Diary Dates 2009

March
28 Red Group Working Bee

April
3 Bulb Orders to be returned
3 End of Term
12 Easter Sunday
20 Term Starts
20 Term 2 fees due

May
9 Seals Working Bee
16 Kindy Open Day

August
22 Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Dear Families, It’s hard to believe that we are nearing the end of first term, and Easter is just around the corner.

Our fundraising team have been working hard to coordinate the Easter fundraiser. Everyone should have received a box of chocolates to sell to family, friends and work colleagues...or you could just keep them for yourself!

The money collected from fundraising events such as this one is used to better our kinder and its resources. In the past the fundraising teams have been responsible for the purchase of new play equipment, resources for the library and lots of new toys and games for the children to play with. Please support our fundraising team in any way you can.

You may have noticed the new ‘what can I bring for my child’s birthday celebration’ posters that have gone up around the kinder. While the staff and committee recognise the need for parents and children to celebrate their special days, there are a number of children who attend the centre with anaphylaxis and allergies that need to be considered.

In the past Greensborough Preschool had adopted a ‘fairy bread only’ policy for all special occasions. After consultation with staff and parents of children who suffer from anaphylaxis and allergies, it was decided at the last committee meeting for 2008 that the fairy bread policy be reinstated.

The current information booklet does indicate that alternative treats may be brought in if ingredients were listed. Please disregard that information.

As always if you should have any concerns about the above or any matter, please speak with one of the kindergarten teachers or a committee representative.

The staff and committee work to ensure that the kindergarten is a safe and fair environment for all who attend. We trust that parents/guardians will find this to be a simple change that will serve to benefit our kindergarten community.

Regards,

Monika
President
Fundraising Report

Well term one is almost over and we promise no more fundraising this term!

We started the term with the Cadbury chocolate drive and threw in the Easter Raffle and Bulbs. You may have noticed that the fundraising notice board has been updated and we should see the barometer start to grow. The update so far is:

**CADBURY CHOCOLATE DRIVE**

All money and chocolates were due back on the Wednesday 18th of March. For those of you who have still not returned monies/chocolates please do so as soon as possible so we can work out exact money raised. All boxes contained 48 chocolates and should have raised $57.60 each. We are expecting to raise over $2,000 and will keep you update date with the exact figure.

Thank you all for your efforts in such tough times and especially to those families who were able to sell more than one box.

**EASTER EGG RAFFLE**

Our main hamper is now on display and the other prizes not far away. There will be a number of prizes to be won so please try and sell as many tickets as you can. More tickets are available if you wish, please see your teachers. Tickets are selling for $1.00 each and all ticket sales go directly to the kinder. We will be drawing the winning ticket on Wednesday 1st April. Winners will be notified by phone.

**SPRING BULBS**

As you would have seen brochures have already been put in your pigeon holes, all orders are to be returned to the kinder by Friday 3rd April. 50% of the purchase price will be going directly to the kinder.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Some of the fundraising events we have in store for next term include:

- **Bunnings BBQ – 22 August**: We will be asking for volunteers to help cook and serve sausages at the Eltham Bunnings.

- **Mothers Day Raffle - we have some beautiful gifts so far including skin care, perfume and pedicure products. Tickets will go on sale when we return from holidays.**

- **Our annual Trivia Night – the trivia night will involve a professional host and silent Auction. We are in the process of seeking any contributions for the auction. Contributions can include services. If you feel you can contribute anything please contact Daniela on 0413 150 577.**

That's all for now. Thanks for all your efforts so far.

Thank you

The fundraising team:

Ros, Kathryn, Daniela and Mary
Maintenance Report

Red Group families are asked to attend the next working bee on Saturday 28th March. However, many hands make light work, so families across the kindergarten community are welcome to attend.

Our main job will be topping up the tan bark to the outside playground area. Please bring your wheelbarrows and shovels. Children are more than welcome!

There are still a number of gaps in the Lawn Mowing and Garden Maintenance Roster. Please contact me via the kindergarten if you can help.

