



Newsletter Issue 1 February 2018



Welcome to all our kinder community for 2018! It is my pleasure to welcome new and returning families to Apollo Parkways Pre-school and I hope you will love this kinder as much as I do as we go through the year together. This will be my 7th and final year with my youngest going through the 4 year old programme. I am sure all your children are settling in well thanks to our amazing staff and are enjoying their time as our kinder is already a hive of activity. There certainly is a happy buzz as we all begin the New Year with the anticipation of a special year ahead. I guess there is no better time than right at the beginning of the year to remind families of some housekeeping pieces to ensure a smooth year ahead.

Parent Committee

Our kinder is managed by parent volunteers who are elected at our annual AGM. I would like to acknowledge this year's committee and thank our members in advance for their hard work to come and especially for attending the very first working bee during the school holidays in January to get our kinder all ready to welcome the children and families. I can tell that this is going to be a great year working together! Our committee members are available to answer questions and to provide support to our families. A photo board will be placed at kinder in the coming weeks so that each member can easily be identified. Should you wish to contact me directly, my mobile number is **0432 232 829** and email huiping11@hotmail.com.

With that being said, should you want to be part of this amazing committee, we still have one vacancy in the role of Assistant Grants Officer which we did not manage to fill at AGM last year, so if you think this role is for you, please do not hesitate to contact me! We would love to have you on board – it is indeed a different sense of community feel being able to serve. Please also look out for the other notices in this newsletter, where our kinder is seeking some other help in additional areas!

Term Fees

If you are paying kinder fees each term, when required an invoice will be placed in your child's pocket detailing the amount, due date and payment options. We truly ask that each family aims to pay their fees on time so that there is minimal time and cost spent on following up.

If for whatever reason you have some difficulties in making the term payment on time as we understand everyone has different circumstances happening, please contact Marisa Puccio our book keeper on apollo.parkways.account@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Private and confidential arrangements can then be made without incurring any late fees. Failure to contact Marisa prior to the due date will unfortunately result in late fees being applied as per our Fee Policy and any unpaid fees of more than a term may result in your child being temporarily withdrawn till a payment plan is made and followed through. A copy of our fee policy is available from kinder.

DATES TO DIARISE:

MON 26TH February: RED GROUP Family Picnic 5.30-7pm

THURS 1st March: BLUE GROUP Family Picnic 5.30-7pm

**SUN 4th March: Minor Working Bee
Sayour**

**THURS 8th March: Red & Blue Group Banyule Community
Health Program "Little Chompers"**

**SAT 10th March: Minor Working Bee
Bates**

**THURS 15th March: Red & Blue Group Dog Awareness
Education Program**

**SUN 25th March: Major Working Bee
Wise & He & Hardy & Galarregui & Smith (Emma) & McKay**

Working Bees

We are very proud of our kinder's appearance and feel lucky that we have a beautiful outside area for our children to enjoy. In order to maintain this and the functionality of the kinder, it is important that families participate in their required working bees. The working bee will only take a couple hours of your time and is a great time to socialise with other families.

If unforeseen circumstances mean that you are unable to attend your nominated working bee, please contact our Maintenance Officer, **Gavin de Krester at 0477 875 044** prior to the working bee for alternative arrangements to be made where possible. It is very important that notice is provided as many tasks have been pre-planned based on families attending.

Fruit Duty

Parents are asked to assist with sessions by volunteering for fruit duty and a roster is placed next to the sign in book towards the end of each term. I am pleased to see that most sessions were quickly filled in for term one and look forward to the same enthusiasm continuing throughout the year. Helping with fruit duty is a wonderful opportunity to be involved as children love having their Mum, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa etc at kinder J

Kinder is such a wonderful experience and our little ones are gaining some independence and starting exploring the boundaries of their world with the security of small groups while under the guidance and experience of caring teachers. Your active involvement can only enhance their journey and create some treasured memories along the way.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Enjoy!

Cheers,
Hui Ping



We need your help!

Do we have any Mum/Dad's who are IT savvy and can help with some basic IT needs for the teachers computers.



Requesting anyone interested in helping to organise the kinder office expansion plans.



