

# EAST BRUNSWICK KINDERGARTEN AND CHILDCARE

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East Brunswick Kindergarten  
and Childcare Centre

## May 2016 **NEWSLETTER**

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### Calendar

Queen's Birthday Holiday- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
Centre is closed.

Incursion-Early Learning groups  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
"David the Music Man".

4 year old Kindergarten holidays  
Term 2 ends Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Term 3 starts Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July

**Change of Date- Mid Year Family Function**  
**The date is now Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July at St Ambrose Hall**

PHOTOS -Bala the Photographer will be taking photos from-  
Week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July.  
Check the notice board for your room.

Staff Professional Development Days-  
Moreland Conference Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July- Centre Closed  
Professional Development at EBK Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September- Centre Closed.

Incursion for 4 year old Kinder Groups-  
Museum Victoria- "Back yard Bugs"  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August

## Resource Smart in Early Childhood

Resource Smart in Early Childhood programs aims to help services take an active role in caring for the environment and contributing to a sustainable future. Moreland Council has provided funding for a "Ceres Resource Smart" Co-ordinator to work with the centre. Deanne Jones is our facilitator and so far, she has been collating information on our energy usage, advising on sustainable resources and involved in a professional development session for our staff. She also spent a day in the Kingfisher room assisting with our Mini beast investigation.

## Committee Of Management

Welcome to all the new and existing members. The committee meet once a month (look out for meeting date at the front).

Can you help?

We still have a few roles to fill-

**Grounds and Maintenance Co-ordinator-** This would involve coordinating a couple of working bees. See Mary or Jane if you are interested.

Also we are always on the lookout for people with skills e.g IT/computer skills, Interior design to help us with our storage solutions etc.

**Grant Agreement-**

The application for funding to upgrade Amenities at EBK was successful. We will be installing two new sinks in The Kingfisher and Platypus rooms with surprise, surprise warm water!

How amazing that we have survived all these years without it!

Thanks Megan for helping with this application.

## **Reminders / Noticeboard**

### Ezidebit

A reminder for all families that Ezidebit is the preferred option of payment for 3 year old programs and childcare here at EBK. If you are interested in finding out how you can pay by Ezidebit please see Jane or Ange in the office. Kingfisher (4year old) statements are sent out separately by Mary.

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### Clothing for Outdoor play

Just a reminder- to have appropriate clothing for the changing weather conditions. Outdoor play is an important part of our day!

### Lost property

There is a large mountain of lost property at kindergarten. Please take the time to have a look to see if any of the items belong to your child. Also please ensure that Lunch boxes and drink bottles are clearly named.

### Snack/Lunch boxes

We have children who attend the centre who are Anaphylactic. We would appreciate it, if parents would consider this when packing children's lunch boxes eg- Nutella, Peanut butter, nut bars etc. Thank you for considering everyone's safety.

### Kindergarten fees for 4 year Old Kindergarten and childcare

4 year old Kindergarten fees for term 2 should be paid now. These are paid separately to the child care fees. If you have any queries, please see Mary. Also check your statements for 3 year old and long day care accounts. Please ensure that fees are paid promptly.

### T-SHIRTS, HATS and BAGS

**\$12 each or set of 3 for \$30 EPTPOS Only**  
**Available in size 4 or 6**  
**Many colours- see staff in the office.**

**Craft material, small boxes, ribbons, re- cycled Xmas and birthday cards etc**  
**Please bring in your re cycled art/craft items**

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## **KINGFISHER ROOM NEWS- K1 and K2**

**Mary, Damien, Karen, Val, Desiree, Olivia**

### **Kindergarten Director's report by Mary.**

The Kingfishers have enjoyed joining in with the planting sessions and moving the huge pile of soil this week.

Lisa helped out with getting the vegetable boxes ready and the children joined in with planting the seedlings and flowers.

We discussed what the plants need to grow at group time.

We used the Vegetable Garden planting book as a starting point for discussion.

The planting inspired the children to join in at the drawing table. Some of the children were keen to draw pictures of a vegetable garden and share their comments with the Educators.

### **Abstract Art**

This week we have been talking to the children about "Abstract Art". The discussion started from a conversation overheard by an Educator, from a child who made a comment about another child's drawing not resembling what the child had said it was.

This prompted us to start a conversation with the children about what is Art and where can we see it?

We started to talk to the children about "Abstract Art" and how it often isn't recognizable reality but instead uses shapes, colours, textures and forms to achieve an effect.

