



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to term 3 everyone, we hope you all had a great break and ready to hit the second half of the year.

Here at Diamond Hills this term there are lots of exciting things planned such as Father's Day celebrations and the trivia night.

To assist the teachers run a fantastic program, please make sure you sign up to at least one parent helper duty. Whether you can stay for 2 hours or a whole session, all help is greatly appreciated.

At Diamond Hills each year the staff and committee discuss whether parent/teacher interviews are required. Once again this year we have decided not to hold formal interviews as our teachers have an 'open door policy'. This means that at any time you as the parent or the teacher feels it necessary to meet a time can be arranged.

Behind the scenes this month the committee have met with council to discuss grant options for the upcoming extension works. The council are happy to work closely with us to apply for a major grant for their building. We must thank Rianna Chapman for the massive job of undertaking the writing of this grant. She has done an exceptional job so far with us nearly ready for submission. Hopefully next month we can unveil our plans to all our families.

Carly Broadbent - President



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As you know leading up to the end of term 2 we celebrated our term of learning with the children nominating to have a 'Red, Black & Yellow Day'.

The experiences included painting wattle seed pods with aboriginal influenced painting, camping in the bush, preparing, cooking and eating damper around the 'camp fire', venturing into a cave, sharing the story of Wombat Stew and eating "Witchery Grubs". The children danced to traditional aboriginal music and of course their favourite Red, Black & Yellow song. The decorated wattle seed pods proved to be a popular experience and the children were very proud of their individual results, so we decided to turn their creations into necklaces.

This learning is supported by the VEYLDF - Community - explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition and the diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings. Communication - interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, clarity and challenge thinking and gain new understandings. Learning - explore ideas and theories using imagination, creativity and play. The VEYLDF also states that children who



display that they are participating in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences, use reflective thinking, make connections between experiences, concepts and processes, engage in learning relationships and use their senses to explore natural and built environments are involved in Learning. As you are also aware our Taekwondo program ended at the end of last term with ceremonial board breaking. This was a great way to end a wonderful program that the children not only looked forward to each week but learnt some very valuable "LIFE" skills. We were very fortunate to have a passionate and experienced instructor.

Each week the program would focus on a key area as well as teaching a new skill, these would then be reviewed each week before a new key area and a new skill were taught. Please check out this page in your child's learning journal for the key areas learnt each week.) There were 3 key rules to this program which the children all learnt very quickly. They were –

1. To respect each other.
2. Never to do Taekwondo (physically hurt) anybody else.
3. To have fun.

Several important areas worth highlighting that were a part of this program were the children were taught about focus, control and 'stranger





danger'. They were required to listen, follow instructions/directions and work together with others.

This was a very valuable addition to the Program. The VEYLDF states that Wellbeing is evident when children are able to 'engage in increasingly complex sensory-motor skills and movement patterns, combine gross and fine motor movement and balance to achieve increasingly complex patterns of activity, including dance, creative movement and drama, use their sensory capabilities and dispositions with increasing integration, skill and show enthusiasm for participating in physical play and negotiate play spaces to ensure the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others, purpose to explore and respond to their world and demonstrate spatial awareness and orient themselves, moving around and through their environments confidently and safely.'

As you can see the lead up to the end of term was very busy. The start of this term has seen the children return eager and enthusiastic. As part of our overall learning objectives the Platypus children as a group will be working towards increasing and extending their developing skills in Independence, being



encouraged to take more responsibility for their actions, extend and develop their social skills and interaction skills, to be responsible for. 're-setting' experiences when finished an experience (tidying up & packing away), to develop further their emerging understanding of sustainability - this includes learning more about the solar panels and how they work, to practice inclusive ways of achieving co-existence and to extend their emerging skills in body awareness. These skills have been chosen after careful observation from last term and a recognition that these skills are important for overall learning. As for the staff, towards the end of term Nicole, Kim and myself took the opportunity to extend our Personal Development by attending a meeting titled "Supporting Early Literacy". Some great ideas and valuable information was gained as we discovered - What is Literacy?, the 100 languages of children, we looked at literacy learning a socio-cultural model, the benefits of literacy, we looked at and discussed the Australian Early Development Census, we learnt



about the principles of literacy and the building blocks of literacy Also before the end of term Kim, Bron, Kyla and myself visited our gorgeous kids from last year who are now big Prep children at Apollo Parkways primary school.

