Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear Parents,

I hope you have taken the time to look at the many family posters on display in the main room. The children have been gaining valuable experience sharing them with their peers at group time. We have also had a number of Birthday Celebrations with the Around the Sun Ceremony and it is good to see the way everyone knows the routine of this event. If your child has a birthday this month please make sure you make a time to come in and share this celebration with us. I will shortly be sending out information about this so look out for the email.

We are quickly coming to the end of the term so if you would still like to complete the family poster with your child please do so soon.

We have had another visit from Monty Pryor our Aboriginal Cultural educator and the children have learnt a great deal about the first Australians and have been shown the difficult technique of playing a didgeridoo or yiggi yiggi.

Our visit to the Hawthorndene Primary School assembly was a great opportunity for the children to experience a large school in action. The assembly focussed on Harmony Day which we had spoken about earlier so it was good to have a link with our curriculum. We also sang the National Anthem and the kindy children were able to join in with some of the words as well.

As part of our child protection curriculum we have been talking with the children about trust and how important this is both for them to be able to trust others and for their word to be trusted. Young children sometimes take time to understand this concept and can confuse this with being ‘tricky’ but we are encouraging them to always tell the truth even when they may have done the wrong thing so that others will trust them.

Kind Regards Cynthia Meredith
It was disappointing to have so few attend the AGM last week but thankyou to those who were able to come. All families were sent by email the annual report but if you would like a hard copy please speak with a staff member, it will also be available on the website shortly. Being a member of the Governing Council of this kindy is a unique opportunity to make a contribution to its governance and support the staff team as they develop the curriculum for your children. At the conclusion of the next meeting there will be Responding to Abuse and Neglect training which is required for all parent volunteers. The staff team need to have your support for excursions and other areas of the curriculum so please make this date a priority Tuesday 10th May which is the second week of Term 2. The meeting will commence at 7pm and it is planned to start the training at 7:45pm.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter there are several executive positions that are needed on the governing council, congratulations to the following persons who were elected on Tuesday night:
Natalie Jenkins as Chairperson
Liz Farquharson as Secretary
Penelope Elliott as Hawthorndene Primary School Representative
Prue Welsh as Literary Kit and Library Coordinator
Renae Montaniero as Fundraising Coordinator

The following positions urgently need to be filled: Treasurer, Garden Coordinator, Alioune Coordinator---- could you please consider your availability to take up these tasks: The director will provide information about what these positions involve. Previous volunteer treasurers have found their experience has assisted them in gaining fulltime employment later.

This week is our Alioune Market week stall, where we raise the money to support our World Vision Sponsor Child in Senegal, Africa. His name is Alioune and he is now a teenager, we began supporting him at age 4. Please can you support the stall by placing your unwanted household items, toys, clothes, plants or tasty cooked treats. We also need buyers so come in and view the goods placing a donation in the box for the items you take. We have volunteers to set up and pack up for this term but if you are able to coordinate this in the coming terms please speak with the staff team.

Don't forget to 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 as 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, it will arrive on the day
- 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. If you are unable to join us on Saturday please could you put your name against one of the tasks to do at another time.

**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 practice on 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. If you can come early to help would be great. We also need parent volunteers to supervise some of the activities on the day to ensure the children are kept safe as they proceed around the course. Please keep your prekindergarten children off the course at all times. 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. (sponsorship form in your email, hard copies available)

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. Please let us know if you can help.**

Please don’t hesitate to share with the staff team if you have any concerns,

Don’t forget to look in your child’s pocket each time you come to kindy to ensure you don’t miss any notices, they are on the outside windows of the kindy.

* Cynthia Meredith, Louise Montesi, Tess Gibbs and Lenka Velisek. 