



Blackburn Pre-School Newsletter

Term 4, 2012

President's Report

Wow, Term 4, the year is flying.

I would like to start my report by **thanking all the volunteers at the kinder**. Over the last year you may have signed up for the weekend tidy up roster or helped out at one of the very productive working bee's. It's wonderful to be part of the tradition of local families working together for our children.

As this newsletter is released the **AGM is fast approaching** and you may have seen the Committee working hard on preparing for next year's kinder family.

We have had a small number of responses to **nominations for next year's COM and PAC**. But there are still opportunities available. I encourage you to really consider how you might be able to use your skills to better Blackburn Kinder and volunteer in some way. Big or small, all contributions have a positive impact on our community.

The AGM is the chance for you to come along and hear what has been happening on the Committee and PAC for the year in greater depth, and also show your support for the incoming Committee and families so we'd love to see you there.

As the new Committee take over straight after the AGM, this will be the current Committee's last newsletter. **On behalf of the outgoing Committee, I'd like to thank you for your support and we look forward to welcoming the new Committee as they settle in for the next 12 months.**

If you have any feedback or questions, please feel free to contact me via phone or email.

Loree Spong

President, Annika's Mum, Bellbirds group

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Committee of Management 2012

President

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Treasurer

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Special Projects Coordinator

Blair Thomson
0419 391 042

Fees Coordinator

Lindy Merry
9877 8427

Maintenance Coordinator

Dean Roll
98782407 / 0407286620

Payroll Officer (non COM role)

Elise Stevens
894 0110

Upcoming diary dates

Thursday 8th Nov Blackburn Preschool AGM and Information night

Sunday 18th Nov Term 4 working Bee

Tuesday 4th Dec Kinder Christmas Party

Thank you & Farewell

As most of you will be aware we will be saying **farewell to Angela**, our illustrious 3 y.o. teacher, at the end of the year. Angela has decided to embark on a new adventure next year. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for all your work with the Wattles and Gumnuts groups and for your strengths as Team Leader. We have appreciated your caring and professional nature, your creativity, your leadership and most importantly your nurturing of our children. You will be greatly missed and will leave big shoes to fill! We wish you all the very best as you take the next steps in your career.



Group Reports

Term 4, 2012

Gumnuts and Wattles



We welcome all our families back for our final term together. Over the last two weeks the **children have shown us just how independent they are becoming** and how helpful they are to the other children in the group. The staff are at risk of being redundant as the children step in to open snack boxes and turn taps on for their friends without being asked.

The children in both groups have enjoyed opportunities to use scissors at the collage table and we are constantly amazed at the **wonderful ideas they have as they get creative!**

We had observed that many of the boys weren't very interested in experiences with paint. That was until we introduced marbles to the paint. The children, particularly the boys have been waiting very patiently to get a chance to roll the paint around in the tray to make patterns with different colours. The playroom looks lovely with the results of this experience.

Wattle group can't get enough of **paper making** at the moment!! Our paper making/worm farm guru Julie Canobie came back for more!! We used tissue paper and dried flowers and there were many enthusiastic helpers.

Thank you to Bridie for helping the 3's make a **scarecrow** for our garden. We all had lots of fun stuffing and trying to dress him!! It is really important for the children to contribute to our garden and I appreciate all the help I get from such enthusiastic parents. It is this real love of contributing that makes our kindergarten the place to be.

We are looking forward to **celebrating Children's Week by welcoming the grandparents and any other special visitors to our kinder for morning tea on Thursday October 25 and Friday October 26**. It will be a privilege to have these special guests with us.

Our last kinder session with the children for the term will be on Thursday December 13 for the Gumnuts and Friday December 14 for the Wattles.

We will have a special celebration at the start of these sessions so put this date in your diary. More information will follow shortly.

On behalf of Kate and Mrs Dillon thank you for making our work with your children so enjoyable. We simply couldn't do it without you.

Take care,

Angela, Kate and Mrs Dillon



Bellbirds & Possums



Term Four is the culmination of a busy and fun year, building family, children and staff relationships, exploring and nurturing the children's ideas and interests and facilitating each child's unique and special learning potential. We are looking forward to lots of exciting occasions and enjoying familiar and favourite experiences too.

