



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Can you believe it? Term 3 has come to an end and boy it has been a pretty big term!

At the end of last month our awesome fundraising and events committee put on a spectacular Trivia Night. The Apollo Parkways Primary school basketball court was transformed for the night where we had 14 tables participate in multiple silent auctions, raffles, games and even a dance off. By the end of the evening we raised just short of \$4000 for our beloved Diamond Hills Preschool.

With some of our fundraising money; the staff have recently purchased some new furniture from a conference they recently attended. So keep a look out for the delivery to see what you have helped buy for our kinder.

By the time this newsletter goes to print our current 4 year olds will be chatting to their new schools possibly even receiving their transition letters, mean while our 3 and 4 year olds for 2017 will be receiving their info packs for pre-school in 2017. In the pack will be some important dates. The date I would specifically like to highlight is **Tuesday November 29th**. This is when our AGM is held. At least one member of each family is strongly encouraged to attend this evening. You will have the opportunity to see what each group has achieved for the year, new families will have the opportunity to meet other families plus the staff and the committee, pay fees and most importantly vote in the 2017 committee of management for 2017. So put the date in your diary now!

If you have some inkling you would like to support the kinder by being on the committee in 2017 I would strongly encourage you to have a chat with any of our current committee members or even attend a committee meeting to see how they are run. The committee consists of a variety of roles from positions not requiring you to attend meetings to positions that require you attend monthly meetings and then small jobs to do during the month. Whatever time you have spare there is a position for you and I am more than happy to help guide you to one of these positions. For those who don't realise, without a committee of management we don't have our unique Diamond Hills Preschool. Feel free to give me a buzz on 0416 161 411 if you would like to discuss further.



**ANNIVERSARY  
TEA TOWLES**  
ARRIVING SOON



**TUESDAY 29TH  
NOVEMBER**



**KINDER CLOSED  
OCT 31 & NOV 1**

**Date of future committee meetings**

Tuesday October 18th 7.30pm

Tuesday November 8th 7.30pm

**AGM**

Tuesday November 29th 7pm nibbles, 7.30pm start

**Handover to the 2017 Committee**

Tuesday December 6th 7.30pm

I hope to see you at a meeting

**Carly Broadbent** - President

## CHECK IN WITH YOUR TEACHER

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



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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.

Another major event over the past month was the event of Father's Day. The children were very excited to make a surprise for their Dad's and to invite them to kinder for a special night on Thursday 1st September. The children with their Dad's did kinder activities, while sharing in pizza followed by ice-cream. We hope that all our Dad's had a great Father's day.

As has been reported over the year the Platypus group really enjoy music and dancing so it was very appropriate that we had an incursion - In-Rythm Drumming. This included learning about rhythm and tempo, learning about lots of instruments that were all part of the Percussion family, playing different instruments and playing on a drum kit. We were also lucky enough to have Adele's mum come in and do one of her amazing music sessions, this time involving her keyboard. Because the children respond so well to music we have



also been incorporating this purposefully into relaxation time during some of our sessions.

As I'm sure everyone is aware, Brenda who worked with the 3yr old and Penguin groups has left to have her baby. With this in mind we decided to set up a specific dramatic play area which involved lots of baby play. Both the boys and girls loved this area pretending to take care of their 'babies'. We can't wait to hear the exciting news of whether it's a boy or a girl. The children took a vote and also suggested some



boys and girls names. (just let me say that there were some interesting suggestions.) In the Platypus group we have already welcomed the arrival of Aurora and would like to say congratulations to Jade, Anthony, Lilliana, Raphael and Fabian. (Kyla and Annmaree have been lucky to have had a cuddle.)



## The relationships that we develop with the children are aimed at developing the children's confidence

We have continued the children's interest in art and sensory exploration with 2 favourite experiences being - bubble wrap printing and salt painting. Terms such as absorption were able to be introduced and discussed during the exploration of these experiences. Other experiences that the children have been really involved in have been experiences that have involved patterns and sequencing, planning, measuring, woodwork and wood gluing.

