



Newsletter Issue 5 August 2018



DATES TO DIARISE:

Wednesday 29th Aug - Father's Day Celebration 5-6.30pm

Red & Blue Groups

Thursday 30th Aug—NO KINDER, Staff DEKTA conference

Friday 31st Aug—Fathers Day Celebration Yellow Group

5.30-6.30pm

Saturday 8th Sept—Major Working Bee **Yang, Byrne, De Poi, Barbante, Badhe, Brown (Ayesha), Li (Ross), Coelho**

Thursday 20th Sept—Footy Day Red Group

Friday 21st Sept—Footy Day Blue & Yellow Group

Friday 21st Sept—LAST DAY TERM 3

Monday 8th Oct - FIRST Day TERM 4

Hi everyone,

Hope everyone had a good Term 2 break and we are now back into full swing in Term 3 with lots happening. But before I forget, I would just like to thank Peita for organising our pie fundraiser towards the end of Term 2 and to all families who bought pies. In total we raised almost \$200 which is an awesome effort.

The other fantastic news that we received towards the end of last term with the visit of Vicki Ward to the kinder, was that we have been allocated \$70,000 for renovations to our office space. These renovations will provide a much better work environment for the teachers and also provide a space where teachers can engage with parents privately and comfortably. The money is with council and we have already had a visit from their Capital Works team to assess the site and will work closely with them in coming months with the project.

I will leave Helen to announce the other 'big news' in her message below but rest assured the committee is already working hard to ensure a very smooth transition for next year.

As we are well into Term 3 now, I would just like to highlight to all families to please help to pay your fees on time. We understand not everyone's financial situation is the same but when there are outstanding fees or late payment, it makes a lot of unnecessary extra administrative costs and work for the preschool following up. We are here to help but please just make contact with our book keeper, Marisa Puccio at Apollo.parkways.account@kindergarten.vic.gov.au to set up a payment plan. At the end of the day, the kinder is a non profit organisation that relies on prompt payment to run smoothly.

Well that's all from me for now! Looking forward to warmer days!

Cheers,
Hui Ping

A Message from Helen

After much deliberation I have made the decision that I will soon be retiring from teaching. This year will be my last year of teaching a four-year-old group. Sadly, I will be leaving Apollo Parkways at the end of this year.

I will continue to be fully committed to our kindergarten, the children and their families until the end of this year and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year.

I would like to thank all our kindergarten families who have given me the privilege of working with them and their children over the years I have been working at Apollo Parkways.



Blue and Red Group

We have a great start back to term three with most of the children being present each day. There has been some illness and a few holidays but overall the children are enjoying being back at kinder.



The children took their kindergarten portfolios home over the break to view and have brought them back to kinder the first week back which is great. We hope families enjoyed sharing them with the children.

The children have continued to enjoy outdoor play during the cooler weather and we are pleased that most children are bringing coats to wear outdoors. There has been an increased interest in painting since return-



ing and winter inspired colours at the easel have inspired them to paint snowmen, stormy skies, snow and rain. The recent addition of dinosaur sponges to print with has inspired another flurry of paintings. Many paintings are displayed for families to view. Blue children have also been developing their creativity with a winter painting for an ongoing calendar project. Their ideas have been noted and many of them relate to the cold weather, snow ice, rain and include family members and friends. Red group children chose to make a winter collage for this project with lots of cutting and pasting involved.

Our home corner has been adjusted with Winter clothing and attire, so the children become aware of the change of clothing in accordance with the different seasons. We have talked about wearing beanies and coats outdoors and have looked at posters that show us some of the changes that occur in our environment during winter.

Our visual schedule is continuing to be used each day at group times and the children are becoming increasingly cooperative and able to follow the daily routines and move through transitions with ease. We have been eating lunch indoors. Sometimes the children find where they are sitting by finding their name cards at the tables. On other days they are given the opportunity to select where they would like to sit.



We are giving the children increased opportunities at kindergarten to assist with food preparation and cleaning up tasks that assist with transitions. Some children are increasingly eager to complete these tasks and it often gives some of the older children the opportunity to demonstrate leadership roles at kinder.

We have introduced cooking at kindergarten following our introduction with vegetable soup last term. The children made pumpkin soup and were part of the process of cutting up the vegetables to add to the stock to create the soup. All the children were able to try the soup before their lunch at kinder. At group times we have been discussing some of the options for cooking this term. We have also made pizza and will be looking at creating some more dishes including, fried rice, and pasta and possibly a sweet item such as muffins or pancakes or sausage rolls.



We had a visit from Bec from Bunnings Warehouse Eltham Community Activities Program. She came to assist with the planting out of our vegetable garden. She brought in seedlings for each of the children to plant. She gave us some great ideas about the continued care and maintenance of our garden and gave us some of the products we need to do this including plant food, watering can and spades for digging. The children have been enjoying watering the plants and are showing increased care and respect for our garden since it has been planted out. We thank Bunnings for their generous donation of Bec's time and the supplies she brought with her.

