



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Wow here we are at the end of term 2 and boy what another big term it is. With all our little ones now settled into their routine, so too are the committee who are now working on lots of projects.

We are soon to present to council our masterplan for the kinder which is really exciting. The committee are also working on upgrading our emergency exits within and around the kinder; once again meeting with the council in the next few weeks.

The fundraising committee are doing a wonderful job coming up with such novel ideas with the clothes donations raising \$133.75 for the kinder. We hope you like the bag of cards too. Thank you everyone who has participated.

Next term we would encourage all families to make sure they help out in the kinder rooms too. It does not need to be for the whole session but a couple of hours are greatly appreciated. Not only does your child really enjoy you seeing them participate but the kinder teachers love your help too.

Enjoy the Winter break and see you all in term 3

Carly Broadbent - President



**ANNIVERSARY
TEA TOWLES
COMING SOON**



**SATURDAY 20TH
AUGUST**

**TERM 3 BEGINS
THE WEEK OF**



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Since last month the Platypus children have been involved in exploring and discovering, through a variety of experiences.

The children continued to show interest in 'writing' and 'reading' and more recently numbers and planning, so rulers, tape measures and clip boards were introduced to their block play. This really extended their play. They had their fine motor skills challenged through weaving and sewing. They also continued to develop and extend their interest in cultural diversity. To support this learning we organised an IncurSION – Australian Wildlife Lectures with Andrew. The Aim of the Program was to -

Show the differences between animal groups such as Reptiles, Insects & Mammals; what they eat and how they protect themselves as well as other concepts such as hard/soft; legs/no legs, ways animals move, etc. To encourage respect for animals and their homes/environment. To introduce safety awareness with animals, just like practicing an emergency evacuation, children need to be taught what they should and should not do when they encounter some of our wildlife in their backyard or in the bush. Andrew



brought with him Live Animals - Reptiles: lizards, freshwater turtles and a NON-POISONOUS snake, frogs and a variety of mini beasts. Preserved animals - a variety of taxidermy animals for example: possum, echidna & wombat as well as bones and specimens preserved in jars. Andrew does not bring live native mammals due to the stress it would place on them during transportation and when being handled as well as the risk of injuries (scratches and bites) to the children. This was a great incursion because it provided the children with Hands On learning as the children were encouraged to closely look at and handle the animals.

This wonderful learning experience led us to creating a 'camping' area.

Because the children have really been involved in learning about Australia's heritage we have decided to have a "Red, Black & Yellow" celebratory party. This will be held on Thursday 16th June (not quite the end of term)

What else have the children been involved in? After they had been making different pasta dishes using the play dough, Nicole's mother-in-law volunteered to come in and make gnocchi with them. They really enjoyed this and she has volunteered to come back during the last week of term to make spaghetti with the children. How lucky are we?



To continue with the children's interest in recycling we decided to introduce a different



way of viewing this by using 2 of our shelves that were no longer suitable for storage into garden beds. We have started one which is placed just near the end of the veranda. The children loved helping to fill this with compost soil before placing their plants into the garden bed. It also provided the opportunity to revisit and reaffirm previous discussions about plants and how they grow. The children were able to get a close up look of and discuss the root system.

Another great experience over the past month was Bronwen brought in some of her bees from her hive for the children to see, discuss and further their learning about. Bronwen brought in some honeycomb for them to try as well.

It is hard to describe just how much learning has taken place through the program which has been scaffolded and formed around the children's interests. Intentional and incidental teaching opportunities have also been used. With the help of lots of discussion by Educators the children have been encouraged to extend their thinking, have been assisted in planning, problem solving and independence. Of course along with this, many of their physical and social skills have also been developed.

Show and Tell has continued to feature this term which is great for developing social interaction, language/communication development,

encouraging self confidence and encouraging the children to ask questions.

We recently were given the opportunity to be a part of a project called "A Big Group Hug". This group is a volunteer organisation who work with the local community to respond to the immediate material needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families.

Being involved in such a worthwhile cause provided a wonderful chance to discuss with the children about the wider community and how there may be other children who don't have as much as we do. The discussion was helpful in encouraging the children to discuss feelings and in also getting the children to problem solve about how they might be able to help. A big thank you to everyone for supporting this cause so generously.

As we know children all learn at different rates so this is also planned for and allowed for within the program.



This is such an amazing time in your children's lives, to witness the excitement of discovery is a wonderful experience.

