



**Olympic Avenue Kindergarten
March 2010 Newsletter
Issue 1 2010**





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Key contacts

Office

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Teachers

3 y.o-Teachers
Ronnie & Tina

4 y.o – Teachers
Stephanie &
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Committee

President

Jane Kippax
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Vice Presidents

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Hi everyone,

I hope everybody is settling in well and enjoying being part of the Olympic Avenue kinder community. The Welcome BBQs were certainly well attended - even despite having to reschedule the 3yo one - and it seemed that a lot of fun was had!

I would like to thank everybody for the support you have shown the kinder - signing our petition to support our application for a Stage 1 DEECD (Dept of Education) grant. The grant application was submitted Thurs 25 Feb, so let's cross our fingers that we are successful. It will enable us to fund many of the projects we have talked about for this year (providing more shade and protection from the elements around the sandpit area) as well as a new swing set and other equipment.

Thank you also to everybody who filled in a questionnaire during the interviews just before the start of term.. This will certainly lend some weight to our Stage 2 DEECD application (to build a new play room). 66% of parents confirmed that they would like or would have liked to see the kinder provide occasional care, a decisive result which gives us the confidence to develop the kinder further and broaden the services it offers. We are also sensitive to the fact that our kinder does provide a unique, well thought-through educational experience for our children, so are conscious that we would not wish it to lose this identity.

Watch this space for news of how our applications go!

Till next month.
Jane Kippax

YELLOW AND ORANGE GROUP REPORT

Photo Board



**Dramatic Play....
Going on the bus to
the Fun Park**



Sensory Play



**Profile of the month
"Holly"
Orange Group**

**At Kinder I like to
drove the bus to the
fun park**

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to report we have enjoyed a smooth start to the year with most children enjoying their OAK Kindergarten experience.

It has been perfect weather to explore sensory play. The children have been using water in the sandpit and experiencing other water activities such as small pebbles and shells in shallow basins, soap suds and whisks, plastic bottles, sieves and water sprays in the water trolley. We do take care in limiting the amount of water used. We have noticed how the children are very settled at mat time now and join in with our singing, music and story times. Already we have dramatised a story and everyone participated as we pretended to board a boat, helped to save a seal, held on as we were tossed around in a storm and climbed off when we reached the jetty. Pretend play is a very important skill for young children to develop. It helps them to 'exchange ideas, feelings and understandings using language and representations in play' (V.E.Y.L.D.F.) The children are becoming familiar with the Kindergarten environment and are using the equipment in an open ended way to meet their play goals.

In 2009 the Victorian Government released an 'Early Years Learning and Development Framework' which helps to guide children's learning and development during their first eight years of life. Therefore the curriculum is intended to run across both Early Childhood Services and Primary Schools up to Grade Two. The Framework is a continuum of what we already know. The skills and approaches to learning come from a play based foundation. The fortnightly Kindergarten Program is displayed in the foyer and we encourage you to take a few minutes to read it regularly. Parents can become familiar with the objectives we are trying to achieve for their children by noting the objectives written that have been taken from the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Frameworks (V.E.Y.L.D.F.).

The family BBQ was a great success. It's always a wonderful opportunity for new parents to meet each other and join in with the rest of the OAK community. I thought the face painting activity made the evening very memorable for the children! We also appreciated the time and effort given by all the parents who organised, cooked, prepared and tidied up on the evening. It was decided last year that the Three Year Old Groups could have two incursions this year. One in third term and one in fourth term. I have booked Dianne Harding's 'Wiggly Worm' which is an interactive dance/drama performance company and I have chosen a Spring theme for Dianne's September visit. I am thinking of having a mobile farm visit in the fourth term. In addition, Claire from Bayside Library will be visiting both groups on Friday 19th March to read, sing and offer Easter activities to the children.

The OAK staff attended a full day seminar as part of their professional development on Saturday 20th February. The topic was related to understanding Autism and the speakers gave a very informative presentation. Stephanie and I will also be attending a meeting with Kathy Walker (education consultant) on Thursday 11th March that is a follow up to the implementation of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.