Over the coming weeks we are looking forward to our dance program with Nicole. We began with Dinosaurs which has been an interest for many of the children this year. Our next topic is vegetable gardens with the intent of reinforcing the learning from our Bunnings incursion.

This term all the children will have a turn to talk about something from nature/ the environment much the same as they were able to bring in their favourite stories last term. It is expected that these talks will be very simple and come from the children. We have talked about the concept of 'nature' with the children at Kinder. It may be a plant they have been growing at home, some seeds they have found, something about our earth, sky or oceans that interest them. There are endless possibilities and we look forward to sharing these times with the children.



Our 'ThingleToodle' visits provided the opportunity for the children to learn about keeping themselves safe near traffic. The main topics were holding hands with an adult near traffic and what to practice if you want to cross a road: Stop, Look, Listen, Think. We will build on these learning experiences in the coming weeks.

Fathers Evening is planned for Wednesday 29th August from 5.00pm to 6.30pm for both red and blue groups. The children have made invitations for their fathers and are making cards and gifts. They are looking forward to having their dads visit them at kindergarten.

On Thursday 20th and Friday 21st September the children will celebrate the last day of term with a Footy Day.



On Friday the 17th of August and Monday 20th August Tamara and Helen will be holding 10-minute interviews for all families which will be being conducted at Apollo Parkways Primary School. Rosters have been put out for families to fill in a time slot. Bronwyn McMahon will relieve for both these sessions. We greatly appreciate APPS allowing us to use their facilities. She will also relieve for Tamara whilst she is on my Long Service leave from 21st August until

4th September. Helen will be taking one weeks leave from 3rd September to 6th September. Bronwyn will work with red group for this week.



Tamara attended a meeting that discussed the new funding that will be being allocated to kindergartens for an Early Childhood Language Program. Applications for this program opened in Mid-July and close in mid-August. Once applications have been submitted an announcement will be made in October letting kinder know where they have been successful in receiving the funding. Evidence to support the application is necessary such as surveying families at the preschool to obtain information about cultural backgrounds, diversity. The funding can provide kinder with up

The funding can provide kinder with up to 3 hours of language per week. We thank those families who have completed their survey and plan to have our application in by the closing date.

Due to staff attending the DEKTA conference on Thursday 30th August there will be no sessions on this day. Apologies for any inconvenience.

In July our visit from Vicki Ward resulted in the announcement of \$70,000 has been allocated for our new administration/ office space. Banyule City Council will manage this project. We are hoping this project will move quickly so that everyone can start to benefit from the changes.

Looking forward to the coming term,
Helen, Tamara, Janine, Sharyn, Merilyn, Jo and Sylvia

Yellow Group's Newsletter Report.

Wow Term Three is well and truly underway. Where has that time gone? This term we have Adrian and Isaac away overseas with their families. We are all missing them and hope they are having an amazing time. We look forward to their return in Term Four. Yellow Group children are now all completely settled into their Kinder routine and are becoming more independent with unpacking and repacking their Kinder bags. Please continue to encourage your child to carry their own Kinder bags into Kinder and place their own drink bottle and piece of fruit on the trolley. They all now know which is their locker so they are capable of placing it in there too. It is obviously a lot quicker to unpack your child's bag, however the skills that they learn when they do this themselves is really valuable. Their self-esteem and confidence builds and independence skills are practised as they learn to do things for themselves. Praising their efforts also aids in their development and makes them feel valued and important.

Part of our routine on arrival is for the children to find their own photo and place it on our friendship tree. Allow your child time to look through the basket and find theirs and place it on our tree. This friendship tree is our way of encouraging the children to feel like they belong to a group, to our Kinder, to Yellow Group and their own way of 'signing in'. Yellow Group have now also added to their departure routine of taking theirs off the tree, to 'sign out'. We love watching the enthusiasm on the children's faces as they find theirs or their friend's photos.

The season of Winter has been included as part of our program this Term. We have had many sessions inside due to the wet and extremely cold and windy days. Please still pack warm jackets and beanies for your child as we will still venture outside, even if only for a quick run and play. The days we are unable to go outside we have an extended music session focussed on more movement and gross motor skills. Yellow Group are loving music so it is easy to make our group times longer. We have been using scarves, making rainbows and moving them to the beat of the music. There are often requests for songs and lately stories too. We accommodate and often read stories at the end of the session that the children have asked for or chosen from the bookshelf too. That is often how the program changes as well by the interests of the group or individuals or their needs or challenges.



Over the past few weeks I have been focusing on some portfolio work one-on-one with the children. The children were asked to look into a mirror placed in front of them and draw themselves. While they do this I take a photo and take observations on hand preference, hand grip, posture, at what stage of drawing they are up to eg- recognisable. This will then be extended and more observations taken to compare their progress when they do their tea towel drawings in Term Four. It has been a great opportunity to see what stage each individual child is up to.

Pauline has been focusing on the puzzle table and also taking observations on how each child manages with different challenging puzzles. While it is important to challenge the children with harder puzzles, we also do offer more simplistic puzzles that they can easily do, this promotes their self – esteem and confidence when they can successfully do a puzzle independently. Puzzles are rotated fortnightly or when we feel that the children need different ones.



