continuing on for me.

Thank you to all of the Platypus families who so willingly accepted the changes to the first day.

Everyone's expressions of sympathy and supportive words were very much appreciated and continue to be.

### Annmaree



## KID'S PARTY FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Let us entertain your child and their friends  
at your next birthday party.

And best of all  
they will make their own party food.

Call Katrina for more details  
and to book your next hassle-free party.

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Kids in the Kitchen  
brought to by  
The Thermie Effect



*come one, come all, step right up and have a ball*

# WELCOME NIGHT



**Date:**

Friday 4th March 2016

**Time:**

5.30pm to 8.00pm

**Where:**

Diamond Hills Preschool

**Cost:**

\$10 per family

BYO picnic dinner

Join in the fun circus  
themed games, activities  
and entertainment

**RSVP: Friday 26th February with payment of \$10**

**Family name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of adults:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of children:** \_\_\_\_\_



'Welcome' and 'welcome back' to our children, staff and parents. A special staff welcome to Brenda and Kyla and Laura Lee (Laura Lee is completing her 4th year placement for her teaching degree with us in first month of this term.)

We are looking forward to the new Penguin team. 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. Thank you to all our committee for volunteering your precious time to keep our kindergarten functioning effectively – we really appreciate it.

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. You will receive a 'transition' report in November and the children's learning journals will always be available for you to look at/take home.

**“Cultural diversity is an important principle and practice in early childhood education and is an important part of a child's sense of belonging.”**

The Penguin group has had a great start to the year and are enthusiastic, social and busy. We have a full group of 26 children – 11 girls and 15 boys. 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 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. 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.

At this time of the year, we are learning lots about our kinder animals. The penguin group will be involved in the care and feeding of our menagerie! And they will be learning interesting facts about our stick insects and turtle. The children will be involved in gathering fresh gum leaves for the stick insects, letting out and feeding the chooks and of course Dodge and Elliot the ducks, love it when we make them a bath.



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. There will also be reflections of the children's learning journey on the



whiteboard and television screen – please take the time to read and watch these. Please feel free to make comment/ provide feedback/ suggestions through the suggestion pad at the sign in book and your child's learning journal.

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 locker area and includes principles, practices and outcomes for this curriculum.

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 will be coming home for sleepovers in a few weeks. Perry, Diamond and Waddles and a new friend (yet to be named) will be visiting all our families this year and we encourage the children and families to complete a page to be included in your child's learning journal – that may be a drawing of the Penguin and their kinder friend/ photos/ short diary entries etc. He/she stays



overnight, and comes back to kinder at your child's next session.

Examples of your child's learning journey at kinder will be documented in their own Learning Journal. This will include photos and learning stories, pieces of your child's work, experiences and interests provided by the families and more. These learning journals will enable your child, the teachers and parents to be actively involved in their learning, to keep a check on learning styles, progress and development and a wonderful keepsake of every child's preschool year. They provide valuable information which can be used to establish strong links between home and kindergarten and provide parents with an insight into some of the things that happen when their child is at kinder. Through these journals, teachers and parents can focus on achievement and plan for further learning based on individual interests, strengths and learning dispositions.

## 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

- Many thanks to those who have already donated toilet paper/tissues.
- **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 and the snack alert exclusions for lunch and snack boxes** – anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening condition.
- Remember Immunisation records of your child must be updated at the preschool throughout the year.

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 and Kyla**

**\$1.00**

Up to **\$20.00** Profit Per Carry Box

**\$1.00 Fun Pack Mixed**

Contains a mix of:

We are pleased to announce that our major fundraising event for Term 1 will be Cadbury Chocolates!

Every family has been allocated one box to sell. \$20 for each box sold coming directly back to Diamond Hills Pre-School!

Boxes will be available for collection from Monday 15th February!



## WELCOME NIGHT

All our families are invited to the Diamond Hills Preschool Welcome Night on Friday 4th March from 5.30-8pm. The Welcome Night will be held at DHPS. RSVP with payment of \$10 per family to be returned to DHPS by Friday 26th February. The Welcome Night is circus-theme with a range of activities to entertain all ages, including:

- Magic Show
- Circus Photo Booth
- Face Painting
- Crazy Circus Hair
- Create your own Circus Mask
- Circus Games

Bring along a picnic, enjoy the greatest show on earth and meet the families of Diamond Hills

Preschool. Like the DHPS Facebook page to stay updated on the Welcome Night.

We are asking parents to help man stalls and provide assistance with supplying lollies for cookie decorating, bakery contacts/discount confectionary contacts/chemist or hairdresser that might be able to donate colour spray/ chalk/slurpee machine.

**To make the Welcome Night a success we are seeking parent helpers to assist with supervising activities. Please sign up on the roster sheet located near the DHPS sign-in book.**

## ADVERTISE HERE NEXT MONTH

Contact Michael on [michael@mrgpro.com.au](mailto:michael@mrgpro.com.au)



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A warm welcome to all our new families that have

joined the Diamond Hills community and welcome back to our existing families.



Brenda and I and all the staff of Diamond Hills hope that you feel comfortable to approach us with any concerns about your child, or just to have a chat. It is how we will come to know you and your child better, and your contributions become an important part of the wonderful community that makes Diamond Hills special.

A mixture of nervousness and excitement was evident as parents and children exchanged lots of kisses and hugs before the parents left, leaving the children to happily engage in the activities. It's been a great start to the year with the children settling in beautifully. One or two children needed an extra cuddle from Brenda or I, but within a moment or two, there were huge smiles all around. We want to create a positive start to your child's kinder year.



**“During the next few weeks, we will be focusing on learning the routines and kinder rules”**

As seems to be the case every year, the painting easel again proved to be very popular, as did the pasting and playdough tables. The children are astounding Brenda and I as they confidently mix colours, with one child declaring that "A bit of yellow and blue makes green". Some children are already showing care for others by helping them to put on their art smocks. Meanwhile in the home corner, many cups of tea have been made, routes have been created with the train tracks and interesting constructions created with blocks. During conversations with the children, some have indicated that they spent some time by the beach or swimming pool over the summer. This gives us the





opportunity to explore the seaside and all the different creatures that live in the sea.

During the next few weeks, we will be focusing on learning the routines and kinder rules. We will be playing games at mat time in an effort to learn each other's names and we will be focusing on stories of possums or wombats so that we all develop a sense of belonging to either the Possums or the Wombat group.

Thank you to all parents for being patient at the end of the sessions whilst we learn whom belongs to whom and thanks again for reminding your child to come back to the mat if their name hasn't been called yet.

Until next time,  
Tania and Brenda.



## WORKING BEE

SUNDAY 20TH  
MARCH 9:30AM  
BBQ PROVIDED

## 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

## 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)  
Secretary: Karina Papadakis (Platypus)  
Assistant Secretary: Michael O'Keeffe (Penguin)  
Treasurer: Shannon Fitzpatrick (Platypus)  
Fees Officer: Cassy Coffey (Platypus)  
Enrolment Officer 4 Year olds: Chantelle Alvaro (Platypus)  
Enrolment Officer 3 Year olds: Faye Di Fabio (Possum)  
Fundrasing Co-Ordinator: Lisa Henry (Platypus)  
Events Co-Ordinator: Melanie Mackertich (Possum)  
Maintenance Officer: Bob Jovanovski (Platypus)  
Staff Liasion: Bev Ashley (Penguin)

### *Sub-Committee Members*

Purchasing Officer: Jane Robinson (Penguin)  
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

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