We love doing this as not only do we love seeing how much our children have changed, grown and developed, the visit also strengthens our connections with the local school. Please note that this term we are visiting St Thomas'. Kyla,



Nicole and I are looking forward to another great term of learning and fun. As always if at anytime you have any questions or queries

PENGUIN GROUP



Kim has enjoyed some long service leave in America. We look forward to hearing about her trip and what the Penguin students have been up to in the August Newsletter.

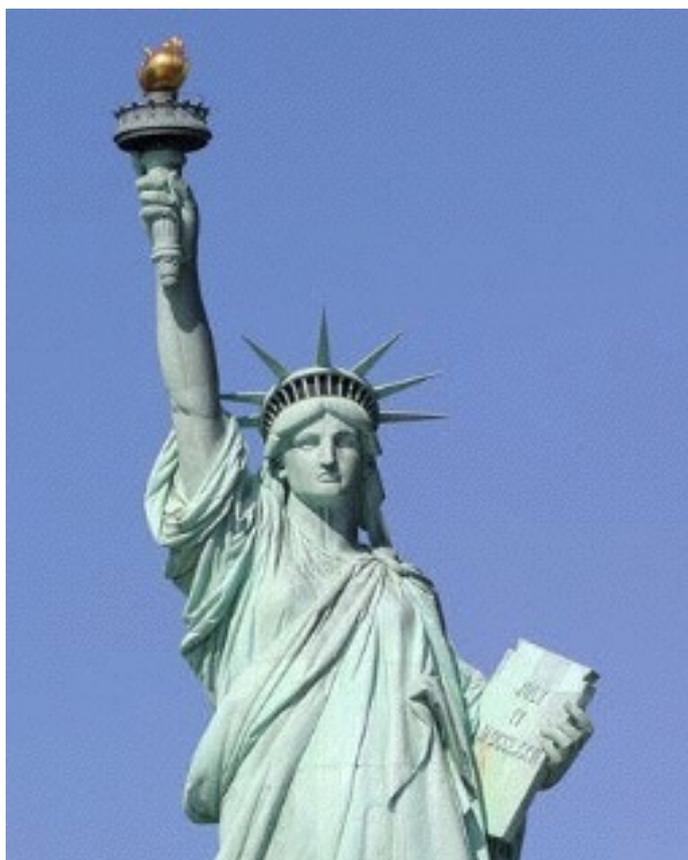
regarding anything to do with the program or your child, please don't hesitate to ask any of us at anytime.

Remember to send a coat and (optional) gumboots as the weather at this time of year is generally very cold. We do still go out on these days to play as the children don't tend to feel the cold and there is a lot to learn and discover over the Winter months. Stay Warm!

Kyla, Nicole & Annmaree

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Welcome back to
Term
3.
Brenda



and I hope you have all
have a wonderful break
and taken some time to
recharge your batteries.

No doubt you will have all noticed the shift in the outdoor temperature. It can be incredibly windy and chilly on the hill at Diamond Hills, so parents please be sure to pack a nice warm parker and a beanie in your child's bag. We will still take every opportunity we can to go outside, even if it's only for 30 mins.



As we have only had a small number of kinder sessions in the past month due to holidays, this month's report is rather light.

We finished the term with a colour and space party. In preparation for the party, Possum group made enough

cupcakes for both groups to share. The children waited patiently for their turn as each child cracked eggs, poured milk and melted butter, used the hand beater, scooped mixture into the patty pans and then, the best part....they got to lick their spoon ! Yum. !! Cooking is always such a wonderful opportunity to bring literacy and mathematical concepts into the children's learning. Using pictures as a guide, the children were able to 'read' the ingredients, measure and count the number of eggs and milk needed as well as how many spoonfuls of butter was

needed. When talking about the amounts, such as full cup, 1/2 cup etc, we introduce concepts of measurement such as volume and capacity as well as weight when describing how heavy or light the ingredients are. (*EYLF: Communication - Children are effective communicators when they begin to be aware of the relationship between oral, written and visual representations, as well as begin to demonstrate an increasing understanding of measurement and number*).

