



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

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

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

This week the committee have viewed our first draft of the big Diamond Hills future Masterplan. With the committee changing over every year, it can be quite difficult planning for the future of a Kinder such as Diamond Hills. So this year we are putting together a Masterplan which will be passed onto following committees with all the different stages required to upgrade Diamond Hills preschool.

As I mentioned in last month's report the council have kindly allocated some monies for an upgrade to our storage area in the 2016-17 budget. With council approval required, we are planning on stage one being an extension out the back of the kinder that connects with our current storage room. This will then allow the staff to move into a larger room and not have to step over each other to get in let alone work in the area. The current staff room will then become a library/meeting/quiet room.

So behind the scenes lots of positive work is going on. If you would like to help with writing grants and sourcing grants to help with funding for the Masterplan please, we would love to hear from you. Please email me your details or let a teacher know.

Thanks to our fundraising committee for organising the pasta fundraiser. We hope you and all the kids are enjoying it. The committee raised \$390.40.

Remember, we are an open preschool. You can contact your teacher at anytime!

**Carly Broadbent** - President



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It's been a very busy month with lots happening in the program.

So what has been happening?

Taekwondo has begun and the children are really responding well.

They look forward each Wednesday to learning and practicing new skills. They love placing a sticker as a reward on their certificate after each session.

The children have been busy planting veggies and herbs in the garden.

Involving the children in the garden teaches them - curiosity, patience, classification, science, observation and I'm sure you can think of a lot more. Also the Early Years Learning Framework states children are learning about their community when they can – “demonstrate an increasing knowledge of and respect for natural and constructed environments, explore, infer, predict and hypothesize in order to develop an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals, show growing appreciation and care for natural and constructed environments, explore relationships with other living and non-living things and



observe, notice and respond to change and develop an awareness of the impact of human activity on environments and the interdependence of living things.”

**Children learn by observing, listening, exploring, experimenting and asking questions.**

We have also begun to develop and work on body awareness, crossing the mid-line, building core strength and developing fine motor skills such as refining cutting skills. Strong fine motor skills are essential to complete tasks such as writing and cutting. Nearly all fine motor activities including cutting and writing, require a dominant hand (being left-handed or right-handed) and a non-dominant hand. Hand dominance can be seen as early as age three or four, although it may not be firmly established until a child reaches age six or seven. Once a child becomes comfortable with one hand as the dominant hand, the remaining hand becomes the non-dominant hand by default. While the dominant hand performs tasks such as using a pencil or scissors, the non-dominant hand acts as the “stabiliser.” For example, one hand holds the scissors when cutting while the other hand



moves the paper. The Early Years Framework states that children's learning is evident when they - "manipulate objects and experiment with cause and effect, trial and error, and motion and persist even when they find a task difficult".



Autumn has been explored in the program through colour and displays. Children learn by observing, listening, exploring, experimenting and asking questions.

The children were very excited in the lead up to Mother's Day. During this time cooking featured as they enthusiastically prepared to spoil their mum's at our special celebration. We also used the preparation of their gift for their mum to continue to learn about sustainability, this evolved around the planting of their terrariums. We also took this opportunity to challenge the children by allowing them to sew on a sewing machine. They made up a bag to put their present in. Involving the children in this type of experience "demonstrates to the children trust and confidence in their abilities." (EYLDF)

So on Thursday 8th May the children invited their mum to a special evening. It was wonderful for us to be able to help the children celebrate how much their mums mean to them by helping the children make a special gift, card and 'high tea'. The children were very excited. We hope that you had a very special time. (Of course the children know that their mums are special every day.)

The children in the Platypus group really enjoy imaginative and dramatic play. Through this

area we allow the children to try and make sense of their world by setting up areas that they may experience every day. Just recently it was a 'shop' setting and it is currently being converted to a hospital. Also through these areas the children are exposed to other important basic areas of development for eg: numeracy and literacy.

To encourage the children's developing interest in literacy the children just decorated their own library bag and are borrowing a book from kinder each session to take home. This not only encourages the establishment of a love of books and reading but it also encourages responsibility, respect and independence. It's also a nice way to spend some special time with your child.

Starting at kinder also is 'Show and Tell'. This is a great way to encourage and develop children in 'public speaking', and it especially helps to develop their self-confidence.



