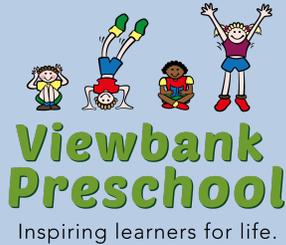


Newsletter TERM 1 2016



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Preschool Committee - Welcome to Term 1!

Hello all and welcome to 2016 at Viewbank Preschool.

I want to firstly thank all the parents who have kindly volunteered their time as members of the Committee of Management this year. Like so many not for profit organisations, the kinder relies heavily on volunteers to ensure we can continue to offer such a vital service for our children. The Committee is already busily working away, including our first Working Bee completed in early February to prepare the grounds for the start of the kinder year, and our Welcome BBQ held in late February. Thanks to all those who helped make both events such a success.

There are many more events throughout the year and I would encourage all parents and families to get involved where possible. We are also always in need of volunteers for working bees, kinder duty and assisting the committee in planning and carrying out events so please help wherever you can. You can keep up to date with all the latest news and event details on our website (<http://www.viewbankpreschool.com.au>), noticeboard and pockets near the front door.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome back all our educators and co-educators for 2015, including our newest staff member Barb who has taken over as Blue Group teacher whilst Sofia takes 2016 off on Maternity leave. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful Staff educating and caring for our children. The testimonials on our website show just how highly regarded our Staff are by the parents.

The Staff and Committee have an exciting year ahead and we look forward to seeing everyone becoming involved with our preschool community.

James Elliott
President

BLUE GROUP

- **Friday, 11th March**
Healthy Harold-Becoming Healthy
- **Wednesday, 16th March,**
Responsible Pet Education Program.
- **Thursday 24th March**
Lapathon

GREEN GROUP

- **Thursday 24th March**
'Lapathon Day' and Last Kinder Session for Term 1.

Red Group



A warm welcome to our wonderful red group families. We have had a great start to 2016 and the group has settled in very well. Well done managing to navigate our staggered intake with no confusion. Hoping everyone is feeling part of our community now. Thank-you so much for all the input into our program so far. It is very much appreciated by myself and Merryn.

The children each have a portfolio in the room. These are filling up already with the very busy work we have been doing. We invite you to contribute to the portfolio if you like. Portfolios need to stay at the kinder so please come in any time to have a look along with your child. Families will be taking portfolio's home over the mid-year holidays. Red group are managing themselves very well throughout the sessions with great independence skills. We have learnt the rules and limits at kinder and the children have done well at remembering them most of the time. Our biggest challenge at the moment is listening to more than one instruction before we begin our transition to the next routine. We are all very excited about eating times and the children have had very big appetites after all their play.

Interests throughout the term have been - Police and firemen imaginary play, finding interesting living things in our garden, cooking up a storm in the sand-pit, big block building and making stick puppets which we used in the puppet theatre.

A stick insect was found and many of the children had a go at drawing it at the drawing table. We set up an enclosure for it and talked about only keeping it for a short time as it needs lots of space in the garden to be happy.

After the rain the children found snails which they collected and put in a snail house we created from a cardboard box. Ying made a lantern at the drawing table over the Chinese New Year period. This was a great activity for everyone to do after we have been practising our scissor skills. She showed the group how to make them at group time. Everyone in the group had a go at making them. They make our room look so colourful hanging from the roof.

Connor told us how his family like to go on bush walks. We went on an imaginary bushwalk and found a Bunyip in a cave! Some of the children wondered what a Bunyip was. We have been looking at and drawing pictures found on the iPad. We have also been on an imaginary Jungle walk!

We have been drawing self-portraits and completing "About Me" sheets which record our physical characteristics including our weight and height. We will do this again at the end of the year and see what has changed.

We have been sharing our family stories with the group. We have been discussing families and how they are all different. It is nice to see the children counting their pets as family members. We have been drawing pictures of our families to put into our portfolios.

Worms, composting, and recycling have been a big focus. It was great to have a visit from Rachel from Edendale farm. The children are very knowledgeable on worms now and they probably know more than you! We have set up a worm farm and a monitor list where the children will work in pairs cutting up our left over fruit and vegetables. The children will have a learning story in their portfolio.

Healthy eating is our current learning focus. This will lead to healthy lifestyles and our Lapathon on the last day of term. We had a very exciting visit from Healthy Harold the giraffe. We learnt about healthy eating and healthy daily practises such as drinking water and milk, being active, bathing, brushing our teeth, resting, and sleeping. The children will have a learning story in their portfolio.

Next week we will have a visit from The Responsible Pet Education program. A pet dog will be coming to help teach us how to be safe around dogs and how to say hello to dogs with their owners. There will be lots of listening, role plays, singing and some dancing. Please come along to the parent session if you can at the start of the Wednesday session. We are very excited about our Calm4Kids Yoga program coming to kinder next term. This will be a weekly program at 10am on Monday mornings. More information to come.