The beginning of a new term is always an opportunity for the children to explore a changed learning environment. As we rearrange play spaces during the holidays, we try

to balance the need for group play with individual and pair play, the need for child to be able to initiate their own play and learning, and the need for teachers to be able to direct learning. We never cease to be amazed at how rearranging play spaces stimulate the children's play in so many new ways!

A major focus for the 4yo families and children, who will be moving onto school next year, is the beginning of the **transition process**. Most local schools now have their transition programs operating and at kinder we have started to prepare Transition Statements. Both educators and families contribute to the preparation of the Transition Statements and once completed, it is forwarded to schools to assist Prep teachers in getting to know the children who will be joining them. **The transition to school will be a key focus in our 4yo program in**



Group Reports

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Term 4. Being responsive to the children's transition experiences is important in supporting the process to be positive one. Each child's and families experience during this time will be different, and we respect this.

The next couple of months brings all the children's skills together. Many children who began the year tentatively crossing the Balance board are now bouncing across it and competently climbing A frames and walking along ladders. Some children were not so enthusiastic about drawing and painting and are now presenting beautiful "stories" in pictures. Your children have learnt the skills of turn taking, and using numeracy and recognition of symbols and patterns to play board games. The world of Literacy has opened for the children, following the text in story books, writing and reading their names and practising letters and familiar words. We observe the joy on many children's faces as they experiment with science activities, cause and effect, solving problems and investigating interests. Our group times that began as a welcome and a story or dance time have now extended to group games, movement/music, discussion and some teacher directed learning activities. We are excited about celebrating your children's capabilities during our busy and exiting last term at kinder.

Coming up

St. Augustine's Anglican Kindergarten has organized and invited local pre schools to participate in an **exhibition of Sculptures designed and made by children** at our respective centres. This is an opportunity for children to work on a collaborative project together. Our children have been involved in discussion about ideas, design, material choices and construction of the sculpture. The fun "hands on" part of this project will now begin. Our Possum/Bellbird Sculpture will be on **display at the Box Hill Town Hall Monday 12th – 16th November.**

The children and staff are looking forward to our **Grandparents Day for the 4yo groups on Wednesday 24th October.** This will be an 'open session' with grandparents welcome to visit at any stage of the morning/afternoon. This is a special time for the children to share their favourite activities and Grandparents to remember their early school years.

On **Wednesday 7th November staff from Healthways will visit the 4yo children to run a Water Safety Presentation.** This is a fun and interactive presentation which aims to increase the children's awareness of water safety both at home and importantly by pools and at the beach.

We are very excited about our end of year excursion to the **Melbourne Zoo on Wednesday 5th December.** Both Bellbirds and Possums groups along with Parent helpers will travel by bus to the Zoo and take part in an interactive and informative Educational session led by Zoo educators. We will spend some time enjoying a wander around our beautiful zoo and visit a selection of the children's favourite animals that we have previously talked and learnt about at kinder.

The 4yo team looks forward to sharing the last term with you and your children. We will celebrate in December with a singing celebration with families and party day for the children. We as educators look back on a rich and engaging year and are always amazed and indeed proud of how far all these little people have come.

Rachel, Kym, Kate, Mrs Dillon, Nadia and Jeanette

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself, any direction you choose."

Dr. Seuss





Important Notes

Term 4, 2012

General housekeeping

Help wanted!

Term 4 Working Bee – Sunday the 18th of November, 12 to 3pm.

Please bring rake, shovel, wheelbarrows, as we will be topping up the Tan Bark.

AGM and Parent Information Night

Blackburn Preschool AGM and Parent Information Night is coming up on **Thursday 8th November**. It is important that parents attend the night to collect your child's **2013 enrolment pack** and to select an **interview time for Enrolment Day**, which will be held in late January 2013. You will also have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn more about their kinder program, and meet other families.

On the night, the 2012 members of the Committee of Management will resign their positions and **new members will be elected for 2013**. The COM is the only managerial structure at the Preschool, so it is essential to its operations and without a COM we are legally not able to open the kinder. Committee positions are taken up by parents or guardians, on a voluntary basis, who meet monthly to discuss, and make decisions about, the business of the Preschool; and who then undertake the specific duties of their role. Being part of the Committee of Management is a great way to make a valuable contribution to our kinder and to make new friends! **For those families continuing on with us next year, we would encourage you to consider putting your name down for a Committee position.** We always welcome new members!

