



NEWSLETTER

October 2016

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Wow another month has passed and our little cherubs are starting to look like big school kids or 4 yr old kinder kids. It is amazing what 9 months of kinder can do for our children. Not enough credit can go to our amazing teachers here at Diamond Hills in preparing our children for their next big steps.

Behind these teachers are our committee that work tirelessly to keep the kinder running smoothly behind the scenes. Some positions require a volunteer for a few hours a week whilst some positions require a volunteer to send an email here or there, or go to the shops to pick up cream and jam for scones.

Diamond Hills committee is made up of 12 members who attend monthly meetings whilst we then have subcommittee positions such as fundraising subcommittee, purchasing, environmental and duty rosters who support the committee but don't need to attend monthly meetings. All these positions will be up for nominations at the November AGM.

Here are a few positions you may consider volunteering for if you are planning to be here at Diamond Hills in 2017.

Fees Officer

- Collection/Deposit/Receipt of all fees for both 3 year old and 4 year old groups.

Enrollment Officer – 4 year old

- Liaises with Nillumbik Council regarding enrollment status.
- Develop and update information packs.
- Sends information to all families re: group nomination & deposit, first term fees & AGM notification.
- Processes group nominations and deposits.
- Report at monthly Committee meeting regarding enrollment status.



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**TUESDAY 29TH
NOVEMBER**



**KINDER CLOSED
OCT 31 & NOV 1**

Enrollment Officer - 3 year old

- Takes phone calls and email requests regarding 3yo enrollment.
- Develop and update information packs.
- Send information to families regarding application form & deposits, and first terms fees, AGM notification & orientation.
- Process application forms & deposits.
- Report at monthly Committee meeting regarding enrollment status.

Staff Liaison

- Point of contact for staff and a representative for staff on committee.
- Assist President and staff with HR matters and maintain staff files.
- Update staff position descriptions.
- Send annual letters of employment, after AGM, in consultation with newly elected President.

Fundraising Co-ordinator

- Selects fundraising activities to be carried out throughout the year and oversees and coordinates the running of these fundraising events.
- Responsible for reporting on the progress of fundraising activities at the monthly committee meetings.
- Providing a reconciliation of fundraising money raised (gross & net profit) to the Treasurer.
- Oversees and co-ordinates the Welcome Dinner at the start of the year as well as the end of year Christmas party.

Maintenance Officer (General Member)

- Organises working bees to keep indoor and outdoor equipment and grounds in safe working order.
- Arranges repairs to and installation of equipment owned by the preschool.
- Prepares and monitors parent garden roster, with consolation from staff.

Grants officer (new position)

- Works with teachers and executive committee in applying for grants to fund upgrades and replacement of necessary items within the preschool
- Work with council in some grant applications
- Write grant proposals
- Source relevant grants

Other Volunteer Positions (Non Committee positions)

- Fundraising and Events Subcommittee assists the Fundraising Coordinator with fundraising and events.
- Purchasing Officer purchase consumables on behalf of the Preschool.
- Duty Roster updates the duty roster for each kinder group at the commencement of each term.
- Environmental and Sustainability officer ensuring our decisions are socially and environmentally sustainable. Monitor the Red-Cycle waste system at the preschool. Support and encourage all families at Diamond Hills in best environmental/sustainability practices.

Next newsletter will include a description what our executive committee do. Trust me it is not as bad as it sounds!!! Have a chat to a committee member today to find out how good it feels supporting our preschool.

Carly Broadbent - President**NO CASH FOR FEES**

The committee has decided that DHPS will no longer accept cash for fees. You still have 3 options.

1. Direct Debit
2. Cheque
3. Credit Card (1.95% Surcharge)

Check your 2017 paperwork for more details.



Where has this term gone? I can't believe that 3rd term is over and there is only 1 term left. As usual the Platypus children have been busy and involved.

Just after our last meeting the children were fortunate to have a visit from Carolyn who very kindly did a Taekwondo lesson with them as she caught up with 2 children who had missed out on their board breaking ceremony. The children absolutely loved this.

The children have begun 4th term very enthusiastically continuing where they left off last term especially in the areas of creative and imaginative play, making discoveries and investigating.

