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*Blackburn Preschool is committed to a Child Safe environment*

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## The Leadership Team

Helping your child to have a strong sense of identity

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*One of the five learning outcomes in the Victorian Early Years and Development Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia is that children have a strong sense of identity*

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All children will develop a strong sense of identity and this is about Who am I? Where and how do I belong? What influence do I have in my world?

Having a strong sense of identity is about learning that you're valued and worthy of attention. Children with a strong sense of identity look for and are open to new challenges. They ask questions and try new things. They know they can contribute to the world and make a difference. They also persist with things and enjoy their achievements.

Relationships are the foundations for your child's strong sense of identity.

To build a strong sense of identity, your child first has to feel they belong. They learn this through safe and secure relationships – first with their family and later with other caring adults and children. Your child's identity is also shaped by the ways that you and others respond to them.

As they grow, most children show interest in being part of a group and playing with others. They become increasingly confident

in different social situations and learn that their actions can have effects on themselves and others.

Having a strong sense of identity doesn't mean you have an outgoing or social personality. A quiet or shy child can also have a strong sense of identity.

*How can I help my child to develop a strong sense of identity?*

- Value what is unique about your child and accept your child for who they are right now
- Pay close attention to your child's attempts to communicate or interact with you – this tells children they are important and valued.
- Acknowledge what your child says or does without being dismissive or judgmental – this tells them it is safe to express feelings and opinions.
- Encourage your child to make choices and decisions (within appropriate limits). This recognises that your child is able to make decisions.
- When your child says 'I can do it' – let them try. Support your child's efforts to be more independent (while still offering your guidance).
- Encourage your child to solve problems or to keep going when things get tough. This builds your child's resilience and sense of wellbeing.
- Help your child to learn how to treat others:
- Give your child time to play alone and time to play with others.
- Hold back and see if your child can fix their own problems or disagreements



(but be ready to step in when they need support).

- Model care, empathy and respect in your own interactions with children and other adults.
- Older children will be able to understand that some people have differing needs and they learn to respect the rights, feeling and efforts of others. As they grow they will be able to behave appropriately in a range of social situations and begin to develop and exhibit appropriate behaviours for maintaining positive social relationships.
- Talk to your child about how each of us has similarities and differences to help them be comfortable and confident in who they are.
- Encourage your child to take pride in their home language and culture and encourage early childhood professionals to include your children's languages, relevant images, books and resources in their work.
- Encourage your child's interests and abilities – these are important ways for your child to express who they are. As children grow they can begin to appreciate the similarities and differences between individuals and groups including the language, cultural and religious groups that make up society.
- Give your child the opportunity to explore identity through dress ups and dramatic/pretend play.

**Department of Education and Training**

[www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

## Art Show



Wow, what a wonderful afternoon we enjoyed in August celebrating all our Blackburn Pre School artists at our Art exhibition. A large number of families enjoyed wandering through the gallery and catching up with friends.

Our playroom was transformed into a beautiful and inspiring gallery. Thank you to all the team that spent time collating art work and putting together the beautiful displays.

We are so proud of all the children and their gorgeous pieces.

We would also like to thank Kate Ward and the 'Friends of Blackburn Preschool' group who raised close to \$1000 on the day through the sale of sausages in bread and cakes and through a very successful raffle. These initiatives encouraged families to stay and socialise creating a wonderful feeling of community on the day. The money raised will go towards the redevelopment of our fort and sandpit area.



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Blackburn Preschool family website login!  
Blog / events/ newsletter / policies  
<https://www.blackburnpreschool.com.au/>  
Password: Possum18

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## Fort and Sandpit Redevelopment

We are very excited about the re development of our sand play area and fort by Pumpkin Joe that will begin over the term three school holidays. This project was identified in our 2018 Quality Improvement Plan as being one of our main priorities for the year. This is a large project to be completed which means that some construction will continue into the first week of term four. Will and Rodney from Pumpkin Joe have completed a number of projects in our playground over the years, often during term time. While the safety of the children will mean they are observing from a distance and from behind barriers, the construction process provides a wonderful learning experience for the children.

