Working Bee – Seals Group

Our next Working Bee will be held on **Sunday 24 March** from **9.30am to 11.30am**. This Kinder Working Bee is for the Seals Group. This is a great opportunity to connect with other families in your group. **Kinder families from the other groups are also welcome to attend.** A staff member will be in attendance as well.

Importantly, attendance at a Working Bee may entitle you to the **Parent Participation Discount**.

Listed below are the jobs for the day:
- Putting up fence extensions along the back fence
- Pruning area where the rubbish bins are stored
- Pruning area near front windows of the kinder
- General garden pruning
- Washing windows
- Remove old brush fencing around the sand pit
- Repair wheel on the trolley
- Repair painting frame
- Attaching new hose reel to brick wall near trickle stream
- Cleaning trickle stream pit and pump

Please bring your gardening tools (for example: secateurs, cutters, wheel barrow, shovel), drills, gloves, **hat and sunscreen** and anything you feel relevant for any of the abovementioned jobs.

Water and morning tea will be provided. Children are welcome to come along too.

If you are able to attend please put your name down on the notice board outside the kinder.

**Useful Items**

The following household items would be appreciated by the kinder and a useful resource for our children. The educators would appreciate any of the following items:

- Margarine/Butter containers
- Bottle tops
- Boxes (not big ones)
- Lace/Material/Cards/Ribbon
- Paper
- Anything that could be used for pasting
- Corks
- Buttons

Please brings your items in when you have a stockpile and not individually.

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Greensborough Pre-School Newsletter
Red & Green groups

This month has been really busy. We have moved on from our focus on settling the children, and I am happy to say that all the children have settled well and showing signs that they feel safe and secure within our Kinder environment (Identity 1.1).

Now our focus has shifted to developing friendships (Wellness 3.1). Friendships occur when:

- You get to know other people’s likes and dislikes.
- You have things in common with others.
- You have good communication skills.
- You understand what’s fair and unfair.
- You have respect and empathy towards others.

Friendships take time to develop and over the course of the year (and through life), our friendship circles evolve. Our focus will be teaching the above 5 points, in hope to give our children to tools required to develop lasting friendships.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to talk with other children.
- Giving your child the words to use when they want to join in play, or need to express their feelings and ideas – then have your child repeat those words (don’t talk for them).
- Organise play days with children of a similar age and with similar interests.
- Explaining why situations may be fair or unfair and ask your child “How would YOU feel?”

Current Interests:

Many children have been showing great interest in letters, words and writing. We are helping children with these skills by encouraging them to identify their name on the hat pockets. We are encouraging the children to attempt to write their name on their work so we can identify whom it belongs to and we are encouraging the children to look at their nametags so they become familiar with the letters.

It is important when teaching children about letters and especially when writing their names, that they are using lowercase letters after their initial uppercase. This helps with identifying letters/words in printed text (e.g. books) and gives our children a head start when entering formal schooling. Often children find it easier to write uppercase letters, however later on they are required to relearn how to write using lowercase.

As the weather has been hot, water play is a popular activity. We have explored the trickle stream with the cool water running over our toes and we have been counting how many cups it takes to fill our containers in the water trough. The educators have encouraged the children to drink plenty of water throughout the day to keep hydrated. We also have had many discussions about the importance of water in our lives and the environment.

Have a happy and safe Easter,
Rebecca and Geralyn

E Rebecca.Dunning@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au

Staff News

Geralyn our 3yo co-educator has taken leave until the beginning of Term 2. Kate our 4yo co-educator will be filling in and assisting Rebecca with the 3 yo groups during this time.
Seals and Dolphins

It’s hard to believe we are coming to the end of our first term already! It’s been an amazing start to the year with all the children settling into our program so well. Along with the children there has been Ann, Kate, Ulrike and myself settling into our own new routines with each other. This has been an amazingly smooth transition with us all discovering the best ways to communicate about the events of the day and keeping track of the group’s interests and individual progress. The hours are certainly working well with us all enjoying the provision of backing up the next day to continue interests and especially friendships; this has really supported the development of new friendships. The hot weather and earlier starts are no doubt taking their toll on us all and it’s important we all get plenty of rest so we can benefit from the program.

Our program has included loads of fun sensory experiences, which the children enjoy and is a great place to be social as children discuss and compare their thoughts and findings; these have included marbles, water, sand and lacquer bands. The provision of sensory play has led to an interest in colours and allowed us to provide an array of different experiences which help reinforce the children’s understanding of our primary colours, including what happens when we mix them. There have been many incidental learning’s through water paints, eyedropper painting, mixing with flour to form solids and mixing with water to make ice. This interest has been reinforced on the mat with large group games including colour matching, sorting and counting. The children certainly enjoy being challenged with these games often stating “you can’t trick us!” it’s certainly become a test to keep the games and challenges rolling as both groups love these.