On the final day of 3rd term the kinder was involved in being judged for the Nillumbik Shire "Practically Green Sustainability Award". At the time of writing this report we do not know if we have been successful, but by the time you receive the newsletter we will know the outcome. The team at Diamond Hills work very hard at trying to instill in the children the importance of sustainability, conservation and respect for animals. All of the staff work at this commitment, but I would like to say a special thank you to Bronwen, as on the judging day she was a wonderful ambassador



for our program and our kinder.

What have the Platypus children been discovering so far this term?

We constantly discuss and plan for both individual development and what the children need as a group. As part of our plan for each child we are working on -

Establishing each child's individual ability to achieve the Early Years Learning and Developmental Outcomes. That is -

Have a strong sense of Identity, Be connected with and contribute to their world, Have a strong sense of wellbeing, Be confident and involved learners and Be effective communicators.

As a group our aims are for the children to: Further develop independence, especially in taking care of their belongings, in doing things for themselves and in their own abilities. We are



also working towards supporting the children moving into transition between Kinder and school. This will be done through a collaborative approach involving both parents and teaching staff.

We also had another special visitor during the week, when Lilliana's little sister Aurora came and had a bath.

Even though we have only been back for a couple of weeks it has already proven to be busy.

With the arrival of Spring and finally some warmer weather, has seen the hatching of the silk worms. The Silk worms have a life cycle of 8-10 weeks which is wonderful as it enables the children to be able to witness their whole cycle. This is a great learning tool.

Another highlight saw the children invite either their grandparents or a special person in their life to come and share their kinder with them. The children were very excited on Monday 10th October and Thursday 13th October to welcome these visitors. Because the children really enjoy cooking, they were keen to make scones.

We also had another special visitor during the week, when Lilliana's little sister Aurora came and had a bath. The children were very interested in finding out all about Aurora and we discussed the differences between her and themselves. A big thank you to Jade

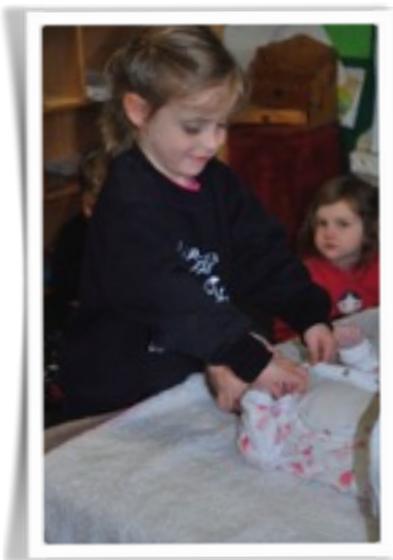


for doing this for us.

On Thursday 20th October we have organised an excursion to the Traffic school in Kew. The children will be provided with the opportunity to practice riding bikes and learning traffic rules connected to traveling in a car, walking and crossing the road safely, etc. This is an ideal opportunity to discuss how to keep ourselves safe in different circumstances involving road safety.

Also looking ahead we will be discussing people in the community who help us so we are organising the local CFA to visit. This will hopefully occur in the next week or so and will provide the opportunity for the children to also discuss fire safety.

A big part of our programming this term involves moving towards transition. This is achieved through a combination of approaches and processes including that the information about the children is well understood, shared and valued and that the children have the opportunity to have their say about what is important to them. Many of the children will begin orientation visits soon to familiarise themselves with their move forward next year and we aim to make this as smooth as possible. With this in mind if there is anything at all that you would like to discuss about your child please don't hesitate to talk to Kyla, Nicole or myself.



We have just recently sent out to our 4yr old families an opportunity for them to have their say about their child and how they see their child's transition into school. Annmaree has also begun preparing her part of the Transition statement. When both parts are completed each family will maintain a copy and as long as permission is given a copy will be passed onto the school. The information does help your child's teacher get to know them just that little bit quicker.

This term always proves to be such a busy one. There are some very important dates for your diary involving upcoming events at kinder and dates to keep free as we move closer to the end of the year. But even though the end of the year is looming closer the Platypus children still have lots of fun learning times ahead.

Thank you to our Platypus parents for all the support that they show our program, it is very much appreciated.

Just for your information Kyla is busy trying to complete her Diploma. Because we want to support her through this final stage, Bronwen will take Kyla's place on several Wednesdays so that Kyla has the opportunity to complete this ASAP.

