



# Blackburn Pre-School Newsletter

Term 4, 2013

## President's Report

**Who has seen the new backyard?** Thanks to Dean Roll and Mark Kerwin generously donating their time and skills in fence building and shed moving over the holidays, we had the backyard open for play very early this term. It has added a whole new dimension to what is on offer at kinder for our children, and is being put to excellent use every day.

Great news for our shaded play area too! Not only have we now received the permit required to get building, **we have received a \$1000 grant from the Whitehorse Council and a \$1200 Telstra grant to go towards building an all-weather outdoor area.** Combined with fabulous fundraising efforts from both 2013 and previous years, we have the funds to proceed and **building is due to commence in the coming weeks.**

You may have also noticed **new chairs** in the kinder room. The old green vinyl ones were particularly tired and tatty. It's fantastic that we now have some lovely timber ones, and can easily seat a full class of children for lunch!

Good things don't just 'happen' at community kindergartens. Blackburn Pre-School has been very lucky to be **supported by a fantastic, involved community and several hardworking committees.** Thank you to each of you who have volunteered in some capacity over the last 12 months. Whether you have signed up for the

weekend tidy up roster, turned up to improve the kinder at a working bee or been a member of one of the committees – **Thank you.** The kinder would not be functioning without constant community input and support. There has been constant, positive family involvement in so many areas this year that Blackburn Pre-School is not just functioning, but thriving. Well done!

**The Pre-School AGM is fast approaching.** We have had a small number of responses to the call for nominations for 2014 COM and PAC. There are still many opportunities available! With many families on Committees not with us in 2014 (some to return in the future, some have run out of pre-school aged children!) **it is time to think about how you can use your skills to help out your child's kinder and consider a volunteer role** – big or small, it all counts!

The AGM is the opportunity for you to come along and hear what has been achieved at kinder throughout the year, to meet your child's teachers and show your support for the incoming committees and families.

**We look forward to seeing you all there!**

*Bridie Macdonald*

### Be Sunsmart!

A friendly reminder as per our Sun Protection Policy, all parent helpers (and siblings) are required to wear a sun hat during terms 1 & 4 whilst outdoors.

Also remember to apply sunscreen to your child prior to each session.

### Diary Dates

#### **AGM & Kinder Information Session**

Thursday 21st November, 7.30pm  
The Avenue Uniting Church hall

#### **Bunnings BBQ**

Sunday 24th November.  
Nunawading Bunnings.

#### **Christmas Party**

Sunday 8th December 5:30-7.30pm  
Lollipops Play Land, Forest Hill

And above all,  
watch with glittering  
eyes the whole  
world around you  
because the greatest  
secrets are always  
hidden in the most  
unlikely places.  
Those who don't  
believe in magic  
will never find it.

Roald Dahl

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### Bellbirds & Possums



Term 4 is a very exciting time at Kinder. The children are **beginning to talk about School visits**, friends that will go to school with them and the new ones that they will meet, the colour of their uniform, what the playground will look like and most importantly that they will learn how to READ and WRITE!!

Through our vast and varied learning experiences at Kinder the children have been reading, writing and doing maths without even knowing it!!!! Both Literacy and Numeracy are forms of communication; ways in which we represent and share information with others about our world.

**Literacy and Numeracy has been introduced in a play based and hands on approach.** Shared group time activities such as counting how many children are at kinder or away, measuring and comparing children's height, reading familiar stories with rhyme and rhythm and modelling writing on our whiteboard with lists and children's ideas are all foundation numeracy and literacy experiences.

The children are also offered many small group experiences in which they discover, practice and explore letters and numbers. Our "Office" is a very busy play space, board games, measuring with sand and water, constructions sets and sharing stories on the couch allow children to connect with literacy and numeracy at their own pace.

**A focus during the past few weeks has been to challenge and guide children to explore new and varied experiences.** Many children feel safe and comfortable participating in their favourite and chosen activities. We feel that at times encouraging the children to have a turn at new and different experiences prepares them for the more formal learning expectations and diverse range of experiences they will discover at school.

During mat time the children have been assisted in **developing their discussions skills, turn taking, thinking before putting up hand and making 'on topic' contributions.** It is wonderful to see the maturity and confidence in so many of the children during our Treasure Box sharing, group music and movement and mat time games.