That's all for now. Look out for the term 2 duty roster coming out soon.

Green Group

We have delighted in welcoming you all to our kindergarten and we look forward to a very happy time together. It has been wonderful to see the children settling in so well at kindergarten – they are all showing great enthusiasm to participate in our kindergarten activities and are enjoying anticipating and participating in our kindergarten routines of pack-up, group and fruit times.

The children are managing very well looking after their hats and 'having a go' at putting their back packs on by themselves. Obviously we are here to help when needed, but it is wonderful to see their sense of achievement and confidence grow when they try and are ultimately successful in doing things for themselves.

The children had a wonderful time decorating and putting their 'leaf' on our 'Belonging Tree' - and they were very excited to show their grown-up at the end of the session. We talked about our leaves being green for Green group, red for Red group and blue for Blue Group. The children are still interested to find their leaf to show other children where they are. As well as a fun activity, this is a wonderful visual way to clearly show the children that they belong to - and are a valued part - of our kindergarten community, and directly links to the Identity and Community outcomes that we use in our planning.

Through a range of activities and experiences we have been learning all about taking turns and sharing, Sun Smart, sitting as a group [for music, discussion, singing, creative movement], sea creatures - including fish printing, colour mixing, shapes, size differentiation, Emergency Fire Drill. We have been very busy!

We are now 'in training' for our Lapathon! We have already started practicing our hurdling and climbing skills at group time and will get the 'hurdles' out this week for the children to use. It should be lots of fun! [We tend to focus on the cheering more than the gross motor skills for the 3yos!]

Green Group Fruit Time

JUST A REMINDER: THIS IS A NUT FREE KINDERGARTEN –NO NUT

PRODUCTS [EG PEANUT BUTTER, NUTELLA, MUESLI BARS ETC] We have children at kindergarten who have food allergies so severe that they are life-threatening and need to have an EpiPen with them at all times. In case of an allergic reaction this adrenalin would have to be administered by staff immediately before taking the child by MICA ambulance to hospital.

- Please provide fruit only as a snack for your child. –please no biscuits etc.
- Simpler and safer for children with allergies if we don't have to worry about what ingredients may be in biscuits etc.
- For those children who aren't great 'fruit eaters', maybe a variety of small pieces of fruit, cheese, celery, or dried fruit. Please feel free to pack a drink bottle in your child's kinder bag, but we will provide water, as needed, and at fruit time we have water jugs and glasses [an opportunity for the children to practice their pouring and social skills – taking turns pouring, passing to the next person etc.]

We look forward to lots more fun and learning!
Denise and Merryn

Blue Group

We have had a great start to the year in Blue Group. The children have settled well and arrive smiling and excited to begin their day. The children are becoming more familiar with daily routines and beginning to form new friendships within the group.

We are enjoying group times and getting better at listening to who is speaking, waiting for a turn and sitting appropriately on the mat and keeping our hands on our own body. The children are really enjoying the songs, rhymes and action songs they have learnt.

A number of children have had the opportunity to share their **family stories**. We have enjoyed hearing about our friend's families and chatting about how they are all different and like doing different things. Once we have all presented our family stories we will put them all together as a book and take it in turns to take them home and read with our family.

Flowing on from the '3 jellyfish' song we have created a **sea mural**. We made our own jellyfish (and learnt that some jellyfish have 4 eyes and some have 24!) and decorated some paper plate fish and finally worked together to roller paint 'a sea' to display them on. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and there was lots of discussion about the colours of the sea and what other animals live in the sea.

We have also drawn **self-portraits**, completed a **handprint** and recorded our **height and weight**, all of which we will review towards the end of the year.

Outdoors the children have enjoyed cricket, soccer and basketball. Plenty of fun has been had with water painting, sea animals, water wheels and containers in the trough and using water for cooking in the sandpit. Many children have also spent time, 'catching baddies' 'rescuing others' and 'putting out fires' as they role play police and fireman.

Last week we enjoyed a visit from **Rachel from Eden vale Farm**. Rachel shared lots of information with us about worms. She helped us refresh our worm farm and bought lots of new worms for us to keep in i.e. all had the opportunity to hold a worm (some of us were keener than others!) and learnt about what to feed them. We chose our first 'worm farm monitors' 'on Friday, everyone will have several opportunities to do this. Don't forget to take a look at **'Wilbur the Worm'** he is a giant worm we painted together hanging up in the kinder room.

Barb, Anna and Lulu.



NEW MULCH AROUND THE KINDER

Thank you to **'Trees R Us'** of Viewbank who happily donated a truckload of gorgeous eucalyptus mulch for all our kinder garden beds and surrounds, just in time for the Kinder Open Day on 27 February.

