



## Winter Solstice Fun!

What a fantastic night the Winter Solstice was! It was great to see everyone enjoying the evening. Toasting marshmallows was a bit of a hit, and the kid's concert song was a gorgeous moment during the night. Well done kids!

I hope you got an opportunity to chat to friends and also to upcoming local candidate Cindy O'Connor who was available on the night to discuss local issues with families.

Big thanks to the Social Committee (and especially Liz) for organising the event and all the volunteers who donated time and yummy sweet goodies for the cake stall!

We hope you had fun!



## Call for Donations & Help!

The Committee of Management Fundraising Sub Committee (Tracey) is seeking donations from kinder families to place in our fundraising online auction in Term 3. All proceeds go towards our Renovation Fund!

Tracey would also welcome some assistance in managing donations and setting up the auction.

If you can assist, please email the Committee on [brunswickkindergarten@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickkindergarten@gmail.com).

## SCHOOL TRANSITION

Thanks to all families who attended our School Readiness Information Night- there were lots of questions asked of Bec, who teaches Foundation at Brunswick North-West PS. Big thanks to Frances (Orange, Green & Silver groups) and Libby (4YO parent) for speaking at the event too.

There is an information pack available to kinder families- if you like a copy emailed to you, please contact Sophie in the kinder office.

**Term 3 starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July.  
See you then!**

### Brunswick Kindergarten Parent group on Facebook

Did you know you can follow Brunswick Kindergarten Community Group on Facebook?

'Like' us to keep updated on everything happening at our kinder, from fundraising events to ways you can help out.

It's a great way to stay updated with what the kids are doing.

<https://www.facebook.com/brunswickkinder>

### Activity Group Casual Sessions

If you are interested in your child attending an Activity Group from time to time, please let your kinder teacher know.

#### 4 Year Old groups

(Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri- 1.5 hours)  
\$22.50 a session

#### 3 Year Old group

(Wed- 4 hours) \$60.00 a session

Term placements are also available at lower costs- please see Sophie at kinder for details.

# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

## **Executive Committee**

Ema Fraser	President
Tim Harwood	Vice President – Staff Liaison
Paris Jolly	Vice President – Enrolments
Alexandra Lemke	Secretary
Laura Monk	Treasurer

## **General Committee**

Bethany Macdonald	Grants
Liz Ralph	Social sub-committee
Janet Drew	Policy sub-committee
Tiffany Parbs	Policy sub-committee
Chelsea Harris	Mother's Day cake stall
John Hall	Maintenance
Geoff Skellern	Renovation Project
Annalise Gehling	Communications (Facebook)
VACANT	Communications (Newsletter)
VACANT	IT sub-committee

## CALL OUT for Newsletter & IT help!

### **Communications Sub-Committee- Newsletter**

There is a vacancy on the Committee of Management Communications Sub Committee for a person to assist Sophie, the Director, in piecing together the term newsletter. Articles are submitted by Group leaders, Sophie and the Committee President- we just need someone with the artistic and software skills to piece it together!

### **IT Position- Committee of Management**

The search continues for a kinder family member who can support the Director and Staff team with adhoc IT issues and loading documentation to the kinder website.

If you think you can assist with either position, please contact the Lexie Lemke, Committee Secretary, on [brunswickkindergarten@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickkindergarten@gmail.com).

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Term 2 has been a busy term at Kinder and the committee has focused on fundraising, social nights, grant applications and policy updates.

## The Kinder Renovation

Our Grants and Renovations committee members (Bethany and Geoff) finalised the Stage 2 Moreland Council grant. We are waiting on a response from council, due in July, to see if we have been successful in our application.

We are also in the process of applying for a second grant with the Victorian School Board Authority (VSBA) which is due late July. We'll provide an update next newsletter as to the progress of the grants and the Kinders position on the Renovations.

## Kinder Fundraising

We had a really successful Mother's Day cake stall at Barkly Square this year (despite the horrible rain!). We'd like to thank everyone who donated a cake and volunteered on the Friday/Saturday. The cakes looked amazing and the money from stall has allowed us to pay for much needed repairs around the Kinder. A big thank you to Chelsea!

As there is no volunteer to run the Fete this year the Kindergartens major fundraiser will be a Silent Auction. Tracey, our fundraising committee member, has agreed to be the contact point for the collection of items (goods or services) and will help with setting up the online auction site. The collection of items will run across Term 3.

## Policies

Our policies team have updated the Child Safe policy to align with the findings from the recent Royal Commission and it was approved by the committee at our June meeting. Thanks Janet, Tiffany and Libby for your hard work in putting this together!!