Different people can see different things in a piece of art work.

Val researched some videos on "You tube" and we had the lap top out in our room for the children to explore. We looked at Art work by Jackson Pollack, Wassily Kandinsky and others. We settled on Kandinsky and Geometric Abstraction as inspiration for our Art table.

The table was set with rulers, geometric shapes to copy and trace. The children enjoyed exploring the different shapes, lines and patterns. There were lots of underlying maths concepts being explored at the same time. Fine motor and pre- literacy skills while working with the implements. Not to mention technology skills when we practised using the computer to research the project.

We then offered the children some water colours at a different table to complete their work.

We believe the children really enjoyed the experience as it took the pressure off to make a picture of something. It also gave children the opportunity to interpret things in their own way, express with their own thoughts and feelings.

Group time then evolved into a discussion about Art being everywhere and we brainstormed some ideas about what we have experienced.

Harvey B- "you can paint your house and I saw graffiti on a bus".

This then prompted discussion about good graffiti (like in the city laneway) and bad graffiti (without permission).

Alessio- "I went to the city".

Len- "We could paint someone's house if they said yes.

Charlie- mentioned that he knew about "Andy Warhol" art work.

Toby- "you can't graffiti cars, once I saw a person painted.... like a lion"

Samara-"the fox was painting"

Mary-"I once saw an Elephant painting with his trunk".

Kester- "some people paint faces"

Mary- "Some people like body Art and we discussed what we have seen like tattoos.

Indigenous celebrations include painting bodies with ochre when engaging in traditional dance.

Hugo- "I went to an Art gallery and I made something".

This has lead to discussion about looking at other Artist's work including contemporary Aboriginal ART.

We also discussed creating our own **Kingfisher Art Gallery**.

### **Moreland Waste visit**

David from Moreland Waste visited the groups to talk about re-cycling, land fill and what happens to the garbage after it lands in the bin! The children really enjoyed the discussion and joining in with the sorting and classifying activities. We are supporting this session with re- cycle garbage games and reading books on sustainability.

Each room has colour coded their bins to assist the children with re-cycling their own rubbish. The kingfishers also have a "Clean up the yard" day on (Friday) each week, where we all help to pick up the rubbish around the yard.

We often talk about the local community and keeping it clean so that places like the Merri Creek are clean environments for our local wildlife.

### **Professional development**

Some of the Educators attended the "Autism as a fruit salad" presentation, last night presented by Donna Williams. Donna provided an insight into the world of Autism as someone who has actually been there as a person with autism and as a consultant who has worked with many families.

The Educators have been booked to CPR and Epi- pen refresher on Monday night.

### **Student teacher**

Welcome to Jessie Chen who is from RMIT studying her Bachelor of Education. Jessie has come from the Chinese Central University in Wuhan China and is completing the rest of her course in Australia.

### **News from Damien.**

The Kingfisher friends have been flat out busy doing lots of amazing things together. From the start of this term we hit the ball on the head with some gardening activities. Some of the Kingfisher friends found a caterpillar in the yard. They were so intrigued by this and we began a project focusing on some literature.

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" was the picture story book that we focused on. This has led on to some amazing thoughts and ideas from the children. The Children planted some grass seeds and made their own caterpillars. Some had ideas of doing some gardening so we had the children bringing the outdoors, indoor. We had the children planting some succulents in soil and they made their own pots to take home.

We also did some gardening outside and the Kingfishers had the experience of planting bulbs in the gardens. These bulbs will bloom in Spring and some gorgeous Daffodils will appear outside.

Parents please ensure that you provide your child with the necessary attire for the day. Make sure that they have a warm coat and even boots for the rainy days as we like to go exploring outside in the rain.

### **Damien**

## **PLATYPUS 4YO NEWS MAY 2016**

### **Children's goals**

We have received goals from most of you or had chats. Thank you for your feedback. In general it seems we have a lot of social and emotional goals which is fantastic.

Kindergarten is a great year to learn these things.

Here's the long term plan. We want children to be willing to sort out problems (hence the problem solving circle). We want them to be aware that what they do affects others.

This is big. Children often think of things from their own point of view or do something simply because they want to! We do lots of things to help them see others viewpoints

and understand and care about other people's emotions. Some practical things we do include telling stories with puppets and asking children to say how the puppet is feeling

and what the puppet could do next time. We told a story recently with "apples" as I mentioned in my last report. The apple was bruised on the inside after name calling and roughness. It was hurt on the inside. The children responded amazingly to this. We are reminding them to "hold each other up" so they don't hurt each other on the inside.

