



From the Leadership Team

We would like to welcome our new Committee of Management (COM) and Parents Auxiliary team (PAC) for 2016. It is great to have the support of some ongoing COM members from past years and this is complemented by the skills and ideas that our new COM members share at our monthly meetings. The COM works closely with the leadership team to ensure the efficient running of the centre.

Professional development is important for the teaching team to further their knowledge and to build connections with other professionals. The workshops and seminars that we attend may at times fall during a kinder session. On these occasions we have experienced and familiar educators from Relay Agency join the children.

During February and March all team members will be updating their First Aid qualifications, this includes CPR, Anaphylaxis and Asthma training.

Rachel and Kym are looking forward to attending a two part Cultural Awareness Session this term. This will provide us with a greater understanding of Victorian Aboriginal culture and will build our confidence in respectfully including Aboriginal culture in our learning programs.

Use of the Playground before and after sessions

It is lovely to see the kindergarten children and their siblings enjoying the playground before and after kinder sessions. Please remember to supervise your children at all times and please encourage your children to treat our outdoor learning environment and equipment with respect.

Kym and Rachel

**Play builds
the kind of
free-and-easy,
try-it-out,
do-it-yourself
character that
our future needs.**

James L. Hymes Jr.

No Jab No Play

From 1 January 2016, all parents/guardians seeking to enrol their child at an early childhood service in Victoria must provide evidence that their child is fully immunised for their age OR on a vaccination catch-up program OR unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons. The '**No Jab No Play**' law will apply to all early childhood education and care services in Victoria that provide long day care, kindergarten, occasional care or family day care.

If your child is fully immunised you may not need to do anything in order to meet the No Jab No Play requirements, because existing legislation already requires that immunisation information is provided on enrolment in an early childhood education and care service. You can get copy of your child's most recent **Immunisation History Statement** from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) as evidence of your child's immunisation.

To request an Immunisation History Statement contact the ACIR (phone 1800 653 809, email acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au or www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/dhs/medicare. If your child is not fully immunised (or if you are not sure if your child is fully immunised, or you're interested to find out more) you may wish to have a look the information provided at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/no-jab-no-play.



Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Emergency Evacuation Practices are conducted in each group at least once a term. These are intended to ensure that if a situation ever required us to evacuate the kindergarten, both educators and children would be familiar with what to do.

It is possible that an emergency evacuation drill could take place at the end of a session. If this was to occur, we ask that families on site follow the directions of the staff to evacuate with the children. Our evacuation points are:

1. The lawn area in front of Food Republic on Blackburn Road or
2. The lawn area alongside the war memorial and tennis club on Central Road.

In the event of an emergency where teaching staff are required to evacuate the premises with the children, a phone tree is in place to notify families.

- The teachers will firstly ensure the safety of all children and then contact the COM President or Vice-President.
- The President or Vice President will then call the nominated emergency contact for the relevant group.
- The emergency contact will send a group text to all parents in that group, asking them to respond 'yes' they have received the message and will arrange for their child to be collected
- Any family who has not replied 'yes' within a 10 min timeframe will be called. If there is no answer, a message will be left and the second parent will be called
- Emergency contacts will carry a list (small laminated card) of children's name, parent's name and phone number in their wallet

Emergency contacts (and alternates) for each group are:

	Emergency Contact		Alternate Contact	
Wombats	Jo Romeril	0417 144 209	Kristy Kelly	0447 284 462
Frogs	Michaela Thompson	0439 400 410 (Temporary as still looking for an official social rep)	Leanne Kaufmann	0425 699 292
Kookaburras	Rebecca Holder	0412 186 711	Kellie Harvey	0417 356 880

We will test this group text message arrangement in the near future. Please reply 'yes' to confirm that your number is stored correctly in the emergency contact's phone. You will receive 2 messages, 1 from the first emergency contact in your group, and 1 from the second emergency contact. Please reply 'yes' to both messages.