The Kinder's Constitution was updated and voted in by the members in June. Our constitution now refers to current legislation and reflects what are our current committee positions. Our Committee Secretary (Alexandra) will file the document with the relevant government bodies in the upcoming months.

On behalf on the Committee Exec team we'd like to thank everyone who volunteered this term at the working bee and cake stall.

## Term 3 Invoices are now due

A timely reminder that all Term 3 Kinder and Activity Group fees are due by this **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**.

These fees contribute directly to the operating costs of the kinder each week, so prompt payment is always greatly appreciated.

Please contact Sophie (our Director) if you have not received your Term 3 invoice in the past couple of weeks.

For those in 3YO and Activity groups, Child Care Receipts will be released in the first week of Term 3.

## Kinder Photo orders due

Angela the kinder photographer has asked that all kinder photo orders be returned by the end of Week 1 in Term 3 (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July).

Please place all orders in the patterned boxes at the sign-in desks.

# DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Term 2 is the time of year we gear up in the kinder groups- everyone knows each other by now and all groups seem to have settled into the rhythm of kinder life. I see lots of activity each time I venture from the office! It's been wonderful to see all the kids really enjoying the kinder space and each other, even as the weather turns colder...

It's been very busy behind the scenes too with lots of planning for events later in the year, and even for 2019! So many fantastic **excursions and incursions** in the calendar for groups this year- trips to the Museum, Ceres and Botanical Gardens, Kinder Sports- to name just a few! And not forgetting our fantastic **Bush Kinder Initiative** is in full swing, with the 4YO groups attending regularly.

Some of the 4-year-old-groups have commenced their visits as part of the **Intergenerational Project**, attending the Hope St Aged Care facility. It is heartening to witness the positive interactions between the kids and the residents on these visits.

The kinder team and I recently attended a one-day conference hosted by the **Moreland Early Years Network**, which we attend each year. It was a fascinating day learning many aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) in early childhood education, and an opportunity to network and share approaches with educators in other local kinders. We went away with heads spinning with new information, and a keenness to implement new strategies very soon.

While this year we are sadly not hosting a Fete, the committee has been busy setting up alternative fundraising opportunities- all monies raised go into our planned capital improvements to the kinder, and will certainly be put towards our bathroom & entry renovations. We are eagerly awaiting news on grant applications to see if we can commence building before Christmas!

A big thank you to Frances and Libby (4YO parent) for speaking at our recent **School Readiness Information Night**. Feedback from parents who attended has been really positive. If you missed the night and would like a copy of the information pack, please feel free to email me at [brunswick.free.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:brunswick.free.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Stay safe over the term break- keep warm and I hope you get to relax with family and friends. See you in two weeks!

Sophie.

## Pack more into your lunchboxes...



As the year progresses and the children get bigger, their appetites seem to grow with them, especially as they grow in confidence to join in with kinder activities.

We will never let a child be hungry while at kinder, but we will always encourage a child to eat a snack from their own lunch before filling them up with bread or toast, especially if it is just before we send everyone home!

We have noticed that more children are finishing their lunchboxes earlier in the day. Have you considered adding an extra snack or two to lunchboxes next term?



## WORKING BEE



A big thank you to all the families who came to our May Working Bee- we got a long way down the To-Do list and the kinder gardens are looking amazing as a result!

We had (several) loads of mulch delivered, the pergola and wooden seating were repaired and stained, gutters cleaned out, paths swept, furniture repaired. Whew!

We will be holding another Working Bee in Term 3- be on the lookout for notices. We need to revamp the kinder cubby, fix some kinder doors and gates, and top up the sandpit!

## MOTHERS DAY CAKE STALL

Dear Kindy Community,

Thank you so much to all of you who contributed your time and baking skills to the Kindergarten's Mother's Day Cake Stall on Saturday 12 May. Over a dozen parents volunteered their time to create packs, price baked goods and work the stall on the day and we appreciate you giving up your time for this important event in our calendar.

This year, the contributions from parents were again very impressive with a diverse array of cakes, biscuits, slices, muffins, cupcakes and even some delicious preserves (we need that Sticky Chai recipe). Considering the heavy rain on the day preceding the stall we appreciate parents making every effort to deliver their contributions by car, bike or by foot!

The stall made over \$1400, selling out before 1pm and well before expected.

Many thanks again all, Chelsea, Mother's Day Cake Stall Coordinator



# PURPLE GROUP

We had such a busy term heading off to the Royal Botanic Gardens in early June.