To celebrate our term of learning, a 'Sports Day' was decided upon with the emphasis being on having a go, participation, working together and having fun without necessarily winning. We strive to develop the children's self esteem so the 'Power of Yet!' poem is a great resource for this. (Haven't seen this? It's posted on the main entrance door.) This special day also provided us with the ideal opportunity to discuss the importance of exercise whether it be riding their bikes or playing outdoors. We were also able to reinforce healthy food and nutrition with the children helping to prepare their morning tea of a selection of wraps, fruit kebabs and healthy

protein balls. On the day, many fun experiences were provided both indoors and outdoors. One of the children's favourites was using the parachute. Leading up to the day, the children helped with the preparation of a 'banner' made from streamers using football team, coloured crepe paper. This was a great learning experience as we were able to include measuring, estimating, approximation, discussing same, length, colours, patterns, choice, what comes next, problem solving, questioning and just overall discovery by the children.

Next week (the last week of term) happens to be "Enviro" Week. Together we will re-visit our sustainability which will include discussion on our recycling, the worm farm and our compost. The program that I plan strongly follows and believes in the VEYLDF Outcomes which are -

Children have a strong sense of identity

Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Children are confident and involved learners

Children are effective communicators





And as the Centre Philosophy states “Our Program also aims to stimulate a passion to ‘LEARN’ through engaging and fun-filled learning experiences which empower children to feel valued, competent and

capable. The relationships that we develop with the children are aimed at developing the children’s confidence in their ability to express themselves, work through differences, learn new things and take calculated risks.”

Over that last few weeks as part of our partnership with our local schools the Prep coordinator from St Thomas’ visited. This informal visit helps with the transition from kinder to school as it enables us to work collaboratively with the school to share information and plan to ensure that a holistic approach is maintained for the children’s learning and development. (We also partake in this exercise with the other local primary schools in the area) As part of this, next term will see the beginning of the formal writing of Transition Reports. Families will be asked to contribute by filling out a part of this form. Details regarding this will be given out at the start of next term.

Congratulations to the Social Committee for organising such a great Trivia Night. It was a lot of fun. Thank you to everyone who was able to support this night. It is appreciated. Through this generosity the kinder has been able to purchase some new pieces of furniture for the room. This will certainly update some of our older pieces and will certainly add to our new carpet which is due to go in over the holidays.

The staff have been able to develop their Personal Development and knowledge by attending the DEKTA Conference. Thank you for your support by allowing all staff to attend this very important day.

As the term draws to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kinder Committee. We know that being on the Committee can be a big task at times but we hope that the realisation that you are engaged in your child’s education is worth the involvement. Without your involvement and dedication we would not survive, so all of the staff truly appreciate your dedication and support.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Monday 11th October or Thursday 13th October  
- Grandparents are invited to visit

Thursday 20th October - Traffic school visit

Thursday 1st December - Orientation Day for children attending Diamond Hills in 2017 (No kinder for the Platypus children on this day)

Thursday 15th December - Last day of Kinder for the Platypus group.

Finally Kyla, Nicole and I wish you all a relaxing holiday with lots of sleep-ins and/or PJ days. This term will end on Thursday 15th September and will resume on Monday 3rd October.

### **Anmarie, Kyla & Nicole**





Congratulations to Annmaree and her DEKTA committee for yet another great teacher's conference. Lots of new information to inspire us as teachers in early childhood.

The Penguin group has enjoyed a special month filled with incursions, Father's Day celebrations, a visit from a Yr 11 class from Plenty Valley Christian College, and a party to celebrate a great term. They have all contributed to an eventful month of fun and learning - involving our wider community. From birth, children live and learn with others in families, preschool, their environment and local communities. Children's connectedness with and different ways of belonging to their families, environment and communities, broadens their experiences, relationships and communities. This community participation strengthens children's sense of identity and wellbeing. We are looking forward to our grandparents/special friends coming to visit next term.

An event on our busy list of activities this month, was Brenda's baby shower. The children decorated the room with gorgeous baby pictures they created, balloons and signs. We decorated cupcakes as babies and surprised Brenda when she came in to work.