President's Report

Welcome everyone to the Term 1 Blackburn Preschool Newsletter. The 2016 Committee of Management started the year off with a big project **replacing the tanbark in the playground last weekend**. A huge thank you to maintenance coordinator Luke and to all the awesome dads who gave up their Sunday to do this. It will make for a much safer play area for our children.



If you missed helping out on Sunday, there will be lots of other opportunities to get involved in kinder activities this year. Some of the things we are planning to do are:

- install the **sensory garden** that we were lucky enough to receive a grant for in 2015. This garden will be located between the entry gate and the stage, and we can't wait to get started on it – (just waiting on a few fence repairs first)
- **re-seeding and fertilizing the backyard** (lawn at the rear of the adjacent Church Hall) so that all the kids can continue to enjoy this play area
- **clearing out the big shed** and organising the storage to make the best use of the available space
- volunteering as a **parent helper** or attending an excursion later in the year
- holding our annual '**Open Day**' in Education Week

If you have any ideas, questions or would like to know more about the COM or PAC, please have a chat to one of the representatives in your group. We'd love to hear your thoughts, and welcome all suggestions.

Bunnings BBQ

The kinder community would like to sincerely thank all of those who spent a very hot Sunday days before Christmas raising money for the kinder at the Bunnings BBQ. In particular, we would like to thank Adam Webb who spent countless hours organising the event. Approximately \$1900 was raised which will be spent this year. A great effort by all involved.

Miachaela Murphy

COM President 2016



Frogs & Kookaburras

Welcome to all our Frogs and Kookaburra families. We have had a great start to 2016. The children have settled well and are enjoying exploring new friendships, managing daily routines and most importantly having fun.



**“CREATIVE people
are CURIOUS, flexible,
PERSISTENT,
and independent with a
TREMENDOUS SPIRIT
of adventure
& a love of play.”**

HENRI MATISSE

For many children friendships become increasingly important during the four year old kinder year. As this happens, children begin to understand how friendships work and what being a “good friend” is. Like all skills, relationship skills are developed through experience. We spend a great deal of time at kindergarten supporting children as they build these understandings and skills, so that they can experience the joy of friendships now, and into the future.

At Blackburn Preschool we offer a play-based learning program. The children are encouraged to explore experiences individually, with a partner or in small groups. Many experiences in both our indoor and outdoor learning environments are created by educators to facilitate these discoveries. We often marvel at the children’s’ take on particular planned activities, stories shared and group discussions. Although many activities and resources are familiar to us and prepared play areas have been offered before, each experience becomes new for us as each child brings their own ideas, understandings and questions. As you will see at kindergarten we actively respond to the children’s interests, ideas and questions by providing, adding to and sometimes changing learning experiences as necessary.

Our playground offers many different spaces and opportunities for the children to play and enjoy. Building and construction areas, climbing and running spaces, quiet and contemplative niches and sensory and tactile places. We believe the outdoor environment offers many rich and provocative learning possibilities for the children to explore. The world of mini beasts has emerged as an area of interest for many children as they have worked alongside educators to relocate our vegetable garden, move plants and water the garden beds. It’s amazing what you find underneath pots and hiding in nooks around the garden! We look forward to getting our worm farm up and running in the weeks ahead.



Some particular focus goals for this term have been:

- Beginning to establish a sense of belonging to the group
- Identifying children's interests and learning needs
- Encouraging inclusion of all children and understanding that we are all different including cultures, appearances and ideas & thoughts
- Developing listening skills
- Considering others in our kinder group, such as packing away an experience when finished and listening considerately to others at mat time
- Manipulating equipment and managing tools with increasing competence and skill

You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss



We are looking forward to The Drama Toolbox's visit to kinder on Thursday 17th March. They will be running a drama workshop with the children.

We will also be visiting our neighbours The Avenue Uniting Church in the last week of term. This will be an opportunity to go through the "secret doors" and meet the people who work next door and that we often see in our shared backyard. The visit will include a discussion about how some children and their families may celebrate Easter in the upcoming holidays.

