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## HELEN PAUL KINDERGARTEN TERM 2 NEWSLETTER, 2014

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Carolyn Jones

Hello Everyone!

Welcome back to another fun filled term at Helen Paul. I hope you and your families had a nice break and after a few long weekends you have all settled back into the swing of Term 2. The end of term one was a busy one with our Open Day taking place and other initiatives starting up right as the term was drawing to a close. A few of these items are still going on and are as follows.



#### PICTURE PLATES

The picture plate templates should all have been returned so we'll have a couple of weeks waiting for these to be completed. Thanks to all who have ordered these as I am sure, if last few years are anything to go by, they will be worth the wait!

#### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Have you purchased an Entertainment Book yet? I have invested in the digital version this year and in the short time that I have had it, I have already got my money back from the savings I've made. So far I've enjoyed food

from The Taste of Siam in Hampton, The Sandringham Hotel and The Abbotsford Convent all taking a large amount from the total bill at the end! I've also redeemed a movie ticket and visited the Old Melbourne Gaol where I used more vouchers. I personally have found it to be great value. If you are interested in buying one, it's not too late, so please contact Rosie on our Social and Fundraising team for more information [hpksocialandfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:hpksocialandfundraising@gmail.com)

#### **KEY DATES**

**19th - 22nd May** - Little World Photography  
**Sun 1st June** - Working Bee  
**Thurs 26th June** - Jack & Molly Program  
**Sat 26th July** - Gala Fundraising Event

#### **RAISED GARDEN BED**

I'm sure you will have all seen the new garden bed that has been included at the front of our kinder. Last year we received a grant from Landcare and this money has gone into building this new addition. The children from all groups have spent time planting and tending to the garden over the last few weeks. I'd like to thank Jill and Cameron Hollingsworth for arranging this garden bed in their own time.

#### **MOTHERS DAY**

I was very excited to receive an invitation to a Mothers Day morning tea during my son's session this week. Hopefully you too have received an invite and you get to enjoy a wonderful hour at kinder with your little one and their teachers.



### **WORKING BEES**

The next working bee is for the: Kookaburras group on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, to keep our buildings, equipment and gardens in top order for our kids. There is no one big project for the Sunday, but there will be lots of housekeeping work to be done both inside and outside.

The fortnight prior, we will be forwarding a task list to you so you can take a look at what needs to be done. Generally, most equipment required is available in the shed however you're welcome to bring along any tools or equipment that you feel might be useful and you are handy with!

Any queries please contact the 4YR Maintenance officer - Glen McKenna (glenmckenna@gmail.com or tel. 0410 599964) or 3YR Maintenance officer - Stuart Sharp (stuartsharp@gmail.com or tel. 0425 850005).

THANK-YOU - your support for the working bees is greatly appreciated!

If you were unable to attend our last working bee please feel free to come along to this one instead. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we can't afford to pay someone to do all the jobs that come up during the year so we rely on all families to contribute their time and energy to keep our kinder the wonderful place it is for all of our children. Don't forget, the maintenance levy that you are charged upfront is refunded to families who attend a working bee.

### **COMMITTEE VACANCY:**

A new vacancy has just become available on our General Committee in the role of Grants. Most of the processes have already been set up so the role involves keeping up to date of the Grants registry and attending monthly committee meetings. If you think this is a

position that interests you, please send me an email or give me a call and we can chat about it. You will be given a thorough handover as well. In the past this position has been a shared role so two of you are welcome to work together on this. Joining our committee can be really rewarding, this is my fourth year on board and I have made some wonderful friends as a result.

### **Thank You**

I wanted to say a special thank you to Sarah Darby (Ruby's Mum - from Possum's group) who very kindly created some beautiful illustrations for the staff to use on our Open Day as part of our display on Outdoor Kinder. This is an exciting aspect of our kinder program with more details to follow. They are beautiful pictures that really illustrate the image we hope to portray for this program.

Thank you also to our Committee and Teachers for your help on Open Day last term. The kinder looked beautiful, the aromas from the barbeque were delicious and I was really proud to introduce it to new and prospective parents. We even had one of these families be eligible for this year's three year old program and has taken a place starting this term!

I hope you enjoy the rest of term two. There have been some sunny days but as Winter approaches it's always a good idea to put in some spare warmer clothes for your child in their kinder bag. Lastly if you have any queries or concerns at all about anything to do with kinder please feel free to contact me on 0407 355 139 or drop me a line at carolynjones14@gmail.com or put a note in Harry's (Kanga's) pocket.

Many thanks, Carolyn



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## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

It's hard to believe it's already May. The long Summer has turned into a mild Autumn and the children are still enjoying sunny days outdoors. It reminds us how lucky we are that we have such a mild climate, and have plenty of opportunities for enjoying time outside. The rubaroc and undercover areas have been given a new lease of life with new sections of laserlite roofing, making those areas much lighter and pleasant to be in. Most children have settled happily back into their kinder routine and are building on the skills and following on from interests from last term. We are also observing new interests that will shape our planning in the following weeks.

### **IN THE GARDEN**

The vegetables in the garden are growing nicely. The lettuces are being harvested and eaten at snack time with salad vegies like cherry tomatoes and carrots. For the children, eating the vegies they planted connects them with nature and the process of life and growth.

