



July 2014

DIAMOND HILLS
PRE-SCHOOL



Play, Learn, Laugh and Shine

Thankyou for supporting the Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser! We raised \$1,749.23!

A big thanks to Deanna Costantin and Anita Staffieri for co-ordinating the day!

Thank you to Phil's Bakehouse Café (Mangos Family - Penguin Group) for donating the bread for the day.

Thank you to the following families for volunteering their time and helping on the day-Jones Family, Jensen Family, Henry Family, Georgeson Family, Toussaint Family, Wein Family, King Family, Zoch Family, Trimcevski Family, Barnett Family, Harford Family, Coffey Family, Pleaner Family, Azrtein Family, Galgano Family, Alvaro Family, Cameron Family and the Papadakis Family.



Possum Group Photos - Monday 21st July
Wombat Group Photos - Tuesday 22nd July

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- * Important Information
- * Updates & Reminders
- * Fundraising Info
- * Ask questions & communicate with other parents of the preschool

Platypus Monthly Report



Welcome back to the start of another term. Kyla and I hope that everyone had a nice break and you are all refreshed and recharged for another busy term ahead.

What did the Program include for the last few weeks of Kinder for term 2?

Leading up to the end of 2nd term, you will remember that the children invited either their Grandparents or a Special friend to visit kinder. This was a wonderful 2 days at kinder. The children were very excited to have such special people in their lives visit them and delighted in showing their visitors around. The children were very busy on the Monday and Thursday making 2 different types of scones to share. Having someone special like a grandparent in their lives provides children with a feeling of comfort and security, different from any other loving adult in their world. Grandchildren bring love,

energy, optimism, laughter, activity, youthfulness, and purpose to the lives of grandparents. At the same time, grandparents provide maturity, knowledge, stability, and unconditional love to the lives of their grandchildren. What a special bond. ! As part of their ever developing curiosity and their interest in the Art area the opportunity to try wood gluing was provided. The children produced some great pieces of interesting 2D and 3D creations while learning about balancing of objects, how much glue to apply, positioning, levels, stability, creative thinking and problem solving.



The children had also during the last few weeks been interested in using sticks outside in their play, to incorporate this interest into a positive direction we asked the children to collect sticks and then bring them inside to paint. This idea was to demonstrate that there are other ways to be creative with these objects. We wanted to make this a positive experience. The children really

enjoyed doing this.

Also to continue the interest the children had been showing in Indigenous artefacts we placed different interesting indigenous articles around the room. This created a lot of interest. To continue this interest and so that we can all learn more about the importance of our local indigenous heritage we decided to incorporate into our outdoor area an indigenous garden. Tania coincidentally has been studying this in depth as part of her study so we have been able to also use her knowledge to help. With this in mind we are joining in



Planet Ark National Tree Planting Day on Friday 25th July to help not only beautify our entrance into kinder (the fence line that runs parallel to the car park) but we are using this area to design

an indigenous garden. As this is happening next week please look out for notices regarding the organisation of this event. We would love all families to join in this event even if it's just for a very short time.

To conclude our learning for term 2 the children celebrated with a Bugs and Beetles party. The children used their own ideas to decorate the room. They made a giant spider and placed it in a giant web. some of the children also chose to make giant beetles. These type of activities brought about lots of discussion regarding the facts about insects and spiders. The children learnt things like spiders have 8 legs and 8 eyes and that one of the main differences between spiders and insects is that insects only have 6 legs. The children also volunteered information that they knew and when an interesting question was asked we were able to research this in books to find the answer. The children were very involved and it assisted them in taking responsibility for their own learning.



Sport will also resume this term. It was a great addition to the program and we found that we could cater it especially to meet the children's needs and development. It will be on the same day at the same time.

Before the end of term we also had the opportunity to visit our Kinder children from last year who are now Preps at Apollo Parkways Primary School. It was wonderful to see how much they had grown and developed. This is always such a wonderful chance to catch up with how the children are doing and a great link between kinder and school. We feel that we have a very good connection which in turn is beneficial for transition. ! We are visiting St Thomas' on Monday 4th August.

Thank you - To everyone who supported the kinder Bunnings BBQ. Well Done.

To Melissa King for obtaining our new Stick Insect display. It's amazing. The children can really see quite clearly the stick insects and the different stages that they are at. They are also much more readily able to assist in taking care of them.

PLATYPUS GROUP



Date you need to know -! **NO KINDER ON WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY** FOR ALL STAFF TO ATTEND DEKTA's Annual CONFERENCE. Thank you all, for supporting the staff by enabling them to participate in this Professional Development.