Research shows that 'The root brain structure, which provides the

foundation for future

functioning, is largely established by the age of three. By then the foundations for thinking, language, aptitudes and attitudes, have been laid down and the structure and design of the brain is almost complete. In the early years the brain establishes many connections and pathways. The repetition of an action or experience helps to etch these pathways into the brain. Once they have become strengthened

sufficiently, they become permanent.’ (Taken from ‘Stages of Brain Development’)

The children are still enjoying Taekwondo but this formal part of the program will finish at the end of this term. To help us celebrate all the fun and learning that has taken place you are invited to stay at the start of our session on Wednesday 22nd June to watch our final Taekwondo session. If you can stay afterwards for a short while you are welcome to bring along your lunch. If you can't attend the session, due to other commitments don't worry.

Kyla, Nicole and I are keen to continue with some form of formal physical educational program next term which we will run, so we'll keep you informed.

Can you believe it, we are almost at the end of another term and 1/2 way through the year already!!

This term ends for us on Thursday 23rd June and 3rd Term will begin on Monday 11th July.

Thank you to those parents who have had a chat to me regarding their child and how they are progressing at Kinder. Remember you can do this at anytime, just let me know of a day and time that suits you.

Staff Development -

Kim, Nicole and I are attending a meeting on the afternoon of Friday the 17th June organised

through DEKTA. The topic is Literacy in Early Childhood.

On this day Kim, Bron, Kyla and I are also visiting our gorgeous Preps who attended kinder last year at Apollo. We love to do this as it is great to see how our children have settled. It is also great to continue our strong connection that we have with our local primary schools. We are visiting St Thomas' early next term.

Until next month. Enjoy the upcoming holidays, rest, recharge and stay warm.

Until next month.

Annmaree, Kyla & Nicole



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get a clue

**SAVE
THE DATE:**

**SATURDAY
20 AUGUST**

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Hi everyone,

Where has the term gone? We are nearing the end of another term of learning and fun and when we reflect on recent weeks, we think

about broadening friendship groups, extending and engaging in learning to a deeper level, developing interests, the different ways in which children engage with their world and what amazing children they are.

During the past month, the Penguins have been developing skills and learning through a variety of experiences. As we get to know the children more in 2nd term, we are able to reflect on the different ways in which they learn (learning dispositions) and plan accordingly.

To engage some of our visual & imaginative learners we have provided lots of 3 dimensional craft construction activities where children have created, bark painting, group art and craft projects such as our indigenous flag and natural material wall hangings. The playdough has seen monsters, aliens and creatures being made with natural seed pods and sticks. The symbolic play area has moved onto a camping area, where we are seeing and hearing some fantastic role play and language. We have enjoyed supporting some wonderful imaginations and encouraged persistence at task and problem solving. In addition to this persistence at task, we have been engaging all the children in some more structured cutting practice to build on this skill area. This is a great skill area to practice at home – reminding the children of hand position and encouraging the thumb to stay on top while cutting. Sometimes we put a little smiley face on the top of their thumb as a visual reminder

(manipulation of tools, hand strength and control)

For our more physical or kinaesthetic learners, we have been playing kick to kick with the football, encouraging our keen footballers to teach their peers the steps to kicking the football, and we have recently introduced Poison Ball which the Penguin group absolutely love. This game has been fantastic for encouraging the children to participate and respect the rules of the game, develop a greater awareness of fair play, turn taking and resilience.

Taekwondo in recent weeks has covered Stranger Danger, Commitment- trying hard, not giving up, and some new moves such as ‘swish swash’ kick. The relay gross motor warm ups have continued and the Penguin group particularly enjoy this format of the program. To end a fantastic term of Taekwondo fun and learning, we are inviting the parents to the final lesson where they children will show you some of their moves and attempt to ‘break the board’ with a palm strike!

When: Tuesday 21st June at 9.30 – 10.30am

The Early Learning framework includes developing an awareness of diversity of cultures, including indigenous Australians. We are exploring this through their storytelling culture of art and performance. We have also been learning about the aboriginal flag and the children particularly enjoy the song called: “Red, Black





and Yellow”.....Get them to show you their dance moves! The children created a flag using hand prints. The children have been experimenting with aboriginal symbols at the drawing table, bark painting, creating wall hangings and stick art from natural materials, listening to and dancing with wooden sticks, learning about bush tucker and listening to dreamtime stories, etc. They have seen and touched a beautiful collection of Boab tree seedpod art by aboriginal artists in the Northern Territory and discussed what their kinder and community would have been like 100's and 1,000's of years ago before their kinder and homes were in existence. An important aspect of this area of learning is also to teach our children that aboriginals are like everyone in the world – they come in all shapes, sizes, colour and may live traditionally or next door to you As children learn more about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and participate in experiences that promote acceptance and inclusion, they learn how to respond to diversity with respect.

