



# Blackburn Pre-School Newsletter

Term 2, 2012

## President's Report

Welcome to term two at Blackburn Pre-School.

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break. One of the first things I have noticed this term is how well all of our children have settled back into the routines of kinder. I truly believe this is largely due to our wonderful teaching staff. I commend them on their professionalism and commitment to our kindergarten.

I'm looking forward to the exciting things planned for this term... starting with **mother's day**. This, being the last year I have a child at kinder. I cherish these moments I spend with Annika.

I would like to remind everyone of our upcoming **working bee/afternoon tea on Sunday the 20th of May from 12pm**. This working bee has been timed to help our kinder look its best for **Open Day on Saturday the 26th of May**. An afternoon tea to give families the chance to socialise at kinder will follow the working bee. A big thanks to PAC for providing the afternoon tea. A sign up sheet for the working bee is next to the kinder sign in book. Please put your family name down if you can help out.

News from COM this term is that we have voted to **remain with an 11-hour programme for our 4 year olds in 2013**. The state government is providing funding for the 11hr programme to those centres that cannot move to 15hrs without losing places. COM is also excited to be **planning upgrades/ improvements to our outdoor play space**. A big thanks to PAC and all of our families fundraising efforts to make these upgrades possible.

Lastly I would like to let you know that during the last week of term the kinder will be sending out a survey to all our current families. Please take the time to fill it out. It helps us immensely.

*Loree Spong*

President, Annika's Mum, Bellbirds group

## Committee of Management 2012

### President

Loree Spong

98775595 [loree.spong@me.com](mailto:loree.spong@me.com)

### Vice-President

Loretta Plumridge  
0400 133 374

### Treasurer

David Spong  
98775595

### Secretary

Anna Davidson  
9877 0296

### Enrolment Coordinator

Kelly Stewart  
9893 3050

### PAC Coordinator

Laurie Swiss  
0434 193 929

### Marketing Coordinator

Michelle Clarkson  
9894 0436

### Strategic Planning Chairperson

Genevieve Hoodless  
0400 604 332

### Special Projects Coordinator

Blair Thomson  
0419 391 042

### Fees Coordinator

Lindy Merry  
9877 8427

### Maintenance Coordinator

VACANT POSITION

### Payroll Officer (non COM role)

Elise Stevens  
894 0110

## Help wanted.

The **maintenance co-ordinator position has recently become vacant** so we are looking for someone to step in to this role. If you are looking for a way to make a valuable contribution to the kinder community then this may be a position for you. Some of the things the maintenance co-ordinator is responsible for are: attending COM meetings, organising kinder working bees and ensuring that general maintenance around the kinder is attended to (this does not necessarily mean doing the handy-work yourself – but does involve organising for it to be done eg. organising tradespeople). **For more information & to express your interest, please call Loree on 0458225195.**

### Blackburn Pre-School Centre

40 Blackburn Road  
Blackburn VIC 3130

☎ 03 9878 0180

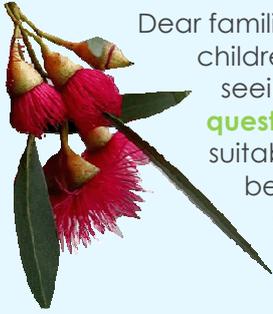
✉ [blackburn.rd.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:blackburn.rd.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)  
[www.blackburnpreschool.com.au](http://www.blackburnpreschool.com.au)



# Group Reports

## Term 2, 2012

### Gumnuts and Wattles



Dear families I hope you are all feeling like "part of the furniture" at Blackburn Pre-School!! The children have all settled in very well and Kate, Mrs Dillon and myself are really enjoying seeing their personalities develop and their confidence grow. I am **happy to discuss any questions or concerns** that you may have with you. It is usually best to make a mutually suitable time so we can have enough time to cover all the issues rather than being rushed before or after a session where I need to make sure each child has been welcomed or said goodbye to. I have two preparation sessions each week where I am available to have a chat either over the phone or at the kinder. These sessions are from 10.30-1pm on a Monday and 10.30-1pm on a Tuesday.

I'm looking forward to our **Mother's day morning tea on Thursday May 10 and Friday May 11**. Fingers crossed for some lovely weather!!

We have a very special friend (besides Fuzzy the Clown) in both groups. His name is **Oscar the bear**. He will be going to each child's house for a sleep over between now and the end of the year. Oscar comes for the weekend with all his clothes and a book. The book is used by the families to put photos in to record the fun you've had together. Oscar has been a huge success over the years and the children take the responsibility of caring for something special from kinder very seriously.

