



East Beaumaris Preschool
Tel: (03) 9584 9574

april 2011 NEWSLETTER

YOUR PRESIDENTS REPORT **END OF TERM 1!**

What a lovely time of year this is for our weather, and what a perfect time to lead into term break and wind down after a first term as big kinder kids. The holidays can be a time to enjoy no schedules, no rushing, and plenty of pyjama days! Just before we sign off, we've got lots of important and interesting information we'd like to share with you.....

Vacant Committee Positions

We have recently had two committee positions become vacant. For personal reasons both the Vice President and the Secretary have had to resign from their positions. This leaves us in a bit of a predicament as these are two of the vital roles involved in running a kindergarten. The upside is if you were hoping to get more involved in the kinder but saw all committee positions filled, then now is your chance! And it will be first in best dressed!

The *Vice President's* role is predominantly to assist the President where required. I've got lots of little projects on the go, anything from coordinating data collection for our friends at the Dept (DEECD) to checking out some cool playground makeovers. We would be so appreciative of someone to help out and get involved. Oh, and I'm told my Double Choc Fudge Brownies are pretty delectable which I am happy to bribe anyone with!

The *Secretary* role is often paper and computer based. If that's your thing, then I'd be overjoyed if a kind soul from our parent community take on that role. Please see below a copy of the newsletter "advert" that last year's secretary provided, which certainly makes me want to take on the job!

Committee Position: Secretary

My name is Sabina Anderle and I have a 5 year old son Benjamin in the Lorikeets group in 4yo kinder. I took on the position of Secretary for the Committee this year. Some of my responsibilities included:

- setting the meeting dates for the year
- taking minutes of resolutions and proceedings of all meetings
- notifying members of upcoming meetings and issuing an agenda
- checking and distributing the kinder post
- keeping the Relief Staff list up-to-date
- helping out where needed

I have loved every aspect of my role. Although certain tasks are prescribed for this role, it still left me with enough time to volunteer my help for other projects. I took on this role as I liked the idea of being involved in my child's pre-school. Additionally, I have appreciated the companionship of the Committee and have made friends there that I will be seeing long after my son has left the kinder to go to 'big school'. I encourage you to apply for the role of Secretary next year. It is an extremely fulfilling role.

Maintenance Day – Term 1

What a fun, exciting and productive day was had at our first working bee for the year! You should have seen it – there must have been more than a dozen families represented, maybe even 20 families. It was quite inspirational to see how much generosity of time and effort was being given by our kinder community. Working bees are absolutely crucial to enabling our facilities to be maintained and preserved. A HUGE thank you goes to Wendy (Ashley – Starlings) for all of her organisation! Just as big a thank you goes to all those wonderful people and little helpers that



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helped out on the day. Take a look at the last page of this newsletter to see what we all got up to!

Open Day

Last weekend we held our Open Day along with other kinders in Bayside to showcase our wonderful kinder to potential future families. What a fantastic positive response we received from the community! In particular there was an overwhelming voice from all the visitors that EBP had a "really great feeling" and they all loved the amount of space we had, especially our outdoor area. A big thank you Kim (Sahana – Rosellas) for all of her organisation, along with Heidi, Jayne (& Dot & Richard!), Dominique, Courtney, Jenni, Barbara, Rebecca, Yvette & Penny for all of your wonderful help on the day.

So it's been a busy month with all the activities at EBP. I must say though, I do enjoy seeing the great benefit going directly back to all our little children at kinder. I am just so proud to be a part of what is such an amazing community of professionals, parents and children.

HAPPY EASTER AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Megan x
President – East Beaumaris Preschool



KINDERGARTEN DUTY SIGN IN

Please ensure you all sign in and sign out (at the bottom of the sign in book) your name and any siblings on duty.

Dates to book into the calendar:

BUNNINGS BBQ - May

TRIVIA NIGHT - June

More details will follow these and other events closer to the time.

For now, please note these dates in your diary.



