



Newsletter

WEEK 8 TERM 1: 21st March 2016



Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear Parents,

In the last two weeks we have had several children sharing their family posters which have now been put up on display. This is a good way for them to talk about their life and what they enjoy. The teachers are able to support them with the information provided on the posters. It has been good to see even the quieter children rise to the challenge of sharing in a large group. If you haven't had a chance to make a poster with your child as yet it would be good to start working on it as there are only a few weeks left of the term.

I hope you all appreciated a break from the busy routines with the recent long weekend. The staff team had a productive Professional Development Conference with the Mitcham Hills Partnership which we are part of. We were looking at executive function and how this can be encouraged in young children. This is a strong predictor of later success at school as outlined in research we were shown. This involves impulse control, working memory, and cognitive flexibility. We have been introducing this thinking in our program in recent years so it was good to share with other teachers and learn more about ways to support the children to develop these skills. If you would like to talk more about this with the staff team they would be pleased to share with you how we are using this concept in our program.

Last week we had a busy time with a visit from Monty Pryor (Boori) on Wednesday who shared some of his early experiences of life, showed us how to play the yiggi yiggi (didgeridoo) and lead us in some dancing to the music as we pretended to be different animals. He finished by sharing an Aboriginal Dreamtime story and then the children did some artwork decorating an outline of his yiggi yiggi and boomerang. He is a wonderful ambassador of Aboriginal Australians and it is a privilege to have him come and share with us. The children quickly warmed to his presentation and were sad when he finished and had to leave. He will be visiting with us again on Thursday so if your child missed out last week please try and bring them in on Thursday at 10am, there is no charge to you for this experience and parents may attend as well.

On Thursday (March 17th) last week it was St Patrick's Day and we celebrated with the Irish by singing along with some Irish children's songs and making flags and pictures with shamrocks. There are some beautiful posters (donated to us by the Irish Tourist Board) and the results of the children's efforts up on the board near the storeroom door.

This week we will be asking the children to make a promise to take their work book home to share with their families and look after it carefully. We will be explaining what a promise is, which also fits in with our teaching of trust. This may be a new concept for your child and you may like to talk about what trust might mean in your family. We hope that you will have time to look at your child's work book and encourage their learning by adding a comment at the end of their work.

Kind Regards Cynthia Meredith

Diary Dates

Boori / Monty Pryor
Aboriginal Story Teller
Thurs 24th 10am

Assembly visit HPS
Wed March 30th

AGM Kindy Gov Council
Wed 30th March 7:15 for 7:30pm start -

Alioune Market Week
Mon April 4---Fri April 8
a volunteer coordinator needed

Kindy Working Bee Sat April 9th 8am-12noon

Funtastics Family Days
Tues 12th April
Wed 13th April

Regular Events

Tuesdays

Morning: Shared fruit

Wednesdays

Morning: Shared fruit

Hawthorndene Primary School reception children will visit when personnel from the school can make appropriate arrangements.

Fridays:

9:30am-11:30am Playgroup

Monty Pryor---Aboriginal Entertainer Thurs 24th -10am

On Thursday we will have another visit from Monti (Boori) who is a very skilled performer and relates well to the children. We hope that all of the children will be able to enjoy his talents. This incursion will be at no charge to families and is part of our curriculum program. **If your child does not normally attend on Thursday and did not attend last Wednesday please could you arrange with the staff team to bring your child on Thursday so that they will not miss this wonderful experience. You can enjoy the experience with your child as well if you are able to attend.**

Hawthorndene Primary School Assembly visit---Wednesday March 30th

We will be walking across to the school leaving the kindergarten at approximately 11:35am so that we can arrive in good time for the start of the assembly at 11:50am. We will need some adults to accompany us on the walk to the school if you are able to attend please speak with the staff team as soon as possible. We will be returning to the kindergarten at approximately 12:30pm.