**If you haven't put your name down for duty this term it would be wonderful if you or another family member or family friend could help us out.** The children love you spending time with us and it is a wonderful way to see how they are going in a group setting. If you put your name twice each term we will be able to fill all the spaces.

*Angela, Kate and Mrs Dillon*

### Bellbirds & Possums



Term Two is off to a great start for both the Bellbirds & Possums Groups and is looking to be a very busy term for all of us in the 4 year old programs.

We have launched our **'Treasure Box'** program with the children and look forward to this being a positive and enjoyable experience for the children over the next term or so.

We loved having many **special visitors join us for our Morning & Afternoon Teas to celebrate Mother's Day**. We all enjoy this special event in our year and as staff, we love to hear the children share their thoughts about their mums.

We look forward to a visit from **Helen from Blackburn Library on May 15th (Bellbirds) and 17th (Possums)** and to a performance by the **Flying Bookworm Theatre Company at preschool on June 7th (Possums) & 8th (Bellbirds)**.

This term we will also be offering the parents of the four year old children and **opportunity to catch up with staff to chat about their child's learning and development**. We hope to also use this as an opportunity to discuss together goals for the children for the second half of the year.

**Rachel and Kym enjoyed attending a conference on Danish Forest Schools** as part of the Whitehorse Teachers Group. It challenged us to reflect on the role of the natural environment in children's play. These events are a wonderful opportunity to explore new ideas and be inspired.

"A mother's arms are made of tenderness and children sleep soundly in them." .....Victor Hugo

*Kym, Kate, Jeanette, Rachel, Mrs Dillon & Nadia*



# Important Notes

## Term 2, 2012

## Upcoming dates for your 2012 diary

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May** 12.00 - 2.00pm Working Bee followed by afternoon tea from 2-3pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May & Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May** Kinder Photographs in each session

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12noon** Blackburn Preschool Open Day

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June** 7.00 -8:30pm. Parent information evening: *"Promoting resilience in children"*

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July** 7:30pm Wine, Cheese & Art Night

## Did you know?

We welcome your ideas, input and suggestions! If you have any suggestions, queries or concerns about anything at Blackburn Pre-School, please do not hesitate to talk to your class teacher or use the **communication box**.

## General housekeeping

### Hats

Now that it's term two, **our sun hats don't need to be worn** when we are outside. We will need them again in term four.

Please send along **clearly named beanies and coats** for the children to put on when we are outside. The outside environment and the valuable learning opportunities that can be explored in this area means we do go outside each session unless it's raining. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately so they are comfortable and warm.

### Spare clothes

Please make sure the **spare clothes in your child's bag are seasonally appropriate**. You may have put clothes in the bag in February and haven't changed them. The weather has changed and so something warmer will be necessary.

### Birthdays

We love to celebrate this special day with your child. You may like to **consider being on duty** so you can share in the fun too. We are happy for you to **send along something** for your child to hand out at the end of the session if you would like to. Have you thought about alternatives to food treats? Some parents have sent along stickers or pencils/erasers etc. If your child has an allergy or you would prefer them not to be given a sweet treat you are most welcome to send along something that we can give them on these days that you are happy for them to have. Please put your child's name on it and it will be kept in the kitchen to be handed out to your child when appropriate.

### Photos

Foos professional photography will be at the kinder during session times on **Thursday May 24 and Tuesday May 29** to photograph all the children.



# PAC Information

## Term 2, 2012

## PAC information and dates for Term 2

### Cadbury Fundraising Drive for Blackburn Pre School

Firstly, a big thanks to all the families who sold chocolates for our Cadbury Fundraising Drive. **To date we have raised around \$1,500. There are a few families who are yet to pay, so please ensure you do so asap.**

We've been busy revising our Loyalties List, as well as organising several upcoming events for you to write in your diaries:

### Working Bee & Afternoon Tea – Sunday 20th May

This working bee is just one week before our Open Day. We need all hands on deck to present our kinder at its best to the wider community.

The **working bee will be held between 12-2 and is parents only.**

Then **bring the family along for a free & delicious homemade afternoon tea from 2-3.**

This is an all weather event & there are plenty of odd jobs to do inside & outside.

**R.S.V.P by Friday 18th May** on the sheet next to the Sign In Book

### Parent Information Evening – Tuesday 19th June

We are pleased to announce that **Dr Sharne Rolfe** is running a parent information evening at our kindergarten on **Tuesday 19th June from 7:00-8:30pm**. A former Early Learning lecturer at Melbourne University, she is also an author of numerous books including Promoting Resilience in Children.