We shared an Information Evening with our 4 year old families several weeks ago. This provided an opportunity for parents to have a chat with one another and to hear a little about the four year old learning program. There was also some sharing of general centre and community information. Thank you to those who attended and for the positive feedback we received about the evening. Please come and speak to the team, send an email or telephone us if you have any queries or would like to further discuss your child or the program.



Rachel, Kym, Nadia and Lisa

Wombats

A warm welcome to all our Wombats families who have returned to kinder this year, we have enjoyed continuing our relationship with all of you who have been a part of our kinder community in previous years. Over the past few weeks it has been lovely to get to know the children as they become more familiar with us and start to feel comfortable with making connections with others in our group.



The children have responded well to choosing an indoor activity when they arrive at kinder, allowing for a very settled start to the year for most of the group. They have all been excited to discover the new play areas and games set up in the room and have been happy to spend time outside using the various equipment and exploring the stimulating spaces available. All of our children are trying very hard to listen and to participate during our group times and are becoming more familiar with the different kinder routines. We all enjoy coming together during the middle and end of the session to play get-to-know-you games, learn new songs and rhymes and share a story. The children have also been very excited to help a few friends celebrate their birthday this year and we look forward to enjoying many more as the year progresses!



The Learning Program

At this very early time of the year, our focus continues to be on becoming more familiar with each other as the children transition from one activity to the next both inside the room and during outdoor time. We have been working towards establishing routines such as moving safely around the room, taking turns, enjoying snack time, using the bathroom appropriately and learning to share. As we interact with and observe the children while they play and explore the various learning spaces, we are able to plan experiences for the weeks ahead that will enable the children to build on their existing skills and understandings. It has been wonderful to see the children interact with each other as they start to develop a sense of belonging to our Wombats group.

Looking Ahead

To celebrate the end of our first term at kinder we are looking forward to a visit from the Drama Toolbox where children will be engaged with the Under the Sea incursion conducted by a skilled drama specialist which should be lots of fun for everyone.

Finally, thank you to our parents for your support during this transition period at kinder as your children begin the next phase of their learning journey. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Katrina and Mrs Dillon



Parents Auxiliary Committee

This year, PAC will be focussing on "**Friendraising**" rather than "Fundraising", and as such, we have some fun events planned for the Blackburn Preschool community.

Our first event for 2016 was held at Halliday Park on Saturday 20th February. We had a great turn out to the 'Welcome Morning' event, with families from all three groups attending. Parents and children alike appeared to have a lovely morning, the weather was lovely (albeit the wasps weren't ideal), and the feedback we've received to date has been very positive. Thank you to all those that attended, and a special THANKS to Kristy K for turning up very early to ensure we had a great spot.

Social events

We have a number of other things planned for the first half of the year, including:

- Group-level catch ups for coffee and playdates at the park
- Personal training session for kinder dads – to be held locally early in Term 2
- Mother's Night Out on Saturday 28th May
- Trivia Night on Saturday 23rd July

Fundraising

Our lovely staff have requested funds to purchase something very exciting this year, which means we will be undertaking a few fundraisers. We discussed a host of different ideas at our first two meetings. Our first fundraiser will occur in Term 2.

PAC needs you!

I would love a **few more members on PAC**. Please let me know if you would like to join and/or help out in any capacity.

We need a **Social Rep for Frogs**. Contact me if you are interested in taking on this fantastic and enjoyable role, or would like more information on what the role entails.

If you have a skill or business PAC could use for social and/or fundraising events (at no cost preferably), please email me the details.

Best wishes,

Julie Kos

2016 PAC co-ordinator

julie.kos@acer.edu.au

Coffee
smells like
magic and
fairy-tales.

Allison Czarnecki
petitelefant.com



General information

Term 1, 2016

Sunsmart

A reminder that all children require a hat for outdoor play times. The SunSmart recommendation is that along with sunscreen and protective clothing children wear hats from September to April. The children without a hat are asked to play under the pergola roof.