Kyla and I are looking forward to another great term of learning and fun. As always if at anytime you have any questions or queries regarding anything to do with the program, please don't hesitate to ask either of us at anytime.

Stay Warm!

Kyla and Anmaree

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Wombat & Possum Monthly Report

Welcome back to Term 3. Nicole and I hope you have all managed to relax and spend some quality time with your families. It's hard to believe that we are already into the second half of the year. There is not much to report this month as the last report was so close to the end of term 2. So I thought I might fill the report with photos of the end of Term 2 parties for all to see. The children really enjoyed themselves, disco dancing and making their own fairy bread, fruit kebabs and decorating their cupcakes. We finished off the day with the 'Lybra' dance and a group photo.

POSSUM GROUP



WOMBAT GROUP



Everyone made an incredible effort to come dressed in their favorite character and there was such a wide variety. We had Supermen, Ninja Turtles, Spidermen, Ariel, Elsa from Frozen, Ballerinas, Woody from Toy story, Pirates, Cinderella, Tinkerbelle, Princesses, Alice in Wonderland, Buzz Light Year and a Cheer leader amongst many others. Thanks to everyone for the great effort.

End of term parties!

Dates to Remember

Possum Group Photos - Monday 21st July

Wombat Group Photos - Tuesday 22nd July



NO KINDER - WEDNESDAY 30th JULY

All Diamond Hills Staff will be attending the DETKA Conference. It is a great opportunity for Educators to get together, see what new resources are available, network with other Educators and attend interesting and thought provoking seminars on current educational practices.

Reminder - Possum and Wombat Families

We are coming to that time of the year when colds and runny noses seem to be everywhere and we go through an extraordinary amount of tissues. We would greatly appreciate a box of tissues from families to keep those runny noses clean. This helps to keep our costs down and it means we have more money to spend on providing educational resources for the children. If you haven't already done so, we would appreciate it if you could kindly bring a box to kinder early in the term.



Thankyou, Nicole and Tania



AUGUST



Penguin Platypus

Celine 19th
Jordan 21st

Wombat Possum

Billy Dimech 2nd
Ava Galgano 8th
Sienna Gatto 17th

Chelsea Gersh 9th
Alyssa Vecchio 9th
Benjamin Rinaldo 29th

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OPEN DAY

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2014 Staff List

2014 Teachers:

Annmaree Watkins (4yo Platypus)

Tania Mantovani (3yo Possum & Wombat Groups)

Kim Walker (4yo Penguin)

Co Educators/Teaching Assistants

Bronwen Gear (4yo Penguin Group)

Nicole De Cata (3yo Possum & Wombat Groups)

Kyla Ridgeway (4yo Platypus Group)

Administration Officer: Kerrie Haynes

2014 Volunteer Committee List

President: Linda Wein (Possum)

Vice President: Josta Barton (Penguin)

Secretary: Shannon Fitzpatrick (Platypus)

Assistant Secretary: Rebecca Fisher (Penguin)

Treasurer: Emma Jones (Platypus)

Fees Officer: Kylee Chesser (Penguin)

Enrolment Officer (4): Robyn Bolger (Penguin)

(3): Rochelle Tousaint (Wombat)

Fundraising Co-Ordinator: Nicole Webster (Penguin)

Events Co-Ordinator: Robyn Nicholas-Scott (Penguin)

Maintenance Officer: Paul King (Penguin)

Staff Liason: Jenelle Graham (Platypus)

Sub-Committee Members

Purchasing Officer: Carly Veale (Penguin)

Duty Roster: Rebecca Spagnol (Platypus)

Fundraising Sub Committee: Anita Staffieri (Penguin) and Deanna Constantin

Events Sub Committee: Sarah Selkrig & Lauren Pilakis

Centre contact Information:

Hours- Monday- Friday 8am – 5pm

Phone: 9435 8694

Email: diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Web: www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au

Postal: PO Box 56, Greensborough, Victoria 3088

Newsletter Contact:

Rebecca Fisher- rubyfish11@gmail.com
(photo's, stories or things you would like to share with the kinder community.)

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Penguin Monthly Report

Hi everyone,

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope you had a restful holiday and have shaken off the virus' that went through the Penguin group last term.