## Kindergarten Funding

Thank you to the families that supported the petition for 2 years of funded preschool for every child. Our Blackburn Preschool contribution was forwarded to the AEU and has been presented to Premier Daniel Andrews.

The early childhood sector continues to advocate for our children and demand from the State and Federal governments the ongoing commitment to invest in our children's future.

Our local colleague Leanne Mits from Pope Road Kindergarten wrote this article for the Leader Newspaper.

<http://leader.smedia.com.au/whitehorse/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=LWHL%2F2018%2F09%2F03&entity=Ar01203&sk=D34F0983>

Parent Information Evening - 'Playing your part in Preventing Childhood Injury' presented by A/Professor Warwick Teague

### **The following has been shared by Beck Holder a Blackburn Preschool parent who attended the session:**

Listening to Dr Warwick speak was very confronting and it has caused us to make changes in our home. As Director of the Trauma Service at the Royal Children's Hospital, Warwick is well qualified to teach on the impacts of the decisions that we make with our children. I'll now share the most significant take away from the session for me.

1. Child Car Seats and Seat Belts- our kids won't be 'graduating' to the front seat or out of a child restraint when they turn 7. Warwick shared that the minimum height recommendation to be out of a seat is 145cm- and that many children still haven't made that height by the end of primary schooling. Changing social norms by keeping kids in suitable child restraints until they can safely sit in an adult car seat is very important and prevents needless injury and death. This raises the ethical dilemma of driving other children in your car or allowing your child to travel in another person's car and deciding on who will be the child that is placed in the front seat where this is a disproportionately higher risk of harm.
2. Quad Bikes- These are not 'safe' for adults and children should never be allowed on them, even with seatbelts



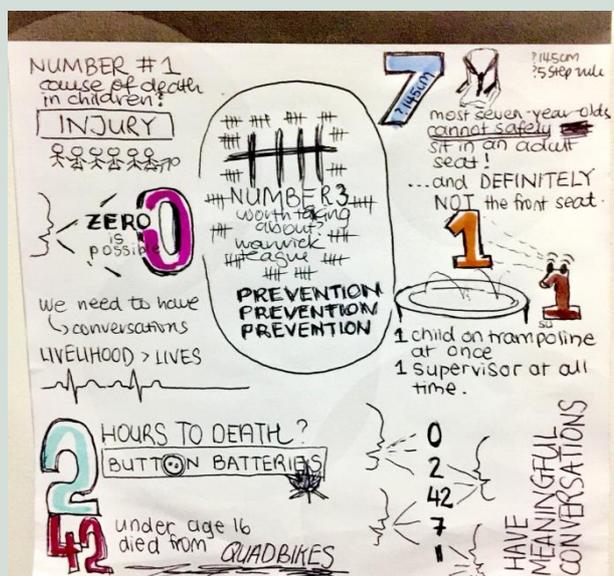
and roll bars installed. Warwick noted that these are not only a rural kid challenge, but also one when families travel overseas or to places like Fraser Island where child sized bikes are available. The risk of serious harm is too great.

3. Trampolines- this is the one that Warwick's wife tells him not to bother with as she is sure that most families will not change their behaviours, however it is the biggest change in our home since the talk. At our house, the rule is that we have one person at a time on the trampoline. Warwick shared of the many injuries seen daily from trampoline use, particularly from double bounces and when there is a size difference between the bouncers. It was also a timely reminder that full adult supervision is required when kids are on the tramp- even if it is fully enclosed. It's not a play pen!

established in 1979. We are an independent, non-profit, non-government charitable foundation dedicated to the prevention of unintentional death, injury and associated disability to children.

Kidsafe operates at national, state and regional levels in cooperation with a variety of stakeholders including government, industry, schools, hospitals, the media, community groups, voluntary organisations and individuals.