Thank you to the parents who were able to help us celebrate this special time, with our baby game and gift giving. The children sang Brenda our baby song – When I was an itty bitty baby. Congratulations to Amaya's mum



Fiona who won the blindfolded nappy changing competition! If anyone would like to enter the guess the baby's weight competition, let Kim know. Thank you to everyone for contributing to her gift and to Suzi for researching and purchasing the baby monitor. Brenda was very appreciative and quite overwhelmed with everyone's generosity.

The monthly guest list included our dads for Father's Day celebrations. The children created portraits of their dads and shared special facts about them on their card. After creating an imprint of their hand with plaster and painting it, the children wrapped them in special bags they had printed and were very excited about the special night. A handprint memento has been placed in the children's learning journals. Thank you to our Dads who were able to make it on the evening and impressed us with their singing and actions. We hope you enjoyed the



pizza and ice-cream and had a great Father's Day.

We were visited by Joe the musician from In-Rhythm. Joe is a passionate musician who teaches the children about percussion instruments and music as a language. Through interactive discussion and experimentation, the children learnt about concepts of Rhythm, tempo – fast/slow, pitch – high/low and what instruments were made of. They learnt to differentiate between grumpy sounds and happy sounds and became aware of what music makes us do – move, smile, feel happy/sad. Joe used a large map of the world to show the children where his various instruments originated from. The children were enthralled and so eager to answer his questions. Each child was able to try the drum kit, including the cymbals, bass pedal and cow bell and play and dance as a group with a variety of percussion instruments. ( Communication: listen and respond to sounds and patterns in music, retaining new information)

To celebrate a great term of learning and fun, the children had an F party on Thursday 8th September – Footy, Fairies and favourite colour. The children created streamer sticks and wands, made fairy bread, played a variety of table sport games, footy pasting, painting their team jumper's and imaginary play in a beautiful fairy garden. The children played a team colour game where they needed to work with a partner and a



hoop to collect as many of their team's colours as they could. After a snack of fruit, fairy bread and party pies, we played with the parachute. Lots of great receptive language skills, working collaboratively, taking turns and sheer delight.

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting large cardboard for us. We finally got to make our 3 dimensional dinosaur. Using lots of large boxes and strong tape, the children built their prehistoric creature and covered it with newspaper and glue. Lots of discussion ensued as you can imagine with heated discussions about what sort of dinosaur it was. I was told by some budding palaeontologists that I had cut the teeth too pointy if we were making a herbivore. This group project was a great learning opportunity to extend the children's interest in dinosaurs, to share language that they have learnt since our incursion, to work together to achieve a common goal, to complete a big task and share ideas and to feel a sense of community and belonging with this gorgeous Penguin group of children.



To end an exciting few weeks, the children were visited by Year 10 and 11 Health students, from Plenty Valley Christian College. As a part of their Health subject, the students study childhood development and a visit to a preschool is a fantastic way for them to observe and interact with this age group to enhance their studies. For our students, it was an invaluable day of developing community awareness, self-confidence and esteem and

sharing a sense of pride in their preschool. All students were engaged in a variety of indoor and outdoor experiences with new friends. Games of 'poison ball', shooting goals, football, craft, construction, drawing, feeding and holding the stick insects, playing in the fairy garden, carpentry, reading stories, roller painting the giant dinosaur, picnic lunch, singing, dancing, what's changed game were part of an incredible day of friendship and fun. We were very impressed with the level of engagement from these 16 and 17 year old students and wish they could visit every week ☺ Many thanks to Sonia (past parent) for organising this visit with her Yr classes– a valuable day as always.

Pet Responsibility training session next week – a great program to develop children's awareness about interacting with dogs in public places and friends or family's homes.

Next term is an even busier one, with lots to squeeze into the last few months of your child's preschool year. Put the date for the Traffic School in your diaries as it is in the second week back and requires transporting your child and their bike/scooter to Kew.

### **Dates for your diary**

11th and 14th October: Grandparents/special friend day

20th October: Kew Traffic school excursion

31st October and 1st November: KINDER Closed for cup weekend

Appropriate sun hat is now required every day at preschool. Unfortunately, if children need to borrow a kinder hat to play outside, OHS policies require it is washed by the family and returned the next day (good incentive to have a named hat in their kinder bag every day ☺)



Holiday s are here again and 4th term approaching – scary stuff – usually means Christmas will be here before we know it! Happy holidays everyone.