### **FUN OUTDOORS**

As the weather gets cooler, and children are still playing both indoors and outdoors, it's important that children are dressed appropriately to be comfortable outdoors. Children are making discoveries about the change of seasons, observing bugs and ants, strengthening their large muscles by digging, building and climbing, and playing all sorts of running, hiding and pretending games with their friends. Some things just have to be experienced outdoors, so this is a big part of our program.

Raincoats and gumboots open up a whole new world on a rainy day. Last Tuesday one child closed her eyes as she swung on the swing, feeling the light misty light rain fall on her face, and when the rain came down heavier, others collected water dripping from

the shade sail for their sand play. We placed saucepans and buckets on the deck to collect rain, and Jemimah observed that "it sounds like music". We watched the rain rushing from the gutter on the roof down to the drainpipe and explained to the children that it was filling our tank. The rain gauge overflowed so many learning opportunities to follow up on.

So bring your child's raincoat and boots (and a change of clothes) so your child can enhance their emotional wellbeing by experiencing the outdoors on a rainy day.

We will be purchasing 4 full overalls, with hoods, to protect children's clothes as they play in the digging patch. Dirt and mud play also supports children's physical and emotional wellbeing as it is so grounding. It enables children to connect with the earth in an immediate and direct way. Mud especially appeals to the senses... it's cold, oozy, slippery and makes sounds...it's mysterious. "Some of the benefits of natural play besides the obvious physical skills are higher attention levels, greater self-discipline, mental health benefits through developing a sense of place, and developing an appreciation and genuine respect for nature" (Elliot 2008)

### **SPECIAL HAPPENINGS**

#### **MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEAS**

Children in all groups are busy preparing for our special morning teas. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May for Emus, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May for Possums and Kookaburras, and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. We hope you all have your invitations stuck on your fridges!

The children are excitedly preparing snacks and special surprises, and thinking and talking about their Mums.

#### **3 Year Old**

##### **Possums**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May from 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm, 2 hours: Sibling photos at 11.45am in the park next to kinder



Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 8.30 am – 10.30 am,  
2 hours

### **Kookaburras**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May from 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm, 2  
hours

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 11.00 am – 1.00 pm,  
2 hours: Sibling photos at 1pm in the park  
next to kinder

### **4 Year Old**

#### **Emus**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 8.30 am – 4.30  
pm, 8 hours sibling photos at 4.30pm

#### **Kangaroos**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 8.30 am – 4.00 pm,  
7.5 hours sibling photos at 4pm

### **JACK AND MOLLY**

#### **(Interactive musical program)**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June for Possums and  
Kookaburras.

### **UPCOMING PLANS**

One of our learning outcomes for our 4 year old groups this year is to develop a sense of belonging to the community, and to facilitate this we are planning to take walks in the local area, beginning with walks to the park. As the children's 'walking fitness' builds up we will venture further to other locations in our area. There is great potential for following up particular interests in the planning of our walks. Notices and further information will be sent out shortly. 3 year olds will start taking short walks in 4<sup>th</sup> term in readiness for being part of local walks the following year.

### **CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

While we are happy for you to bring food treats for your child to share on his/her birthday, allergies and food sensitivities of several children mean that they tend to miss out. If you can, think of something else – a very little something – like a balloon or sticker so that everyone is included. One parent made the point that she would rather not give out little trinkets as everyone already has so much 'stuff' these days. Food for thought. We will always make a playdough 'cake' with candles and sing Happy Birthday to celebrate the day (just remind us when your child's birthday is coming up)

### **A GREAT GIFT IDEA**

Stella, in Kangaroos, made a necklace for Millie by threading a variety of buttons onto thick thread. What a great gift idea – and a lovely way for your child to make a gift themselves, that is sure to be well received. It's also been wonderful to see how many boys as well as girls have been making themselves loom bands, especially as this fashion statement is also great for developing fine motor skills!

### **VACANCIES IN 3 YEAR OLD**

Please let friends and neighbours know that we have some vacancies in 3 year old group for this year.

### **SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING**



Firstly I would like to say a great big thank you to everyone involved in the welcome Teddy Bears Picnic. We raised a huge \$916.62! I'm sure that you will all agree that it was a wonderful morning and was lovely to see all the kids eagerly showing us around and introducing us to their friends. My personal favourite was seeing all the kids poke their heads through Big Teddy to have their photo taken!



### **SAVE THE DATE Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

A lot of you have been asking us here at the Social Team to divulge details of our main fundraising event of the year, we're sorry but we're going to keep you in suspense just a tiny bit longer, the invitations will be out in the next few weeks and all I can say is that we're all very excited and it's going to be a fantastic night!

Hopefully by now you will all of had that opportunity to meet some of your fellow group parents at one of the dinners/drinks organised with your Liaison, Each group should also be having another get together sometime in May , so if you missed the last

one make sure to ask your Liaison for details of the next. It really is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other a bit better without any interruptions!

One last thing, Little Word Photography will be with us at kinder w/c 19<sup>th</sup> May, for those of you who haven't had the opportunity for Kinder Photos before please have a look at website: [www.littleworldphotography.com.au](http://www.littleworldphotography.com.au) to see the beautiful work that Tuesday and her team produce. More information will be circulated regarding this soon so please keep your eye out.

### **THANK YOU'S**

To everyone who has contributed to our program by spending time with us, donating goods, working on the committee, doing odd jobs around the kinder, making suggestions, sharing ideas – your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Also special thanks to Jill McCrone and Cameron Hollingworth for the tiered vegetable garden near the front entrance. Already we have eaten some of our home grown lettuce!!!!