Along with colours there has also been a keen interest for physical challenges with many children enjoying the thrill of taking enjoyable risks such as balancing high on beams and then jumping down. This has involved many and has been a great place for those who enjoy taking risks to flourish and demonstrate different skills to their friends. This has also been a great opportunity for those who like to observe first and let their confidence grow. We’ve continued this enjoyment by including small Physical challenges on the mat, working on skills such as moving through and under, throwing, balancing, and summersaults.

The trapeze swing has also recently been introduced and received with great enthusiasm. The children have been observed gathering and supporting friends with their attempts. Some friends have demonstrated and assisted others in trying new efforts and others have simply watched and assessed taking mental notes and then returning to have a try. The wagons have been another piece of equipment for the thrill seeker with many friends gathering at the top of our kinder hill pushing their friends to the bottom. This is not for everyone but slowly over time more and more friends are giving it a go as the excitement of the affair pulls them in.

During last week we’ve also found the large soft fall gym equipment for the busy and physical members of the groups this has kept the real enthusiast busy for long periods outdoor. Listening to the children as they share ideas and take on challenges has been delightful. To add to our encounters our favourite zoom slide has been sent away for repairs and in the meantime the children are testing their skills about using the fort space differently, those keen at climbing have really enjoyed this trial.

Somehow both groups have dictated a big interest in pirates and this has led to many different play experiences. The children have developed and enjoyed wonderful creative ideas and thoughts that have directed the way for special play spaces and an array of creative expression for many sessions. Fairy stones (pirate’s treasure) have also been very popular yet at times we have also seen the group divided over their possession, so for something different we’ve enjoyed days without them so we experience altered play with friends.
Seals and Dolphins con...

Our craft area, which we like to call our studio space, provides materials for the children to be creative with. It enables the children to use their imagination and create ideas from a variety of materials. The children are adjusting well to this space and it’s now taken on the name by a few friends as the Mr Maker tables. It’s wonderful to observe the children find their creativeness and use their independence to bring their masterpiece to fruition. Art is in the eyes of the beholder and we wish to encourage the children’s imaginations and support their creativity by providing the space and materials. We’re often searching for a variety of materials and often looking have something for suppliers so if you have items you think we could use for this space we’d be interested in talking to you. We’ve had many different items so far donated and we thank everyone for thinking of us.

On the mat we continue to watch the children develop their listening and co-operation skills, as they wait turns and share news with their peers. Some children relish in this time others find it more difficult and it’s therefor a great learning experience for all. The children are enjoying lots of new songs with instruments and have become accustomed to Ann’s and Lynda’s collections and our ways.

Snack and lunch times have certainly been operating well with the children spending longer periods enjoying the social aspect of this shared involvement. The social scene of the groups are developing and changing daily dependent on who is in attendance and the activities available. The children are discovering those they share similar interests with and those who they enjoy working with. Everyone is now enjoying the company of a special friend and they eagerly pick up from where they left off the session before.

As Staff we have observed that our new hours have worked out perfectly for reinforcing and establishing relationships between the children. We’ve found by returning the next session to continue play or ideas has been useful for teaching purposes as well. We value your feedback and so at the end of the term we will be sending home a survey so you can share how well your family is adjusting to these new hours. In the coming weeks leading up to the end of term we hope to enjoy a visit to Greensborough Primary School and enjoy the understanding of a school environment within the company of our peers. This is always an enjoyable experience, though these days we’re reliable upon the help of parent volunteers with a working with children’s checks and this event will only proceed if we can have a minimum of 1 adult to 3 children. Additionally a dentist visit is also scheduled, the aim of this visit is a simple exposure to the dealings with dentists and a great resource of information concerning dental health for the children.

In closing we wish to invite any parent who wishes to arrange a meeting with us about any concerns to please email us on our emails below and we will arrange a suitable time. Of course you can telephone us or simply pin us down after a session any of the above will work.

Until next time enjoy a safe and wonderful Easter with your loved ones,

Ann, Lynda, Kate and Ulrike.

E Ann.Tippett@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au
E Lynda.Deacon@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au

Top Tales Book Club

Located near the sign-in book is a box of children’s books that families can order at various prices. Our kinder benefits from the sales of Top Tales books – more book sales means more books for our kinder library! The titles in the box will change once or twice a term so continue browsing throughout the year.

To order a book, complete the green form in the box and fill out an envelope (with payment) and drop it in the fees box.

Orders from this box must be placed by Wednesday 27 March, and books will be distributed the 1st week of Term 2.

Thank you – Tina Bell (Mum of Emma in Seals)
Staff Liaison Officer/Assistant Secretary Position

It is with great pleasure to announce Staff Liaison Officer/Assistant Secretary position has been filled by Alison Griffiths (Benji’s Mum in Red Group). All positions on the Committee of Management have now been filled.

Maintenance

Can you help?
We are looking for the help of a builder/carpenter to assist us with a couple of jobs that need attention at the Kinder.

There is a small deck area beside the sand pit that is rotting away and needs replacing and parts of the floor in our hut near the digging patch appear to be lifting.

