



Newsletter Issue 2 April 2018



Wow! Well here we are at the end of the first term already. How quickly has that gone by? I hope everyone had a good Easter and is enjoying the school holidays.

We had a rather busy Term 1 at kinder with an Open Day on 24th February. Thank you especially to Mel for coordinating the event and also to the teachers and volunteers from committee who helped out on the day which went really well. We will be participating again in the Kinder Early Years Expo on 5th May at the Diamond Valley Library. At the moment, we still have some vacancies for our 4yo programme in the Blue group so if you know anyone who has newly moved into the area or is looking for a great kinder, do send them our way!

We also had our family picnic night for Red and Blue group which was a great way for families to get to know one another better as the kids played with each other. Thank you to the teachers for organising this.

Help Required!

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 at 0432 232 829 or huiping11@hotmail.com ! We would love to have u on board as it is indeed a different sense of community feel being able to serve. We are also looking for someone who might be able to help the teachers out with some IT and computer work and someone in the building line who might be keen to take on the kinder's building expansion plans for a better workspace for the teachers.

Term Fees

Invoices have gone out last week of Term 1 and just a gentle reminder that all Term 2 fees need to have been paid in full before the start of Term 2 to help the kinder run smoothly. If for whatever reason u 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

Working Bees

There are some changes being made to our working bee schedule so please stay tuned. We will be consolidating the major working bees whilst keeping the minor working bees. We understand there was a slight hiccup with our first major working bee and apologies go out to the families as we still work on fine tuning the process.

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. Please also contact Gavin should you face any difficulties during the working bee.

That's all from me now! Enjoy the rest of the holidays with your little ones as much as possible!

Friday 30th March—15th April - Kinder holidays

Monday 16th April - Term 2 Commences

Thursday 19th April - Blue and Red Group Mini Commonwealth Games Day

Friday 20th April - Yellow Group Mini Commonwealth Games Day

Sunday 22nd April - Kinder Family Portrait Day

Thursday 26th April - Blue and Red Group Incursion Aboriginal Culture

Saturday 5th May - Diamond Valley Early Learning Expo
*requesting volunteers

Saturday 2nd June - Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
*SAVE THE DAY TO HELP OUR KINDER RAISE MONEY



We are looking for parents who can volunteer an hour on Saturday 5th May 8.30-12.30 at the Diamond Valley Library. It's the annual Early Years Expo. This a great opportunity for new parents to hear about how wonderful our kinder is and help them select the right kinder for their child.

It's a wonderful way to give back to the kinder and only requires a small amount of your time.

Jo will be the teacher on duty on the day to answer all the teacher related questions.

Please contact Mel if you can help or for more information
0404 322 684 or
mellaf123@gmail.com

Blue and Red Group report

We are coming to the end of our first term already and will be commencing term two in a few short weeks.

The past few weeks have been very busy and filled with a lot of learning for the children. We had a visit from the Healthy Bite Dental Program. The children were involved in a group discussion about healthy eating and caring for their teeth and gums. The discussion included pictures and the chance for the children to become involved by selecting from a variety of different pictures of foods which they placed into two groups including sometimes foods and healthy options. They talked about appropriate brushing and they were given a demonstration from Saxon the dragon with a large tooth brush. The children who had permission had their teeth examined by the dentist and it was all done in a relaxed environment, so the children felt comfortable. The children all took home a small showbag with a tooth brush and a referral to the dentist for those that required it. This program was great to begin the year and really gave the children a good insight into healthy eating and the types of foods they should be including in their kinder lunches. We followed up from the program with stories, songs and discussions at group time about caring for their teeth and eating healthy foods.

We have had an incursion from Litter Sisters Do Lunch Program that reinforced these important messages about healthy eating. This program will also focus on fresh and non-packaged food items and how we can care for our planet by the things we place in our lunch boxes. This program runs through Banyule was enjoyed by the children and had great messages that were presented in a fun, entertaining way that appealed to the children. As a follow-up experience the children will enjoy a healthy eating game in small groups.

Our visit from visit from The Responsible Pet Program was very successful. It was great to have numerous parents attend for the parent sessions. Some families did indicate that their children were afraid of dogs. For those children, this was a great opportunity for them to be exposed to a well-trained dog in a safe and secure environment. This program taught the children important life skills about what to do when meeting an angry dog off lead when out in the community. The children learn steps through songs and repetitive actions what to do when in this situation and how best to protect themselves from harm.