Garden update: the children have been harvesting the lettuce and parsley crop. They have absolutely loved picking cos lettuce leaves and parsley leaves and eating them while playing outside. The children's investment in their community garden is obvious in the pleasure they gain from eating and sharing their produce. We will need to check our bulb pots in coming weeks (community – shared project, collaborative efforts. learning – engaging with and expressing wonder & curiosity in their environment, science and more)

Andrew Wegner and his Australian Wildlife program visited us this month. Andrew brings along live and preserved Australian mammals, reptiles and insects. The children were able to interact with these animals and learn lots of interesting facts, develop respect and learn new words and information. The children were given the opportunity to hold a number of species including a snake, blue tongue lizards, turtles, bearded dragons, green tree frogs, yabbies and touch those animals that were preserved. This allows the children the opportunity to touch animals that they would not normally be able to touch such as an echidna, fresh water crocodile, koala, possum and platypus. Andrew spoke with the children about seeing snakes, spiders etc and what they need to do. His message was of course to “leave them alone and go and tell an adult.”

‘Professor Fiona’ (Amaya’s mum) engaged the children in 3 science experiments on Thursday 9th. In half groups, the children listened, measured, investigated and hypothesized about results. They learnt some new words like dissolve, experiment, compare, reaction, flubber and smelt interesting smells and felt interesting textures. The children were asked to describe what they were seeing, feeling and smelling. This was a great hands on experience for the children and the looks on their faces when they felt the flubber, smelt the vinegar or watched the volcanoes erupt was priceless Maybe Fiona has influenced some scientists of the future. (learning: mathematical language, measurement, vocabulary, processing information, cause and effect, hypothesising, sensory exploration) Many thanks to Fiona with her well organised and



equipped science session. Give Fiona a call if you would like to book an interesting/different birthday party for your children.

End of Term Celebration:

We traditionally end the term with a celebration of the learning and fun we have achieved. We like to gain inspiration from the children for this event and this term our 'Red, Black and Yellow' learning focus has really struck a cord with lots of the children. Kim will be away for the last week of term (on long service leave) and she didn't want to miss out!, so we are having the celebration on Thursday 16th. This celebration will be a combination of colour, art, Australian culture and music. We will be making damper, making birds with an aboriginal art influence, playing games and of course, singing our favourite song

Don't forget to take your child's learning journal home for the holidays, add to it with holiday experiences and fill in the feedback form.

Kim is heading overseas in the last week of term and she will be back on Tuesday 26th July. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone's news when I return and I will miss everyone. Louise Davis is an experienced, warm and talented teacher and will be filling in for me for the 3 weeks.

Last day of term for the penguins: Friday 24th June

3rd term resumes: Tuesday 12th July

Have a happy and safe holiday everyone and stay warm

Kim, Bronwen, Brenda, Kyla





It's hard to believe that we have reached

the end of

Term 2 already. We are already half way through the year !!!!!.



The children have really settled in well into the routines of the kinder day. Friendships are beginning to form, becoming stronger with each day. Children's voices can be heard as they assert themselves in play episodes, sometimes directing, sometimes following. They are becoming more and more independent and capable in their surroundings and with their peers. About this time I start to reflect on just how much they have grown physically, socially and emotionally. It always makes me smile. As we are entering that time when we need to start thinking about 4 year old enrolments for next year, please approach Brenda or I if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or if you have any concerns.

We start this newsletter by reflecting on children's learning for the past month.

An learning experience that children enjoyed was the 'goop' or 'oobleck' made from cornflour and water. Being such a messy activity, we conducted this outside. Children at first were presented with a container of cornflour to feel and experience the texture. Water was then added, which changed the consistency. The non Newtonian properties of the cornflour and water mixture allows the oobleck to form balls when pressure is applied, or become running once the pressure is released. Challenging the children to higher order thinking, I asked them questions about what they thought was happening to the mixture, whether or not we could separate the

water from the cornflour or what would happen if we added more or less water or cornflour. We then experimented to find answers to these questions. *(VEYLDF: Learning - Children are confident and involved learners when they develop dispositions, skills and processes for learning such as curiosity, enthusiasm, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising and investigating.)*

Colour mixing continued this month. We again used the primary colours of red, blue and yellow to create new colours. Using pipettes, paper towel and food dye, the children experimented for different purposes. Some were absorbed in how the colour spread across the paper, others just wanted to cover their whole paper in colour, whilst others were marveling at the various new colours they were producing. They tested their hypothesis by repeating the same colour combinations to see if they achieved the same outcome. We then read the story of "White Rabbit's colour book" in which a white rabbit jumps into buckets of red, blue or yellow to create secondary colours, to cement the new information. *(VEYLDF: Learning - as above and Communication - Children are confident communicators when they interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, clarify and challenge thinking and share new understandings)*