**The "Backyard" is soooo exciting**.....and the children love it too! The freedom to run, kick balls, play group games, dig in the dirt, bounce on the trampoline and build cubbies is FUN. Our new environment also fosters and builds on allowing the children to explore nature and learn to respect and care for their natural world.

*"If professionals take cues from both understanding of child development and our knowledge of the lives that children are leading, the environment professionals provide can enhance childhoods. Perhaps some programs would look less like schools and more like homes and children's museums or like fields and parks. We might develop (or adapt) varied places that resonate with a genuine sense of place—or beauty, variety with elements of surprise and mystery—places where adults and children delight at times in simply being together, messing about, and working at the tasks that daily living requires" (Greenman, 1998).*

Along with the church we are looking to collaboratively shape a free and natural playspace that evokes imagination, exploration and rich discoveries.

Last week Emily joined us from **Healthways to share some important Water Safety information.** The children were invited to share their ideas and ask questions about safe swimming, marine creatures the job of Lifesavers and safe actions when in a boat.

As we are nearing the end of the year the children have become real co designers of the program. Through discussion of favourite experiences, exploration of new ideas and reflection of the children's interests **the learning environment is a collaborative effort of children and educators.** Some favourites have returned....dinosaurs, Lego, cloud dough, snail pace race game and wire construction.

#### Grandparents/Special Friends Day

The children and **Grandparents/Special Friends** had a wonderful morning together at Kinder. The children were so proud to show their visitors their favourite activities, introduce them to friends and share some learning experiences with one another. Just as proud were the many Grandparents of their clever children!! It was a lovely experience that demonstrates the value of special relationships and that "families are the primary influence on children's learning and development." (VEYLDF, p10)

#### Zoo Visit

**We are fast approaching our visit to the Zoo.** This is a wonderful and enriching experience for all the children and adults. It comes at the end of a year we have shared together and our excursion is a fantastic way for children, parents and educators to enjoy a special outing together.



# Group Reports

## Term 4, 2013

### Transition Statements

Behind the scenes Kym and Rachel have been writing and compiling **Transition Statements** for each of the children going to school next year. In conjunction with the Statements we have had some visits and spoken with the prep teachers from our local schools to support the transition to School for the children.

### Sunsmart

As noted at the start of the newsletter, it is Term 4 and the warmer weather is on its way, so please remember **HATS and SUNSCREEN**. We really appreciate families applying sunscreen before sessions. You can do this at home before coming to kindergarten or if you forget or run out of time, you are welcome to use our centre sunscreen when you arrive. **During our 5 hour sessions staff will reapply sunscreen.**

**It is important that your child's hat gives good coverage.** Caps often give limited sun protection so we would encourage you to provide a wide brimmed hat or legionnaires type hat. Please also give consideration to what clothing your children wear to kindergarten. Clothes covering the shoulders give good sun protection and reduce the amount of sunscreen to be applied during our busy session.

**Thank you to our wonderful Committee** this year. We appreciate their time and support in initiating new projects, The Backyard, and following on from past Committee concepts such as the weather-proof roof over the sandpit. Our Kinder is recognised as a centre that encourages and welcomes the families of our children to experience the joy of Kinder, we trust that the 2013 COM has had a rewarding experience in helping to facilitate and continue building a wonderful and inspiring environment for the children.

**To all our Bellbirds and Possums families, thank you for sharing your beautiful children with us** and we wish you an exciting and enjoyable 2014.

*Rachel, Kym, Mrs Dillon and Kate*



### Library Borrowing

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November is the last day for borrowing library books. All books need to be returned to kinder on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### Term 4 Diary Dates – Possums/Bellbirds

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** – Excursion to the Melbourne Zoo

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Experience at The Avenue Uniting Church for the 4s

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Possums Celebration Morning

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Bellbirds Celebration Morning

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Possums last session and Party

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Bellbirds last session and Party

## Gumnuts, Banksias & Wattles



We are half way into our last term together, traditionally this one flies.