Following the program, the children have been completing some sequencing activities to consolidate what they have learnt and the books they have made will go home with them to keep. We have also been continuing to sing the songs learnt at group time, so the children are very familiar with the steps taught within the program. They learnt the Four Step Approach to safety ask to pat a dog on a lead, as well as what to do when they see a dog off lead in the community. They also read stories which taught them important skills in how to treat their pets at home. Written documentation was sent home which would be beneficial for families to read through.

We have a DVD in the parent library for families to borrow and share with their children. The parent library is in the kitchen.

Games have been observed to obtain much interest so far this year and the children seem to enjoy participating in small groups and are learning important social skills, including cooperation, turn taking, fairness and listening and responding to others. The healthy food game also teaches them to identify and recognise a variety of foods and place them in the correct food groups by matching colours and pictures. Teachers guide and facilitate the learning in these experiences.

Over the past few weeks the children have continued to focus on experiences about themselves and their families and help them to feel a part of our kinder community. Many families have brought in family photos that will form part of their kinder portfolio. They have also been added to our families and friends book in the library corner. Please bring in a photo of your child's family so they can participate in this experience.

The children have drawn themselves and their families and have also recently participated in an experience that has involved lying on a large sheet of paper and being traced around. The many different parts of their body were mentioned as the crayon moved past them. They have then had their height measured and recorded and then enjoyed painting clothes and facial features on their outline to be cut out and hung around the room for display. This experience teaches them about body awareness, differences and assists them to feel a part of the kinder and the community. They also develop their creativity skills as well as their ability to manipulate and manage a variety of tools with increasing competence and skill. Many children showed great persistence and perseverance with the very difficult cutting task.

During the last week of kinder the cultural celebration of Easter will be visited, and the children will participate in some Easter related craft experiences. We hope to have an Easter hunt on the Last day of kinder.

Over the term break the children will be able to take home their kinder portfolios to share with their families. Families are encouraged to add information to the portfolios over the holiday period. The portfolios are required back at kinder on the first day of term as they form part of the children's individual records.

Next term Library borrowing will begin, and the children will be required to bring in a library bag on Thursdays for them to borrow a kindergarten library book. We hope that they will read and share these books with their families throughout the week. They will be required to return their book each Thursday to borrow again.



Social stories have continued to be read throughout the term teaching the children important skills in understanding and managing friendships, social interactions, play skills and communication. The children are currently learning many of the skills they require to build on relationships with others, develop resilience and learn how to manage disputes. Educators have been close by to guide and facilitate the learning. It is very important that the children are given opportunities to learn to work things out for themselves. It can be very tempting for adults to step in and take over however this may make the children feel that they are not capable of working problems out themselves and keeps them reliant on adults. They also need to learn why conflicts arise and how to resolve them.

As educators we support them by:

Making a connection with each child involved in the conflict.

Teaching children to use words rather than actions which have been regularly given to them through role modelling and through the social stories we read to them.

Helping children to say how they feel.

Helping them to communicate what they would like to happen

Supporting children to think of things they could do to try and solve the problem.

Acknowledge their efforts.

Children are just beginning to learn about empathy and to think about how others feel, so they may not realise when they say something to another child or leave a child out of a game that it can be very hurtful.

This is something educators deal with regularly. At kindergarten the children are engaged in social play for many hours and therefore many different interactions are occurring throughout the day. Early childhood provides many opportunities for learning for the children.

Last week all staff attended a workshop at Kalparrin on including children with Autism Spectrum disorder. This was a very valuable workshop that provided new strategies as well as consolidating some of the strategies for inclusiveness that we are already implementing in the program.

We would like to thank all families for their help at kindergarten, especially with our fruit routine. Please look for the new rosters and put your name down if you can assist us next term.

Next term will commence with the children involved in our kindergarten Mini Commonwealth Games on Thursday 19th April. The children will participate in various sporting activities both indoors and outdoors. We are hoping the children may be able to provide details of some of the sports that we can include following the real Commonwealth Games in the holidays. We will have a small 'ceremony' at the end of the day. Some assistance on this day would be appreciated.

On Thursday 26th April a cultural incursion has been organised. This is being supported by funding from a cultural grant that committee successfully applied for this term.

Later in the term we plan an excursion to the Diamond Valley Library along the walking track. Details will be provided at a later day when they have been confirmed.

The children are still required to wear sunhats while the UV is above 3. This is usually until the end of April but we sometimes get days in May where we need to wear our hats.

The children will continue to engage in outdoor play over the cooler months, so we encourage children to bring in a jacket and perhaps a beanie.

We hope that everyone has an enjoyable holiday time and look forward to seeing you in term two.