Marlise from the Diamond Valley Library did an incursion for Yellow Group. Thanks to Helen for organising this. Both the four year old groups also booked her and we were fortunate to be included in this. Yellow group love listening to stories and this was certainly evident when Marlise visited. She read the group two stories, one all about what the Library is about and what it offers. Lots of conversation started as the children recognised the library, guinea pigs and playground. Marlise gave all the children a little 'show bag' with a colouring in page and information about getting their own library card. Before Marlise arrived, Yellow Group made her a special thank you card with drawings from some of the children, which she loved receiving.

We had Tiarne from St Helena College on work experience for two sessions. She was a wonderful help with the children, spending time assisting with puzzles, reading stories and playing simple games with them. It was great to have a student who easily 'fitted in' with our group and routine who the children enjoyed playing with. She received many drawings from the children while in our sessions.

FATHER'S NIGHT AT KINDER.

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST. 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Father's Day invites have been made and sent home. We are having our special Father's Day evening on Friday 31st August from 5:30-6:30. The children attempted to write their own names on their invitations and draw a picture of their Dads. Wrapping paper has also begun at the easel with the children choosing a car, aeroplane, truck and motorbike to print with using different coloured paints. A gift has also started its first process, without giving away what they are making, the children have used water based paints to paint part of their gifts. At group time Yellow Group were asked what their Dads like to eat so we can plan a small snack for them to share on the night. We are still brainstorming what we will have, some suggestion were – chocolate, Nutella sandwiches, nuggets, vegemite sandwiches, fish and chips, pizza and fruit...Look out Dads, you never know what you may be served with... We are fortunate to have Bec from Eltham Bunnings coming on Monday 20th August to do an Incursion related to Father's Day with Yellow Group during our session. We have planned a fun craft activity that will be part of the Dad's gifts. We look forward to seeing our Dads at Kinder for a fun filled night.

BUNNINGS INCURSION – MONDAY 20TH AUGUST

Boris our Travelling Bear has now completed his sleepovers at all of Yellow Group's houses. He had an amazing time, was very busy and very clever by the sounds of his adventures. It was a wonderful experience for the children to be a part of. Their confidence with public speaking was outstanding and great to see the rest of the group listening to their peers as they spoke, learning respect and patience. As an extension of this, we have begun Show and Tell bags this term. The children will all get to take our special bags home, choosing ONE item from home to share with the group. Instructions are inside the bags. Two children are chosen each session, depending what order they took Boris home, and the bags are brought back the next session. It is a great opportunity to us to all learn a bit more about each other, what the child's interests are and favourite things. We look forward to this special activity.



A special mention to our parent helpers who continue to assist with cutting and serving our fruit and doing our washing every week. Thank you all so much.

It is time to bring Sunsmart hats back to Kinder. Our Sunsmart policy states that the children are required to wear sunsmart hats when the UV is three or above. Please remember to provide your child with a hat which can be left at Kinder in our hat pockets for the remainder of the year.

We look forward to a busy Term Three.

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	Minor Working Bee	Families
Sat 25 Aug 2018	Minor Working Bee	Baldwin
Sat 1 Sep 2018	FATHERS DAY Minor Working Bee	Li (Lucas)
Sat 8 Sep 2018	Major Working Bee 3	Yang, Byrne, De Poi, Barbante, Badhe, Brown (Ayesha), Li (Ross), Coelho
Sat 15 Sep 2018	Mini Working Bee	Mazzeo
Sat 22 Sep 2018	Term Break	Hardy
Sat 29 Sep 2018	Term Break	
Sat 6 Oct 2018	Term Break- Minor Working Bee	Zhang
Sat 13 Oct 2018	Minor Working Bee	Lauronce Sardina
Sat 20 Oct 2018	Major Working Bee 4	Lacey, Smith (Lila), Siu, Brown (Matilda), Wright, Sanfilippo, Mazzeo, Li (Lucas)
Sat 27 Oct 2018	Minor Working Bee	Galarregui
Sat 3 Nov 2018	Mel Cup Minor Working Bee	Suryahardja
Sat 10 Nov 2018	Minor Working Bee	Li (Ross)
Sat 17 Nov 2018	Minor Working Bee	Gilham
Sat 24 Nov 2018	Minor Working Bee	Brown (Ayesha)
Sat 1 Dec 2018	Minor Working Bee	Taaffe
Sat 8 Dec 2018	Minor Working Bee	Willis
Sat 15 Dec 2018	Minor Working Bee	Sayour
Sat 22 Dec 2018	Term Break	
Sat 29 Dec 2018	Term Break	

Many of the Four Year Old parents are asking how they can help get their children ready for school next year:

Here are some fun Ideas to help your pre-schooler build their fine motor skills, ready for writing next year.

Playing with playdough

Cutting up old magazines & paste into a scrap book

Threading with beads onto pipe cleaners

Poking straws into holes

Pasta necklace

Finger paint

Stacking cups

Zippping Zips, doing up buttons

Pinterest has some great ideas too

Have fun & embrace the mess