Since Kidsafe's establishment, the number of children in Australia killed by unintentional injury has been halved. This has been achieved through collaboration with others to provide injury prevention programs, media campaigns and educational resources. These have led to increased awareness of child safety issues and injury prevention throughout the community. To date, a great deal has been achieved in preventing unintentional injuries to children – however, there is still much to be done. Kidsafe and the community must continue their efforts to save the lives of Victorian children.



The Kidsafe website has loads of important information and useful links for parents. Please find out more at <https://www.kidsafevic.com.au/>

Kym and Rachel

Image credit: A/Professor Warwick Teague  
Check out @doctorwozza for more sharing from Warwick.



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### *Hats and sunscreen:*

*Just a reminder that the sun smart organisation recommends that children wear hats when outdoors, from the beginning of September because the UV is on the rise. Please provide and appropriate hat for your child to wear outdoors at kinder*

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## Fundraising Report

Funds raised this term are all going towards the revamping of the playground. Thanks for all the community's support for the Art Show fundraising, particularly the organisation of Kate Ward to make this so successful. In addition, the money raised from the pasta drive has supported this cause as well.

Keep an eye out for the final fundraising events of this term. The Parent Direct catalogues are available at the sign-in desk and up to 25c per dollar spent can go towards the pre-school. If you make a purchase, please be sure to specify Blackburn Preschool on the fundraising voucher. Similarly, if you choose to book a holiday through Angela Weeks at Helloworld Forest Hill, she will give a percentage back to the pre-school for our fundraising as well. Lastly, Bakers Delight in Brentford Square still donates money from any purchase, be sure to mention Blackburn Preschool when you purchase there.

The students will soon be completing their artwork for the shopping bag fundraiser so please keep an eye out for the order forms and don't forget to consider these for Christmas presents this year! The order forms should be available soon.

Finally, save the date, Sunday November 11, where we will be hosting the sausage sizzle at Bunnings Nunawading. More details to come and volunteers will be needed.

Georgina Canty

## President's Report

### Blackburn Preschool Art Show

The Art Show in August was again a fantastic event for our kinder. Thank you to each one of you who helped make the day such a happy event in the memory of our kinder. There were so many families that attended despite the rain and thunderstorm! Thank you to the teachers for curating the children's work and supporting them to create such interesting art pieces in a range of media. The Friends of Blackburn, rallied by Kate Ward played a big part bringing the community together for a day of fun and fundraising. \$972.30 was raised through the sale of the raffle tickets, sausage sizzle and cake stall. We're grateful to the large number of sponsors that provided donations for the hampers and the cake stall. Check out the list of sponsors attached to this newsletter and on the community noticeboard at the kinder.



## Playground renovations

During the September holidays Kendra, our wonderful maintenance coordinator organized for Pumpkin Joe to complete the playground renovations. The existing play structure will be re-stumped and the sandpit and patio area will be overhauled to allow for more dynamic play opportunities. Stay tuned for a bigger and more engaging sandpit and nature play area early term 4. During the new year period additional works including decking the concrete patio area and rectifying a draining issue between the kinder bathroom and shed will be undertaken. These significant capital works can only be completed due to the enormous amount of fundraising conducted by current and past members of the Committee and with the generous support of families in our kinder community. In addition, there are two significant financial grants (thanks 2017 and 2019 Grants Officers Nadia and Vicky) that are also helping towards the cost, in addition to the proceeds from the Art Show and upcoming Bunnings BBQ.

## Parents feedback survey

Thank you to all the families that completed the kinder survey. Results will be reviewed by CoM at the next meeting and your thoughtful responses given consideration in CoM's planning for service provision during 2019 and beyond.

## Father's Day

Hopefully all the dads enjoyed their special visit to kinder for father's day celebrations. Thanks to the teachers for putting on such a great evening that was really enjoyed by the dads.

## Committee of management 2019

For families who will have a child at Blackburn Preschool in 2019 please give some thought to whether your skills and spirits could be meaningfully engaged in the kinder community. Blackburn Preschool is run by a Committee of Management and is heavily reliant on volunteerism to run. Would you be interested in a role in the committee? Roles are as follows: Social, Fundraising, Marketing, Treasurer, Enrolments, Assistant Enrolments, President, Grants, Fees, Secretary,

Maintenance, Vice President and general helpers via "Friends of Blackburn Group". Without a 2019 Committee of Management we cannot open the doors of Blackburn Preschool in 2019.