Tamara, Helen, Janine, Sharyn, Jo, Sylvia and Marilyn

Yellow Group's Newsletter

Yellow Group children have made a wonderful start to their Kinder year, with Term One complete, they are managing routines really well and independently. We have 19 children enrolled, including two children beginning next term as they will turn three. Some children are needing a bit more reassurance than others as they are still settling in, but we know that they will settle in their own time.

Easter celebrations were busy with the children using different stamping equipment using pastel coloured paints. The children were eager to do more Easter egg paintings so we extended this offering them other art experiences. The children managed really well using the stampers, often getting paint on their fingers and hands, which quite a few children do not like the feel of.



Yellow Group children were excited when they saw Boris outside holding a basket full of Easter eggs. The Easter Bunny must have tip toed outside when we were busy playing and left them for us!!! Yellow Group children went outside and found some Easter Bunny fluff and found the Easter eggs. We counted the eggs, there were 20, enough for everyone to have one

We have been very fortunate to have a parent helper for all of our Kinder sessions this term. We have been overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm that our parents. We are finding it busy with toileting, while still supervising the remainder of the group, so any extra help we can get is much needed and appreciated. It allows staff to focus and have more one-on-one time with each child. Thank you to all our parent/grandparent helpers for fruit and washing this term.

Yellow Group children continue to love our music group sessions each day, which we are now up to around 15 minutes. The children enjoy movement and action songs that encourage movement to music which enhances their listening skills. They have loved using the scarves and clave sticks too. Story time at the end of the session still remains a challenge, with many little three year olds tired and preferring to lie down on the floor. While encouraging independence skills with packing their bags at the end of the session we are mindful that this is taking a long time. Jo has begun singing a few finger play songs and action songs while Pauline assists the children. This has been working well. Due to this, especially on Fridays, we choose shorter stories and we have been listening to relaxation music while all lying down, eyes closed, focussing on our breathing. We often blow our magic bubbles or wave a soft scarf over the children.

Boris our Travelling Bear will begin sleepovers at the children's homes next term. Boris has been a part of our group and the children have been taking it in turns to hold Boris at Story times. He waves goodbye to the children after each session. We look forward to hearing about all of his adventures after the break. A diary will be sent home in a special bag with Boris at the end of each session, and on his return, we will read and hear about his time at Yellow Group's houses. Confidence and listening skills are practised as the children's self-esteem blossoms.

Term Two we will be looking at the season Autumn and how the environment changes during this time. With the cooler days drawing closer, our outdoor time will depend on the weather. At the moment we are making the most of the lovely sunny days and often spend our entire Friday sessions outside, bringing craft experiences into the outdoor environment for those children wishing to participate. Please remember to pack named, warm jackets and beanies for the children as we will still venture outside on cold days.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday time and Easter with your families and look forward to Term Two.

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****

2018 MAITENANCE ROSTER



We will hopefully have a new scheduled emailed out before the start of Term 2, sorry for any inconvenience.

FUNDRAISING

Apollo Parkways Preschool Fundraiser!!

Get your family portrait for Mother's Day!

**We only need 2 more families to book a time slot for this fundraiser
to be a success!!**

Dont miss out, book today!

Just the kids, the whole family or maybe even grandparents?

It's up to you!

The photo session will be held on Sunday 22nd April. Book your photo session time online. The full \$15 payment goes to the kinder and you receive an 8 x 12 print and "petite bottle" frame and print.

Additional photos and can be purchased on the day if you choose, various packages are available.

Thank-you for your support the fundraising team!!

**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 1300 557 446 (03) 9995 3586



MINI COMMONWEALTH SPORTS DAY

Please return donations by 27/04/18



Woolworths Earn & Learn 2017

This is the equipment we were able to purchase with parents/grandparents tokens.

Many Thanks to all who donated tokens.



Below is a paid advertisement:

2018 classes begin
Monday 5th February,
Wednesday 7th February
& Thursday 1st March



All age groups welcome to our friendly & successful club
Fun, Fitness, Singing, Dancing, Gymnastics, Flexibility,
Confidence, Co-ordination, Laughter & Friendship

COME AND TRY 2 LESSONS FREE

♥ new members only ♥



Tinies: 4.30pm – 5.30pm (Mon) 3-7 years
Sub Juniors: 5.00pm – 7.00pm (Wed) 8-10 years
Juniors: 5.30pm – 7.30pm (Mon) 11-13 years
Intermediates: 7.00pm – 9.30pm (Wed) 14-17 years
Seniors: 7.30pm – 10.00pm (Mon) 16 years & over
Masters: 7.30pm – 9.30pm (Thurs) 26 years &

For further information or enquiries
please contact

Penny: 0409 948 271

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www.bundooracalisthenicsclub.com.au