Louise
Maintenance Co-ordinator

Reminder

Red Group Working Bee is this Saturday
March 28th 9 a.m.
- 12 p.m. Bring your wheelbarrow and shovels.

Fees and Payments

When placing money into the Fees Box please ensure your full details are written on the envelope (i.e. your child’s name, kinder group and the amount) and also fill out the payment record book located beside the box. Pre-printed envelopes are available at the counter.

WANTED - Any children’s sized tables, preferably wooden, to be used in a children’s activity group - even if they are for sale, a bargain price would be good.

Contact Bernadette Thorley on 0408 038 561 or Mary-Anne Kos (Seals) 0423 456 932

LOOKING TO GET AWAY THIS EASTER?

A romantic break or a family holiday? How about the perfect Mothers Day gift?

Australia wide Accommodation Vouchers are a great option for clever gift ideas. Valid for twelve months, the vouchers are redeemable throughout Australia at B&Bs, farmstays, cottages, guest houses and B&B Inns in the cities and the country.

Here are just a few ideas for how these gifts are used:
- Every day is a good day to receive a gift of an Accommodation Gift Voucher and travel Australia!

Visit our website www.australianbedandbreakfast.com.au or contact Bed and Breakfast, Farmstays and Accommodation Australia on 1300 664 707 for more information.
The groups have settled well into their full time sessions with only a few struggling with the 3 hour time slot, the cooler weather assisting as well.

We are beginning to see children who are looking out for friends during each session, sharing similar likes and challenges. It has been interesting to watch, and Geralyn and I have been particularly touched by the children who are assisting others who are unsure, needing help and comfort; it certainly is lovely to see.

Red group has had another two children begin their kinder journey during March and are waiting two more to turn 3 and everyone is adjusting and coping well. Green group is still waiting for the remaining two new children to turn 3 so they can start. All the children are being so helpful and supportive towards our new friends they should be congratulated.

Our parents have begun assisting us through the scheduling of the parent roster and it has been very helpful indeed to have an extra pair of hands whilst the children are still learning all the ropes and whilst our new members settle in. Thank-you to everyone who has volunteered their time the children and staff all enjoy your presence.

Lately we have been enjoying the songs, ‘point your finger and do the twist’, ‘5 little joeys’, ‘Johnny works with one hammer’ and are now learning the 2 verses to ‘mary had a little lamb’, ‘little bo peep’ and ‘moo moo jersey cow’. Geralyn’s clever husband has designed ‘song picture cards’ for the children to take turns selecting a song from the special music box, this is very popular!

At mat time we have been working with coloured bean bags, balancing them on our head, knees, feet, shoulders, and nose and practicing little throws and catches. The children really enjoy this activity and are slowly accepting the surprise coloured bean bag Lynda pulls out of the basket - as there isn’t enough colours to meet the personal demands!

These last few weeks we have been enjoying roller painting, sloppy sand with sieves and buckets, trucks with planks in the rock garden, wheel burrows and spades in our newly turned soil, balancing beams and bouncing boards. We have trains in the play dough, coloured stones in the sensory tray, collage, and international wooden people with our blocks.

At mat time we have spoken about how many people live at your house, what we like to eat at home and have enjoyed ‘Lola and Charlie’ books.

The type of day and the dynamics of the group will dictate what and how much gets done during mat time. The children are adapting well to this special time including sitting in circles, listening to instructions, and Lynda’s tricky challenges for when it’s time to wash our hands. For example I might select clothing children are wearing, or the shoes they have on, or the colour of their hair.

I have recently requested for families to provide a family photo of their family so that I can scan and place in a special share book with a special written piece from the child. The ‘group’s reflection book’ is another share book beginning its journey around the group; please take the time to look over the pages with your child as you learn about our adventures at kinder. Families would also have received their child’s learning journal this past week. The journal is in its very early stage; I’m excited to begin this recorded kinder journal together and look forward to the building of something special for you to keep. Please enjoy them, return them for each session and help the child to protect and respect theirs.