As you all know the maintenance of the kindergarten is the responsibility of the kindergarten so if we can research trades within our kinder family this will save us money. The kinder would happily pay for materials used but we were wondering if anyone could offer their skills and time to make the area safe for our children.

Your assistance would go towards your maintenance levy. If you can help, please contact Kate (4yo co-educator) at the Kinder as Peter Probst our Maintenance Coordinator is on holidays.

Peter Probst
Maintenance Coordinator (Dad to Angus – Green Group)
E Maintenance@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au

Advert

DANCE for FUN & FITNESS!

Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Funk, Ballet
& Creative Kinder Dance.
Classes at Watsonia Heights PS
Dance Studio.
NEW Classes … starting for Term 2.

Magic Moves
School Of Dance

Contact us NOW for an info pack.

0408 536 369
tanya@magicmovesdance.com.au

FIRST CLASS FREE
FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS
Fundraising

Cadbury Chocolate Drive
Just a friendly reminder that if people haven’t been able to sell their box of chocolates and need a little more time, they can return the money 1st day of next term. Thank you for all your effort, I know it’s been difficult as a lot of other organisations are trying to sell chocolates at the moment.

Easter Raffle
Tickets have now been distributed for the Easter Raffle to be drawn on the last day of Term 1 being Thursday 28 March. Next time you are at kinder, take a moment to look at the awesome prizes that are located on the kinder bench top. The choice is yours if you have the winning ticket!!!!!

- 4.5kg block of Toblerone Chocolate
- basket of Easter eggs; or an
- Easter hamper

Tickets are $1 and you can purchase more from me if you would like.

Dates to Remember:
Vision Portraits Saturday 20 April or Sunday 15 September
Bunnings BBQ Sunday 28 April
Disco Friday 10 May
Trivia Night Saturday 1 June
Shopping Tour Saturday 9 November (more details to come)

The Fundraising Team would like to thank all the families for their help during first term!!

CJ Wilkinson
Mum to Aston – Red Group
E Fundraising@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au

Van Dyk’s Swimming Academy
Does your child learn to swim at Van Dyk’s Swimming Academy. Did you know that Van Dyk’s sponsors Preschools?
Just mention that your child attends Greensborough Preschool when you pay your fees throughout the year and 3% of that money will be donated to our kinder to help with our fundraising.
This offer applies to any siblings of children who attend Greensborough Preschool who are under 5 years.

Van Dyk’s Swimming Academy
241 Para Road, Greensborough
Tel: 9435 6955
A REMINDER

An excerpt from the **Banyule Banner** – February 2013 Edition Page 13

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**Kindergarten enrolments open soon for 2015**

Kindergarten enrolment forms are now available from Council’s Service Centres, Maternal and Child Health Centres, kindergartens and Council’s website.

Council is accepting enrolments from 1 March 2013 for children born between 1 January 2010 and 30 April 2011, who are eligible to attend 4-year-old kindergarten in 2015.

Enquiries can be made with our customer service team on 9490 4222 or via email at kindergartens@banyule.vic.gov.au

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Please be sure to tell any interested friends and family
Ester Street Angels

We invite you to submit a short profile about your child/ren to be included in the newsletter. Children love to see their name in print! If you would like to include a photo of them, their favourite pet or a copy of a piece of artwork then please email me at newsletter@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au. Include their name, kinder group, favourite TV show, saying, food, character, activity, colour or anything else that is of interest.
In addition, if your child’s birthday is coming up, please let us know and we will list their birthday in the

Feedback - We value your feedback!

For general feedback regarding any aspect of the kinder, please email feedback@greensboroughpreschool.vic.edu.au.

A note from the Editor

If you would like to receive your kinder newsletter (Ester Street Echo) via email, then please email publicity@greensborough.vic.edu.au. Families who do not have access to email, will have a hard copy of the newsletter placed in their child’s pigeonhole.

Kerryn Brain, Newsletter Editor – Mum to Evelyn – Red Group
# Greensborough Preschool

## Key Dates for 2013

### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 24 March – 9:30am to 11:30am</td>
<td>Seals Working Bee. All families welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 March</td>
<td>Top Tale orders due. Delivered 1st week of Term 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Term 1 Finishes – Easter Raffle Drawn</td>
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### April

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 April</td>
<td>Term 2 Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 20 April (or Sunday 15 September)</td>
<td>Vision Portraits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 28 April</td>
<td>Bunning’s BBQ Fundraiser</td>
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### May

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4 May</td>
<td>Kinder Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>Disco</td>
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### June

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1 June</td>
<td>Trivia Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28 June</td>
<td>Term 2 Finishes</td>
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### July

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 July</td>
<td>Term 3 Begins</td>
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### August

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 15 September or (Saturday 20 April)</td>
<td>Vision Portraits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20 September</td>
<td>Term 3 Finishes</td>
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### October

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7 October</td>
<td>Term 4 Begins</td>
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### November

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5 November</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Day Public Hol.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9 November</td>
<td>Shopping Tour (more details to come)</td>
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### December

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 December</td>
<td>Term 4 Finishes</td>
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