We are looking forward to the remainder of term one.

Regards,
Ronnie and Tina

RED AND BLUE GROUP REPORT

Photo Board



Welcome to all parents, children , Kathy and Litsa.

We started the year with shorter sessions and last week moved to full sessions. The hot weather at the start of the term sapped our energy , but the children quickly adjusted to the new routines, ie snack, lunch, pouring water, music, story, indoor/outdoor flow, and creative activities. The children have a short 5 minute rest at the end of each session to wind down and relax. Many parents commented that their child was very tired at the end of the first few weeks.

We have been observing the children so that individual objectives can be set next term. The children have been encouraged to spend equal time indoors and outdoors and to try all the activities offered.

Exploring colours has been the main focus with co lour mixing, matching, songs, musical experiences, stories and games.

At the end of each fortnight, I have been writing up what the children's interests are and where this has led and what has been happening during the sessions. This is done according to the norms of the new Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF). This information is then put on the notice board for all parents to read. All the experiences and observations link to the Framework. Please see me if you would like a further explanation or if you want to discuss any aspect of your child's development. I am available before and after the sessions.

I have arranged for Sarah Young of Telling Tales to do a drama workshop with the children on Thursday 18 March. This term is a short one and our last sessions are on Thursday 25 March. We will be having a Dress Up Day on the 25th March to celebrate Easter and the end of term. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us, so please diarize the date. More information will be available soon.

Please also remember to send a sunhat to each session in Terms 1 and 4 and to apply sunscreen to your child before each session. Please also remember to bring a box of tissues before the end of term if you haven't already done so and to check in the filing cabinet in the foyer for your child's art. Also make sure that all your child's possessions are marked with their name - many children have the same shoes, undies etc. and remember to provide a change of clothes for your child.

Thank you to Nick Bodi (Ned - Red) for talking to the children in Red Group about building houses and showing them his tools. Thank you too to Susan Lam (Zavier - Blue) for talking to the children in Blue Group about Chinese New Year and giving each child a lucky red envelope with a chocolate coin. We appreciate your input.

Lets enjoy the rest of the term together.
Stephanie and Margaret

Making green play dough with Margaret



Sensory play with frozen balls.



Nick Bodi



Profiles of the Month
Abbey, Rachel and Jemma.
"We are working as a team."
said Abbey



PARENTING TIPS

**More than just finger painting:
art and craft in the early years**

By Rachel Skinner

Excerpts reproduced from Shine, February 2010 Issue

**Published by the Communications Division for the
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
www.education.vic.gov.au**

LESSON ONE on how to make a toddler your best friend: let them loose on a table groaning with art and craft supplies...what preschooler doesn't relish the chance to create their own sticky, glittering masterpiece ? But all that messy fun isn't just about kids and being kids – it's great for their education...

University of Melbourne Early Learning Centre director Jan Deans believes... art and craft plays a vital role in children's learning and development, cognitively, physically and emotionally.

"What we do see is their artistic expression changing from a more naïve view to something more sophisticated as their fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination develops. Children start to master skills and feel comfortable picking up a pencil or pair of scissors to create images that tell stories about their thoughts, feelings or life experiences"- own self-expression.

"the most obvious benefit of preschoolers finding their way around a pencil or paintbrush is the immediate link to developing literacy skills. Children's art projects are a basic form of communication – a pre-literate expression of ideas, thoughts and preferences"

"If you were to take the arts away from their experience, they would certainly miss out on one of the most fundamental joys of being human: individual, creative expression"

Jordy Kaufman, Swinburne University Senior Research fellow has another view...