Once we arrived at the Gardens we had a bite to eat and soon we were ready to begin the Indigenous program. The first activity provided was a traditional Wurundjeri welcome ceremony where the leaves of wattle, cherry ballart and river gum were burnt on a fire and the smoke was not only cleansing but was used to send prayers to Bunjil. After the ceremony the children heard the story 'You me Murrawee.' The presenter Kim spoke about different Aboriginal artefacts and discussed Aboriginal painting using ochre. The children grinded the stone, added water and soon applied the paint onto some card.

We had a great day connecting to land and history and a day where the children gained a greater understanding and respect for Indigenous culture.

The week after, we recalled this painting technique and the children had an opportunity to create their own paints using ochre and other stones found in our yard.

The children participated in a planting experience and experiment. After planting some seeds we decided to test the children's theories that plants need water and sun to grow. The children recorded their findings on a chart showing how well a watered plant without sun and an unwatered plant in sun managed. Lots of maths skills practiced as plants are compared, measured and changes described.

The Intergenerational Program began this term. The staff at the Aged Care facility were friendly and planned some fun activities for the residents and the children to share. There were smiles all round. Once again it was a great opportunity to get to know the residents and make new connections. We will take the next group of 8 children in term 3.

Bush Kinder was amazing and we couldn't have asked for a better day. The sun warmed the earth and the children wasted no time locating and identifying bugs. Tree climbing and fishing were also enjoyed – and yes we did catch 2 mosquito fish! After having a good look at these we placed them back in the water.

Please let us know if you are available to help next term.

On that note -A big thank-you also to all those parents who volunteered time to assist on our outings. We appreciate how busy you all are and value your efforts immensely.



Maxim's family introduced their pet snake to the group – yes that's right! Missy was graceful and beautiful. We were very fortunate to be given the opportunity to come so close to a python snake and want to thank Maxim's family so much for their time with the group and the knowledge they passed on about Missy.



We had a lovely **Afternoon Tea** in May. It was a nice time to catch up with families. Donations towards **The Breast Cancer Foundation** from Purple, Silver and Red groups totalled around \$200.

Thank-you all so much. Hope you have a great break and see you all back in term 3 (Monday July 16).

**Rose Robin and Luisa**





# SILVER GROUP

We had many highlights this term beginning with the 'Flying bookworm show'. Our performers Gus and Emma invited children to participate in a few stories using props and costumes. It was great to see some children bravely volunteer to play one of the character roles in front of the audience. In addition we ventured out to a story time session at Readers Book store in Lygon Street to purchase books for our Kinder. On our destination back to kinder we passed by the Gelobar for a delicious gelato treat. Yum!

With cooking being such a huge interest amongst the group, early this term the children helped to prepare our first afternoon tea. The event was a way to collect funds for a worthy charity as well as gather and connect with families. The children really enjoyed the momentum in getting involved and helped with preparations, they made scones, fairy bread and set the tables just in time for our event! It was a wonderful afternoon with smiles all round as the children, staff and families had a lovely afternoon tea together. Once again we thank everyone for their generous donations which raised money towards The Breast Cancer Foundation.

Bush Kinder was another brilliant highlight this term! The children had an awesome time. There was so much to do and the children couldn't help but explore and connect with the environment. They had a great time exploring the pond, climbing trees and even searched for bugs. We look forward to attending Bush Kinder again next term. We also had a fantastic day at Ceres, where we learnt about worm farms and sustainability. All children engaged in a rich inquiry-based experience where they were able to hold and examine worms and other bugs up close and learn how to care for worm farms. The children also gained a lot of knowledge about managing food scraps through recycling. All round both experiences were amazing, capturing children's natural sense of curiosity to investigate, imagine and explore ideas. Once again we would like to thank all family volunteers who supported us on both days!



Finally, as the days appear cooler and winter sets in the children have been preparing for our upcoming winter solstice through lantern making and learning our song for our upcoming event. In light of this we prepared our first campfire with Blue group, where we spent a wonderful day around the fire acknowledging our indigenous heritage, as well as baking potatoes, singing songs and toasting marshmallows. It was a great experience for all.

Our last day for Silver Group will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, We plan to light another campfire for the group and bake some delicious damper to share!

We hope you all have a great term break, see you all again on **19<sup>th</sup> July**.

**Rose, Kerry, Frances and Katerina**





## BLUE GROUP

Blue group has been very busy this term; incursions, excursions, projects and adventures!

This term we have had a number of incursions; we started with the Flying Bookwork a drama group performing some traditional stories, we had an amazing visit from Brunswick East Primary Schools where a group of students came in and engaged with the blue group, and just recently we had an African Drumming activity and got taken on a journey through African culture, music and its animals.