We have already packed so much into the term and there's more to come. **The children excitedly returned to kinder after their break**, reconnected with friends and the environment, shared holiday stories of

what they did, where they went or who/what they saw, they explored the new room lay out, new equipment and new chairs. **The most exciting change to kinder was the new outdoor back-yard space.** This has been made possible via negotiations and funding arrangements between the church, teaching team and committee, Thank-You all. When we opened the sliding gate, there was a collective "Wow!" from the children. So far in the new space, we have enjoyed picnics, group games, jumping, hurdling etc, but by far the most popular observed activity is the children have discovered that it is a great space to RUN ☺

### Program News

**Post box/letter box:** Because of the interest in sending and receiving postcards from our holidaying friends, many children have been inspired to write their own letters/pictures and send these to friends/family. We decided to make a post box for children to mail their own letters. At the end of the session we open the box and letters are delivered. This experience has grown



# Group Reports

## Term 4, 2013



tremendously which necessitated a move to a larger space. There are many processes and areas of learning to consider: Writing/drawing (literacy and fine-motor skills), folding the paper to fit into the envelope (fine motor skill, cognitive and maths concept), sticking the envelope, selecting, cutting and sticking the stamp and making sure there is a name on the front and back of the envelope. Some children have been interested in writing their own name or other friends' names. To assist in this added layer of literacy, we provided name-cards with the child's photo next to it (for easy identification) to support the children copying the spelling (if they wish). This extended interest has prompted the possibility to walk to the local post office for an excursion.

**Grandparents and Special Visitors Week:** What a wonderful turn out! We had many grandparents visit the kinder during our open session and the majority stayed for the entire time. We also had some special visitors who came to support the children and family in lieu of a grandparent. Thank-you to all who came, it was a very special time and the children have reflected on these days very positively. We also think that the visitors enjoyed themselves too.

**Transforming Ourselves:** One of the common popular experiences throughout the year has been **play using props and dress-ups**. Following on from this and drawing on the children's own experiences of clown day, footy day, circus incursion, performers on stage, colour days etc. we offered the children other ways to transform their looks – via masks. We have been exploring a provocation – does this mask change who I am?

**Oscar and Otis' Adventures:** This term and for most of last term, the children have been having turns at taking home a kinder teddy-bear 'Oscar' or 'Otis' for a sleep-over. We are continuing to enjoy hearing about the bears' adventures and especially if they cleaned their teeth! The children love this and excitedly tell the group about what they did, usually accompanied by a photo or two...

**Independence: The progressive development in the children has been remarkable** and we have at times felt a little redundant this term, which is a pleasant observation. Most children are making considered choices: i.e. where to play/learn, whom they want to connect with, what they would like to use to enhance/extend their play. Self help skills are more advanced and some children support each other in turning on the tap or putting on a smock or costume.

**Birthdays:** A big Happy Birthday to Joey who celebrated his 4th Birthday in November.

**Baby Congratulations:** Maddie is now a big sister to Amelie born on 21/9/13, Congratulations to Kate and Chris. Reuben is now a big brother for the second time to Alexander born on 18/10/13, Congratulations to Elizabeth and Andrew.

Thank-you for adding your names to the Term 4 **Parent Helper Roster**, we have really appreciated your help this year and your children have loved having you share their special time at kinder.

### Thank-you

**To the committee for their hard work this year**, a significant portion of work is conducted behind the scenes. For those moving away from the kinder into the school community, we wish you well.

**To our families** involved in the Three Year Old Program (Banksias, Gumnuts and Wattles). Over the year we have appreciated your assistance, support and humour. It has been privilege to work alongside you and your child and we wish you all the best for next year's transition to new groups.



Thank you,

*Melinda, Nadia and Katrina*

### Term 4 Diary Dates – Banksias, Wattles & Gumnuts

**Thursday 28th & Friday 29th November** - walk to the post office (during session time) to post a special invitation – notice out soon.

**Tuesday 10th December (9am - 10am)** Three Year Old Groups End of Year Kinder Celebration (shhhhh, the children will sing a song or two) Invitations will be sent out soon.

**Thursday 12th December** – Party Day, please bring a plate – (last session for Banksias).

**Friday 13th December** - Party Day, please bring a plate – (last session for Wattles and Gumnuts).

*"A child's world should be a world of the possible"*

(Loris Malaguzzi, 1993)



# PAC Information



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Sunday 8th December**

**5:30 – 7:30pm**

**Lollipops Play Land, Level 3 - Forest Hill**

**Free Event**

Bring your own food or feed the kids before you come, they will be having so much fun that getting them to stop and eat might be tricky!!

Santa will be making a special appearance but only if the kids are GOOD!!

There will be Christmas Carols, lollipops and most of all lots of FUN!!!

Water and cordial will be available free of charge.

Please add your name to the RSVP list at kinder if you can make it. We'd love to see you all there.

Please note this is a kinder only event. Parents/Grandparents/Guardians, kinder children and siblings only.