## Bunnings BBQ volunteers

Please make yourselves available to help at the biggest fundraising event of the year - the Bunnings BBQ. It is booked for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November. A sign-up sheet (one-hour slots) will be out early in Term 4. We always need a big contingent of helpers on this day and the financial reward for the kinder is worth all the hard work.

As always, please get in touch with anything you would like to discuss.

*Elizabeth*



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**TERM 4 WORKING BEE**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2pm – 4pm

*Please come along for the last working bee of the year. Your time is very much appreciated by the children and the teaching team*

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**Grandparents Days:**

Frogs – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Wombats – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Kookaburras – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October

**End of Year Celebrations:**

Our celebration mornings are an opportunity for the children to share some favourite stories and songs with families and a few special surprises. These begin at 8.30am and usually conclude by approximately 9.20 am. They will be held during the week of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We are just waiting to confirm some transition to school dates with local primary schools and we will be able to notify of your groups date.

**Our last sessions for 2018:**

Wombats– Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Frogs & Kookaburras– Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
December



## Committee of Management

### President

Elizabeth Tischler  
blackburnps.president@gmail.com

### Vice President

Nadia Hamilton  
blackburnvicepres@gmail.com

### Secretary

Beck Holder  
blackburnpsecretary@gmail.com

### Treasurer

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### Maintenance Coordinator

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### Marketing Coordinator

Caroline Scarpari  
blackburnmarketing40@gmail.com

### Grants Coordinator

Vicky Loie  
blackburngrants@gmail.com

### Fundraising Coordinator

Georgina Canty  
blackburnfundraising@gmail.com

## Kinder Calendar

Date	Time	Event
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>		<b>Last Day of Term 3</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> October		First Day of Term 4
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>2pm – 4pm</b>	<b>Working Bee</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Kinder closed	Melbourne Cup
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Bunnings BBQ</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November		AGM
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>4:30pm – 6.30pm</b>	End of Year Family Party
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		Team Day (teachers)
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>		Clean up day



## Frogs & Kookaburras



Term Three is always a very busy time for us at kinder with lots of exciting things happening in our

learning program. In addition to working with many children on individual goals that were formed in collaboration with parents at the parent /teacher exchanges in June, we are working on many group interests and enjoying many intentional learning activities

Some of the things we have been working on at kinder this term include:

- Listening skills
- Articulating ideas and feelings
- Asking questions and sharing information
- Contributing relevant ideas/information to discussions
- Increasing independence
- Persistence and completing tasks
- Experimenting, hypothesising and problem-solving
- Manipulating equipment and managing tools with increasing competence and skill
- Working with mathematical language and symbols
- Extending understandings, knowledge and skills with literacy

- Experimenting with ways of expressing ideas and making meaning with different media
- Building understandings about friendships
- Working collaboratively with others
- Exploring simple programming with Bee-Bot robots purchased with grant money



### Fathers Evenings

These evenings are always a highlight at kinder. Many dads were able to come along and join the children in play: building, painting, doing puzzles and creating play dough pieces. Together we all enjoyed our 'Travel around Australia' dance and listening to a story. The children had been very busy working on gifts and card for their dads and were very proud to present these to their dads on the night.





## Dress-Up Day: Celebrating Book Week

A book is  
a dream  
that you  
hold in  
your hands  
- Neil Gaiman

This year's Book Week theme was 'Find Your Treasure'. Throughout the week we shared many of our favourite kinder stories and some of the children's favourite books. As a group we discussed how books are put together... the author writing the words and the illustrator creating the pictures. We explored front covers, title pages and blurbs on the back of books. We have looked at the difference between imaginative books and informative books.



