



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

What a fantastic start to the year with our Welcome Night and fundraiser on Friday 4 March. To go from a hot and sunny 38 degree day to threatening rain within minutes, the clouds held off for us to all enjoy our picnics.

The children had a great time exploring the photo booth, coloured hair spray activity, colouring in and of course running around whilst their parents got to mingle. It was great to catch up with families who have become our friends through the kinder years and then meet new faces and put names to them too.

What an awesome job our events and fundraising committee did to organise the night. Our magician David, who is a Dad from kinder kindly donated his time on the night. He not only entertained the kinder kids but their bigger brothers and sisters and of course us parents too. Bec, our makeup artist on the night, was fantastic also. We had supermen, butterflies and of course a maggie face.

Thank you to all the families who attended with their picnics and everyone who gave up their time to make such an enjoyable night.

We have nearly received all the money back from our chocolate drive. Thank you to

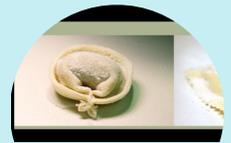
everyone who have been prompt in returning their money, if you haven't done so yet please do so ASAP.

Our kinder cannot look as amazing as it is without us running working bees. Thanks to all the parents that attended the working bee on Sunday.

Carly Broadbent - President



DHPS 30th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 24



PASTA FUN!

PASTA FUNDRAISER
COMING TERM 2



CLOSET CLEANOUT
NOW ON





This past month has gone very quickly. It's hard to believe that the end of term is only a week away.

The children have been very busy with lots of discovering, exploring, experimenting, sharing, problem solving and learning about co-operation. With the hot and humid weather we have been doing lots of relaxation and water play.

One of the children's interests has been play dough which they have used for pretend cooking, making noodles and pancakes. The pancakes were the most popular items, so with this in mind we decided to cook some. The children thoroughly enjoyed these. Cooking is important because it teaches, measurement, encourages children to explore their senses through touching, smelling and tasting ingredients and entices them to try new foods. Cooking is a beneficial skill, teaching about different types of ingredients and healthy eating. By educating children about cooking and introducing them to fun and tasty recipes, this will help them to make better eating decisions. Other areas of a child's development that is also



encouraged through cooking include developing children's literacy skills through following a recipe and instructions, science is incorporated through identifying ingredients, mixing and cooking, as is social and emotional development because children learn to share, take turns and enjoy doing an activity together. Children's self esteem and self confidence is also developed as they learn that they can be successful in helping to produce something tangible that can taste good. Fine motor skills are also practiced as they mix, beat and learn control.

“Children love to experiment, explore and discover. Part of our role as educators is to facilitate children's interests so that they are stimulated to find out more”



The children have also really enjoyed painting, so we decided to provide the opportunity for the children to try a different medium from brushes to encourage this interest. We decided to use an Agapanthus flower head because some of the children had been watching them grow since

last year and this gave us the opportunity to discuss the life cycle of a flower as well as recycling and re-using things within our natural environment. This experience made the children that were involved responsible for the whole process which also involved choosing and cutting the flower. By using this medium for painting the children were able to be as creative as they wanted to be in the outcome of what their painting looked like. The Early Years Learning Framework states - *children begin to have a better understanding of the community they live in when they 'demonstrate an increasing knowledge of and respect for natural and constructed environments, explore, infer, predict and hypothesise in order to develop an increased*



making jelly, a balloon and water experiment and our sensory day. Our sensory day was quite an important part of our term learning because as research shows Sensory Play is 'play that uses and stimulates multiple senses in the body. Children learn through their environment and adding sensory experiences helps to stimulate the brain by sending signals that help strengthen neural pathways. This is so important for all types of learning'. Children generally love getting involved and so this day provided many wonderful learning opportunities. Children love to experiment, explore and discover. Part of our role as educators is to facilitate children's interests so that they are stimulated to find out more.



understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals and show growing appreciation and care for natural and constructed environments.'

Other areas of the program have included discovering and experimenting with ice and sand. The children also decided to create a fairy garden outside and many became involved in coming up with ideas and then being aided to carry these out. More will be done in this area after the working bee, as we need to have our bushes surrounding this area trimmed and we didn't want the children's hard work to get accidentally damaged. Through this interest they also made an imaginative 'fantasy' area inside. The children have also been presented with some specific 'science' experiences through

Last week the wonderful opportunity to discover and be involved more in music was presented with Chantelle (Adele's mum) playing her guitar and singing with the children and Nicole bringing in her children's violin and viola so that they could further explore these two instruments.