"that arts and crafts are fun for children... Education outcomes are generally improved when children are engaged"



OAK SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Welcome BBQ's

The 4 year old Welcome BBQ enjoyed a balmy sunny evening while the 3 year old BBQ needed to be rescheduled due to the Lightning storms on the original night (the 3 yo BBQ was finally held on Thursday 18th Feb). Both BBQs were a success with parents and children mingling and beginning or continuing friendships. The children delighted in having their faces painted and sausages sizzled while the BBQ through flames into the air! Hi-five played in the background as bubbles swirled in the air. Over the 2 nights we fed 102 adults and 106 children with 400 sausages, 15 Vegies burgers, 24 loaves of bread and 140 icy poles. WOW!
We hope that you had a chance to catch up with your child's teacher and assistant, meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

RED Group Social Committee Member

We are in desperate need of a Red Group social committee member so that the Red group can enjoy events (such as coffee mornings or a get together in the park) created especially for them to suit their needs. This role could even be shared between 2 or 3 parents from the Red group. It's a great way to get involved. You don't need to come to the committee meetings if you choose not to as these will be attended by the Social Co-ordinator. If you would like to know more please call Annie Thomas (Mum of Holly in Orange group) to discuss on 9585 3577 or 0409 063 543.
We would love to hear from you.

Who is your social Rep?

If you have any ideas for a social event or any feedback on the events that you have attended we would love to hear about it. Please speak to your social rep.

Social Co-ordinator – Annie Thomas, Orange Group (Mum of Holly)
9585 3577, Mobile 0409 063 543

Orange Group Rep – Janeece Heweston, (Mum of Blade)
9515 4285, Mobile 0411 822 755

Yellow Group Rep – Casie Samantzis , (Mum of Allie and Mia) 0421 915 000
Blue Group Rep – Ken Hurley, (Dad of Liam) 9584 0991



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The Friends of Black Rock House invite you to a
"Fairy Day & Teddy Bear's Picnic"
at
Black Rock House
34 Ebdon Avenue, Black Rock
Saturday, 20th March 2010
1.00pm—4.00pm—Admission FREE

Join in the fun between 1.00 & 2.00pm when "Tilly Teddy" will play games with you and your favorite Teddy Bear

This is followed by lots of fun and entertainment with:
Fairy Twinkletoes
Galosh the Gnome
Pirate Pete
Make a wish at the wishing well
Have your face painted
Listen to the story teller

Boys & Girls dress up as your favorite
Pirate
Gnome
Fairy
Elf

This is a Family Fun Day so come with the family & BYO your picnic lunch, a rug and a chair
For further information call 0438 141 389
A gold coin donation for the "Wishing Well" would be appreciated

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Monday 8 th March	All Day	Labour Day – kinder Closed	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Tuesday 9 th March	AM/PM	Veggie Planting Day – RED/BLUE	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Thursday 18 th March	AM/PM	Storytelling – Sarah Yange "Telling Tales RED/BLUE	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Friday 19 th March	AM/PM	Storytelling - Claire Searle "Easter Theme" ORANGE/YELLOW	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Sunday 21 st March	9am-12pm	Working Bee – 4yr old group – BLUE	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Thursday 25 th March	PM	Prep Reunion	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Thursday 25 th March	PM	Last Day of Term – RED/BLUE	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Friday 26 th March	AM/PM	Bulb Planting – ORANGE/YELLOW	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Friday 26 th March	PM	Last Day of Term – ORANGE/YELLOW	Olympic Avenue Kinder
Saturday 11 th April	9-11.30AM	Open Day	Olympic Avenue Kinder

NEWS/NOTICE BOARD

Kinder Gear For Sale

Legionnaire hats (red or blue)\$ 8.00
 Kinder bags\$10.00
 Iron on transfers (black or white) ... \$2.00
 Trolley coins (see designs below) ...\$3.00



By popular demand Trolley Coins are now permanently available!!

To purchase any of the Kinder Gear items use the order envelopes provided in the Kinder foyer. Please allow three days for your order to be processed, it will then be available from the OAK office for pick up – please ask Stephanie or Ronnie.

Sunsmart

All children require hats in Term 1 and 4. Sunscreen must also be applied prior to each session.