The topic for the evening will be **"Resilience and responding to the emotional needs of children."** This will cover very young children to 8 year olds. She will discuss temper tantrums, how to handle children's emotions, attachments, friendships, temperament and children with special needs. There will be a Q & A afterwards.

The cost is a gold coin donation, which includes a light supper. RSVP details to follow.

### Wine, Cheese & Art Night – Saturday 21st July

Save the date! Book the baby sitter!

Come & have a night out with your kinder friends at the Blackburn Preschool **Wine, Cheese & Art Night. Saturday 21st July, 7.30PM** at The Avenue Uniting Church Hall. Tickets \$10, includes wine tastings. Cheese platters available to purchase, raffle, art auction, & wine orders will be welcomed. Look out for further details in your kinder pockets & email.

Feel free to email any queries to the PAC email account: [pacblackburnps@gmail.com](mailto:pacblackburnps@gmail.com)



# PAC Information

## Term 2, 2012

## Loyalty Programs

### Parent Direct & Chalk

[www.parentdirect.com.au](http://www.parentdirect.com.au) and [www.chalk.com.au](http://www.chalk.com.au)

Toy shopping that supports our kinder with 20% credits – to buy toys for kinder. This is where you will find many of the toys/puzzles used at kinder. Discounted delivery of \$3.90 per person for 2 or more orders combined & delivered to kinder address. Great ideas for Christmas – order by end of October to ensure delivery before Christmas.

### Toy Fun Box

[www.toyfunbox.com.au](http://www.toyfunbox.com.au)

20% commission back to our kinder.

**Stuck on You Labels** - Labels, personalized bags & products

[www.stuckonyou.biz](http://www.stuckonyou.biz)

When ordering online put in the name of "Blackburn Pre-School" and we will get a commission. This is an on-going situation.

### That's Mine Labels

[www.thatsmine.com.au](http://www.thatsmine.com.au)

10% commission if using the brochure provided at Blackburn Pre-School.

**Waverley Cinema** - Online Fundraiser

<http://waverleycinema.com/program/club0050.php>

Each daily visit to this fundraising site earns the Blackburn Pre-School 2 cents. Encourage as many of your friends, relatives and work colleagues to register their daily support as well. Make it your homepage so you remember every day!

**Personalise-me** - Personalised gifts

[www.personalise-me.com.au](http://www.personalise-me.com.au)

20% commission back to our kinder. You need to open a simple online account to make your first purchase – while doing this you need to nominate Blackburn Pre-school for fundraising. You only need to set this up once & then all future purchases will earn us 20% commission.

**Identity Direct** - Personalized books, bags, stationary, gifts, toys & home products

[www.identitydirect.com.au](http://www.identitydirect.com.au)

**Snapfish** photo products are now also available with Identity Direct – click on **Photo Gifts**

20% cash commission back to our kinder for all orders – Blackburn Pre-School code is 4235. State the code when ordering.

**Brolly Sheets** - Big solutions for wee problems.

[www.brollysheets.com](http://www.brollysheets.com)

Waterproof bedding. For toilet training

20% commission back to our kinder.

**Aussie Farmers Direct** – the milkman delivers

[www.aussiefarmers.com.au](http://www.aussiefarmers.com.au)

Families can use their services and be tagged to Blackburn Pre-school.

Aussie Farmers will then contribute 2% of earnings back to the kinder at the end of each term.

### Art Eater

[www.arteater.com.au](http://www.arteater.com.au)

Showcase your children's artwork. 10% of sales come back to kinder, quarterly.

Use our unique code 3130BLA online.

### Blackburn Ristorante

Shop 1, 20 Blackburn Rd, Blackburn. Group bookings of 4 or more receive a 5% discount on total order.

Call Sherry on 9894 4077 to make your booking.

### Cash for a Cause

#### PharmaOnline

[www.pharmaonline.com.au](http://www.pharmaonline.com.au)

Shop online and nominate Blackburn Pre-School to receive 10% of the transaction value.

#### Toy World

Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre

Register your name and "Blackburn Pre-School" with the staff. When making a purchase, let them know your name and 4% of all sales will be returned to Blackburn Pre-school (usually twice a year) in the form of a voucher. Also, once you have spent \$100 as an individual will receive an ongoing 7% discount on all purchases.

# Working Bee & Afternoon Tea

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