It is often these impromptu learning opportunities that make kinder so much fun.

We celebrated St Patrick's Day as it is important that we recognise and celebrate different family cultures and the children will be having a surprise and mysterious visit from the Easter Bunny.

We have begun the children's individual Learning Journals. The idea behind these is to provide you with the opportunity to share and follow in your child's interests and learning throughout the year. Please feel free to add to these at anytime. Some families like to add family holidays or important family events. You are welcome to take these home at anytime but please bring them back to kinder on a regular basis so that we can continue to update them through the year.

Last Thursday we held a F.U.D.G.E (friend, uncle, dad, grandparent or extra special person) night. The children were very excited and made scones to share with their special person. A big thank you to all of those who could make it. Kyla, Nicole and I loved meeting you all. The children loved showing their special person around and sharing their kinder with them. This is also a great night for the children to extend their feeling of belonging.



The staff all belong to a support group known as DEKTA (Diamond Valley and Eltham Kindergarten Teacher's Association). I am the Vice President of this support network. Our AGM was held at the end of February and I am once again the Vice President. The staff are very conscious about continuously updating their knowledge and skills.

Kyla, Nicole and I wish you all a safe and restful break and a very Happy Easter.

We look forward to catching up with everyone when we return for the start of second term on Monday 11th April.

Kyla, Nicole and Annmaree





The Penguins have had a positive and fun-filled month, exploring their kindergarten world, developing new relationships with friends, pets and staff.

Routines have been

established and the children are responding well to these.

We have been reflecting and experimenting with timetabling and routines to suit the children individually and as a group – sometimes indoor/ outdoor choice, group and meal sessions at different times, etc. Hope you got to see the Adventure Play Day photos on the screen? Lots of fun, mud, slime, ice, investigation and exploration.

It has been exciting to watch the social groups developing, who loves to do what, the different ways that children approach their learning through play and we are always looking to find emerging interests and developmentally appropriate skills that we can develop in the program. As the term has progressed and we have observed the children's ways of exploring and interacting with their kindergarten environment, we are developing a sense of each child's learning dispositions. Ensuring habits of



mind and actions, and tendencies to respond in characteristic ways to situations and experiences. This will obviously be ongoing throughout the year, but as we build relationships with the children and observe them, we are able to involve the individual child in their own learning, developing their interests and directions that their learning takes.

As educators, we continue to build relationships with each child, observe, guide, initiate, scaffold learning and reflect on these which leads to developing a planning cycle to foster each and every child's learning in our Penguin group.

The children's interests & learning directions in recent times have included:

- **Art:** The Penguin group are showing a real interest in art – particularly drawing, sending letters, and outdoor group art. So much so, that the drawing table had to be doubled and the envelope supply is dwindling. We have seen lots of experimentation with text, sharing their skills with friends and mirroring the use of letters in their play. The pirate treasure hunt on Adventure Play day, has led to lots of pirate maps being created, where children are learning how symbols are a form of communication – great early literacy experiences.





- **Cooking:** After lots of baking with the playdough and 'oven' and in the sandpit, creating cakes, biscuits and pizzas, this area of the program has extended to the children baking play dough, fruit muffins, honey crackles for Special Person night and creating 'stretchy dough'. These experiences promote turn taking, using recipes, counting, mathematical concepts of measurement and weight, and lots of great language about change in structure, taste and home experiences. We will be making pizzas soon.
- **Science experiments:** Adventure Play day was filled with lots of sensory and science exploration and this has led to further experimentation. Bronwen has been engaging the children with some simple experiments using water, balloons, bottles and air. The children were fascinated with the cause and effect elements of the learning experience and it is fantastic to watch the different ways the children process and develop their ideas. The next step was to provide the children with a table of elements and watch how they extended their learning and developed their own ideas.
- **Dinosaurs:** Some of our Penguin children are particularly interested in dinosaurs and were very excited about frozen dinosaur eggs. The warm weather has been great for some icy activities and lots of discussion developed about how the ice melts, how can we make it melt faster, skeletons, extinction and naming dinosaurs.
- **Tree climbing and exploring playground:** Many of the children are becoming more

adventurous in their play ground, developing life skills of confidence, resilience, curiosity and physical strength, coordination and kinaesthetic awareness. We like to include and challenge the children by creating obstacle courses during some sessions, with the children's help and ideas.