Please contact Hui if you are able to help
0432 232 829 huiping11@hotmail.com

Blue and Red Group Newsletter Report

Welcome to the new year at Apollo Parkways Preschool. We look forward to sharing the year with you child and you family.

It's been a very positive start to the year for the 4-year olds beginning kinder. We have had a few changes over the holidays and both groups are now fairly settled. Blue Group is a smaller group with 17 children while Red Group has 22 children.

We began the year with interviews which were conducted in small groups. Parents were then encouraged to discuss anything individually after the group interview. The interviews were great for gaining any important background information about the child prior to them beginning kindergarten. Having the shorter session times and half groups really assists with the settling in process. We were able to assist children on an individual basis and have a much more intimate group with all children being able to contribute.

While the interviews were taking place, the children were involved in a variety of activities. Janine and Sharyn found this a great opportunity to get to know individual children, picking up on interests and developing a better understanding of children's personalities and how they may cope on their first week at kinder. It was a great opportunity for the children to become more familiar with staff and other children who will attend kinder with them.

Sharyn and Janine assisted the children with the selection of their own lockers and hand towels and showed them the bathroom. We were also pleased to get some lovely photographs of the children with their attending parent. These are displayed on the notice board and will assist families with getting to know each other.

The children settled in nicely on their first day and the shorter sessions gave them the opportunity to settle in to an environment with smaller numbers of children. The first lunch day came upon us very quickly and the children managed the day very well. Some did appear tired appear tired towards the end of the session. Currently a focus for the educators is ensuring the children have plenty of time to transition between routines giving them time to organize themselves and their belongings. We have begun the year with a program that allows the children to learn to move through the kindergarten environment with confidence and a feeling of success. The play spaces have been kept consistent, so the children can become familiar with the environment, where items are kept, how to access their belongings, the toilets and to feel comfortable and successful being able to take part in all activities with confidence.

Visual charts are displayed to assist the children in managing the routine at the beginning and end of the day. Some of the children are already referring to the chart when they are unsure which is great to see.

Social stories have been read to the children and have been chosen according to the needs of the group and individual children.

We have also begun to introduce some experiences relating to the cultural celebration of Chinese New Year. The children have been observed and supported through the creating of paper lanterns. We were able to document their developing fine motor skills and understand areas of support and extending for future experiences.

Through art and craft activities the children have become familiar with identifying their names to paste on their work and are able to access smocks and are learning where to place their artwork on completion. Our observations of the group have identified an overall group interest in art and craft, water play, trains and block building.

As the weeks move on our program will develop according to the children's ideas interests and abilities taking the whole group and individuals into consideration. We have introduced our treasure box/bag which allows each child the opportunity to bring an item from home to share with the group.

This assists teachers to develop an understanding of the children's interests, their abilities and to understand and communicate ideas and interests with other.

A focus area in the coming weeks will be to develop the children's self-awareness and identity. The children will be looking at themselves in the mirror and describing what they see. This is not only an oral language experience, but it also develops the children's positive sense of self and wellbeing and belonging to our group.

The children have also begun talking about their families and identifying the people in their families through drawings and artwork. We will soon introduce them to a family collage which will form part of their kinder portfolios this term.

We have begun sending home our treasure boxes/bags which each child will have the opportunity to take with them. They are encouraged to place a special item from home in the bag to share with the group. This again is a wonderful opportunity for the children to share aspects of their home life and culture and assists teachers to understand their interests.

At this time of the year we have a focus on ensuring all the children feel safe, secure and supported at kinder. We will be also working closely with all the children to ensure we develop close personal relationships with each of them so they can feel secure and comfortable in the kinder environment.

The weather has been very warm to start the year and the children have had many opportunities outdoors to explore with water. The children are also enjoying removing their shoes in the sandpit and are developing their skills in placing them back on their feet independently. This is a skill we will work on with many of them throughout the year.

Music will be a part of our program each week, group times will vary in length according to the abilities of the children and the time of the day such as morning or afternoon. At present the children are enjoying coming together to dance and participating in finger play songs.