On party day, Possum and Wombat decorated their individual alien cupcake to eat. Other food that was prepared to go with our space theme included Starry sandwiches (hundred and thousand stars), watermelon, frankfurts, moon rocks (potatoes gems) and moon crackers (rice crackers with vegemite and butter). Our songs included, "I'm a little Rocket Ship", Silver balloon", Twinkle, twinkle little star" and we walked slowly around the room using giant steps in time to 'space music' as we pretended to be on the moon. We even made telescopes to view the stars.

On our return to kinder, some children in Possum group planted Some flowers into our recycled bookcase flower beds. We needed to make sure there was enough soil and we turned the soil to loosen it up ready for planting. The children discovered some worms in the soil and we spoke about their purpose in making the soil better for plants. Once planted, the children





watered in the plants. Wombat group will be planting theirs in the next week. We will monitor these over the next coming weeks to see how they grow . *(EYLF: Community - Children become socially responsible and show respect for their environment when they explore relationships with other living and non living things and observe, notice and respond to change.)*

It is usually as we are moving into the second half of the year, that we notice a huge growth, both emotionally and socially in the children. With maturation, the children's confidence keeps growing, their ability to understand, self regulate and manage their own emotions and show care and empathy for others improves, their concentration is longer, they become more resilient and resourceful in their play and interactions with other children and they begin to negotiate and extend their dramatic roles to incorporate the ideas of their peers.

It is also the time of the year where we need to seriously consider whether your child is ready to go onto 4 year old kinder or whether they could benefit from another year of 3 year old kinder. Another year in 3 year old is not automatically given unless it is apparent that a child would benefit from having a little more time to develop emotionally. Often going onto 4 year old kinder, where children's language and social skills are more developed, would be beneficial to younger children. At Diamond Hills, our door is always open and our staff are always available to have a discussion about your child to addresses their progress and any concerns that you may have.