PAC information and dates for Term 4

Welcome back to the last term of the year.

Firstly, a big thank you to all who volunteered their time for our annual Bunnings BBQ on Sunday 16th September. It was a very successful day, and we **raised over \$2000**.

So that's it for our major fundraising events for 2012.

We will have **tea towels for sale soon**. They are fantastic quality, and have our children's self portraits on them. As in previous years, there will be one with all the 3 years, and another with all the 4 years (and the teachers and helpers as well).

We also have our **Blackburn Pre-School t-shirts and hats available for sale**. If you need any, either fill out an order form and drop it in the PAC box, or ask your PAC rep. A big order of hats has just been placed, so there'll be plenty available.

Our last major social event for the year will be our **Christmas Party on Tuesday 4th December**. It will be held at **Garie St Guide Hall, between 5-7pm**. There is a park there, with a small playground, and families should bring along their own picnic. We have reason to believe that Santa will make an appearance, even though his schedule is pretty busy around then. This is open to all families, and we'd love to see everyone there.

Thank you again to everyone who has volunteered their time throughout the year to support us and our kindergarten.

Kind regards,

PAC 2012

Feel free to email any queries to the PAC email account: pacblackburnps@gmail.com

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**.



PAC Information

Term 4, 2012

Loyalty Programs **Please keep these in mind when doing your Christmas shopping!**

Parent Direct & Chalk

www.parentdirect.com.au and 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

20% commission back to our kinder.

Stuck on You Labels - Labels, personalized bags & products

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

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

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

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

Waterproof bedding. For toilet training

20% commission back to our kinder.

Aussie Farmers Direct – the milkman delivers

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

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.

PharmaOnline

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.

Community Events and Notices

St Thomas the Apostle school and parish invite you to an afternoon of family fun at our annual

Springtime Fair

Taking place on **Saturday 27th October 12noon to 6pm** at 67 Central Rd, Blackburn, please enjoy with us delicious food, entertainment, rides and attractions (until 5pm), stalls of all varieties, animals and much more!



SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

Barriburn Preschool

TWILIGHT FETE & MARKET

FRIDAY 26th OCTOBER 2012
5:00pm - 9:00pm

MARKET STALLS, CAKE STALL, FACE PAINTING, GAMES & FUN, PLANTS, RAFFLE and MORE!

Handcrafted gifts & accessories!

337 Morack Road Vermont South 3133

Care Monkey and Asthma Australia

CareMonkey is a safe and free web app for sharing health care information. Asthma Australia has partnered with CareMonkey in order to contribute to the safety and well-being of people with asthma. Parents can create a profile for their child in CareMonkey which can be shared with trusted carers, including family, friends, teachers and sports coaches.

Vital information such as emergency contacts, health and safety alerts, medications, allergy details, asthma plan and more can be easily shared.



Consider creating a profile for your child with asthma (or other medical condition) and share this with others including the staff at your school or preschool.

Go to caremonkey.com for more information.

Holiday and Festival Asthma Trigger Warning

The upcoming holiday season and festivities planned during Term 4 and throughout the summer holidays may mean that your child is exposed to new triggers for their asthma. It is important for parents and carers, and children themselves, to be aware of changes to their environment and the activities that may impact on their asthma.

Christmas trees, both real and artificial could be triggers for people with asthma. Artificial trees may be quite dusty after being stored away, while both real and artificial trees may harbour mould. It is important to ensure that artificial trees are cleaned appropriately and that care is taken to select real trees that do not produce wind-borne pollen. All tree and other decorations should be cleaned and free from dust and mould when used at home.

Scented candles, room deodorisers and air fresheners may also trigger asthma in those susceptible to perfumes, and care should be taken when purchasing these and other scented items at home.

Lastly, the added pressures of the year drawing to a close can cause stress and anxiety for many people, potentially triggering asthma attacks. It is important to consider ways that the whole family can enjoy the holidays and feel safe, happy and comfortable.

Happy Holidays from The Asthma Foundation of Victoria.



For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au