Staff are pleased with the progress the children are already making with our fruit routine. At this point in the year the children are needing prompting to follow our hygiene procedures including the washing of hands before fruit and the washing of their dishes. They have been eating fruit from a shared platter outdoors. Blue group are becoming more confident with supervision in using the tongs to pick up their fruit while Red Group are developing their language skills to ask for their fruit and converse with the adult at the table with them. They have begun washing their own bowls after they eat and placing them on the drying rack.

We have some strict food restrictions amongst both groups and therefore are ensuring the children understand rules about no sharing of foods from their lunch boxes. We would appreciate it if families would remind them of this rule at home.

We have already celebrated some birthdays at kinder with the decorating of a playdough cake which the children have enjoyed.

This year both groups have two additional assistants working in them. Jo and Sylvia are employed by Lentara Uniting and work within each group. They work different hours that have been allocated by Lentara Uniting. They support staff and work with the whole group as well as with individual children. We welcome them to our groups.

We also welcome Marilyn back and thank her for covering staff breaks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

We have two incursions arranged for term one, both within normal session times. The Banyule Community Health program 'Little Chompers' will visit on Thursday 8th March for both groups. Children will learn how to care for their teeth and will have the opportunity to have their teeth checked. (Parent permission will be required for this check-up.)

We have the responsible pet program coming on Thursday 15th March. Children will learn how to approach a dog and what to do if a dog that is not under the control of its owner approaches them. They also have parent education sessions which we encourage at least one adult family member to attend. We have found this to be a very valuable program.

Picnic teas for our blue and red group families have been organised. These picnics provide a lovely opportunity for families to get to know each other better and to become more familiar with the kindergarten and educators. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic tea for themselves on these evenings. A picnic rug to spread on the lawn area is handy too.

Red Group picnic will be on Monday 26th February from 5.30 to 7.00pm and for Blue Group families picnic will be on Thursday 1st March from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. We hope you can come.

Our Quality Improvement Plan continues to be updated. The items we are currently working on are displayed in the foyer for families to view. We encourage suggestions from families about things we can do to improve our kindergarten. Please chat with staff or committee if you have suggestions for improvements.

Thank you to committee for all the work done to prepare the kindergarten for the year. It was great to come back to the centre and finding so much done.

Thanks also to our families who have been assisting during our sessions with kinder duties. We greatly appreciate your help.

Looking forward to the rest of this busy term,

Tamara, Helen, Janine, Sharyn, Merilyn, Jo and Sylvia.

Yellow Group Newsletter Report.

Welcome to our new and returning families to Yellow Group. We hope you and your child have an enjoyable time with us at Kinder this year.

Our Three Year Old Kinder program is run on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. We are called Yellow Group. We have 20 children in our group with Jo (team leader) and Pauline (co-educator).

We are pleased with how well all the children have settled in. First day nerves seem to have now passed and the children seem keen to come to Kinder each session. Lots of cuddles and reassurance has helped each child and family to feel welcome and safe within our

Parent helpers with fruit has allowed Staff to focus on the children while a small group eats at a time. Thank you to all our parents who have volunteered their time to cut and serve fruit. The children are coping well with the transitional fruit time, choosing when they feel hungry and are ready for fruit.



Yellow Group are encouraged to wash their own bowls once they have finished eating fruit. The children are all managing this independent skill well

The children are slowly getting used to their routine, its taking time to transition from inside to out and then outside to in, collecting bags and drink bottles etc. We are all learning patience and practise while each individual child is reminded what to do next.

Group times have started with only a small amount of time expected for the children to sit in a group and focus. They all seem keen to dance and sing as they learn new songs and dances. We often play relaxation music and blow our magic bubbles on Friday afternoons when often the children are feeling tired.

The program is quite simplistic to begin with. Simple insert puzzles, magnetic blocks, a few pasting materials are offered at the craft table and only one colour of paint is available at the easel for painting. Outside water play and the sandpit are extremely popular. We often open up both the sandpits to allow the children more space to play with different equipment set up in each sandpit. Some Friday sessions are spent outside in the fresh air (weather permitting). Water play allows the children to cool down on warmer days. A trough of water with scoops and water wheels as well as an area set up for washing babies, has been thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Activities change according to the needs and interests of the group and a program is written to reflect these changes.