Red/Blue Groups

Reminder: could each child please bring one box of tissues to kinder if you have not already done so.

Banking Details for School Fees

The correct details for paying your fees by EFT are as follows:

BSB: 704 191

Account no: 155886

Account name: Olympic Avenue Kindergarten

Parking

Please be mindful of our residents and refrain from parking over driveways.

Washing Instructions: Kinder Paint

Soak garment. Wash in warm water or wonder soap. Stain removers not recommended.

Hire the Kinder for your Child's Party



**HIRE FEE JUST \$60.
PLUS BOND \$90.**

- Full use of the outside play area including sand pit
- Full use of the kitchen and amenities

Download the booking form at www.olympicavenuekinder.com.au

Please note: the Kinder is not hired out during School Holidays or on Working Bee weekends.

Our kinder aims to be NUT FREE. Please refrain from bringing any food which may contain traces.

Parties in the park

Please ensure all rubbish is discarded once party is completed.



CONGRATULATIONS
Sandra, Andy, Jacob
(BLUE GROUP)
and Jamie McKie
on the safe arrival of
Baby ARCHIE



2010 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

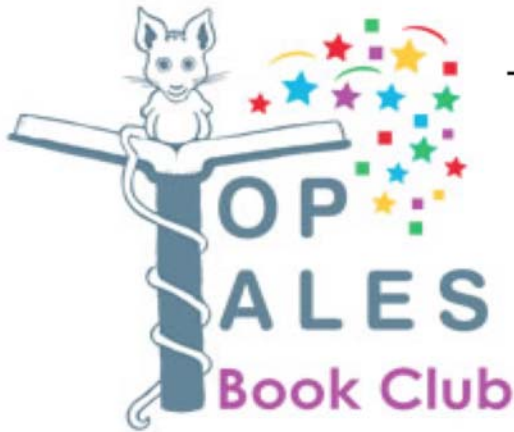
Community Involvement is very important for us so please feel free at anytime to contact any of our members to discuss/comment/provide ideas of how we can ensure our Kinder continues to offer everyone the best Kinder experience possible.

POSITION	MEMBERS NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
PRESIDENT	Jane Kippax	janeandmark@kippae.org
VICE PRESIDENT	Christian Anderson Angela Reader	cmanders1@optusnet.com.au info@cheltenhamspeech.com.au
TREASURER	Susie Pitara	susie.pitara@au.pwc.com
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SOCIAL CORDINATOR	Annie Thomas	emailannie@optusnet.com.au
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	Yellow - Casie Samantzis	samantzi@spin.net.au
	Blue - Ken Hurley	
MAINTENANCE & WORKING BEE CO-ORDINATOR	Stan Samantzis	samantzi@spin.net.au
COMMUNICATIONS	Melanie Knox	melanieknox@hotmail.com
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GARDEN	Megan Hall	meganhall@lycos.com

Top Tales Book Club

What is Top Tales Book Club?

Top Tales provide quality children's books at discounted prices to make books accessible for all. In every book they choose they strive to ensure that they are:



- Fostering a love of literature
- Encouraging language development
- Developing an appreciation of various illustration styles
- Expanding a child's imagination
- Promoting literacy
- Creating an awareness and appreciation of diverse cultures

Their books are chosen by experts in the industry based on the quality of the story, illustrations and characters and the interests and learning needs of children in Australia today. Their range of books cover diverse genres and they always ensure that there is a book in every range that is perfect for every child.

Does Olympic Avenue Kinder benefit when I purchase books?

When purchases are made from Top Tales Book Club, Olympic Avenue Kinder gets to keep a percentage of the total order value in books for themselves.

The more money that is spent, the greater the percentage the kinder is allowed to spend on books! So, get buying for Birthdays, Christmas or other special events and not only are you buying great books for your children at discounted prices, but you will also be helping out the kindergarten.

BOOKS ARE LOCATED IN THE FRONT FOYER