In the final weeks of Term 2, we welcomed the beautiful families of our Penguins. Lots of grandparents, a great-grandmother, Aunties, Great – Aunty, Uncle and special friends came to Diamond Hills. The children demonstrated a sense of pride in their kinder, while showing their guests around and sharing the morning tea they had cooked earlier in the session. These loved ones play a special part in the children's sense of *belonging and*

community. They are an integral part of the children's *sense of identity* – where children learn to feel, safe, secure and supported and

develop confident self identities. They develop strong foundations in the *culture* of their family and friends. Thank you very much to everyone who gave up their time to spend some time with us at Diamond Hills.



To celebrate the learning and fun achieved in Term 2, the children helped to plan their last day party fun. We all sat together and shared ideas about party suggestions or themes, taking notes as we went (*Community – express an opinion in matters that effect them, listening to ideas of others, empowered to make choices and problem solve*) The suggestions included... Halloween, Xmas, “not a girly dress up party”, Princess and the Pea party and a robot party. We went with the majority, which were Pirates, Princess' and Penguins! These ideas were indicative of the play the children had been extending throughout the term, so they were perfect! We brainstormed some ideas together and

started preparing for the special day. The children were involved in creating and decorating a 'wooden' pirate ship, canon, canon balls, anchor, ships wheel, a princess castle and more. They worked collaboratively, shared ideas and problem solved in teams and with adult guidance. Development of skills included designing, cutting, roller painting, constructing and lots more.

The children were very excited about the party day – encouraged more so by their ownership and integral involvement in the planning and preparation. The children all looked fantastic –

thank you so much to all our families for making the effort. The day involved lots of stolen treasure, symbolic play, tea parties, fantasy mask – making, pirate patch and hat making and penguin cupcake decorating. The children played “Pirate, pirate where's your gold”, Penguin bean bag game and created their own treasure map. After following the map very carefully the children discovered buried treasure in the sandpit filled with gold coins and jewellery (edible!)





Thank you very much to all our parents who helped out in the lead up and on the day and a special thanks to Bronwen and Annmaree for filling in for me during this busy time.

What's next? The symbolic play area begins as an extension of the children's interest in cooking and serving others after our Grandparents and special friends week – a restaurant. Lots of language, negotiation of roles, preparing menus, cooking etc.

We will be visited by the Educational program from Edendale farm soon – learning about developing a compost system and learning more facts about our worm farm.

Planet Ark day – Friday 27th July. Planting indigenous plants on our nature strip at the front of the preschool. An extension of our environmental and cultural awareness learning programs at Diamond Hills. Come along and join the Diamond Hills Community and plant with your child.

PE and library program will continue this term. We will introduce Show and Tell in coming weeks.

We are sorry the learning journals were not ready for holiday reading. The internet went down in the storm in the last week of term and this meant the printer has been out of action. We will print in the first week of term and send them home. Please read them with your child – a fantastic way for the children to participate in, gain motivation for and take responsibility for their learning.

Looking forward to a term of more learning and fun,
Kim and Bronwen.



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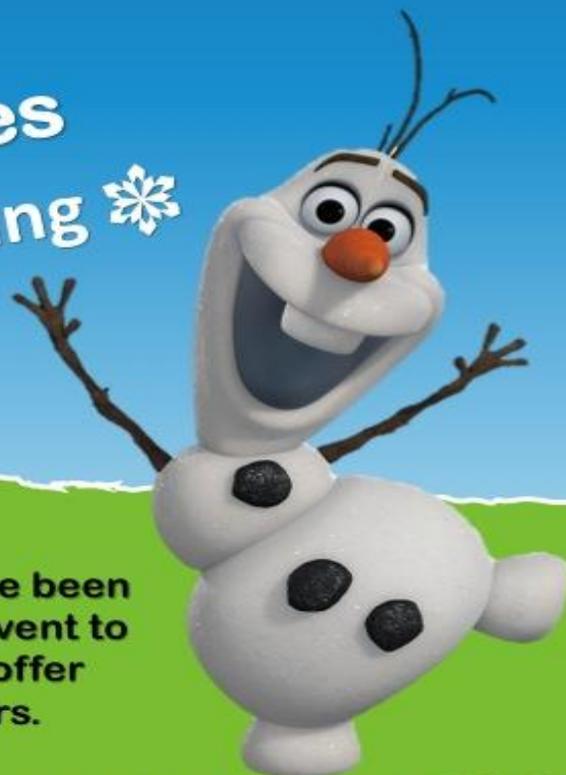


TUESDAY, 5
AUGUST

9am-11am

Fun Wintry Activities

❄️ Art 'n' Craft ❄️ Cooking ❄️
❄️ Storytime ❄️



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