



NEWSLETTER

March 2018

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President's message

Hello. On behalf of the BWK Committee, we hope you and your child/children have settled in well and are enjoying a great first term at Bentleigh West Kindergarten. Hard to believe Term One is nearly complete! We have had a fun and productive start to the year, getting lots of jobs done at the first Working Bee. Thank you so much to all the families who came along and worked hard to fill the tan bark and tidy the garden and inside the Kinder. It's looking terrific.

Excitingly, our first fundraising activity for the year, the Easter Raffle, is well underway. Thank you to families for your generous donations, which are being used to make up beautiful prize hampers. We also really appreciate your support selling raffle tickets to your families and friends.

Our Group Reps have been busy creating lots of opportunities for families to enjoy getting to know each other at coffee and park catch ups, and group dinners for parents.

Thank you to our fabulous Educators, who have prepared the beautiful photo tree in the foyer area. What a lovely way to start the day with such a friendly, welcoming display of our Kinder children and their families. You may even spot photos of your friendly Committee throughout the display!

We are busy planning our Open Day, to be held on Sunday 22 April, from 10am-12pm. This is an opportunity to display our wonderful facilities to prospective families. Our staff and many Committee members will be there to chat to visiting families, and we are preparing a range of communications to promote the event within the community. Please help us spread the word.

Please keep the evening of Tuesday 1st May free so you can join us at our first Parent Education Night. *'Raising Resilient, Independent & Confident Kids'*, will be presented by behaviour specialist Jo Lange, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st May, at the Kinder.

Next term will be busy as the children immerse themselves in the Kinder program with exciting incursions and excursions planned. Make sure you keep up to date with our diary dates communication, so you don't miss out on what's happening and when.

Enjoy your term break and have a happy and safe Easter with your families.

Narelle Whiteley

Director's message:





I cannot believe how fast the year is going. Term 1 is almost over. This term all three groups has settled into the program very well. It's been hot but all in all the children are coping. We have had a great response to kinder duty and staff have found it very helpful to have an extra set of eyes and pair of hands to help out. Both the 3 and 4 year group groups have enjoyed their first incursions for the year. The 4 year old groups learnt about fossils and the 3 year old group did lots of singing and dancing. In soon staff will be chatting with the children to see what areas they would like next term, we like to use both the children ideas and staff expertise. With that in mind I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break and keeps safe. For families who celebrate Easter we hope the Easter bunny comes.

WORKING BEE THANK YOU

Thank you to all the families who gave up their time to help out during our first working bee, the kinder is now looking great. The children and teachers really appreciate all your work. If you were unable to make this terms working bee, we will be having another each term so keep your eye open for signup sheets.

BWK AND SUSTAINABILITY

At Bentleigh West Kinder we consider sustainability very important and we are committed to sustainable practices such as recycling, reusing items where possible, and reducing our energy use. We will be implementing a range of practises within the kinder and ask for your help to support. During term 1 the four year old children collected food scraps for the kinder worm farm and enjoyed feeding and looking after the worms. The children also participated in a weekly 'earth hour'.

In term 2 we will continue with learn about recycling and taking care of the worms. We will also start using

the kinder's compost bin to make compost. The four year old groups will have the opportunity to help to plant a new crop of vegetable in our front yard. Once fully grown families will be able to take the grown vegetable home to eat and we will use them in our cooking program!

In term 2 we will also be starting out 'Reuse Program' which encourages families to donate items for our craft and collage table. Please bring in unwanted boxes and place in our collection tubs in the kinder foyer. Below is a list of suggested items that we can use. Please remember that we are educating children with anaphylaxis to nuts, therefore not all boxes can be accepted as they pose a risk. Please do not bring boxes that contained foods that have traces of nuts eg dry biscuit boxes, cereal boxes, cake mixes etc.....

Please bring

- Assorted cardboard boxes: tissue boxes, shoe boxes, toothpaste boxes, soap boxes, golf ball sleeves, boxes from coffee pods, boxes from glad bags etc...
- Cylinders/ rolls from paper towel, cling wrap (not from toilet paper)
- We would also like washed butter containers: yoghurt tubs, milk bottle lids, jar lids and coffee pods.

Please don't bring - we cannot use these they're best put in your recycling bin

- Large boxes or containers (bigger than a shoe box)
- Toilet paper cylinders
- Medication containers/boxes
- Boxes that contained foods that have had nuts
- Boxes that have 'may contain traces of nuts' statements

Thank you for helping us reduce our impact on our wonderful planet!



What is your child learning? Why don't you teach the ABCs?

Here at BWK we recognise the benefits of play based learning. This is considered best practice by the Department of Education and Training (DET) as children at this age, children learn best through the process of play. Play is a natural thing for children and they don't have to work to play, it just comes naturally.