When we are using the problem solving circle, the children have a ticket to talk (and can practise being assertive) and learn that they need to listen to the other person too.

Interestingly, we are seeing some children not involved in an issue go and get the circle for others – fabulous because we want children to learn that "bystanders" have an important role.

We have recently introduced our "emotion cards" so children can point at how they feel (there are a lot of these cards to illustrate the nuance of emotion) and importantly to illustrate that we can change the way we feel. For example a child feeling sad at drop off might point at a card indicating that. Later, after the child has settled, we will bring the child back to the cards and they pick out a different card. We make explicit what they did to change the way they feel. You can see how this relates to resilience. You can do things to bounce back from challenging situations. Children need experience with challenging situations to build up their resilience bank.

We continue to build a sense of community and belonging by having fun group games and activities (we're going on a bear hunt was a hit). We also give the children practise at being with different people to foster a sense of inclusion. Hence strategic use of name cards at lunch and partner games where you have different partners. As mentioned in previous emails we also engage in group projects such as the guinea pig cubby. I wish to start construction Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. It might take a while so there will be opportunity for any of you to bang in stakes, place branches, weave leaves etc. Not to mention bring in branches too – we still need lots more.

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This sense of community and belonging is also part of the long term plan to foster many positive social and emotional goals. In the short term, there are always consequences for behaviour that is not safe for others in the community. For example children who when together use words or actions that are not safe have a break from each other for a short while. Using the problem solving circle too helps children see the consequences of their behaviour on other people.

### **Aboriginal cultural awareness**

I went to a wonderful inservice to learn more about the importance of culture to Aboriginal people. Here's a beautiful message I took from it: "Culture is to people like fish is to water. Fish swim in water and don't know it is water. We swim in our culture and don't recognise it". So if you take the fish out of water you hurt it. There are some important dates coming up I will talk to the children about. National Sorry Day is 26 May. National Reconciliation Week is 27 May (anniversary of 1967 referendum giving Aboriginal people the right to vote) to 3 June (Mabo Day, when the high court of

Australia recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a special relationship to the land).

As I mentioned last report I am going to use the apple idea again to talk about people being hurt on the inside. I also wish to celebrate Aboriginal culture. I hope to visit some Aboriginal early childhood services and make connections with organisations such as VAEAI. AND as a service we are signing up to a Reconciliation plan – this will be ongoing and we need to establish a working party consisting of EBK staff and someone to lead and guide us from the Aboriginal community.

### **Coming up**

There is a lot more I could write but I think I might talk more about literacy, numeracy and science next time.

### **Can you help?**

Bring us your stuff! Boxes, containers, ribbons, LIDS (very popular), buttons, ANYTHING. The children just LOVE creating with these kinds of things.

And I know I am nagging – but we need more branches, twigs, sticks for the guinea pig cubby. Or help me hammer in a stake.

Bye for now,

Ange, Juliette, Erica

## **TERM TWO PLATYPUS NEWSLETTER-3 YEAR GROUP**

Hello everyone and welcome to the second term. Whilst saying that, it's almost half of the term.

Since the beginning of the term, we have been observing children and we have noticed that they are more settled with the routines, room rules, their peers and teachers. As they gain confidence they are involving themselves more in all aspects of the program by making independent choices, being curious, trying new things and asking for help when they need it. The children are beginning to acknowledge their peers more frequently in their play. As their play beginning to become more social we are focusing on improving their social skills by guiding, encouraging and empowering them to have a variety of skills that they can practice throughout the year. We have been singing a song about using words to express their feelings & here are the lyrics:

“use your words, use your words, all they long, all they long, keep your hands and your feet, keep your hands and your feet to yourself” (Where is thumbkin song tune)

The children have also actively enjoyed the train set, and also building and creating with construction toys such as duplo, lego and large wooden blocks.

The collage area is one of the most popular spaces in the room; the children have been using the recycled materials to make their magnificent creations, if any families have recycled papers, boxes, containers they are always welcome to bring them☺. The paint easel has also been a popular area, with many children experimenting with a variety of new colour shades, and art materials while they paint. We extended their interest by adding colour mixing experience in our program at the beginning of this term and continued with other experiences such as coloured cards memory game, sort out, box with coloured dinosaurs etc... We also have four new brightly coloured bins in our room. The children are learning about “recycling” as they sort their rubbish after snack and lunch. The bins are for fruit and vegetable scraps (for our compost bin), recycling paper and general rubbish. If they are not sure about which bin their rubbish goes in, they just check the colour code board created with food scraps so that they can find out which bin to throw their rubbish in.