The Dentist recently visited kinder and spoke to the children about how to clean their teeth, what to expect when they visit the Dentist and good vs sometimes food. Most of the children had their teeth examined and a report was passed onto these families. This was a great way to introduce what can be a frightening experience in a fun, carefree environment. Since the visit we have had lots of Dentist play. Involving the community in our kinder program is an amazing way to extend the program and a child's life experiences.

Parents often wonder how our learning program is decided. I would like to share with you an example of how this sometimes happens. This can often occur through the simplest of moments. (This example is actually currently happening.)

As I'm sure most of the mums in the Platypus group are aware that the song 'Red, Black and Yellow' is presently one of the children's favourite songs. This song features a didgeridoo that the children just recently recognized while listening to it. One of the children then volunteered to ask his grandpa if he could bring in his didgeridoo to show the children. This of course did happen and those that wanted to were able to have a turn at trying to make music. They soon discovered how difficult the didgeridoo is to play. From this came discussion about the didgeridoo, what it was made from, how it was made, where it had come from and the paintings that were featured on it. The children were especially interested in the dots used to represent and make up the pictures. The staff discussed this and decided that one way we could continue this interest was to show the children other examples of aboriginal paintings. Kyla this week brought in an authentic aboriginal painting and this was set up near the painting easel. We are now excitedly waiting to see what happens next. Of course there is also follow up in other learning areas such as books,



puzzles, discussion, etc... Learning and program development can be incidental and child led like this example or it can be adult initiated. It depends on what the learning objective involves. It can also happen concurrently. How lucky we are to be involved.

Thank you to all the families who are involving themselves in our composting program by taking home a bucket and returning it with food scraps. The children are enjoying being involved in this. Don't worry if you haven't had a turn yet we are following a roster system.

As we work on improving our sustainability involvement and knowledge it is exciting to report that we were asked to hold an Environmental Network Meeting for Nillumbik at Diamond Hills. This was held on Thursday 28th April beginning at 4.00pm. I would like to thank and acknowledge all of the staff for their involvement, not only in preparing for this event



but in all that they do each day to work towards our sustainability involvement. This doesn't just happen, it takes commitment. We had many comments about the animals we involve in the program and the setting that we provide for our children.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION -

The photographer visited the four year olds last week and the photos should be available in the next 2-3 weeks.

#### UPCOMING –

Thursday June 2nd – Australia Wildlife Experience is visiting. There will be lots of learning around Australia and it's animals. (this will occur during normal session time)

Don't forget anytime you have any questions/queries about your child or the program no matter how small please don't hesitate to ask. If you are considering another 'consolidating' year of kinder for your child please don't hesitate to chat to any of the staff.

Until next month.

Annmaree, Kyla & Nicole

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<b>\$9.50</b> 3YO+	APRIL 8 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>DISCO DAYS</b>
	MAY 13 <sup>TH</sup>	9.00am-7.00pm
	JUNE 10 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS</b>
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## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

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





Hi everyone,

It's difficult to believe that it is 12 months since the Diamond Hills Preschool was assessed and rated by the Department of

Education and Training. Committee, Staff and children put lots of effort into this process and we were extremely excited to receive an overall rating of Exceeding. Staff have recently met with Melissa our Vice President to upgrade the Quality Improvement Plan and continue to look at ways of improving our service. This is a living document and we welcome feedback from our families and children.

Last month, we hosted a Teacher Environment Network group from Nillumbik and Banyule shires. Teachers from preschool to secondary came to see what sustainability and environmental practices we provide in our program at Diamond Hills. This was a nice way to be recognised for the work we do here and an opportunity to inspire and share information with other educators.

The Penguin children continue to make us smile, to laugh, to be amazed over their learning and we continue to reflect on how we can continue to foster and encourage their love of learning, & develop their skills. Developing social confidence, negotiation skills, awareness of diversity and resilience are very much a part of the preschool year and we continue to model and encourage strategies for the children to use when they are challenged in this area. We discuss, read social stories, use puppets, emotion dolls etc. to foster an awareness in these areas.

Symbolic play is a great area to develop and practice our social skills. Recently, the home corner has become a supermarket and in coming weeks a hospital. These areas provide children with the ability to play out real life scenarios, share ideas, negotiate for and take turns with roles and equipment, develop new vocabulary and express their ideas. If you are on the roster in coming weeks, make sure you make an appointment at the Diamond Hills Hospital for some medical treatment

We hope our mums enjoyed the mother's day devonshire tea, hand treatment and 'massage'. The weeks prior, saw the children preparing their gifts and on the day, lots of vacuuming, setting tables, baking scones and practicing their song and massaging techniques! Thank you for fitting this in to your busy schedules.