LORIKEETS AND ROSELLAS GROUP

Jenni Hawthorn and Barbara Hooper
(Four Year Old Group Teachers))

The program:

Families:

The Rosella and Lorikeet groups have continued to focus on our families. The children's family posters are still coming for the children to share with their friends and we are filling up our 'Family House' on the wall with each child's family. This has been a tremendous experience for the children as we count the number of people in each family, compare the size of each family, discover who has babies in their family and the number of males and females each family has.

Our discussions and explorations also included the pets we might have in our families. We have talked about the types of pets we have at home and discovered that not all families have pets living with them. After reading the story Dear Zoo the children made their own pets or animals to use when we read the story together.

The children enjoyed creating folded dogs out of paper. They had to make sure they folded the paper firmly to create a large triangle and then fold down the sides to make the dogs ears. This was an activity which maintained the children's focus and required them to follow quite specific directions.

Responsible Pet Ownership Program:

A highlight of these weeks was the visit from The Responsible Pet Ownership Program. Lydia brought along her special dog "Zeke" for the children to practice with. She spoke to the children about looking at a dog's "body language" to find out if a dog is relaxed, frightened or angry, and then they all pretended to be frightened and angry dogs. Lydia taught the children what to do if an angry dog approaches them and importantly when to leave a dog alone. They then discussed the safe way to approach a dog. The children have gained invaluable skills from this visit. A huge thank you to all parents who attended the parent information session as well; from all accounts those who came also learned valuable information. Lydia was very impressed by the number of parents who attended and was delighted that so many of our parents were interested in their children's safety around dogs.

Grandparents and Special Friends Mornings:

Our Grandparents and Special Friends Morning Teas worked in beautifully with our family focus. The children were very excited to share this special time with their grandparents or special friends and happily showed them around their kinder. We sang songs, played fun games and really enjoyed this special time together. We also made delicious scones for our visitors to eat at morning tea time.... yum! The children had a wonderful time and we hope that our special visitors did too.

Lorikeet Group – Drama and Dance with Kim:

We are so lucky to have such talented parents at our kinder! Brodie's mum Kim, (a drama and dance teacher) has visited us on 2 occasions to share some fun drama and dance experiences with us. She has the children imagining that they are different animals, moving around and making their sounds, or pretending to be different people, acting out what they have seen them doing. Kim has also introduced a dance to the children to which they have been adding new movements to over the visits. We have discovered we have some really groovy dancers in our group! The children are just loving Kim's visits.

Evacuation Procedure:

At the end of last year we were required to update our Emergency Evacuation Procedure and create procedures for both Lock Out and Lock Down situations. It is a DEECD requirement that we regularly conduct Emergency Evacuations to ensure we, as well as the children, know what to do in case of an emergency. Each group has recently practised this Emergency Evacuation procedure. From our practises we have come across a few extra simple steps that we will need to think about to assist us in the event of an emergency.

*** In case of such an emergency, we have to ensure that everyone in the centre is safe and accounted for. It is therefore vital that all parents remember to sign themselves (and their babies and toddlers) into and out of kinder each time they are on parent duty.***

Easter:

Easter has been our final focus of the term. The children have been painting inside egg shapes at the easels, making chicks out of playdough and playing at our imaginary Easter play areas. They are currently in the process of completing their fluffy bunny ears in readiness for our Hop-a-thon.

Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy Screenings:

Nicola Millar, the Occupational Therapist and Georgia Labb, the Speech Therapist have begun making their visits to those children who have been given permission by their parents. We know that parents will be gaining valuable feedback from these visits. Any children who have not been seen by this week will be visited early in Term 2.

Our first term of kinder has now drawn to a close. We wish all of our families a wonderful and safe holiday break, and we look forward to seeing you all again at the beginning of Term 2.