A huge thank you to **Damien La Prosa, Adam Selwood, George & Fiona Mitsinikos, Kylie Gualano, Matt Whelan, Kate Parkin** and my lovely husband **Neil Cook** for doing such a good job in spreading the mulch around the kinder and making it all look so wonderful. Great job guys!

For all your tree and stump removal, please contact Roger at Trees R Us on 0412 999 393 or info@treesrus.com.au

Jodi, Events Coordinator



TREES R US

- *Tree and stump removal
- * Target and weight reduction pruning
- *Bracing, possum guard
- *Fully qualified arborist
- *Free Quotes/fully insured

Mobile: 0412 999 393
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Visit our website for more information
www.treesrus.com.au



WELCOME BBQ 2016

Thank you to all the families that came along to enjoy our Welcome BBQ for 2016. Although it was an overcast 22 degrees, fortunately the rain held off and it was a fun night had by all! The children enjoyed playing with their newfound friends and it was great to get to know some of the mums and dads socially rather than rushing in and out of kinder drop off/pick up!



A big thank you to **"King George" and pals** for cooking the BBQ and all the other volunteers that helped on the night. We really couldn't have pulled off such a great night without that help. Special mention to **Tingting** who was our "official" photographer for the night.

Fiona, Jodi & Kylie

FUNDRAISING NEWS

A great evening was had by the Families who attended the 'Welcome BBQ' & we hope you met lots of new families in your child's group.

The fundraising committee raised close to \$300 with the sale of Sausages, drinks, & Smooze ice creams. Many thanks to those who helped set up and clean up on the night, we really couldn't have done it without the volunteers we had.

This year we have set a fundraising goal of \$6000 which will be raised throughout the year from sausage sizzles, vision portraits, Lapathon, various Raffles, Picture plates, Mothers & Father's Day stalls, Halloween Party, Bunnings BBQ, Kingsbury market stall, Entertainment Books & personalised calendars.

The teachers have created a "wish list" which includes New crash mats, rainbow tumbling mats, Fun boat, multi-purpose trestle, Bamboo building blocks, Active play tray, Colorful wing set plus more.

Upcoming Events

Vision Portraits on Saturday 19th March: Session times are now available online & we currently have 7 places free with 15 places already booked. The Preschool receives the entire \$15 sitting fee which goes towards our Fundraising goal & Families who participate receive a great photo of their family/kids and a frame. It will arrive in time for Mothers Day & makes a great gift for Grandma!!

Lapathon 23rd & 24th March: The annual Lapathon will take place at the Preschool with lots of great activities for the kids to participate in & is the Preschool's biggest fundraiser of the year. Sponsorship forms will be sent home this week in your child's pocket & we ask families to raise as much money as they can in sponsorship dollars, ask Grandma, Grandpa, aunts and uncles, every dollar helps in our fundraising efforts. The kids have a great time & parents are welcome to come down and cheer them on as they tackle the courses.

Easter Raffle: We have some wonderful prizes in our Easter Raffle including a Party Voucher for 10 kids at 'Skaterz' In Eltham, a delicious meat tray, an Easter Egg hamper and more. Tickets will be placed in your child's pocket this week and are just \$1 per ticket. Once again thanks to all our Wonderful Kinder families for supporting the Fundraising Committee in raising funds that go directly back into our kinder and enrich our kid's lives. We couldn't achieve what we do without the support of our Wonderful families, thank you.

*Fiona, Kate & Jacqui
The Fundraising Team*

NOTICES

Parking

A gentle reminder to all parents that parking is to be on the kinder side of the road only, we have had a few kinder cars parking on the opposite side of the kinder fence, and as the road is narrow it makes it hard for traffic to pass through with cars parked on both sides. Also, the disabled car parking is only to be used by those holding a disability sticker.

ARE YOU BEING SUNSMART?

Although it may not look or feel like it, sun protection is still needed even in the cooler months of the year. The fact is that if you can see skin, UV can reach it. For all skin not covered with clothing, an SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum sunscreen should be applied during the daily sun protection times.

Please see some sunscreen tips below. Don't forget a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears and make sure there are shady places for children to play.

Sunsmart Tips

Regular use of sunscreen has been shown to reduce the incidence of melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma, both in the short and long term.

Choose SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Make sure it is within its use-by date and is stored below 30 degrees. It is best to apply a generous amount of sunscreen to any exposed skin around 20 minutes before going outdoors.

Sunscreen should be reapplied every **two** hours even if the stated level of water resistance is 4 hours.

No sunscreen provides full protection so never rely on sunscreen alone for sun protection. During the daily sun protection times (when the UV Index is 3 and above), combine sunscreen with sun-protective clothing, a broad-brimmed hat that protects the face, head, neck and ears, shade and sunglasses.

For more information, go to <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/>



Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide



Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer