



(03) 9598 6416
HelenPaulKinder@gmail.com

HELEN PAUL KINDERGARTEN TERM 1 NEWSLETTER, 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Carolyn Jones

Hello everyone and welcome to Helen Paul Kindergarten's first newsletter for 2014! I hope you and your little ones are starting to settle into a routine now that term has been back for a few weeks. I've certainly noticed a difference in my son Harry going from the four hours in three year old to the two full days he spends in the Kangaroos group. He loves the longer days; it gives him more time to spend in the pirate ship that was made by last year's groups! He and I have both met some new families and I'm reminded why I love being at this kinder, everyone is so friendly and I love the community feel I get every time I come into the foyer. In this newsletter I have outlined a few important aspects of our kinder to ensure that we all have a great year together.

I'd like to welcome Emma Lindner to our kinder! She is the new lead teacher for the Emus group and is a very experienced and enthusiastic person. We are thrilled to have Emma and wish her a warm welcome at Helen Paul.

If throughout the year your child is ill or for any reason, and you know they are going to miss a session, please call the kinder and let someone know. It helps the teachers to know how many children they will have at each session when planning activities. The kinder phone number is **9598 6416**.

The Truth about the Kinder Budget

Helen Paul Kindergarten is a community-based kinder that is managed by a volunteer

DATES

23rd February – Teddy Bears Picnic
26th July – Gala Event

parent committee. The fees that are charged for the kinder program, together with the funding that is provided by the state government, do not meet the cost of operating the kinder. Fund-raising events and activities provide vital funds to cover the shortfall, and hopefully, allow us to purchase other 'extras' such as seedlings for the garden, additional art and craft materials or occasionally some new equipment.

Our Social and Fundraising committee do a fantastic job of making the fundraising events and activities fun too! So please enjoy the events this year and know that the money you contribute is going to a great cause. Last year we were able to build our gorgeous gazebo using the funds that were brought in from one of our social events. This year we are displaying our wish list in the foyer and indicating how we are tracking with obtaining these things so you can see where your donations and payments are going.

The other essential component to keeping our kinder financially viable is the volunteer work that is done by families. The kinder relies on all families getting involved by helping out with kinder duty, working bees and other activities. Without this help, the kinder would struggle to provide a safe and stimulating environment for our children.



Getting Involved

There are so many ways to become involved at kinder and I encourage you all to do so. The first is by putting your names down for fruit duty, as we rely on the participation of the parents to help out with this task at each session. It is a huge help to the teachers, but it is also such a lovely experience as a parent to see your child interacting with other children. From my experience the children absolutely love having someone they know there during a session. It allows them to show you around and feel proud of their new learning environment.

Kinder duty eases the load on our magnificent staff by providing an extra pair of hands, because kinder sessions get very

busy! Duty tasks include cutting up and serving the fruit, keeping the kitchen clean and tidy, reading stories, getting involved in activities, and helping the kids and staff with anything that's needed. Kinder duty helpers can be parents, grandparents, or carers. If you have younger children, you are always welcome to bring them with you to kinder duty. Please just remember to keep an eye on them, especially around the rock pool. When you are next on duty, please make sure to write your name and any extra children you have with you in the sign in book. So please don't forget to put your name down on the duty roster for a few duties each term, and talk to your group liaison officer with any queries.

Hopefully you have already met your group liaison officer:

Kookaburras (Monday 3pm-5pm, Thursday 11am-1pm)

Jess Lawrence: HPK3kookaburras@gmail.com

Possums (Monday 12.30pm-2.30pm, Thursday 8.30am-10.30am)

Sheri Haby: HPK3possums@gmail.com

Emus (Monday 8.30am-12pm, Wednesday 8.30am-4.30pm, Thursday 1.30pm-5pm)

Skye Fix: HPK4emus@gmail.com

Kangaroos (Tuesday & Friday 8.30am-4pm)

Heidi Lonergan: HPK4kangaroos@gmail.com

If you have any suggestions or concerns about the kinder, you can raise them with your group liaison officer. A vital part of the liaison's role is to be the conduit between the parents of the group and the committee, to raise any suggestions or concerns with the committee and provide feedback to you. We all want what is best for our children, and if you can help us improve the kinder, it is all our children who will benefit.

Committee Positions

Please see below the list of our Committee members for 2014. With the exception of our wonderful treasurer Sarie, everyone on the committee is the parent of a child at the kinder. We are all volunteering our time to help the kinder to provide an excellent service for our children's' community.



(03) 9598 6416
 HelenPaulKinder@gmail.com

Position	Name	Child/Group
President	Carolyn Jones	Harry (Kangas)
Vice- President	Hiliary Hewlett	Millie (Emu)
Secretary	Ange Bligh	Georgie (Emus)
Secretary - Minutes	Martine St Leon	Jackson (Kangas)
Treasurer & Public Officer	Sarie Moore	-
3 YO Enrolments	Maria White	Alex (Kookas)
4 YO Enrolments	Kerry-Ann Garland	Liesel (Kangas)
Newsletter Editor	Eleni Kalaboukas	Yanni (Kookas)
Special Projects Officer	Clare Inwood	Ella (Possums)
Grants Officer 1	Jade Ghoukassian	Alro (Possums)
Grants Officer 2	Loretta Sallabanks	Poppy (Emus)
Inventory Officer	Susanne Lim	Arielle (Kangas)
Books Officer	Hannah Jenns	Poppy (Emus)
IT Officer	Brett Hurley	Elisa (Possums)
Policy Officers	Faye Dickons	Daniel (Kookas)
Quality Assurance Officer	Leanne Drummy	Jessica (Emus)
3 YO Maintenance Officer	Stuart Sharp	Sienna (Possums)
4 YO Maintenance Officer	Glen McKenna	Scarlett (Kangas)
Possums' Liaison	Sheri Haby	Imogen (Possums)



Kookaburras' Liaison	Jess Lawrence	Maxwell (Kookas)
Kangaroos' Liaison	Heidi Lonergan	Sam (Kangas)
Emus' Liaison	Skye Fix	Ethan (Emus)
Special Events Chair	Becky Dragutinovic	Belle (Kangas)
Special Events Sub-Committee	Carly Jordan	Mia (Kangas)
	Rosie Newman	Archie (Emus)
	Kim Phillips	Abby (Possums)
	Ben Albrecht	(Possums)Kurt

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE SEND THEM TO HPKcommittee@gmail.com

Working Bee

Every year we have four working bees, one per term. Each kinder group is allocated one working bee. Working bees are essential for getting all the maintenance work done at the kinder, as we cannot afford to pay someone to come in and do all the jobs that come up during the year. We ask for one representative from every family to attend one working bee per year, for just 2 hours. Only one adult is required per family and for safety reasons we ask that children don't attend. We ask that every family makes an effort to attend as then it is fair for everyone. As you know, a maintenance levy is charged upfront and refunded to those families who attend a working bee. The levy is in place to act as a gentle reminder, to encourage everyone to attend. The levy does not cover the cost of getting all the maintenance work done.

The dates for the 2014 working bees are as follows:

Emus - Sat 1st March 9am – 11am
Kookaburras - Sun 1st June 9am – 11am
Possums - Sat 30th August 9am – 11am
Kangaroos - Sun 9th Nov 9am – 11am

If you know that you cannot attend, please let your group liaison know and make arrangements to attend one of the other working bees. If you are unable to attend any of the dates for the working bees, please contact the Maintenance officers Glen or Stuart on glenmckenna@gmail.com or stuartksharp@gmail.com

They will be able to give you a list of jobs that need doing that you can choose from. Some will require some skill level and others will require no skill at all – just elbow grease!



☎ (03) 9598 6416
✉ HelenPaulKinder@gmail.com

Other Activities

The third way to volunteer at kinder is to offer to help the staff with a particular project or activity, usually during your child's kinder session. Activities that parents and other carers can undertake during kinder sessions include cooking, gardening, knitting, football clinics (on the oval), nature walks, creative story-making, felting, music, movement, and any other hobby, craft, sport or activity that you or your child is interested in. It could be a demonstration, something that the kids can help with (like cooking), or something that the kids can do themselves with a little supervision.

If you can help in any way with an activity during a kinder session, please have a chat with the teacher of your group, Bev, Emma or Kristen or you can email to

HelenPaulKinder@gmail.com

Website

Helen Paul Kinder has a fresh, new website!

www.helenpaulkindergarten.org.au

Big thanks to the amazing work by Susanne Lim, Skye Fix and our wonderful staff.

If you haven't yet, make yourself a cuppa, sit down and take a look around the new site. On there you will find useful information like:

- activities for the term for both three and four year old groups.
- social events like our gala event later in the year, or the next group coffee catch up.
- fruit duty rosters, incursions and excursions
- and much more...

Our liaison officers have worked hard over the Summer break adding things to the calendar and I think they have done a

terrific job. We'll aim to keep it updated regularly, so remember to visit often.

If you have any queries or concerns about the kinder please do not hesitate to call me on **0404355139** or email me at carolynjones14@gmail.com or put a note in Harry's (Kangaroo's) pocket.

I hope the start of your year at Helen Paul has been an enjoyable one and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

Carolyn



Teachers Report

“All children can learn and succeed, but not all on the same day in the same way.” – William G. Spady.

To all - either welcome or welcome back to Helen Paul Kindergarten. The beginning of the year is always exciting with new people to meet, new friends to be made, new toys to use and new spaces to explore. Much of our time at kinder has been spent talking and playing in small casual groups, allowing us much needed one on one time with the children, and forming the connections essential for children to feel safe and secure, ready to explore and learn.

Drop off times are a great example of how individual children can be, and how as teachers we can embrace and appreciate these differences. Some children feel confident enough to come bounding through the door, say goodbye and settle into play. Others need the support of a familiar teacher to help settle and others need to have a cry before you go. This is all normal and your child may show signs of all 3 in the same week. Saying goodbye to mum or dad when you are 3, 4 or 5 years of age (or really any age, who doesn't want their family around them) can still be incredibly daunting especially as this is the age that time can have little importance. Children live in the moment (*BEING*) and even though we say that you will be back soon this can mean little to children because as far as they are concerned you are still leaving now! It is also the age when children realise that you as a parent are not an extension of them and when you do go, you are going to be doing things that they will not be a part of. Past, present and future can be a hard concept for children to grasp. In our experience a short goodbye works best. Agree with your child that you will read 1 story or play at 1 activity before you go, and then try and stick to that. If your child is having a sad day and does not settle please rest assured that the teachers will always ring to let you know. We have found that even though children may become stressed when saying goodbye and watching you walk out of the room by the time you have shut the front gate they are more often than not settled down and playing.

We are only less than a month into the year the children have been incredibly busy exploring the outdoors, producing great works of art and constructing cities out of blocks that would rival the ingenuity of the Romans. There have also been many hours spent dressing up to have a picnic, on a holiday, out to dinner and even going to bed.

Many parents have been asking about the curriculum and 'what' their child will be learning. As a team (and in keeping with the kinder philosophy) we strongly believe that the content (or topics) will emerge through children's play and will be negotiated and agreed upon by children, families and teachers. This means that the program will strongly reflect what the children are interested and curious about. Numeracy, literacy, science, social issues and independence skills will all be explored through play. When children show interest in numbers and letters then this again will be explored through play. If children want to write their name or need support to use scissors then again this will be explored through play. We strongly believe that before children 'can' learn they need to know 'how' to learn. Therefore throughout the year all children work towards developing



strong learning dispositions. This is further explained in our Group Reflection Journal under 'Leaning Outcomes'.

Professor Howard Gardner the creator of *Multiple Intelligence Theory* emphasised the rich diversity of processes used by humans to perceive the world. The type of intelligences that a person possessed indicated not only a person's capabilities, but also the manner or method in which they prefer to learn to develop their strengths and weaknesses throughout life. So for example a child who was strong musically but uninterested in numeracy would be more likely to develop numerical and logical skills through music, rather than being bombarded by repetitive counting activities alone. It is our intent therefore to discover, support, promote and plan for the vast range of capabilities within your child - valuing them for who they are, what they can be and helping them to grow and fulfil their potential.

Topics that are particularly relevant at the moment for 4 year old groups include 'The self' with children drawing self-portraits in front of the mirror and talking about things they like to do and like to eat. These portraits and descriptions will be compiled into a book for the children to look at, and for adults to read to them to help the group learn more about each other. Many children have enjoyed sharing their 'holiday envelopes', discussing activities and finding common ground with others. The family photos are also coming in. These are intended to provide a link between home and kinder, and to give comfort when children are missing Mum and Dad. Children are invited to take the photos out of the baskets and place them wherever they choose. Scarlett loves to put her photo near our pets on different days – once near Speedy and Snapper, and once near the insects.

Remember to have a look at the groups' 'Reflection Books' on the bench in the foyer to find out what we're doing at kinder and how the children are interpreting their experiences.

The children are also fascinated with living creatures of all kinds, and are learning about care and handling of our turtles , Speedy and Snapper, and our stick insects (yet to be named!). We are planning to hire a butterfly hatching kit to tie in with this current focus.

You may have noticed that our "pirate ship" outside is beginning to show signs of wear. As it is so strong and sturdy, we are planning another incarnation of the structure. As groups, we collected ideas which included a shop, a fairy castle, giant monster, submarine, and an alien ship, and voted to decide the most popular option. "Fairy castle" had the winning vote, so we will begin its transformation in the next few days. Please continue to donate medium-sized boxes (e.g. fruit or nappy boxes) so we can build the walls and create some turrets.



The three year-old group children are settling in very well. We are concentrating on familiar and reassuring activities such as painting, puzzles, home corner and reading stories, and sensory, soothing play, including dough, sand and water play. We are purchasing two new cameras for the groups and will be taking photos of each child for a display



(03) 9598 6416
HelenPaulKinder@gmail.com

board to help us get to know each other. We've also been playing name games in small groups. We have asked for each child to bring along a family photo to help us talk about ourselves and our families.

The three year-old children have been interested in pouring water and watching it flow, so we will be exploring this further. We have also enjoyed dancing to music and have had special requests for more "Bob the Builder" and "Wiggles" tracks. We will finish the term with dress-up day. The theme will be decided upon what the children are interested in, and more details will be given later.



You may have noticed that the walls of the room are still quite bare and that is because the children feel that they have worked very hard on their artwork pieces and more often than not want to share them with the most important people in their life (their families) and so are reluctant to leave them behind. We try and show the same respect for your child's work by carefully folding it and putting it in your child's folder in the art box.

During these hotter months and especially at the beginning of the year we understand that you know your children best so if you feel that the long days or late pick up time will be too stressful please don't hesitate to arrange to pick them up early.

Housekeeping News

- ❖ It would be appreciated if all clothing e.g. jumpers and hats could be named as it is very hard to keep track of what belongs to whom and things can easily get lost or suffer from mistaken identity and go home with someone else.
- ❖ Please remember to pack a complete spare change of clothes as we actively encourage children to explore and test things for themselves. This often results in children getting dirty or wet and we will change children often to ensure their comfort and wellbeing.
- ❖ Drink Bottles and lunch boxes should also be clearly named and regularly taken home to be washed.

We are always in need of the following:

- ❖ Small cardboard boxes for box construction
- ❖ Ribbons, odds and ends for pasting
- ❖ Scarves for dancing and clothing creations
- ❖ Scraps of wood, beer bottle tops and lids for hammering
- ❖ Lace curtains for the windows and for making cubbies
- ❖ Plastic bags for sending wet clothes home.
- ❖ Low 'high heeled' shoes for dress ups
- ❖ Vests, suit jackets, work boots and ties
- ❖ Old phones and cameras

Remember if you have any questions, enquiries, or ideas please don't hesitate to speak to us.

Kinder Teachers



Social and Fundraising

Hello and welcome from all of us here at the Social and Fundraising Team 2014! We have lots of exciting things planned for the year that we would love for you to be a part of.

As Carolyn mentioned as Helen Paul is a non-profit Kinder we count on raising funds each year to help maintain the wonderful fun and stimulating environment for our children. To help us do this we plan to organise events that we all enjoy and that our children love to be part of.

Our first event of the year is the Welcome Teddy Bears Picnic on **Sunday 23rd February**; this is a fantastic opportunity for you and your children to come and meet their new Kinder friends and for them to show you their kinder (which they love to do!). There will be an invitation in each of your children's pockets this week, so please look out for it and come along for a couple of hours of fun!

At the same time let's see if we can raise the money for one of the things on our Wish list, maybe two new cameras, Art Smocks or the Fridge Freezer to help us do a bit more cooking with the children.

As much as we love spending time with our children I'm sure you will agree that occasionally we also all need a good night out every now and again, so please save the date in your diary **Saturday 26th July** for our main event of the year, this will be evening of fun, laughter and music – more details to follow shortly.

As well as events we are also planning some exciting activities throughout the year, the first will be **Picture Plates** designed by your child, this is a wonderful way to capture their colourful designs and art works, preserving and transforming them into practical and useful melamine plates and aluminium drink bottles. Look out for more information in your pockets soon!

Join us for the annual Helen Paul Kindergarten

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

A picnic to welcome new and returning families to the kinder. Meet other parents and children and have an all-round fun-filled morning! There will be a Treasure Hunt and picnic food: Party pies, sausage rolls, Tiny Teddies and cordial. Siblings welcome.

Sunday 23rd February
3YO GROUPS ARRIVE 10:30am
4YO GROUPS ARRIVE 11:00am
TIL 12:30pm
Abt: Helen Paul Kinder
Cost: \$10 per child

Don't forget your teddy!

RSVP

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP AND \$10 PER CHILD ATTENDING TO THE KINDER DROP BOX BY 19TH FEBRUARY:

CHILD'S NAME: _____

CHILD'S GROUP: _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING (UNDER 16 FREE)



As I mentioned this is a committee based Kinder and it really cannot run to the high level that it does without the wonderful support from you as parents, so please throw yourselves in, make friends and really make the most of your Kinder experience – you won't regret it!!! On that note we are always looking for help with the events and I have put together a list of items that we would love to get donated, this really helps keep our costs for running events down so that the money we raise can go straight into Kinder. If anyone feels that they are able to help in any way with any of these I would love to hear from you.



Donation Requests

Teddy Lollipops x 100, Invitation Printing, Balloons, Sausages – throughout the year we need a lot 80kg – any contribution towards this would help! **Onions, Bread, Lolly Bags, Event Decorations.** Or if you have any skills that you would be happy to donate that would be fantastic, currently we are looking for a DJ/ Live Music and auction items for our wonderful main event in July. I look forward to meeting you soon.



Becky and the Social and Fundraising Team

Special Thanks

Our special thanks to **“Learn to Dance”** in Hampton for donating the wonderful costumes to the Kinder for the children to dress up in and experience the art of dance, imagination and creativity.