Happy holidays to you all!
Jenni Hawthorn and Barbara Hooper

Thank you,
Jenni and Barbara



UPCOMING LORIKEET AND ROSELLA EVENTS :

Wednesday 27th April	Term 2 Starts
May	Rosellas - Preschool Photos
May	Lorikeets - Preschool Photos
May	Rosellas - Mother's Day Morning Tea
May	Lorikeets - Mother's Day Morning Tea
May	Rosellas - Botanic Gardens Visit: "Food for Life" session <i>Buses with seat belts from Sandringham Coaches</i>
May	Lorikeets - Botanic Gardens Visit: "Food for Life" session <i>Buses with seat belts from Sandringham Coaches</i>
June	The Frugies
Friday 1st July	Term 2 Ends

WORKING BEE DATES 2011

Term 2 - June
Term 3 - September
Term 4 - November

Rosella Group

- Watching baby Sophia have a bath -

As part of our family focus we were fortunate to watch Annabelle's sister having a bath at kindergarten.

Annabelle's mum Jayne was kind enough to bring in their beautiful baby Sophia and all of her bath equipment so that the children could observe the process of bathing a baby. This was such a rich learning experience for the children and it was a great opportunity for bringing family connections into the kindergarten to share their world with us for the whole group to benefit from.

The children listened really well to Jayne and Annabelle and gave their full attention. Sophia was wonderful and didn't become upset once.

The children were able to contribute their experiences and understanding of younger children and realise that they were once this young as well requiring different needs.

The children really enjoyed having a nurse of Sophia after her bath.

Thank you Jayne and Annabelle for sharing this experience with Rosella Group.



STARLINGS GROUP

I can't believe we have made it to the end of term 1. We have had much excitement over the past 10 weeks, and now turn our focus towards Easter and the school holidays.

We have enjoyed another delightful month with the Starlings children; and now feel confident that the children are acquainted with routines, each other, staff and their preschool environment. Furthermore, children are progressing well with the familiar activities and experiences of play dough, pasting, simple puzzles and construction work in the block corner. More recently, I have also noticed increasing interest in our home corner, particularly with the inclusion of some wheat in a sensory tray nearby. It has been wonderful to watch children immerse themselves in these tactile experiences, and become engrossed with their explorations and experimentations. When they moved the wheat from the tray into the home corner, all sorts of imaginative cooking started to unfold. By using the funnels, dishes, spoons, measuring cups and containers of differing sizes, the children were incidentally experimenting with volume, capacity and weight as well as developing roles and rules with friends to support meaningful play.

Creatively, children's attention has been drawn towards experimenting with paint and the different effects they can create with brushes and rollers. We have enjoyed painting inside and outside, on table tops and on easels. In a separate activity, children were also invited to explore the resistant effect of water colour paint over the top of crayon. As interests are high, we plan to continue exploring paint and colour, colour mixing – techniques, textures and effects.

We have much to discover, explore and look forward to in term 2! Yvette and I wish you a safe and happy term break and we hope the Easter Bunny hops into your home with some yummy treats for all to enjoy!

"Enjoy the Magic"
~ from Mrs Bec~



IMPORTANT DATE FOR STARLINGS DIARIES: TERM 2 (AUTUMN/WINTER)	
May	Photographer for Starlings Group and individual photos taken
May	Mother's Day afternoon tea Starlings (details to follow)
May	possible return of photographer to complete portraits
May	INCURSION: Jack and Molly "Things that Fly"
June	Pyjama Day for Starlings- wear your PJ's today!
June	Queens Birthday (no impact to Starlings)
June	Grandparents/Special Friend's Day for Starlings (stay tuned)
Friday 1st July	Term 2 Ends
*Other inclusions may arise as children's interests emerge.	

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Please take care when leaving kinder
Only Let Your Own Children Out Of The
Gate Unless Authorisation Has Been Given
From The Parent/Guardian**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you for all the book club orders. We hope you are enjoying your new books. The orders made a total of \$62 for the teachers to spend on new books which is wonderful news!

Next term we will bring you lots of exciting things....

