

APOLLO NEWS

Issue 10 - Nov/Dec 2011

President's Report

Well, there is a reason why this time of year is called the silly season. It is such a busy time of year with Christmas concerts, school orientations, work break ups, Christmas shopping – food and presents, the “must catch you before Christmas” catch ups and holiday planning. Phew!!

It's also a time for a bit of reflection on the year that was. I have no doubt that our children have discovered so much throughout the year. Friendships have blossomed, challenges have been conquered and now new adventures await.

Part of this reflection is done through the Parent Survey. Thank you for families who have responded. Your feedback will help make decisions regarding communication, programming and fundraising for 2012.

Our AGM held last month was a success with good attendance and the election of a full committee. We also elected a fundraising sub committee as part of a new approach to fundraising in 2012. I would like to welcome all new committee and sub-committee members as well as thanking our members who are continuing their involvement in the management of the Kinder. Also, best wishes to Clinton Langerak, Nicole Moretti and Kathryn Edbrooke who are leaving committee after 2, 3, and 5 years of service respectively. You will be missed.

Next year we will be updating our photocopier to a multifunction product. Our current photocopier is a Sharp AR-M207, 22ppm, A3 black and white device. The machine is in good working order and so if anyone is interested in purchasing the photocopier please let me know by calling on 0448 55 66 15.

The Kinder Christmas party will be held on Friday, the 16th of December at Bundoora Park between 5 – 7pm. There will be signs to our designated area for families to share and celebrate the end of the year. Santa will be attending between 5.30 – 6.30pm with surprises for all children so please RSVP if you are planning to attend. BYO picnic supplies.

As a final note, I would like to offer my personal gratitude to our entire team at Apollo Parkways Pre-school. I would have been at a complete loss had it not been for the guidance, patience and dedication from our educators, contractors and committee.

Of course, family participation is also crucial to the successful operation of the Kinder so a big fat THANK YOU to all of you who have helped with fruit duty, washing, working bees, excursions, donating boxes, paper, more boxes and most importantly thank you for your time. This is what makes Apollo Parkways Pre-school are great Kinder.

Best wishes to all of our budding preppies. I hope your Kinder years will make happy memories to be shared in years to come.

Merry Christmas to everyone. I wish you joyful and safe holidays and look forward to greeting new and returning families in 2012.

Kasey Lawrence

4 Year Old Program Red and Blue Group

It is hard to believe but the year is quickly coming to a close. We have watched the children grow, develop and acquire skills as the year has gone on. We are enjoying our last few sessions with them.

Already we have said goodbye to Jiyaa and we soon say goodbye to Dylan and Jude who will be also finishing a bit before the end of term.

Attendance has been greatly affected by school orientations, especially in Blue Group. We encounter this each year as schools begin their orientations so early. We do encourage schools to have fewer sessions and to hold them in December. Some schools do this and I'm sure that the children are much more settled and able to enjoy and focus on the remainder of their kinder year this way.

All the children's Transitions Statements are complete and have all been taken to schools. I met with teachers from APPS, St Thomas and Greenhill's and discussed the children's transition with them.

It was lovely to see Janine when she called in to visit us last week. Her recovery is going well. She hopes to visit us again before the end of the year and is planning to come to our concert days.

Our excursions to the Essendon Traffic School were most successful and we had two lovely days with the weather. It was great to have our parent helpers. The children have learnt some valuable lessons about road safety and most of them found it to be fun. We have had a number of activities that have helped the children to reflect on this experience and to reinforce the things we had learnt.

The children have been wearing our new bike helmets when riding our bikes. Thanks to Bike Force of Essendon for their very kind donation of these helmets.

Pyjama Days also provided a valuable learning experience for the children as they independently chose their own breakfast tidied up their bowl, plates and cups when they had finished, cleaned their teeth and dressed themselves ready for the day. They have a special page in their Kinder Books detailing this day.





Our new wooden toys have arrived and are used continuously by the children. They have a lovely natural feel to them and can be used in many different ways to help enhance the children's imaginative and dramatic play. They are currently using them with our new jute dolls.

The children have been finishing off gifts and cards for their families. They have begun making Christmas decorations and participating in some of our special Christmas activities. We have a number planned, including Christmas tree decorating, wreath making, magnet making, making paper chain, making decorations for the Christmas tree, stamping, printing, painting, as well as stories and puzzles.

They have also been participating in a number of concert practices as they prepare for their end of year concert for their families. They have been learning some new songs and practicing some of the ones they already know. Red Groups concert is on 12th December at 2.45pm and Blue Groups on 13th December at 2.45pm. Families are invited to attend these special times. After the concerts which will take approximately half an hour there will be time for afternoon tea with other families before the end of the session. We will need some people to bring along some plates of food for after the concert. We will put a list out the front for families to fill in if they can help with this.