- **Symbolic play:** This has included lots of superheroes, ninja turtles, family – particularly having babies and pirates. Symbolic play develops early literacy skills of language, sharing and expressing ideas, using symbols and representation in play, playing out real life experiences and developing children's identities and social confidence.
- **Gardening:** The children discovered a pumpkin plant in the garden which had self seeded through compost from our compost bins. They carefully replanted it in the vegetable garden and some of the children have been caring for and watching its progress. Although it is currently taking up most of the veggie patch (there are a few potato plants growing as well) it is not a great time of year for a pumpkin, it has been a wonderful experience to observe rapid plant growth and for the children to feel a sense of community and belonging in their garden at preschool. It has also been interesting to watch the 1000's of ants that have laid their eggs in the veggie patch and frantically move them when the children water the pumpkin plant!
- **Special Visitor evening:** Many thanks to the Dads, Mums, cousins and uncles who came to our evening this month. The children were so





excited and absolutely loved showing their visitors their preschool and having some fun. We will be having another evening near Father's Day for those families who missed out this time. Please come in and spend some time with your child whenever you are able, no need to wait for special evenings. This evening was planned to allow the children to show family members their preschool, to promote their sense of belonging and identity within their new community.

- **Group times:** This month has involved lots of learning about being respectful listeners, using our bodies to freeze, making shapes and sounds. We have learnt a new dance called 'penguins drinking tea' and also the 'The Wriggle Jiggle Woo' dance. The Penguin group love to dance to 'hey can you freeze' and we do this all around the room. We are also practicing the art of relaxation, which can be tricky for some and this is great on a hot Friday afternoon when we have tired children. We have just started looking at some Yoga positions and the children are very keen to show how



they can balance, stretch and make their bodies into interesting shapes. Keep an eye out for the Taekwondo program next term - more information coming.

As per our Early Years Learning and Development Framework, the program is working towards the outcomes listed on our planning cycle on the educational program notice board.

We are beginning to get your child's learning journals up and running. Check out your child's learning journal throughout the year when you get the chance to see a snapshot of some of the experiences your children have been involved in. We will be sending your child's learning journal home at the end of term for you and your family to contribute to. Maybe a holiday experience or simply something your child loves to do. It may be photos, writing or drawings, brochures, something your child has collected etc. Whatever you and your child would like to do – there is no right or wrong.

The written educational programs are displayed for our families to refer to. The Diamond Hills philosophy statement and overall educational program is displayed in the locker area and the current planning cycle on the verandah noticeboard under the Penguin heading.

Don't forget to catch up on what the children have been up to by watching out for the reflection whiteboard with the photo screen, which we endeavour to have up for you on a Thursday or Friday. These aim to keep our families informed about what their children have been involved in and why. The types of learning and skill development are noted, as are some of the children's reflections about their learning. We appreciate any feedback you would like to offer - constructive comments, suggestions etc.

Our Penguin group mascots have started going home recently. They come complete with their own back pack and a reminder, if you have time, to complete an entry for your child's learning journal. This may be a drawing from your child and/or their siblings, photos, a little diary of what

they got up to, etc. The children blow a magic kiss to Kim's pointing finger for the penguin list – so your child's turn is random (Kim has her eyes shut!!) We have also finished our Friendship Book, which we are sending home with our children to share with their families. This is a great transition between home and kinder and encourages a sense of belonging and comfort in their preschool and new friends, teachers and animals.

PLEASE NOTE: We have a child at Diamond Hills Preschool who is Anaphylactic to NUTS and EGGS and SEAFOOD. No obvious nuts or high egg content snacks (e.g. boiled egg, quiche, pavlova/meringue), no tuna or salmon sushi rolls, etc are to be included in your child's snack boxes. This is a potentially life threatening condition, so we must be vigilant.

THANK YOU: Big thank you to everyone for a lovely term. We are enjoying getting to know everyone and we appreciate your help and interest in the program. Thanks for all those who have contributed to the roster so far, the washing and collecting recycled items. Big thank you's for your fundraising efforts with the Chocolate Drive. Many thanks to our Committee members who are working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running and financial security of the kinder. Thank you also to Ethan's Dad, Dan, who is working with us in regards to the preschool building and future plans for the preschool. And thank you in advance to our working bee participants! We know you are all busy families and we appreciate your efforts for your child's kinder



Dates for your Diary:

- Thursday March 24th: Last day of Term 1
- Friday March 25th: NO KINDER - Good Friday
- Tuesday 12th April: Term 2 commences
- Tuesday 12th April: Visit from the local library for storytime
- Tuesday 19th April: Taekwondo commences
- Thursday 21st April: Visit from Nillumbik Dental program

Happy Easter and Happy Holidays everyone!