The children have been introduced to Boris our Travelling Bear, a special bear to belongs to Kinder. In Term Two each child will have the opportunity to take Boris home and write or draw in his diary to share with the group on the next Kinder session. Boris is available during the sessions for the children to snuggle and play with. During our story time each child has a turn to hold onto Boris while we have our story.



Sharing is a skill that many of the group are having difficulty with, so Staff are talking to the children individually and in groups about this. This is age appropriate and something that the children in Yellow Group hope to achieve this year. We are also focussing on our hands are used for playing'' and are to be kept to ourselves, while encouraging the children to use their words when being hit, pushed or poked and telling their peers to STOP when they don't like something.

Portfolios have begun. Each child has their own Kinder portfolio which will include an overview of their time in Yellow Group. These stay at Kinder for the year and will go home on our last day. Special days, birthdays and art will be placed in the children's portfolios and are available for the children to look at during our sessions.

We look forward to continuing to help the children establish routines and friendships while learning while at Kinder.

Regards Yellow Team,

Jo and Pauline.

APOLLO PARKWAYS PRE SCHOOL 2018 MAINTENANCE ROSTER

Please see the roster below and make note of your allocation.

Parents with children in 3 year old group are required to do 1 Major Working Bee

Parents with children in 4 year old group are required to do 1 Major & 1 Minor Working Bee

Major Working Bees are on the exact dates & all families must have a representative/s sign in at 10am to start the Working Bee

If you do not attend, you may forfeit your Maintenance Levy as the discretion of the APPS Committee

Minor Working Bees can be either Saturday or Sunday of the stipulated weekend at the family's discretion

Every effort has been made to have families from the same group together but again, this was not always possible.

If you have not been allocated a Major working bee, you may have been allocated two minor working bees

Keys are kept in the Key Safe. Please pick up the code and location of Key Safe prior to your session

A list of jobs to be completed will be provided for Minor and Major Working Bees

****If the allocated date is not convenient please make every effort to make a direct swap *yourself* with someone from your group, then notify Gavin (gdekrester@hotmail.com) or Todd (toddbates@hotmail.com). They will update the roster so you are not recorded as absent****