Thank you to all our families for your wonderful response so far this year. Through your generosity, we have been able to purchase some fantastic new furniture for the kinder play room. Next time you're at kinder why not come on in and check it out.



Save the following Dates -

Pyjama/Brunch Day - Coming up soon. Details will be posted as soon as we have a date but it will be during normal session times.

Thursday 1st December - No Kinder due to Orientation Day for both the 3 & 4yr old groups who will attend Diamond Hills in 2017

Xmas Celebration Night - Monday 5th December. (Arrive at 6.15pm to start at approx. 6.30pm.) PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THE DATE DOES NOT SUIT YOUR FAMILY.

Platypus Party and final session - Thursday 15th December

Please note this session will start at 8.00am but will finish with a parent luncheon. More details as the event draws closer.

This is a very exciting term for us as educators because we are able to witness how far the children have grown in confidence and in their skill development, as they plan and manage a lot of their own play.

Kyla, Nicole & Annmaree





CONGRATULATIONS DIAMOND HILLS...

We are the winners of the Practically Green Sustainability award for 2016. We were awarded the trophy at the Edendale Green Festival on Sunday

16th of this month. Big thank you to all our children, staff, committee and families for all their contributions to the preschool's efforts to practice and develop awareness of sustainability. Special thanks to Xavier and Rose for being their to help receive the prize.

4th Term!!... can't believe I am writing that. The Penguin children are demonstrating some of the great things they have been learning about and developing this year through their collaborative play and interests. At this time of year, we are beginning to think about transition reports for school, and as we do this, it reinforces how much your children have grown and developed this year.

This term has begun with grandparent's and special friends visiting their Penguin group children. The children prepared for this special week with drawings of their special visitors,

practising their singing, cooking yummy scones, jam and cream and decorating the tables with Spring flowers. The children were very excited to show their visitors around their kinder – introducing them to their pets and favourite activities. It is a pleasure to



witness the pride the children exhibit when sharing this part of their community with their family members. It was also a pleasure to meet these wonderful people, who have such an influence on your children lives. Sharing their preschool with people they love further develops the children's sense of belonging. Belonging helps to give children the security and confidence to explore their world. It also builds identity, wellbeing and the ability to learn. Thank you to all the lovely people who came to our preschool during this week – come back and visit soon

We are off to the Traffic School in Kew on the Thursday 20th of this month, for a program aimed at increasing the children's awareness of safety as a passenger, as a pedestrian and as a bike/scooter rider. The session covers the 'STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK' message and the excursion will include a ride around the traffic



school on bikes, interacting with elements of road awareness and safety.

Our creative designers and builders in the Penguin group have been creating amazing pieces from the recycled materials the families have been collecting for us. We make a conscious decision to leave the 'Making Shelf' available to them all year round, adding new and interesting materials to inspire their



to the beginning of the year. This learning area provides open –ended opportunities and encourages the children's sense of agency in their learning. So next time, your child brings home a piece from the making shelf, you will be able to look at it with renewed enthusiasm!!



imaginations and develop their fine motor and problem solving skills. We often add pieces to the Penguin art wall, so make sure you check it out from time to time. The brain develops monumentally in the early years of your child's life and much of this development is through repetition, practicing skills and developing the ability to make decisions, problem solve, develop ideas and do this over and over again. The development of these skills have been very evident when we look at the level the children are engaging in at the making shelf in contrast

Early literacy skills in recent weeks have included making a timetable with the children and engaging them with symbols, text and numbers for the children to refer to. Also name cards are being used for lots of transition times, games and meal times. The library program has been so well utilised this year – well done to all our families for their efforts reading with their children borrowing multiple books.