The children are also enjoying their music, dancing and stories. The “Happy” and “Everybody dance now” songs are their favourite ones at the moment. It’s a great feeling to see their enthusiasm, happiness and movements as they dance.

This term our dramatic and imaginative play areas are very busy too. The dinosaur play area was set up with props and books that led us to explore about volcanoes. The Volcano eruption science experiment made children very excited. Through this experiment the children are beginning to explore about the concept of scientific reactions and the ingredients that we used (vinegar, food dye and bicarbonate of soda)

It seems like the volcanoes will be an ongoing interest in our room because time to time the children are still asking to make the volcano eruption experiment in the room or in the sand pit. The paper mache volcanoes will be added into our program to scaffold children’s learning.

Last week the dramatic play area turned in to a space station with planets, stars, books and a rocket ship. The children are pretending to be commanders of their space ship and counting down to blast off with the “zoom zoom” song.

Here are the lyrics of the song which is very popular these days:

Zoom, zoom, zoom we’re going to the moon, zoom, zoom, zoom we’re going very soon, if you want to take a trip, climb aboard my rocket ship, zoom, zoom, zoom we’re going very soon, 5,4,3,2,1 blast off!!!

Recently we noticed a lot of children had interest in “Octonauts” characters. So we set up a table with a boat, sea creatures & pictures and the names of the characters. As teachers it’s our turn to learn from the children, we are exploring and learning about ‘Octonauts’☺ Soon we will be growing our winter vegetables in our garden!!! Last week the garden bed was filled with new soil and now it is ready for us to plant the seeds. At the moment we have silver beat and cauliflower in our mind. The children will therefore be able to pick fresh vegetables from the garden and eat them. As the children garden and dig in the dirt they will learn to connect with nature, take care of living things, develop their observation skills, be curious, be patient, classify, sort, count and more!

And there will also be cooking experiences on the way for the children to develop some math skills, fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, social skills (turn taking, waiting), healthy eating habits & more!

We will continue to follow children’s interest& goals and intentional teaching.

We also have some reminders:

Each child portfolio is located on the wooden block shelf please feel free to have a look any time.

The winter is on the way please make sure your child has a warm jacket and spare clothes in their bags as we still play outside on wet days.

Platypus 3 Year old Team, Nihal, Missy, Erica

## **POBBLEBONK NEWS**

**Amanda, Penni, Ebony, Natalie, Hisako, Nihal and Vicki**

Hi everybody!

This term in the Pobblebonk room we have been exploring loads of things and broadening our knowledge about the world we live in. The addition of some great new bins (Recycle, Compost, and Garbage) has prompted some very insightful discussions between educators and children. Through our group times we have shared with the children what landfill means and why it is important for us to try and reduce, re-use and recycle. The children have been doing a wonderful job at recycling old drawings and

scraps of paper into our blue bins and have been very proactive in asking us where to put items they are unsure about. We also introduced our recycled collage project which uses items from our pink 'reuse' bin. We have collected broken toys, old textas, washed yogurt tubs and are now using them to create an amazing artwork.

The Pobblebonk team has also been learning about healthy eating and where food comes from. Penni has introduced the children to the healthy eating pyramid through an interactive group time where children were able to choose pictures of foods and stick them in the appropriate area in the triangle. Both groups have also planted some herbs and vegetables into our planter boxes for us to care for and eat when they are ready! This has been a wonderful activity to do with the children as learning how food grows and where it comes from is really important.

Another recent group time discussion has been about respect. We have talked about respecting each other by being kind, not hurting each other and listening. We have also spoken to the children about what it means to respect themselves and property. We are looking forward to expanding on these new areas of learning throughout the term and rest of the year and of course adding more.

Please remember to speak to your child's educators about any goals you would like us to help them achieve. These goals help us plan our program along with other input from parents regarding activities you do in/out of the home and special things that are happening in your child's life.

Thank you for reading 😊 Penni, Amanda, Natalie, Hisako, Ebony and Vicki

P.S. For those who do not know, Natalie is expecting her second child in September so will be on maternity leave from the end of August.