We have had 2 visits already to bush kinder with our third planned for the last day of kinder. We had a couple of the park rangers join us on one excursion and we learnt about the animals in the area (who knew looking for possum poo could be so fascinating!), we ate some bush tucker including bug casings on the back of leaves, deliciously tasty. The pond has claimed two swimmers in two visits so we are one for one so far this term!

We have seen lots of collaborative play; games and activities 100% directed by the children. Lots of building with blocks, inside they are constantly building animal enclosures and incredibly elaborate constructions and outdoors we have seen great walls, castles and even Peter's apartment building complete with swimming pool!

Blue group still loves coming together for group time, we have seen many singing circles and games circles, a little bit of yoga and meditation and way too many stories to count. I would say at least 5 per session, often the same story over and over!

We have some exciting adventures planned for term 3 and look forward to sharing them with you after the break. Happy holidays!

Cathy and Zareen





## YELLOW GROUP

Well, what we thought was going to be a very long 11 week term has actually passed rather quickly! Mostly to all those busy bees who have kept us on our toes with their amazing ideas, projects and stories.

We are loving watching the group grow from one term to another, sometimes it is quite linear as they practice their big physical skills outside such as learning to climb the tree. Other times its two steps forward and one back, but that's ok too, as we all learn at different paces and there is no right or wrong way when we are having a go.

We can see that the group has grown as a unit and they loved to come together to work on collaborative projects especially if it involves food; just this term we have cooked pudding, banana bread, Polish bread and tried our hand at making pasta. There are also a number of children who will ask to have singing circle, contribute to tidying up the floor to get ready and choose songs to sing. We feel it is very important that the children have a sense of agency; this is their space and they are valued in their contributions to the program. We love to sing and dance in the yellow group!

In the last few weeks we have seen a shift where the children are coming up with their own projects and this is very exciting to be a part of. They are becoming less reliant on us adults to help direct the play or provide activities for them to do. The children are coming up with their own ideas and we are simply facilitating that, such as the making of scarecrows that we have been working on the last 2 weeks. The children wanted to make them and they had involved discussions about their experiences around the craft table as they brought their ideas to light. This is very exciting to watch and be a part of and we can't wait to see what they will want to do next term.

Have a safe break and bon voyage to Harvey and his family as they trek off to Italy for the second part of the year.

Cathy and Zareen





# GREEN GROUP



We have all had an exciting time in Green group this term. We have made new friends and are enjoying getting to know them, we welcome them and their families to Brunswick Kindergarten. Little Fox entertained us earlier in the term with music, song and movement. He introduced the children to some indigenous music and songs. The children had an opportunity to engage with the musical instruments and learn a little more of our indigenous culture.

The Italian immersion is presented to the children through songs and books. They can participate in conversations with Luisa and myself if they wish. Few of the children can respond in very little sentences and can follow instructions given to them in Italian. We look forward to extending this through term three.

We have enjoyed the many cooking experiences conducted by Luisa, it's always a real treat when Luisa charges into the room with a tub full of treats with children in toe ready to mix, add, beat and bake. She has the Italian music playing in the background and the feeling is very nostalgic.

Last week we had a teddy bears picnic. The children made fairy bread, danced and sang songs. Such a wonderful experience of coming together and sharing treats. Our end of session dancing was made much more enjoyable last week when the families were invited to join in.

Our winter solstice night was a beautiful night. A few of our families joined us in this community event. The fire pit kept us warm, while the toasted marshmallows were a treat with the children and adults alike. The smell of the mulled wine filtered the crisp night air while the children entertained us with the song "This little light of mine" with the lanterns made by them in hand flickered in the night.

During the last week of term the children will participate in a Spanish incursion. They will have an opportunity to sing songs and learn some Spanish words. We hope this is a positive experience for all.

We wish to thank all the families in Green group for their continued support of our program and the children who continue to grow each week.

Have a wonderful term holiday and we will see you all back in term three,

Ciao, Frances and Luisa.





## RED GROUP

What an eventful term it's been for the children, beginning with the 'Flying bookworm show' Gus and Emma engaged the children in a range of interactive stories using props and costumes. The show captivated plenty of enthusiasm with some children volunteering to play a character role in front of the audience. Soon after we extended their interest in storytelling with a visit to Brunswick Library to relax and choose a few books to read with teachers and peers.