Bronwen brought in some of her bee's honeycomb for the children to taste. Bronwen has her own beehive at home and loves sharing her knowledge with the children. Jessica's grandfather is also a bee keeper, so we have some great photos to help us to inform the children about how honey is made. Bronwen has gained access to a specially made see through frame, so that she can bring live bees and bees wax cells from her hive to safely share with the children. The children created their bees wax candles for their mother's day gifts. We will be eating some honey with the children, singing about bees and making bees at the craft table to complete our





learning focus. (*Learning: making connections between experiences, concepts and processes*)

The children continue to add to their vegetable plantings. They have planted snow pea seeds out the back, broccoli, pak choy, silver beet, lettuce and carrots in and around the vegetable garden and daffodil bulbs in pots out the back of the kinder. The vegetable garden is growing well and the Penguins continue to develop awareness of their environment and interdependence between living things (community) through their recycling activities with the worm farm, adding to, mixing and using the compost. Thank you to our families who have been providing extra scraps for these activities. A great way to share environmental awareness with our families. We will extend this area of learning with some discussion and actions toward nude food.

The children have learnt how to sing our hello song in sign language and in recent weeks we have been using the world globe to pass around a circle and learn how to say hello in different languages ...”everywhere, around the world, has its own way of saying hello” We are incorporating the children’s various cultural backgrounds and learning new greetings. (*Community: become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people*)

We have introduced library borrowing. The children have decorated their library bags with all sorts of paintings from people and rainbows, to dragons, easter eggs and colours. The children are able choose a book to take home and read with their family every time they come to kinder.

We encourage your child to take responsibility for choosing a new book and returning the one they have read. Please make sure that either yourself or a staff member ticks off those returned and adds new book code to list. Reading regularly with your child is an important part of their early literacy development. This year, we are tying this in with the Premier’s reading challenge and all of our preschoolers have been registered. We realise family life is busy – please don’t worry if you keep the book over a few days. The children have until September to read/look at/ engage with 40 books, so between library borrowing and reading as a group and individually at preschool and at home, they will be meeting the challenge easily. When discussing their library books and the Premier’s Reading Challenge as a group, some thoughtful responses were made by the children:

“What does the Premier look like? Does he have black hair?”, “Reading is good for your brain”, “Reading is like playing”, “Reading makes you learn letters”, “Reading books is fun”, “You get to know new stuff”, “When you read lots of books it makes your brain stronger“, “You get to know new stuff.” What insightful children the Penguins are!

Taekwondo continues each Tuesday. Areas of focus have included good listening, respect, and focus. The 3 rules of the Taekwondo program include: moves learnt are not to be used on any one, respect and fun. Ask the children to demonstrate... control hands, focus fingers, horse riding stance, ready stance, kiaia’s (noise made when making moves), palm strike, big block, axe kick. Stay tuned for some more moves.



## STAFF NEWS:

As many of you are aware, Brenda is expecting a baby in October. We are so excited for her and her family. We will be working towards filling her position in the coming months.

**Long Service Leave:** Kim is taking some long service leave at the end of this term and start of 3rd term. (last week of this term and first 2 weeks of 3rd term) The great news is, that you don't have to put up with me for 9 sessions!! and that we have Louise Davies filling my position who is fantastic and has worked with us at Diamond Hills many times. I am jetting off to New York with 4 girl friends I studied Early Childhood Teaching with quite a few years ago. We have been planning this trip for many years and we can't quite believe it's here. My husband felt a bit left out, so I am meeting him at Hawaii on the way back! (and my children miss out completely!) Louise has met your children in recent weeks and I will be filling her in on all the things we are working towards before I leave.

**School next year:** if anyone has any concerns about their child's readiness for school next year, please make a time to speak with Kim. The process of applying for a 2nd funded year of preschool is quite involved and begins at this stage of the year. The council require approximate numbers for 2nd year places in early June, so we need to be touching base with families who are considering it.

## Upcoming incursion:

June 2nd: Australian Wildlife incursion with Andrew Wegner.

Many thanks for your support and interest in our program.

Looking forward to a fun filled term.

**Kim, Bronwen, Brenda, Kyla**



*Big thank you to Sebastian's Baba, Poppy and Maree's mum, Michelle, for helping us celebrate Orthodox Easter.*

## ATTENTION PENGUIN PARENTS

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



## 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



What have the children  
been up  
to this  
past month?



We started by preparing our gifts for mother's day. Handprints of the children were made, the frames decorated and cards were made. We hope you were spoilt on your special day.

The children have been involved in discovering Autumn. We have spoken about the changes to the colour of the leaves in the trees in our garden and we have noticed that they are falling to the ground. We have spoken about the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. Outside the children immersed themselves in the leaves, throwing them into the air and at each other, covering themselves, smelling the earthiness of the leaves, hearing the crunch of the under their feet, making leaf angels, running through them and just having fun. Our songs have included 'Four Golden Autumn Leaves' and 'Shake the apple tree'. Colours at the easel have incorporated reds, browns, yellows and oranges to emphasis the colours in Autumn. (EYLF: *Community, Learning*)



Dramatic play this month has evolved into shop keeping. This area is so important for children to engage with. Children make sense of their world by re-enacting scenes and episodes that occur in their everyday life. They build on and extend their vocabulary and develop their social skills, which include negotiation, turn taking, sharing and building resilience. This area then evolved into a hospital as children began to show care for their 'sick' baby dolls. Another child spoke at length with Brenda about having a cold last week. He told Brenda about his sore leg and how mum applied some cream to his leg to make him feel better. Engaging with medical equipment and scenarios opens up new dialogue and language. It also allows children to develop their emotional wellbeing as they learn to express and show care and empathy towards each other. Children at this age are still learning to regulate their emotions. Brenda and I are actively modeling language and strategies for children to use when entering into play or when voicing their concerns to their peers. (EYLF: *Identity, Community, Wellbeing, Learning, Communication*)

Whilst over in the block corner, children have been engaged in 'construction' play. This came about when a child wearing a hi viz vest spoke about construction and building. He began to direct play, instructing his peers on what needed to be done. A conversation with mum provided the information that the child had just attended a 'Construction workshop' at a local play centre.

Here the children have been building using vertically and horizontally purposefully placed blocks. Hat hats, high viz vests, clipboards, paper and pens and books have been added to extend their play. (EYLF: Identity, Community, Learning, Communication)

We continue to offer the children different opportunities to strengthen their fine motor muscles and develop their hand eye coordination. Following a spiral or zigzag on the light table with pebbles, focuses the children's attention on shapes important for the formation of letters. These opportunities also expose the children to the beginnings of patterns, symmetry, sorting, classifying and repetition, which is the starting point of mathematical concepts such as algebra and geometry.

Our focus on developing spatial awareness extended outdoors. Here, gross motor skills, balance and coordination was again incorporated into outdoor environment with an obstacle course set up to challenge the children's spatial awareness. Obstacles included items which challenged the children's balance and coordination and included aspects of positioning by going in, over, under, across, and through. Adding vocabulary to the actions, cements the meaning of the words to the action. (EYLF: Wellbeing, Learning)

This year, we will be participating with the Premier's Reading Challenge and all of our preschoolers have been registered. Studies have shown that reading to children is a fantastic way to extend their vocabulary and understanding of



language. The challenge is for children to read, be read to or engage with 40 books until September. Please do not worry about keeping a count of books read. Between generally participating in reading books at kinder and home, this challenge will be met easily. (EYLF: Community, Communication)

It may seem early to ask yourselves the question but, if anyone has any concerns about their child's readiness for 4 year old kinder next year, please come and speak to Tania or Brenda. We can have a discussion and set goals if needed to better prepare your child. A final decision does not need to be made until 3rd term, however as the council will be sending out 4 year old enrollments soon, we will need to touch base sooner rather than later.

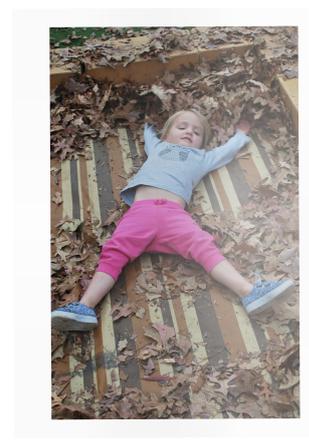
**Until next time**  
**Tania and Brenda**

### **Date for your Diary**

#### **Kinder photos**

**Possums** - Monday 25th July (TBC)

**Wombats** - Tuesday 26th July (TBC)





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# TRIVIA NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST @  
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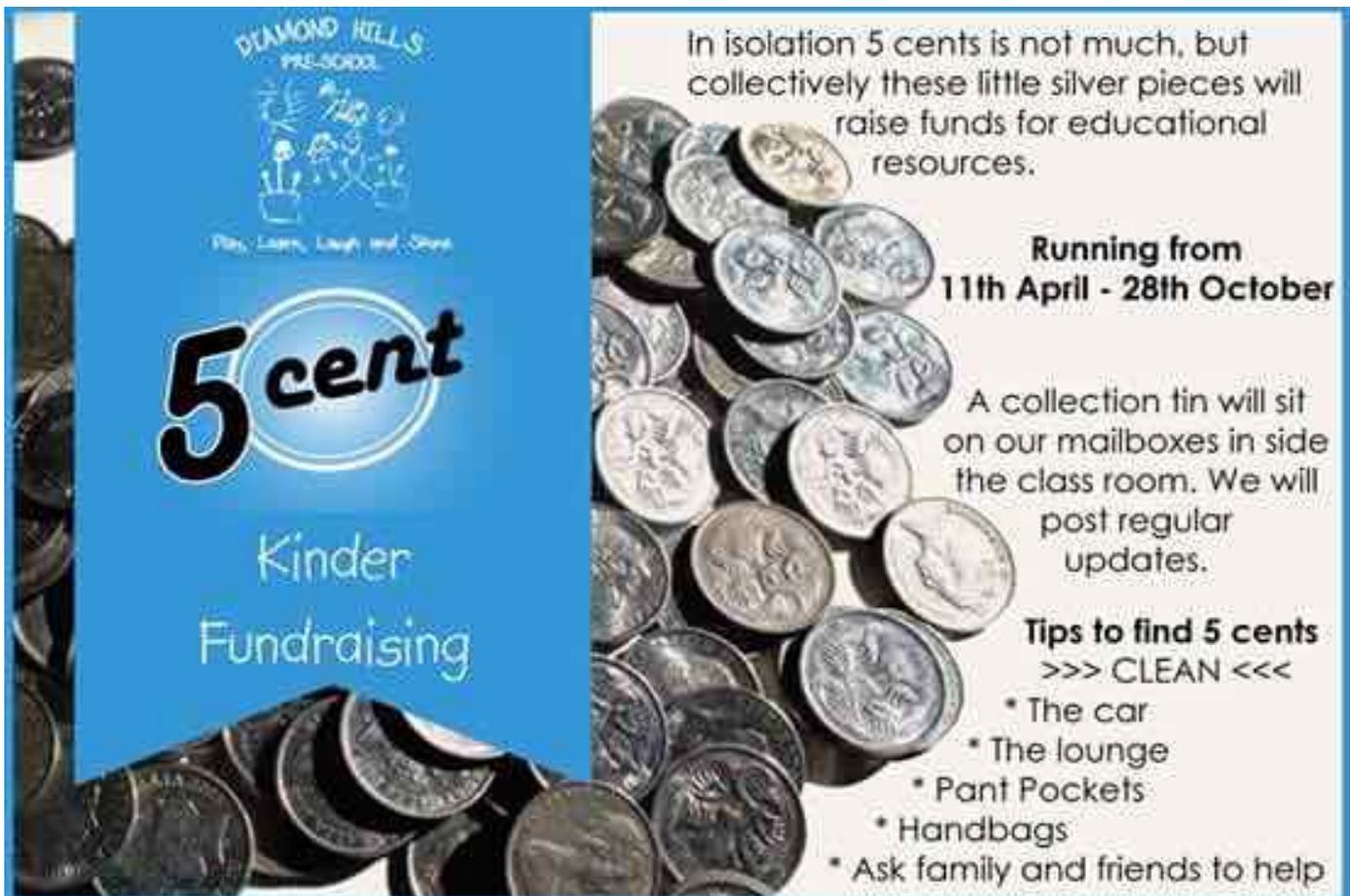
Apollo Parkways Basketball  
Stadium

## 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.

## 3.Y.O. PARENTS

If you would like a place in the 4.y.o. program at DHPS, you need to register with the council. Your place does not automatically role over. More information <http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/People-and-family/Preschool-Kindergarten/Four-year-old-preschool>



**DIAMOND HILLS PRE-SCHOOL**  
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

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 2

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



### 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 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 3

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



### 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.

# 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.

## 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)

### Centre contact Information:

Hours: Monday - Friday 8am – 5pm

Phone: 9435 8694

Email: [diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au](http://www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au)

Postal: PO Box 56, Greensborough, Victoria 3088

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Keeffe

email: [michael@mrgpro.com.au](mailto:michael@mrgpro.com.au)

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