Annual General Meeting Kindy Governing Council- Wed March 30th 7:30pm

We need your help by attending this meeting and supporting the important work of the kindergarten. Please make every effort to attend. We also need to appoint new office bearers as follows: **Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, HPS Rep, Library/Literacy Kit Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator and committee members.** This is a voluntary committee and you will be rewarded by knowing that you are continuing the work of a long tradition of parents who have made this kindergarten a wonderful place for children and adults to learn together. Don't miss out on this chance to be part of building a future for all of the families in our area. Please give consideration to the above positions. There is a leaflet which will be available for you outlining what these positions entail. The staff team will support you at every step and this is a great way to learn operating procedures of working committees. The previous committee members can attest to the benefits of being part of the committee.

Kindy Working Bee --- Sat April 9th 8am -12noon

Come and have some fun working together with other families who are part of this kindergarten community. Each term it is necessary to have a working bee to tidy up the grounds and clean up the equipment. Your help would be much appreciated if at least one member of your family could come along and help with these tasks or offer to do a task at a more convenient time. The children often come along to help with the clean-up as well. This term we need to

- replenish the soft fall to ensure the children are kept safe when climbing
- clean the windows, lockers and PVC blinds
- sweep/blow vac all the paths including behind the building
- weed and tidy the vegie garden, butterfly garden and rainbow garden
- sift the sandpit
- clean the path around the gates
- clear out the boat
- sweep out the walkway between the building and the shed
- sweep out both of the sheds



We urgently need some people to help the children in the kindy garden if you have skills in this area and would like to help please speak with the staff team.

Alioune Market Week—Mon April 4th--Fri April 8th



Each term we will have a week of a special stall at the kindergarten raising money to support our sponsor child Alioune who lives in Senegal. The arrangements for raising the money is simple. Families bring their unwanted household items (please only contribute items which are in working order and suitable for another family to use), or tasty cooked treats, plants, craft items. (Do you have a hidden talent which you would like to showcase?) In most cases items are unpriced and we ask everyone to place a donation in exchange for the item taken in the box provided.

Each year we ask if there is a parent willing to be the coordinator of this market stall. Last year Kylie B one of our mums delighted in this task and added her own special flair to the market. If you would be able to support the kindergarten in this way we ask you to set up the stall on Monday with the goods already donated and then take the unwanted items to a charity shop of your choice at the end of the week (we usually have it available for playgroup on Friday but this can be negotiated).

Funtastics Family Days Tues 12th April, Wed 13th April

The Annual Family Funtastics Day is our biggest fundraising family event for the year. This year there will be two Funtastics Family Fundraising Days.

The first day will be Tuesday 12th April and the second day will be Wednesday 13th April which will give most of the children a special day to enjoy showing their friends and family their gross and fine motor skills as they move around the obstacle course 4 times.



The day starts at the normal time for the children so that they can have a chance to go around the course before their cheer squad (parents and friends) arrives. Spectators are asked to arrive at 10:15am. The staff team construct the course early on the first morning and if there are any parents able to come and help that would be great. We also need parent volunteers to supervise some of the activities on the day as well so that the children are well cared for as they complete the course. At various points around the course the children gain stamps on their competitor cards so parent volunteers can also help with this task.

Each child is sponsored by family and friends for each lap of the course they complete. The sponsorship money will be collected next term. The maximum number of laps all the children will complete is 4.

The mornings will finish with a family sausage sizzle / sweetcorn lunch. There will be a small charge for the food (Sausage, bread and onions \$2.50/sweetcorn 50c).

Don't forget your cameras and spare chairs so that you can take in all the action!

We need some *parent volunteers*, to collect the food prior to the event as well as cook and serve on the days. Can you help we can't do this without your support! Please let us know if you can help.

School holiday pet?

Would you like to have a pet for the holidays? We have two adorable turtles who have no home for the holidays. Would you like to find out how easy they are to care for? Why not speak with one of the staff team today or send an email so that you can have this opportunity. *First in best dressed* as the saying goes. All the other creatures have found homes for the holidays thankyou.

Shared Fruit is on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings please put it on the tray in the kitchen when your child arrives.

Please don't hesitate to share with the staff team if you have any concerns,
We wish you a happy family time for the Easter break,
Cynthia Meredith, Louise Montesi, Tess Gibbs and Lenka Velisek.