The children also began to experiment with measurement and distance using various



strategies to find an answer. Mathematical language and concepts include longer, shorter, taller, further, farthest and closest. (VEYLDF: *Communication- children are effective communicators when they interact verbally and non verbally with others for a range of purposes and begin to demonstrate an increasing understanding of measurement and number to convey meaning*)

It was during play that the children discovered that a rainbow shone it's beautiful colour into our classroom. Stepping into the colourful spectrum, I showed the children how I could make the rainbow appear on my shoe. The children began to also experiment with the positioning of their feet and bodies so as to place the refraction of the rainbow onto themselves. I took the opportunity to have the children sit into the spectrum to take a photo. (VEYLDF: *Learning - Children are involved and confident learners when they are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning and explore their environment by enquiring, experimenting and investigating their surroundings to consider why things happen.*)

This week we have introduced our space station. This has come about as some children were engaged in dramatic play outdoors on the play equipment, pretending to 'blast off' into space. Question raised were, 'Why do astronauts need



to wear spacesuits? and 'How come we walk slowly on the moon?'. We have only just started to explore this idea about what happens and what can be seen in space, with the children making stars to add to the Space environment. Other activities have included roller ball painting to create galaxies. Not only does this activity include colour mixing, but it also incorporates hand-eye coordination and eye tracking, which is vital for children to develop the skill of reading from left to right. Our songs so far have included 'Silver balloon', 'I'm a little Rocket' and 'Twinkle twinkle' and we have pretended to walk slowly on the moon in time to music. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to explore this topic further next week and possibly into the new term if the interest continues. (VEYLDF : *Identity - Children develop knowledgeable self-identities when they explore different identities, points of view, engage in and contribute to shared play experiences in dramatic play. Community - Children develop a sense of belonging to groups when they cooperate with others and negotiate roles in play episodes. Learning - Children are confident and involved learners when they use play to image, investigate and explore ideas*)



With that, we will end the term with a

**SPACE and
COLOUR PARTY**

Children are invited to come dressed in fancy dress, incorporating either space or colour as the dress code. Food will be provided. Children will need to bring their drink bottles only. More details to follow in a separate note.

On another note, a huge thank you to all the families that contributed to our latest fundraiser, "The Big Hug". I am sure all the donated items will help families in need enormously in caring for their young babies.

Until next time
Tania and Brenda

Date for your Diary

Kinder photos

Possums - Monday 25th July

Wombats - Tuesday 26th July



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NEXT MONTH
Contact Michael on
michael@mrgpro.com.au





Possum and Wombat End of Term Two Party

The children are invited to dress up in Space Costumes or Rainbow colours.

Possums

Wednesday 22nd June, 2016

Time: 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Wombats

Tuesday 21st June, 2016

Time: 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Children are asked to bring their water.

We will be making some party food during the session for the children to share.



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Changes to Council's recycling program mean there will be changes to our Red Cycle program. Red Cycle bins will continue to operate as is in the classroom but those items can then be placed in a plastic bag and disposed in the yellow (recycling) bin collected by Council. We will no longer need to take those items to Coles.

WASTE WARRIOR



Red

STEP 1

Scrunch Test:
Identifying soft plastics is easy. Simply scrunch your rubbish and if the packaging reforms to original shape it's in!



STEP 2

Bin it:
Pop the soft plastic into either the red table tubs or the red bin



STEP 3

Disposal:
The red bin is emptied into a plastic bag and placed in the council yellow (recycling) bin.



STEP 4

Recycle:
The soft plastics are taken to a sorting centre and then recycled or transformed into other materials instead of ending up in landfills



Step 5

End Result:
Reduces the amount of waste going into our weekly hard rubbish and landfill, but it also reduces the need to use precious natural resources.

PICCOLLAGE

As part of our commitment to sustainability and the environment, Diamond Hills Preschool is participating in the Oral Care Recycling Program

Waste drop off is available until the end of October

Colgate drop offs are a great way to reduce waste in our landfills by upcycling oral care products into new reusable items



The oral care products collected will be sent to TerraCycle to be upcycled, similar to our Red Cycle System

So please drop off all oral care items above in our drop off box. This program accepts any brand of oral care waste.

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.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

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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Play, Learn, Laugh and Grow

5cent

Kinder Fundraising

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.

Tips to find 5 cents
>>> CLEAN <<<

- The car
- The lounge
- Pant Pockets
- Handbags
- Ask family and friends to help

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)
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)

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