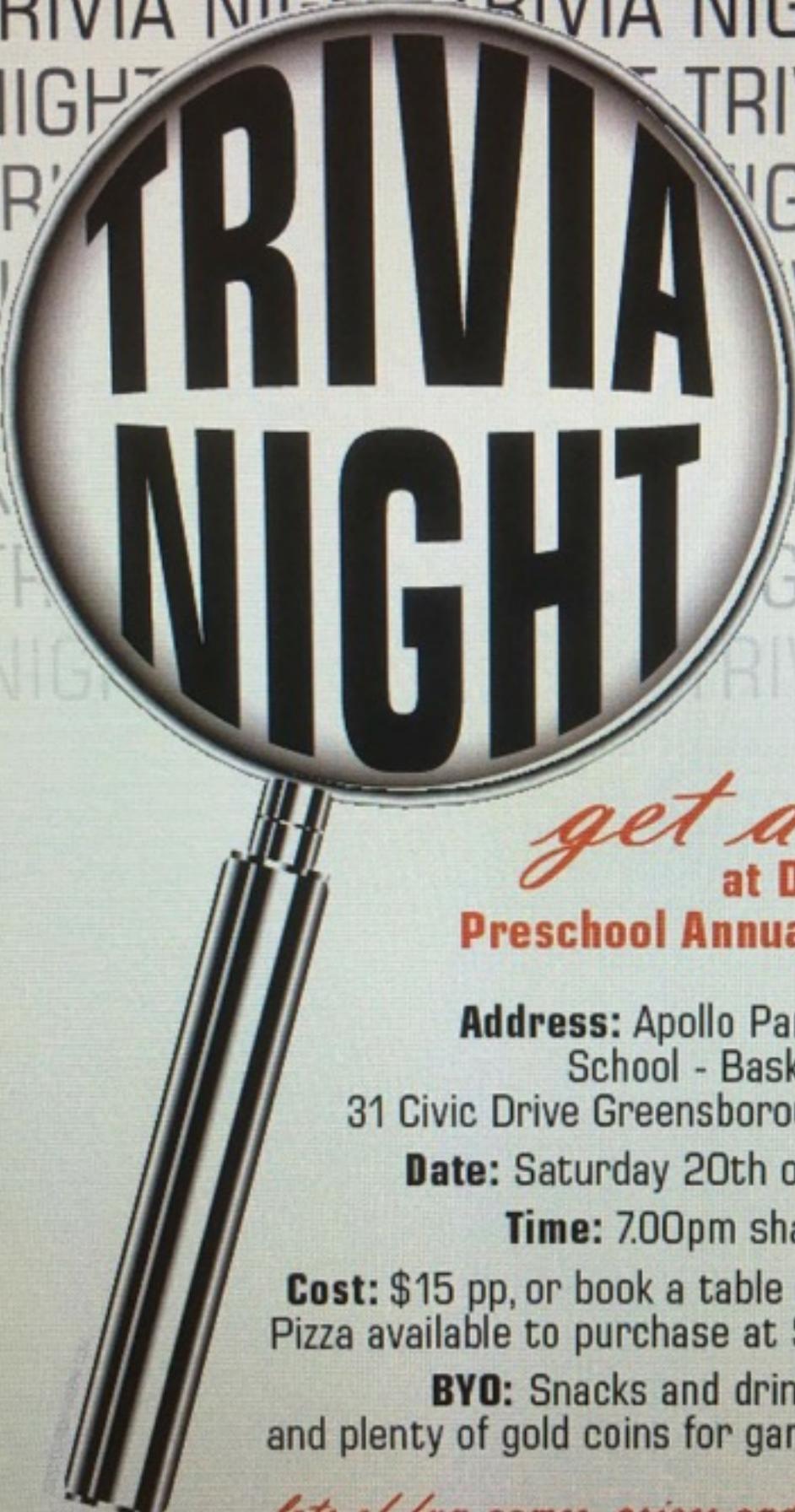
Please feel free to approach me if you have any concerns, or any other staff member.

To keep you all posted on my progress with my studies, I am again required to do Practicum Placement at another centre for 3 weeks in August between the 8th to 26th. This will necessitate another educator stepping in as my replacement. Brenda will be continuing as co educator.

Until next time,
Tania and Brenda



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TRIVIA NIGHT

get a clue
**at Diamond Hills
Preschool Annual Fundraiser**

Address: Apollo Parkways Primary
School - Basketball Stadium,
31 Civic Drive Greensborough (parking at IGA).

Date: Saturday 20th of August 2016.

Time: 7.00pm sharp to 11.00pm.

Cost: \$15 pp, or book a table of 10 at \$10pp.
Pizza available to purchase at \$2.50 per slice.

BYO: Snacks and drinks (including alcohol)
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CHECK IN WITH YOUR TEACHER

Remember anytime you have any questions/queries about your child or the program no matter how small please don't hesitate to ask. We don't have formal do parent/teacher/child interviews, however you are welcome to contact us at anytime.

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We require updates of your immunisation records and emergency contact details. Please see your teacher with any updates you may have.



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- The car
- The lounge
- Pant Pockets
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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)
Secretary: Karina Papadakis (Platypus)
Assistant Secretary: Michael O'Keeffe (Penguin)
Treasurer: Cassy Coffey (Platypus)
Fees Officer: Cassy Coffey (Platypus)
Enrolment Officer 4 Year olds: Chantelle Alvaro (Platypus)
Enrolment Officer 3 Year olds: Faye Di Fabio (Possum)
Fundraising Co-Ordinator: Lisa Henry (Platypus)
Events Co-Ordinator: Melanie Mackertich (Possum)
Maintenance Officer: Bob Jovanovski (Platypus)
Staff Liaison: 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

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.)