Symbolic play in recent weeks has seen the children enthusiastically engaging in the Diamond Hills Hairdressing and beauty salon. Some amazing styles have been created in the salon, with staff and special visitors receiving specialist treatment during their appointments. Symbolic play is how children extend their ideas, language and symbolise real life scenarios while developing their senses of identity and belonging. Symbolic play is also a part of early literacy learning with receptive and expressive language, creating scripts, extending vocabulary and using symbols in their play



SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY at kinder...We currently have some fantastic opportunities for the children to learn about life cycles in our science area of the program. The Silk Worms

and tadpoles, have been promoting lots of discussion, questions, observations and interaction. We have silk worms who hatched at the end of last term. Fantastic learning opportunities for the children to observe the changes in these creatures, life-cycles, silk production and responsibility for their care. The children pick mulberry leaves for the silk worms each day and are currently observing their eating habits and growth. This is promoting lots of new vocabulary and thought processes. The tadpoles are also being observed carefully by the children and we have been getting some fantastic feedback about the information the children have retained and shared with their families. We have used the iPad to further engage the children with the facts of the frog life cycle. Also in the science area, the children have been carefully observing an experiment using Arium Lillies and dye. The children have been engaged with noting changes, making comparisons, hypothesising about why it is happening and expressing these thoughts.

Outdoor play – thank goodness we have had some glimpses of Spring weather in our first 2 weeks of term 4 and play has involved lots of muscle, climbing skill, building, problem solving, collaborative play and fantastic expressive language in symbolic play. After some branches were trimmed from our garden, the children have made bush shelters or cubbies using the foliage. They have been able to climb in amongst them over the cube and create social nooks and camping areas with their friends. The dinosaur the children created last term has also come out to play in the garden!

CONGRATULATIONS to Brenda, Cameron and Samuel on the birth of Xavier Joel on Friday 16th September, weighing 4lb 12oz or 2.15 kgs. We were so excited to see Brendan and Xavier only 2 weeks after he was born – he is beautiful and looks just like his big brother. Silvana (Jessica’s mum) won the Guess the weight



competition, with the closest weight. Well done Silvana!

Dates for your diary:

27th October: CFA visit

31st October and 1st November: Kinder closed for Melbourne Cup Weekend.

15th November: Breakfast at kinder in our pj's.

29th November: Annual General Meeting

1st December: No Session – Orientation for 2017 children

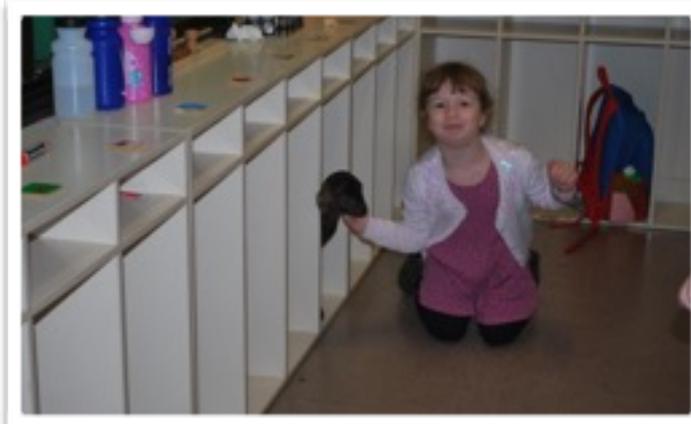
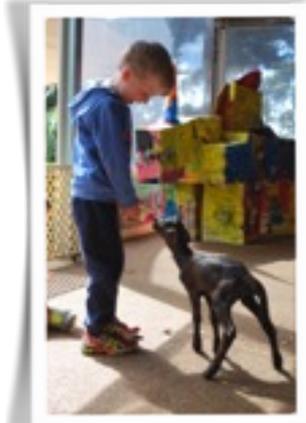
6th December: Penguin Family Christmas Evening (6pm)

16th December: Last Day for Penguin group

19th December: Clean up Day at kinder. (parent help required and appreciated)

Thank you everyone. Make the most of these gorgeous children at preschool – they will be at school before you know it!

Kim, Bronwen, Kyla & Kathryn



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Welcome back to
Term 4.

We start by
acknowledging and saying

congratulations to
Diamond Hills, the
children, families,
staff and the
committee members
that make up this
amazing community.



As you may be aware Diamond Hills strives to be a sustainable and environmentally friendly preschool. A quick look around the centre will showcase practices already in place, from the veggie garden, the worm farm, compost bins, our solar panels, the energy saving fluro lights and sensor lights, the recirculating riverbed and the separating of paper, recyclable material and food scrapes. The 4yr old Penguins and Platypus children actively maintain the gardens, adding compost to the veggie patch etc, whilst all groups are involved in planting or watering of the gardens. Items have been repurposed and given a new lease of life, such as using old shelves and wheelbarrows to create flower garden beds, into which each group has planted their flowers.