Please remember to make time to speak to me if you having any concerns no matter how big or small, I’m only too happy to answer questions as best as I can.

Keep smiling

Lynda
4 Year-old Report

I am happy to report that both groups are now in “full swing”. We have now been enjoying our full-time hours for three weeks, and the children have been coping very well. There are always a couple of children though, especially at the end of afternoon sessions yawning and tell us that they are tired.

Kindergarten is always a busy place, and we plan for a balance of group experiences and quiet areas for the children to explore. Many children enjoy quiet time just as much as we adults do.

All the children have now developed at least one friendship. This is lovely to observe, as this ability is easier for some children than for others. We are constantly talking about ways to make friends (i.e. appropriate words/facial gestures to use etc.). Observing the children using these skills and being successful is very gratifying. It is lovely to see how proud they are of themselves.

We have had many interests in the Kindergarten Program. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about “sea”-life. We learnt “sea-songs”, created sea-creatures using various mediums, threaded “sea-weed”, and explored many imaginative-play areas involving water, sand, shells, mermaids and sea-creatures. We relaxed, while listening to stories about swimming in the sea and floating on a cloud. The children are becoming very good at this, and become relaxed very quickly.

The children always enjoy talking about themselves and their families. This led to us focusing on everyone’s individuality. The children looked at their faces intently in a mirror, and tried to draw themselves. The results are displayed in the playroom. All the children loved creating art-work from their hand-prints. They especially loved having their hands painted by me—they thought it was a great joke! At the moment I am collecting photos of the children as babies to create a “baby-book”. This will be an opportunity for me to chat to each child individually about themselves. It will be lovely to hear their thoughts on the subject. You will be able to read what they say to me when the books are completed.

At the moment, the children’s favourite experiences are clay, dinosaur play-areas, volcanoes, books, our “drawing/writing” area (especially with the inclusion of stickers), block-building, all types of construction, home-corner, floor-puzzles, sensory-play, science areas such as looking through the magnifying-glass at rocks, gemstones and bones (our sheep’s skull is a real favourite), the fairy-garden, digging and creating in the digging-patch, the swings, soccer, cricket and drawing.

On Thursday 2nd. April, Jeanette Drummond will be presenting “Dove Puppets” to the children. This is a lovely interactive drama/puppetry experience for the children which we are looking forward to.

We have two students from Montmorency Secondary College spending time with us on Wednesday mornings as part of their Community Service Program. Their names are Tahlia and Bethan.

We would love it if you could save any wrapping-paper, cardboard, boxes, small soft-wood off-cuts etc. for us. We can use almost anything in the program.

Until next time.
Ann.

We would love it if you could save any wrapping-paper, cardboard, boxes, small soft-wood off-cuts etc. for us. We can use almost anything in the program.

Only 20 sleeps until Easter!
Your Trash Might Be Our Treasure

At Kinder we use many recycled resources to enable the children to create their beautiful masterpieces, to play imaginary games, to use in the sandpit and digging patch and many more activities. Sadly our storeroom supplies are looking very grim and we do not have much to choose from. Maybe you or a family member work in an industry that would be able to provide us with some materials. Here are some ideas:

**Builder** - Offcuts of small timber for hammering
**Printing Company** - Off cuts of paper, card, stickers etc
**Packaging Company** - Polystyrene plates, trays, boxes etc
**Plumber** - Small pieces of PVC pipe for sandpit and digging patch.

Other things we can use every day are envelopes, stickers, old cards, corks, wrapping paper, beads, old computer disks, bottle tops, ribbon, buttons, material, margarine containers, small boxes for pasting, straws, paper plates, 1 litre milk cartons, ice cream containers.

So before you throw anything out, please consider that we might be able to use it. If you do set yourself the task of collecting for us, then it would be most appreciated if you could hold onto these things until you have a good supply of them, then bring them in. Otherwise we have to spend heaps of time putting bits and pieces away each day.