Boxes for Craft

The children in the Frogs and Kookaburras Group are enjoying working creatively with recycled materials. We love donations of boxes to fill our craft bucket but are unable to use recycled toilet rolls, egg cartons or boxes that have had nuts and nut products in them.

Please name all items!

It is amazing how many items of clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles and hats go missing each year at kindergarten. We cannot stress enough how important it is to ensure all items are named. It is a quick and easy process to return items to their owners when named.

Snacks and Lunches at Kindergarten

Healthy snacks and lunches are encouraged at kinder. Avoiding sugary and salty foods and providing wholesome and filling options gives the children the energy and brainpower to enjoy a productive and busy session.

Children's individual water bottles are kept in the trolley by the front door. Children can access these throughout the session. Water and cups are also available at all times for children.

Playgroup

9am - 11am (School Terms)

The Avenue Uniting Church operates a community playgroup in conjunction with Blackburn Pre-school in The Avenue Centre. Playgroup is a great opportunity for parents/carers to enjoy some quality time with their children and other parents in a relaxed atmosphere where pre-school children have the space and resources to play, interact and have fun with indoor and outdoor activities. A fabulous time to relax, enjoy a cuppa and meet new people. Contact Jo at the church office on 9878 0569 for further information.





Calendar

Term 1, 2016

Term 1

Labour Day	Monday 14 th March	Kinder closed
Drama Toolbox	Thursday 17 th March	Frogs & Kookaburras Incursion
	Friday 18 th March	Wombats Incursion
Harmony Day	Monday 21 st March	
Visit to the Church	Tuesday 22 nd March	Frogs & Kookaburras
Last day Term 1	Thursday 24 th March	

Term 2

First Day Term 2	Monday 11 th April	
Henny Penny Visit	April	All groups
Living Safely with Dogs	details to follow	Frogs & Kookaburras
Blackburn Library Visit	details to follow	Frogs & Kookaburras
Dad's event (PAC)	Early Term 2	
ANZAC Day	Monday 25 th April	Kinder closed
Library borrowing commences	Tuesday 26 th April	Frogs & Kookaburras
Mother's Day Evenings	Monday 2 nd May	Kookaburras
	Tuesday 3 rd May	Frogs
	Wednesday 4 th May	Wombats
Working Bee	Saturday 14 th May	Preparing for Open Day
Open Day	Saturday 21 st May	10am-12noon
Mother's Night Out (PAC)	Saturday 28 th May	
Queen's birthday	Monday 13 th June	Kinder closed
Last day Term 2	Friday 24 th June	

Term 3

First Day Term 3	Monday 11 th July	
Trivia Night (PAC)	Saturday 23 rd July	
Book Week	20-26 August	
Father's Day Evenings	Monday 29 th August	Kookaburras
	Tuesday 30 th August	Frogs
	Wednesday 31 st August	Wombats
Wiggerly Worm Dance	Wednesday 14 th September	Wombats Incursion
Guest Speaker Community Event	Details to follow	
Last day Term 3	Friday 16 th September	



Calendar

Term 1, 2016

Term 4

First Day Term 4	Monday 3 rd October	
Grandparents Morning Tea	Tuesday 25 th October	Frogs
	Wednesday 26 th October	Wombats
	Thursday 27 th October	Kookaburras
Kinder AGM	Thursday 17 th November	
Healthways Visit	November	Frogs & Kookaburras - details to follow
Excursion	November	Frogs & Kookaburras - details to follow
Melbourne Cup Day	Tuesday 1 st November	Kinder closed
Last kinder session	Tuesday 13 th December	Frogs & Kookaburras
Celebration & Party Days	Wednesday 14 th December	Wombats
Centre Clean Up Day	Thursday 15 th December	

Harmony Day

Harmony Day, held on 21 March 2016, celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

The central message for Harmony Day is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.



LET
THEM
BE
little