### Bunnings BBQ

**Our Bunnings BBQ is Sunday 24th November.**

This is a great fundraiser for the kinder and an enjoyable day. If you can spare a couple of hours please put your name down on the roster. It would be great to see some parents who haven't been able to help out during the year.

If you are unable to help sell or cook the sausages don't forget you can always bring the family down and buy a couple of perfectly cooked snags.

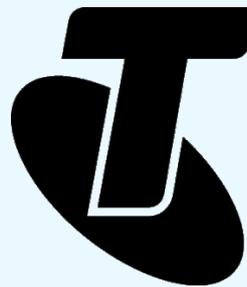


### Telstra Foundation Grant

We have awesome parents and two of the best, Debbie (PAC Treasurer) and Rohan Lee (Bethany's parents), secured a Telstra Grant for the kinder. Telstra have kindly donated \$1200 to the construction of our new shade area. This year, we are one of 625 community non-profit organisations across Australia that will share in \$750,000 of Telstra's Kids Fund grants available through the Telstra Foundation.

Initiated by Telstra employees, Telstra's Kids Fund has helped boost children's connections to their local communities for the past eleven years by providing improved facilities, programs and equipment to communities across Australia. Recipients have included schools, art and culture groups, sport and recreational clubs, disability services and environmental organisations. To find out more visit [www.telstrafoundation.com](http://www.telstrafoundation.com).

Thankyou Telstra and Thankyou Rohan and Debbie.



**TELSTRA  
FOUNDATION**

### T-Shirts and Hats

We have just ordered new t-shirts and hats. Order forms are in the tray near the noticeboard and T-shirts/hats will be available for purchase and collection at the AGM. We have a new supplier (a kinder mum) and the quality is fantastic.



# PAC Information

## Toy Orders

All the toy orders are in and will be ready for Christmas, we appreciate your support and the kids will appreciate all the new toys at kinder – kinder gets back 20% to spend on toys.

## 2013 PAC

As this is our last newsletter for the year I would really like to thank the mums who committed their time to the Parent Auxiliary Committee (PAC). They have been awesome ensuring we get to know each other as a Community and that enough funds are raised to make Blackburn Pre-School better and better each year. It isn't always easy finding the time to organise a get together, event, hand out fundraisers or put flyers in pockets but the following ladies have put in an incredible effort and I wanted to say thankyou, so Thankyou Renae Roll(Bellbirds), Sonja Hobbs(Bellbirds), Jane Snell(Possums), Lucy Munro(Possums), Anna Nowland(Gumnuts), Ainsley Potter(Gumnuts), Hayley Field (Gumnuts), Kristy Kelly(Wattles), Debbie Hall(Wattles), Jackie Small (Wattles), Michaela Thompson(Banksia), Kate Moore (Banksia), and I appreciate everything you have done.

Without the support of our kinder Community our Pre-school couldn't have evolved as it has. The Committee of Management (COM) and Teachers have been fantastic this year, exceeding National Standards, new outdoor play spaces, new equipment, and an awesome undercover area on the way. These are not easy tasks and many voluntary hours are worked to ensure success. To the 2013 COM and Teachers, you should be extremely satisfied with your achievements this year and Thankyou.

Parents, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, Friends, Everyone who has purchased a plant or helped at a BBQ, contributed in any way should be proud of what we have achieved as a Community.

We have a great Pre-School.

Thankyou.

Danni Clarke PAC



# THE NEW BLACKBURN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP HAS ARRIVED!

**Hey! Sessions for 2013 on  
Thursdays:  
28 November,  
5 and 12 December  
9.15am-11am**

BLACKBURN PRE-  
SCHOOL AND THE  
AVENUE UNITING  
CHURCH INVITE YOU  
TO JOIN THEIR NEW  
PLAYGROUP FOR  
MUMS, DADS,  
CARERS AND  
CHILDREN AGED 0-5

COME AND SEE OUR  
NEW OUTDOOR PLAY  
AREA!  
BUBS AND KIDS CAN  
SOCIALISE, PLAY,  
EXPLORE AND  
CREATE WHILE  
ADULTS ENJOY A  
TEA OR COFFEE

SESSIONS FOR 2014  
START IN FEBRUARY  
AND FOLLOW  
SCHOOL TERMS

HELD AT THE AVENUE  
UNITING CHURCH

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Enrolments via Jo at:

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