Kim, Bronwen, Kyla, Brenda



*DVPS opened on the
24th March, 1986*



POLICY UPDATE

The following policies have been reviewed.

- Administration of First Aid Policy
- Epilepsy Policy
- Excursion and Service Events Policy

No changes have been made to the contents of these policies.

If you would like any further information on these or any other policies, please feel free to speak to Vice President, Melissa Kayrooz (Platypus).

ADVERTISE HERE NEXT MONTH

Contact Michael on michael@mrgpro.com.au

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



PASTA FUNDRAISER

Quick, easy & delicious dinners with locally sourced, fresh pasta for the whole family.

Coming soon...

More info available in term 2



A big hello to all our families in the Possum and

Wombat groups and welcome to our new families.



Tania, Brenda and all the staff were excited to see many families at our Welcome Night and thank you very much for attending. The night was a success and it gave an opportunity for many families to meet and get to know each other. There were many smiles all around, especially from the children and lots of popcorn being consumed. There will be many other opportunities for families to attend other nights during the year for different events, so don't despair if you couldn't make it. A big thank you to all committee members for a wonderful night.

Tania and Brenda would like to welcome Bronwen to the Possum and Wombat groups. Bronwen is one of our Assistants in the 4y.o. Penguin group and has come on board while Tania is on her placement for university. Bronwen is assisting with both groups until end of term and we value Bronwen's knowledge and expertise.



The children are continuing to settle into the activities well and are starting to feel very comfortable and at ease. There are still a few cuddles and reassurance needed at drop off, but then tend to settle very quickly. I'm sure all children will adapt and have a sense of belonging very soon.

“Outdoors the children are testing their ability and agility on the climbing equipment”

Children usually respond well to music and have shown a keenness to dance, so Brenda engaged the children in dancing with ribbons. *‘Children have a strong sense of wellbeing when they are happy, healthy, safe and connected to others’.* (EYLF, Identity - Wellbeing)

The children have been very involved in building different creations with various blocks and all the staff have been intrigued with the thought process. The children have used transparent coloured blocks and magnetic tiles on the light table to create amazing structures. They have used wooden blocks to create towers and tunnels and compared different heights with the magnetic rods and balls. *‘When children construct*





using blocks, they are displaying dispositions such as curiosity, creativity, persistence and imagination, as well as learning many skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, and hypothesising'. (EYLF - Learning: Children are confident and involved learners)

In addition they are learning mathematical concepts such as balance, positioning, sorting and matching, comparing, spatial language and symmetry.

The children have often painted their hands whilst at the easel so Brenda and I have provided the children with the opportunity to play with finger-paint. Some of the children gingerly placed their fingertips in the mixture whilst others engaged with enthusiasm. We added the edicol dye in yellow and blue so that the children could continue to experiment with colour mixing. (EYLF - Learning)

Outdoors the children are testing their ability and agility on the climbing equipment. Climbing over the rungs of a ladder requires the coordination of gross and fine motor control as well as balance. Gripping the rungs or ropes helps to strengthen the muscles in the fingers and hands, which is very important for the children to hold onto pens and pencils for writing. Strengthening the core muscles is important for children to be able to sit comfortably on a chair. In addition, the children showed persistence to try again when at first they do not succeed. We will continue to offer the children these obstacle courses so that we continue to challenge the children. (EYLF - Identity - Wellbeing)

Over the next couple of weeks the children will be investigating emotions and feelings. We have some very cute looking Kimochis (soft toys) out on a table with a mirror. The children will have opportunity to explore facial expressions in the mirror and we will extend this idea by drawing pictures of different feelings. We will also continue to explore through many sensory experiences ranging from painting, sand, water and play dough.

To finish off the term, the children will continue to focus on learning routines and Kinder rules. We will also continue to focus on learning each other's names through songs, helping to develop a sense of belonging.

Thank you to all parents as you continue to be patient at the end of sessions and assisting in sending your child back to the mat if their name hasn't be called to leave Kinder.

I am aware that many families have talents and cultural diversity to add to our developing program, and we would love to have you come in to share these experiences.

Brenda, Bronwen and I would like to wish families a happy and safe holiday break. Hopefully the Easter Bunny will find your home.

Tania, Brenda and Bronwen



WELCOME NIGHT

A BIG thank you to all those families who attended the Welcome Night. We hope you had a great time meeting new and existing families at the kinder.

Special thanks to David our Magician and Bec our Face Painter, who did a great job!





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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: 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.)