**Kim, Bronwen, Kyla & Kathryn**

## **UPDATE YOUR DETAILS**

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



These past two months have been very busy for all, with many changes

occurring in that time. I completed my last practicum placement for my degree at a Kindergarten in the Doncaster area.



The opportunity to experience a program elsewhere and share professional knowledge and understandings always seems to reinforce to me the importance of providing a holistic, engaging and collaborative program to enhance children's learning. I can honestly say that we do this very well at Diamond Hills and I am very proud and fortunate to be part of the Diamond Hills' team. I would also like to say a very big thank you to Bronwyn Mahoney who looked after the Possums and Wombats together with Brenda whilst I was away. I couldn't do it without their support and the support from the Committee and staff at Diamond Hills.



The staff are also very fortunate to be able to develop their Professional Development and gain new knowledge by attending the DEKTA Conference each year, where knowledge gained flows on to benefit the children. This PD also offers the opportunity to network with other

colleagues in the profession as well as attend the trade fair where new resources are purchased for the children to use. Keep your eyes open for the new furniture and other items that was purchased with funds raised from the amazing effort from the trivia fundraiser that was held recently. (VEYLDF: *Practice Principle – Reflective Practice*)

This past month also saw a change to our staff. The children and I were very sad to say 'goodbye for now' to Brenda, who left the Possum and Wombat groups on 25th August, but very excited to say that she is due to have her baby any day now. We have loved having Brenda as part of the team at Diamond Hills and the children and I will miss her terribly. In my absence, the children celebrated Brenda's departure with a presentation of flowers, items for the baby and two beautifully hand created books in which the children had each drawn a picture for Brenda. A very big thank you and huge appreciation to Laura Wade, (Matthew's mum – Possum group) who organised the presents, flowers and collated the books. We wish Brenda and her family all the very best of luck and we can't wait to meet her new baby.

We have also welcomed our new co-educator Kathryn to the team. Kathryn has had many years' experience in working with children, from across babies to primary age. She is very excited to be joining Diamond Hills and the children





have already made her feel welcomed. Kathryn enjoys doing Yoga with the children and reading stories. We look forward to getting to know each other better over the next year.

### **The Olympic Games**

The Olympic Games influenced the sessions at Diamond Hills. Brenda and the children competed in various games including bean bag throwing, stepping through hoola hoops, trampoline, races and basketball. At the finale, parents were invited to see all the children receive a gold medal for their effort. (EYLF: Identity, Community, Learning)

### **Father's Day**

Making and wrapping presents was in full swing. Footprints had to be taken, poems and stickers had to be attached, cards had to be written and presents needed to be wrapped. We hope all dads managed to have a wonderful day with family.

### **Fine Motor Development**

**Tap taps** - required concentration to place the tiny tac into the small hole in each piece as well as hand-eye co-ordination with the hammer to hit the tac into the corkboard. (EYLF: Wellbeing, Learning)

**Water spray bottle on the 'Raincoat man'** - builds hand eye co-ordination, strengthens fine motor muscles in their hands, fingers and wrists. We sang the song 'Splish, Splash, Splosh' (EYLF: Wellbeing, Learning)

**Ice blocks with blue edicol dye and pipettes** – focuses attention on developing the tripod grip needed to hold pencils for writing. The children used the pipettes to squirt the edicol dye over the top of the ice blocks that were sitting on a bed of salt creating crevices as the ice melted and the blue colour filtered through the cracks. (EYLF: Learning)

### **Sensory experience**

During August and last week, the children had the opportunity to play with shaving foam as a sensory experience. The reaction was quite different with each child. Some children dived their hands straight into the shaving foam, whilst others tentatively poked their fingers ever so gingerly into the soft white foamy substance. The children suggested that it was like snow, soft and bubbly. I posed questions about the properties of snow and ice and where it came from.... 'The sky', 'it's soft,' 'it's cold.' Some of the words used to describe the foam included 'Is sticky', 'Feels like bubbly', and 'looks like dad'. (EYLF - Community, Learning, Communication)

### **Dramatic Play**

The Dramatic play area has seen many changes over the past months. It began as a shoe shop. Here the children had the opportunity to experience mathematical concepts such as size comparison such as big, bigger, small and smaller when trying to find the correct shoe size to fit the customer. Comparing is an important skill for measurements and number concepts.