The children their last days are 20th December for Red Group and 21st December for Blue Group. All children's work will go home on their last day. (We will not be having a work collection day as in the past.) Rather than finishing with the traditional party day we will be having a special lunch on the children's last lunch days. i.e. Monday for Red Group and Wednesday for

Blue Group. We will discuss this with the children and see what they would like to do. We may also put out a list if we require some food on these days.

The children's Kinder library has finished and we need all the books to be returned. Thanks to parents for their help with this throughout the year.

Staff have planned for only one day of clean up at the end of the year as requested by committee. Staffs last day is Thursday 22nd December. We will need assistance with quite a number of tasks if all the work is to be completed as much of it was not able to be completed at the working bee. If anyone can volunteer a small amount of time it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to everyone for all your assistance throughout the year. Having your help means that we can continue to provide the children with a wide variety of experiences and I'm sure you have all enjoyed seeing your children in our group setting.

Thanks also to committee for all the work they have done this year. They have undertaken tasks willingly, competently and enthusiastically, and they have been a pleasure to work with.

Thank you to everyone for making this a very special year and we wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and new year.

Helen, Janine, Talieya and Melyssa

Help Wanted

We need help on the weekend of 17th and 18th December to copy our reflections books and children's photos to individual DVD for each child at the end of the year. It would be great if a family in Red Group and a family in Blue Group felt they could help with this task for their group. Please see Helen if you are able to help.

3 Year Old Program Yellow and Green Group

I would like to express my best wishes to all the children in my group beginning four year old kinder next year. I'm very proud of their achievements this year and I know they have already established many of the skills they need to begin another successful year of pre-school.

It has been a very busy term and the children are looking forward to the end of year celebrations. The children have helped with the selection of songs to sing for their parents on the last day of term. They have also been busy creating gifts from their artwork which they are looking forward to presenting to their families. We have also recently incorporated some Christmas craft

experiences which the children have enjoyed. They are beginning to become very excited about celebrating Christmas with their families. Yellow Group helped put up our kinder Christmas tree while Green Group worked on making decorations for the tree including a Christmas star for the top. We have been reading stories and working on Christmas puzzles whilst also providing a range of puzzles and activities for those children who do not celebrate Christmas. Our end of year concert celebration includes a variety of songs which the children have learnt throughout the year as well as some new Christmas songs the children have recently been introduced to.

A shopping corner has been very popular with the children this term. The children have had a wonderful time working co-operatively with each other during this role play experience. I have also been trying to extend the time the children are spending outdoor as the weather is improving. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful outdoor area which caters for all the different personalities including quiet areas for swinging, watering gardens painting with water and seats for resting. We also have our climbing equipment and beams for the very active children. Many of the children have also been practicing their tumbling skills on the gym mats. The children have loved outdoor play this term. We have even had use of our trickle pond and the children have enjoyed shoes off in the warm sand.

The children had their orientation day for 2012 and they have spoken about how it went and how they feel about the changes next year. Lots of positive reassurance from parents and teachers will ensure the transition is smooth and the children will adapt to the change.

The final day for the children in both Green and Yellow Groups is Friday the 16th of December. The children will be singing songs for their families on this day and a party for everyone is to be followed. Please return to kinder at the following time.

Green Group: 10:30am Sharp

Yellow Group: 2:00pm Sharp

I would like to thank all the parents for a wonderful kinder year. It has been lovely to have such warm friendly and supportive families to work with. Your children are a reflection of the hard work you do at home with them.

Have a wonderful Christmas and safe and happy holidays

Thank you

Tamara McGregor and Melyssa D'arro

Information of Interest

Whooping cough prevention

The number of children aged 5-14 years old catching whooping cough has increased dramatically in Victoria over the last four years. Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly infectious disease causing a severe, persistent cough. Whooping cough is spread by coughs and sneezes from an infected person. While most children and adults eventually recover, often after weeks or months of illness and household disruption, there is a serious risk if infected people pass the disease to young babies. Whooping cough can have severe consequences for young babies. Around one in every 200 babies under six months of age who catch whooping cough will die. Some babies will suffer permanent disability from brain and lung damage. Family members, including siblings and parents, are the main source of whooping cough infection in babies. Timely immunisation offers the best chance of preventing the spread of whooping cough. Whooping cough vaccine is provided free for children at two, four and six months, at their fourth birthday, adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school and parents of newborn babies. The two month vaccine can be given early at six weeks to start protection earlier. Parents are urged to ensure their children are vaccinated on time and to consider their own whooping cough vaccination needs. Vaccination is recommended for all adults caring for or working with young children, including school teachers, as well as all health care workers. Parents should talk to their doctor or nurse if they have questions about the whooping cough vaccine.

For more information search 'whooping cough' on www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

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