## Preparing for school in 2019

We will be distributing information for parents relating to the 'Transition Learning and Development Statements'. These statements will be forwarded to schools in November. While most sections of these statements are prepared by the child's kindergarten teacher, there is a section to be completed by the child's parents. All the information required by you to do this, will be included in the information to come home. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. To prepare the 'Transition Learning and Development Statements', Kym and Rachel will be away from kinder for two sessions each. Families will be notified of the dates closer to the time.

We are looking forward to sharing the last term with the children, learning together and celebrating the experiences we have shared during our year at kindergarten.

*Rachel, Kym, Nadia and Lisa.*



## Wombats



The Wombats group have had a busy and productive term at kinder with many exciting things happening in our learning program. By now the children are all very familiar with the routines of each session and are developing a strong sense of independence and collaboration as they choose to spend time at intentional learning areas around the room.



Each Wednesday and Friday, the children arrive full of enthusiasm and ready to explore the various activities available, where they learn through play and create important connections with each other and their environment. Some of the concepts we have been concentrating on at kinder this term include listening skills, asking questions and sharing information, persisting and completing tasks, building understandings about friendships and working in a collaborative way with others. It has been wonderful to observe the new friendships being formed as the children gradually mature and enjoy spending time together playing a card game, listening to a story, singing and dancing or creating a piece of art.

In August, a large number of families attended our Art exhibition where our playroom was transformed into a beautiful gallery. Over the past couple of terms the children have experimented and created many art samples including paintings, drawings, collage, threading and 3D constructions. They were very proud and excited to be able to show their amazing pieces to their families and friends.

During Children's Book Week we shared and discussed each of our favourite storybooks and decided that we all especially enjoyed listening to stories at bedtime in our pyjamas! During the Friday session we had fun coming to kinder dressed as our favourite book character or in our pyjamas and dressing gowns.



In the week leading up to Fathers' Day, the children were thrilled to be able to bring their Dads along to kinder for our special Fathers' night. A wonderful time was had by all as the Dads joined the children in play: building, doing puzzles, drawing and creating play dough pieces. The children had been very busy working on gifts and cards for their Dads and were excited to be able to present them on the night.



A big thankyou to our parents who have volunteered to help us during our sessions this term, it is always great to have you with us and the children enjoy having special visitors in the room!

We are looking forward to sharing the last term with our wonderful Wombats children and to some special times ahead after the break.

### *Katrina and Julie*



Recently, we had a visit from Wild Action where the children learnt first-hand about some of our native Australian animals. They were able to pat and in some instances even hold lizards, a goanna, pythons, a wallaby, a potoroo and a tree frog, just to name a few! We also learnt about their habitats, diets and various characteristics.

Oscar the Bear has been enjoying his home visits and spending time with the children and their families; those children who have not yet had a turn to take Oscar home are trying hard to show patience and resilience. It's always lots of fun to hear our friends share what they've been up to with Oscar and to

look at the photos and drawings of his adventures.



## Community Notice



### BLACKBURN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP 2018

Sessions for 2018  
Thursdays: 9.15am – 11am  
during school terms

Contact Jo:  
[avenuefamilies@gmail.com](mailto:avenuefamilies@gmail.com) or 9878 0569

Blackburn Preschool & The Avenue Uniting Church invite you to join their Playgroup for Mums, Dads, carers and children aged 0-4

We have an indoor and outdoor play area.

Bubs and kids can socialize, play, explore and create while adults enjoy a tea or coffee.

Sessions for 2018 follow the school Terms.

Held at  
The Avenue Uniting Church  
46 Blackburn Road,  
Blackburn

**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse

# BBQ

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Sunday 11th November 2018  
8am – 6pm

Bunnings Nunawading  
(250 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading)

Blackburn Preschool needs your help  
for the upcoming Bunnings BBQ.

Look out for the sign-up sheet early in  
Term 4 and volunteer for a 1 hour shift.



Blackburn Preschool  
wonder.discover.engage



would like to thank the  
following local businesses  
for supporting our Art Show.

 BarryPlant

beck holder  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Beyond



Curves

DCAROMA  
— Day Spa of Wellness —



GOOD  
SCENTS



One one six