This was later transformed into an office space, where children could continue to explore numeracy and literacy through role play.

Then, to celebrate the impending arrival of Brenda's baby, the dramatic play area was transformed into a nursery where the children have had the opportunity to engage in role play involving babies, mummies and daddies. This area affords the children many opportunities to use expressive and receptive language, show empathy and care for others and imagination in recreating real life scenarios, which helps children to make sense of their world. It also allows the children to take on various roles in their play such as 'directors' which affords children the ability to plot the scenes and co-construct their learning with their peers. (EYLF - Identity, Wellbeing, Community, Learning, Communication)

### **Outdoors**

Last week's beautiful weather gave us the opportunity to spend a large portion of the session outdoors. Here the children were free to explore the garden and all the play and learning opportunities that it affords. The riverbed was well frequented, with the children using their imagination to create environments for their dinosaurs, being careful not to drop the heavy rocks onto their fingers or toes. Learning included, balancing, weight comparison of heavy and light rocks, size differentiation between the large and small rocks and positioning such as above, below, besides,



behind etc. Other children were fully engaged in experiencing the cool water trickling through their toes. (EYLF: Learning, Wellbeing)

Races were run down the slight slope of the pathway, using cars and trucks. Here the children had to negotiate positions and time the start of the races as they all lined up ready. Learning opportunities include, spatial awareness, gravity, speed – faster and slower, concepts of numeracy such as ordinal numbers of 'first, second and third' etc. (EYLF: Wellbeing, Community, Learning, Communication)

Many picnics were organised in the playground. The children showed sustained shared thinking as they negotiated and directed their game to bring all the items out into the garden. The persistence and determination they showed as they needed to problem solve, cooperate and negotiate how to bring out the larger items, as well as coordinate the outdoor 'rooms' into the



eating and sleeping areas was inspiring. Lots of expressive and receptive language used. (EYLF: *Identity, Community, Wellbeing, Learning, Communication*)

And last but not least, developing friendships and their emerging autonomy as they show care and empathy for others by helping each other to enjoy the playground equipment. (EYLF: *Identity, Community*)

It certainly has been very busy and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a well-earned rest. Relax, have sleep ins where possible, have all day Pj days and recharge your batteries. Term four is going to be busier.

A reminder that hats are to be worn outdoors on returning to term 4. Please ensure that a clearly named wide brim or legionnaires hat is in your child's bag at all times.

### Dates for the Diary

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** - Term 4 Resumes
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** - KINDER Closed for cup weekend
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - AGM
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December** - Orientation day for children commencing in 2017
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Last day of Kinder for the Wombat Group
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Last day of Kinder for Possum Group

**End of year Christmas concert** (dates to be confirmed)  
Possums – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December (or Wed 7<sup>th</sup>)  
Wombats – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Until next time,  
**Tania, Brenda and Kathryn**



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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), Kathryn Gibbins (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'Keefe (Penguin)  
Treasurer: Cassy Coffey (Platypus)  
Fees Officer: Cassy Coffey (Platypus)  
Enrolment Officer 4 Year olds: Chantelle Alvaro (Platypus)  
Enrolment Officer 3 Year olds: Faye Di Fabio (Possum)  
Fundraising Co-Ordinator: Lisa Henry (Platypus)  
Events Co-Ordinator: Melanie Mackertich (Possum)  
Maintenance Officer: Bob Jovanovski (Platypus)  
Staff Liaison: Bev Ashley (Penguin)

## *Sub-Committee Members*

Purchasing Officer: Jane Robinson (Penguin)  
Duty Roster: Regan Sailah (Possum)  
Fundraising Sub Committee: Katrina Naish (Wombat),  
Natalie Gouldthorpe (Platypus) & Stacey Howard (Platypus)  
Events Sub Committee: Laura Wade (Possum),  
Rebecca Zappia (Wombat) & Liz Georgiou (Penguin)  
Environmental Officer: Katherine Gibbins (Platypus)

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