Date	Working Bee Type	Families
Sun 29 Jan 2017	Committee Working Bee (10-12PM)	
Sat 10 Feb 2018	Minor Working Bee	
Sat 17 Feb 2018	Minor Working Bee	
Sat 24 Feb 2018	Minor Working Bee	
Sat 4 Mar 2018	Minor Working Bee	Sayour
Sat 10 Mar 2018	Labour Day Minor Working Bee	Bates
Sat 17 Mar 2018	Minor Working Bee	Lauronce Sardina
Sun 25 Mar 2018	Major Working Bee #1	Wise & He & Hardy & Galarregui & Smith (Emma) & McKay
Sat 31 Mar 2018	Term Break Easter 30 March–April 2 nd .	
Sat 7 Apr 2018	Term Break	
Sat 14 Apr 2018	Term Break – Minor Working Bee	Brown (Matilda)
Sat 21 Apr 2018	Anzac Day Minor Working Bee	Cunningham
Sun 29 Apr 2018	Major Working Bee #2	Wu & Dal Pra & Underwood & Cao & Smith (Sophie) & Heinicke
Sat 5 May 2018	Minor Working Bee	Wagner
Sat 12 May 2018	MOTHERS DAY Minor Working Bee	Smith (Lila)
Sat 19 May 2018	Minor Working Bee	Caneva
Sat 26 May 2018	Minor Working Bee	Towt
Sun 2 Jun 2018	Major Working Bee #3	Marett & Rashvand & Beresford-Long & Kornilowicz & Quattrone & Roberts (Emily)
Sat 9 Jun 2018	Queens Birthday– Minor Working Bee	Wright
Sat 16 Jun 2018	Minor Working Bee	Lauri-Hasiotis
Sat 23 Jun 2018	Minor Working Bee	Gilham
Sat 30 Jun 2018	Term Break	
Sat 7 Jul 2018	Term Break	
Sat 14 Jul 2018	Term Break - Minor Working Bee	Sitch
Sun 22 Jul 2018	Minor Working Bee	Webb
Sat 28 Jul 2018	Major Working Bee #4	Brown & Li (Ross) & Coelho & Sanfilippo & Mazzeo & Suryahardja
Sat 4 Aug 2018	Minor Working Bee	Smith (Emma)
Sat 11 Aug 2018	Minor Working Bee	Juleff
Sat 18 Aug 2018	Minor Working Bee	de Kretser
Sat 25 Aug 2018	Minor Working Bee	Bates
Sat 1 Sep 2018	FATHERS DAY Minor Working Bee	Li (Lucas)
Sat 8 Sep 2018	Major Working Bee #5	Yang & Byrne & De Poi & Barbante & Badhe & Webb
Sat 15 Sep 2018	Mini Working Bee	Wagner
Sat 22 Sep 2018	Term Break	
Sat 29 Sep 2018	Term Break	
Sat 6 Oct 2018	Term Break- Minor Working Bee	Smith (Emma)
Sat 13 Oct 2018	Mini Working Bee	Lauronce Sardina
Sat 20 Oct 2018	Major Working Bee #6	Lacey & Cunningham & Siu & Sitch & Wee
Sat 27 Oct 2018	Minor Working Bee	Juleff
Sat 3 Nov 2018	Mel Cup Minor Working Bee	Suryahardja
Sat 10 Nov 2018	Minor Working Bee	Towt
Sat 17 Nov 2018	Minor Working Bee	Gilham
Sat 24 Nov 2018	Minor Working Bee	Caneva
Sat 1 Dec 2018	Major Working Bee #7	Smith (Lila) & Brown & Wright & Zhang & Li (Lucas)
Sat 8 Dec 2018	Minor Working Bee	de Kretser
Sat 15 Dec 2018	Minor Working Bee	Sayour
Sat 22 Dec 2018	Term Break	
Sat 29 Dec 2018	Term Break	

FUNDRAISING

FAMILY PORTRAIT FUNDRAISER WITH AVER & LINE. children's photography specialists



BOOK TO RECEIVE *for \$15*

20 minute portrait session

20 minute viewing / selection session

8"x12" print

Glass bottle frame + print of your choice

Complimentary retouching
(Remove unwanted dribble or bumps!)

Opportunity to purchase the BEST value
packages & lowest cost options!
We also have the best value digital files available!

Apollo Parkways Pre School Family Portrait Fundraiser The easiest way to have boutique portraits, book now to secure your session!

WHEN: Sunday 22nd of April

WHERE: Outdoors at the Pre School
31 Plenty River Dr, Greensborough

TO BOOK: head to www.averandline.com.au/book
enter the password **hooray2** and select your Pre School + session time
then pay your \$15 online

BOOK BY: Monday the 16th of April

CONTACT/QUESTIONS: The Pre School on (03) 9435 8752

www.averandline.com.au

contact@averandline.com.au

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Birthday Cards!

Welcome to the Fat Free Alternative to Fundraising!
...Exclusive Handcrafted Greeting Cards.



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Leeanne Tomlins,
St Josephs Primary School, Como



APOLLO PARKWAYS PRE SCHOOL

It's time for our first Fundraising event of the year.

Are you sick of looking for that last minute Card for a kid's birthday or any other occasion?

Well!!!!!! Look what we have for you!!!!

We have boxes of premium **Hand Crafted Gift Cards** for sale.

The **Hand Crafted Gift Cards** contains 30 premium **All Occasion Cards** or a selection of **Birthday Cards** packaged in a handy use again box.

Each Box Costs \$30.00

You can place an order by filling out the form below.

Please tear off and return in a sealed envelope, along with the money, your child's name and kinder group. Place this in the fundraising letterbox located in the kinder foyer.

Name:.....

Group:.....

Contact

Numbers:.....
.....

I would like to order (no.) of the Hand Crafted Birthday Gift Cards @ \$30

I would like to order (no.)..... of the Hand Crafted All Occasions Gift Cards @ \$30

TOTAL

Please find enclosed \$..... (Cash)