At kinder this term, plenty of interests have certainly emerged in areas of creativity and design. Construction has been a huge interest, particularly with blocks and connectors which has stimulated lots of interesting ideas. Children's skills are continuing to increase in art and craft, as children choose colours for their own artwork. We also worked with natural materials such as leaves increasing knowledge about the autumn season. As winter has emerged we are now preparing lanterns for our upcoming Winter Solstice evening. We hope to see you there!

Other highlights for this term included our first Bush Kinder program. What a amazing experiences, providing lots of open ended opportunities for children to explore. There was plenty to do as children were fascinated with finding bugs, climbing trees and looking for tadpoles around the pond. A few weeks later we went to the Royal Botanical Gardens to go on a journey with our guide Vicky. She introduced us to an Aboriginal Elder who led us through a smoking ceremony as part of their 'welcome to the land' and spoke about their language, traditions and culture. Afterwards children looked at aboriginal tools used for hunting and participated in an ochre painting experience where they painted a belonging handprint to take back to kinder. Both experiences were outstanding encouraging children's learning and sense of wonder. Once again we would like to thank all family volunteers who supported us on both days!

Our Intergenerational program was also successful! We were welcomed by staff who helped prepare a few games and later there was fruit to share with the residents. What a wonderful opportunity it was building relationships and making connections between both generations. Our second group will attend next term.

Our last day for Red Group will be Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, which will be celebrated with a dress up party for children. That is all from us! We hope you all have a great term break, see you all again on **16<sup>th</sup> July**.

Kerry and Maria



# ORANGE GROUP

As term two draws to a close we reflect on our amazing journey in Orange group thus far. The children have engaged in all aspects of the program. The play dough has seen the children engage in many role-play situations. The extension of this has led to many wonderful cooking experiences for the children. Mixing, measuring and combining ingredients are all learning opportunities, which support growth and well being. Our program allows the children to grow by combining learning opportunities from ideas created by them. The children learn from one another and eagerly share what they know or understand.

We planted seeds in cotton wool and we are currently watching them grow, The collage table is set up so the children are encouraged to create and work on ideas they envision from the support of books they have had read to them or discussion had with us or the other children in the group.



Katerina engages the children with song and movement at different times of the day. The children are becoming much more confident in participating, hence the group time is growing each week.



The Camping area in our dramatic play space has seen the children get into the camping experience by pretending to boil the billy and cook up some yummy treats of gum nuts and sticks. On many occasions we have sat around the campfire to read stories.

The block corner has been home to super heroes, trains and cars. Building and making as

the ideas emerge to realities.

Many of the Orange group children can now confidently climb one of the trees outdoors, build volcanoes and then watch them erupt into colorful lava. A place where dinosaurs come to life and the balance beam is safe place to practice jumping to the tunes of "Cheeky Monkey".

Our winter solstice night was a beautiful night. A few of our families joined us in this community event. The fire pit kept us warm, while the toasted marshmallows were a treat with the children and adults alike. The smell of the mulled wine filtered the crisp night air while the children entertained us with the song "This little light of mine" with the lanterns made by them in hand flickered in the night.

In the last week of term the children will participate in an incursion by Drama Too Box. The theme is "under the sea". The children will have an opportunity to dress up as creatures that live in the sea and learn some interesting facts about them.

Have an amazing term break and we look forward to seeing you all back next term.

Cheers, Frances and Katerina.





## Call for Donations!

Once next term starts, we'll need to stock up on the following items:

Nuttex

Salt

Jam

Vegemite

Plain Flour

Tissues

Toilet Paper

Hand wash (Earth friendly)

Wipes

Earthcare  
dishwashing  
liquid

Please check with your kindergarten teacher about any dwindling supplies.

Thanks!

## IMPORTANT DATES

### FRUIT FOR SNACKS

As the weather gets warmer, we would love if families could bring along a piece of fruit for each session they attend each week to go towards a daily fruit platter.

This allows us to provide the kids with a snack in the later afternoon once lunchboxes have been consumed!



## WET WEATHER



Now that the weather is colder and wetter, please make sure you provide a change of clothes (or two)- the kids LOVE water and rain puddle play!

Please **LABEL** all clothing and shoes that your child wears or takes to kinder- it makes the end of the day much easier to manage.

## HEAD LICE

As much as we hate it, the cooler weather brings not only the sniffles, but those pesky little creatures that love to inhabit the hair of small children!

This is a timely reminder to make regular checks of your child's hair. If you come across the critters, please treat your child as soon as possible, and let us know (we are required to put a sign up that an outbreak has occurred, but no names are identified). Informing us also lets the staff team know so that we can check our own heads as well! That way, we can stop the spread and get rid of the lice as soon as possible.

Ah, the joys of small childhood!