Outside in the playground, digging patch and sand-pit we can make use of your old plastic containers and tubs, pvc pipes and we would love it if someone was able to get hold of the big wooden cable reels that are often used by electrical/cable companies. The big ones are great for the children to climb on,

Other things we could use are old sunglasses, jewellery and dress-up clothes. If you are unsure, please ask the staff and we will tell you if we can/cannot use it.

Thank you so much

Ann, Kate, Lynda and Geralyn

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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 Pre Schools?

Just mention that your child attends Greensborough Pre School when you pay your fees throughout the year, and 3% of that money will be donated to our kindy to help with our fundraising.

This offer also applies to any siblings of children who attend Greensborough Pre School, who are under 5 years.

Ph (03) 9435 6955
241 Para Rd, GREENSBOROUGH 3088
Birthday Messages

Happy 4th Birthday Shae (3 y.o. Green Group) with love from your family and friends.

Email the editor to have your child's birthday celebrated in the kinder newsletter

SunSmart

Reminder - Summer may be over, but you still need to protect yourself from UV radiation in March and April, so that means continuing to be SunSmart for a few weeks in Term Two. Please remember to apply Sunscreen to your child/ren prior to kinder. Visit www.sunsmart.com.au for more information on how to be SunSmart.

ELTHAM RURAL GROUP INC

Paddy's Market

Eltham's biggest annual Garage Sale

raising funds for over 50 years to help CFA Brigades, Eltham Foodshare, Royal District Nursing Service and other organisations who provide their services to enrich our local community

10am Sat. May 2, 2009

Scout Hall, Youth Road, Eltham

(Off Diamond Street)

Information: 9439 4933

HUGE BARGAINS

ERG Quality Cakes & Produce: Recycled Treasures & Useful Stuff:
Crafts & Gifts (Mother's Day is coming up): Kid’s Clothing & Toys:
Womens and Mens Wear (from Budget to Boutique):
Native & Exotic Plants: Books, Magazines & LP Records
Refreshments: Sausage Sizzle: Tea, Coffee & Sandwiches

Now in our 56th Year
Ester Street Angel

Introducing Charlotte C. who is in 3 y.o Green Group.

Charlotte is loving kinder and asks to go every morning. Her favourite snack is a crunchy raw carrot or raw capsicum! Though if offered hot chips, she wouldn’t say no to those either! She loves a cuddle with her teddy and with her little sister, Jessica. When she’s not squeezing the life out of those two, she enjoys dancing and doing arts and crafts.

Introducing Fletcher (Fletch) G. who is in 3 y.o Red Group

Loving cricket and football, Fletchers favourite AFL team is Hawthorn just like his dad and his number one player is Buddy. Fletcher also likes watching Ben10 and enjoys looking at books, listening to music and taking photos. Fletcher would very much like to say “Hello” to all his friends at Greensborough pre-school.

If you would like your child/ren profiled in the newsletter, please contact the editor.

Grants Officer Wanted

D o you want a challenge? Can you squeeze blood from a stone? Are you able to overcome Government redtape? OK, OK.. it’s not as dramatic as all that. However, we are seeking a person to join the committee as the ‘Grants Officer’. Your main responsibilities will include applying for grants that are available to pre-schools. Going through community easygrants newsletters scouting for available grants.

So if you think that you have the ability to secure funds for our kids, then this is the job for you. Come join a wonderful group of committee members, it will be greatly appreciated. PS. You will have some fun too.

Please contact Monika on monika_fabb@hotmail.com

A Note from the Editor

E -mail greensborough.kin.news@kindergarten.vic.gov.au with your Ester Street Angels, birthday greetings, advertising requests or any other contribution that you would like to make. If you do not have access to an e-mail account and would like to make a contribution, a green newsletter box is located on the kitchen bench next to the fees box.

You will only receive this newsletter via e-mail if you have completed the e-mail privacy form. If you wish to change to an electronic newsletter please request a copy of the form from your teacher.

Barbara Newsletter Editor