Diamond Hills was entered into the Nillumbik Shire Practically Green Sustainability Award for 2016. On the last day of Term 3, judges came to inspect our centre. Bronwyn did an amazing job in advocating for our centre, highlighting all the sustainable practices already in place. Needless to say, the judges were very impressed and as a result Diamond Hills won the Practically Green Sustainability Award for 2016. The plaque and certificate will be on display at kinder.



Congratulations also need to be said to Brenda and Cameron on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Xavier, born on September 16th, weighing 4lb 12 oz (2.15kgs). We were lucky to have Brenda visit us last week with baby Xavier. He is such a tiny tot and looks exactly like his older brother Samuel.

It seems such a long time that we ended Term 3 with the Teddy Bear's Picnic. It was wonderful to see all the children bring their special soft toy teddy or soft toy dogs etc to kinder. The kinder was set up with picnic rugs, tea sets, baskets and 'food' for the children and soft toys to engage in dramatic play. The children also prepared some of their party food, which included iced teddy bear biscuits and 100's and 1000's sandwiches. We played 'pin the heart on the teddy' and games with our soft toys including using the lycra material to throw our teddies into the air, which the children really enjoyed. This required team work as the lycra needed to be lifted up in one motion to enable the teddies to be thrown into the air effectively. *(EYLF: Identity, Community, Learning).*





On their return to kinder in Term 4, we have noticed a huge shift in the children's interactions with their peers. The chatter level in the room has dramatically increased as the children are actively engaging and seeking each other in their games and dramatic role play. Some of the dramatic play areas have included babies, fruit and veggie shopping and the makeup and hairdressers salon which included hats, sunglasses and accessories, in which the children have eagerly participated. These areas afford the children the opportunity to explore the rules of society and create meaning in their everyday understandings of how their world works. Through role play, children's language is extended and learning is enhanced through more knowledgeable peers and others. Mathematical concepts are explored when weighing the fruit and 'exchanging money'.

Kathryn and I are also actively working hard on helping the children to express their feelings with their peers and learn how to positively engage their peers in play. We are asking the children to consider whether they are being fair in their play and to consider the feelings of others. We are also encouraging the children to become more autonomous with their self help skills. (*EYLF: Identity, Community, Wellbeing, Learning, Communication*)

During these past few weeks, we have also incorporated an indoor/outdoor program, allowing the children to choose where they



would prefer to be within the kinder grounds. The outdoor area has provided the children the option of enjoying the active physical movements of running, climbing, jumping, using the flying fox, balancing, taking calculated risks as well as team work and problem solving. Incorporating equipment which tested the children's skills, abilities and spatial awareness was added. (*EYLF: Wellbeing, Learning*).

Indoors, children's evolving understanding of the connection between the spoken word and writing is fostering their interest in seeking out



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ways to express this new understanding. Literacy and numeracy puzzles have been added to the play areas. (EYLF: Learning, Communication)

A reminder that during Term 4, a sun appropriate hat needs to be worn when children are outdoors. Please ensure that a named legionnaires hat or wide brim hat is included in your child's bag. We do have hats at kinder which the children can borrow in an emergency, however these will need to be sent home to be washed for hygiene purposes and returned the next kinder day.

Also, please take note of the upcoming events and mark them in your diary. Thank you.

Till next time,

Tania and Kathryn

Dates for your diary:

Monday 31st October and Tuesday 1st November

- KINDER Closed for cup weekend

Tuesday 29th November - AGM (all families welcome to attend)

Thursday 1st December - Orientation day for children commencing 2017

Christmas Concert

Monday 5th December – Possum Group

Tuesday 6th December – Wombat Group

Concert will be held during normal kinder sessions. More details to follow.

Last Session and Christmas Party

Tuesday 13th December - Wombat Group

Wednesday 14th December - Possum Group

Clean Up Day at kinder. (parent help required and appreciated)

Monday 19th December:

Tuesday 20th December – Kinder closes for the year



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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 (4yo Platypus Group), Kathryn Gregory (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)
Enrollment Officer 4 Year olds: Chantelle Alvaro (Platypus)
Enrollment 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.)