- First and foremost will be the delivery of the beautiful Mothers Day Kids With Crayons gifts (week commencing 2nd May). We absolutely cannot wait to get these back and handed out.
- We will be selling Entertainment books. These books sell for \$65 each and \$13 from each book sold goes to kinder. I can personally vouch for the success of these books as I have used them for about 5 years. They get you great discounts on restaurants/cafes (both fancy and kid friendly), holidays, hire cars and amusement places including the Zoo, Mazes, Aquarium, Puffing Billy etc.
- We are taking part in the KPV Caring For Kids raffle and will be asking everyone to help by selling Raffle Tickets for \$2 each. \$1 from every ticket sold goes to the kinder. The first prize is a \$10,000 Myer voucher which I am sure we would all love!
- Our Bunnings BBQ is on Sunday the 29th May. We will soon be asking for people to help out in 2 hour shifts so please block out some time in Dad's (or Mum's) diary for this one!

As excitement builds within the Social Committee for our upcoming Trivia Night, a few people have asked what the night entails having never been to one before. We thought this would be a good opportunity to share our plans with you.

The trivia night is in June at Beaumaris RSL. The RSL has a brand new chef and catering company and we are promised lots of yummy finger food (included in your ticket price) and drinks can be purchased at bar prices. The night lasts from 7.30 until midnight so book your babysitter in now and let them know it will be a late night!

Silent Auctions including gourmet food & wine, kids dancing lessons, swimming lessons, restaurant vouchers, hair products, jewellery and so much more.

Throughout the night there will be lots of games to partake in and hopefully win some great prizes, before the major live auctions take place. More details to follow later on these items but think along the lines of a luxury weekend away, cruising on a sailing boat and gorgeous photos of your family....

Also of course there will be the famous table

trivia run by our host "Marty". Some of you may remember Marty from the 2009 Trivia Night. He was great and the night made over \$6000 for our kinder!

It really is a great night of entertainment and fun. Such a good opportunity to get to know other kinder parents over a few drinks, laughs, fun and games. *You are welcome to make up your own table of 8 by inviting friends from outside of the kinder, or join up with fellow kinder parents to hopefully create the winning team!*

Finally, do you work for a travel agent? Are you a tradie? Do you have a holiday house? Are you a personal trainer? Do you know anyone who could benefit from exposure to over 75 families? If so, please contact your social committee rep.

Soon there will be a box along the kinder sign in bench. Should you have anything you would like to contribute towards our trivia night, please place them in the box. We will use these donations on the night as part of the auctions or prizes. For example, alcohol or brand new toys.

We really hope you book in your babysitter and plan to come along for a great fun night.

2011 Social Committee

Hope to hear from you soon!

YOUR SOCIAL REPS FOR THE YEAR ARE :

ROSELLAS	Delvene Beaumont Jayne Harpley
LORIKEETS	Courtney Bennell-Collins Teresa Drummond Ness Newell
STARLINGS	Wendy Ovens Dominique Sichlau



We love it when the children bring empty boxes for us to use at kinder ... but at the moment we have plenty, thank you!

AUTHORISATION TO COLLECT CHILDREN

As we look forward to starting term 2, we ask that you consider the names of people you authorise to collect your child from the kinder. We now understand that you will need to add any parent of a child in your child's group (or Kinder) should you wish for them to collect your child. If you would like to add names to your child's original enrolment form, please speak to your child's teacher.

***** MISSING ITEMS FROM KINDER *****

Sometimes we find there are small things missing from kinder such as dolls, wishing stones, puzzle pieces, parts of games etc.

If you do come across these in your children's pockets, kinder bag etc. could you please bring them back so all children can play with them. Thankyou.

Late Collection from Kinder

We would like to remind all families to ensure they arrive to collect their children promptly at the end of each session. Being late often causes the children distress, and it hampers the ability of staff to pack up at the end of the session in preparation for the next group, particularly if that group is due to arrive within a very short time frame.

BACON POTATO CAKES

- 1 packet soup mix
- 400g cooled mashed potatoes
- 2 chopped spring onions
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 4 rashers bacon cooked and chopped
- 1/4 cup wholemeal breadcrumbs

Combine soup mix, mashed potatoes, spring onions, chopped parsley and bacon, cover and chill for 30mins (if required)
Shape into six cakes and coat with wholemeal breadcrumbs.
Heat 3tbsp sunflower oil in pan and fry on each side until golden brown.
Great as pie topping, with a crisp salad or just to accompany fish in place of chips.



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