Therefore, children learn best through play. Learning shouldn't feel like hard work, it should be enjoyable. This results in better learning outcomes for children. We often get asked when my child is going to learn their ABC's. We don't teach letters through the use of flash cards, focusing on a letter each week or phonics programs. Research tells us that this is not meaningful for children, it's an outdated practice and the as this is not considered the best way for children to learn at this age. Literacy should be embedded in the program.

There is significant research that indicates that children's brains are not ready at this age and it can lead to problems in later in their school life.

We teach literacy through play! Children are exposed to letters and words every day in our program, and we use a range of intention teaching strategies to support children to understand the alphabet and promote their literacy development. We have a strong focus on the developing the skills children required before they can read and write. This is what the local prep teachers have asked us to do. Without these skills reading and writing is not easy for children and once at school they can fall behind the children who have already mastered these skills.

To some people a play based program may look and feel like the children are simply 'just playing'. Please know that all our staff are trained to deliver a play based learning program. They are trained to select, develop and plan each experience to enhance children's learning. If you would like to know more take a look at the program. We understand that families want what is best for their child, as do we. That is why we are dedicated to ensuring that the BWK program allows children to develop at their own rate, caters for individual needs and individual interests. The program allows children to have fun and be children. The role of kinder is not simply preparing children for school but equipping children with the foundation and skills required for lifelong learning. If you have any questions about the program please talk to your child's kinder teacher.

LATE FEES

While we understand that there might be times due to unforeseen circumstances you might run late to collect your child. If this happens please call and let staff know that you or someone else is on their way. If families are continually late to collect their child the late collection fee will be charged. The fee is charged at a dollar per minute you are late therefore if you 10 minutes late a \$10 fee will be charged..



(The Easter Hampers are looking scrumptious!)

Fundraising

We're off to a flying start for the year with our first fundraising activity well underway - the Easter Raffle. We have been blown away by the incredibly generous donations from all our families, from these donations big Easter hampers will be created this week and raffled to not only our families of the Kinder but the general community. Here are some photos of the hampers - they look amazing! We hope to raise \$2000 with our first raffle and this money will go a long way in helping the Kinder purchase much needed items on their wish list and also go into the general maintenance and updating of Kinder facilities so your support is greatly appreciated!

Fundraising is a real team effort and we will only be able to achieve our goals with the support of our wonderful families. We would like to encourage everyone to really get behind the fundraising activities for the year as your own individual contribution all adds up to enable us to

constantly improve the amazing learning and supportive environment for our children. Below is a table of our key fundraising activities and dates for the year - next up is the Kids Disco which we are planning to hold in the Scout Hall next to the Kinder at the end of May and will be sure to be a memorable evening for the kids!

FUNDRAISING SCHEDULE 2018- (Please add to your diaries):

Events:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| KIDS DISCO 6PM – 8PM | 25 TH MAY |
| TRIVIA NIGHT | 15 TH JUNE |
| WINE NIGHT/RAFFLE | 25 TH AUGUST |

Activities:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| EASTER RAFFLE | 29 TH MARCH |
| XMAS RAFFLE | 3 RD DEC |
| BUNNINGS BBQ | TBC |

BWK Open Day- Sunday April 22nd

We're gearing up for our annual Open Day on Sunday 22nd April, from 10am-12pm. Please invite any family and friends who are looking for a 3 or 4 Year Old Kindergarten program for their child in 2019.

Bentleigh West Kindergarten prides itself on its wonderful community spirit and its Kindergarten program influenced by the 'Walker Learning Approach' that prepares and supports each child's transition to primary school.

Open Day is a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to tour the beautiful Kinder facilities and chat with our Educators. There will be **face painting** and **bubble fun** for the children.

For further information, please contact 4 Year Old Enrolments Officer, Erin Bainbridge [REDACTED] or at 4yoenrolments@bentleighwestkinder.org.au.



Working Bee

The 1st working Bee of the year, was a great success!! We had a massive job to do but with a fantastic turn out from families at the kinder we made light work of it and did a great job!!

Thanks again for everyone who came and lent a hand, even the kids who happily picked up a broom and away they went! The kinder is looking fresh! Till next time...Kind regards.

Mark Gardiner (Maintenance Officer)





4 Year Old Report

The four-year olds have adjusted to the program and drop offs are becoming easier for all parties involved. We recently introduced 'busy bags' and books for the first 20 minutes of the session to accommodate families who have school drop off or other commitments at the beginning of the sessions. So far we have received positive feedback. Don't forget to take advantage of the five minutes at the end of every session where we aim to open the doors early to avoid the 'hustle and bustle' of lining up for a long period of time. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher about their day in more detail, please wait until the end of the line or alternatively book an appointment.

Many children are starting to form friendships and play in small groups. Group games such as 'What's the Time Mr Wolf' and 'Duck, Duck, Goose' and 'Shark Attack' have been popular recently. With friendships comes conflict from time to time. Yellow and Purple Group have been involved in role-plays with puppets at group time, teaching them how to manage conflicts independently. In addition, we have been reading books about positive behaviour and building kindness toward others. We will continue with the role-plays and books over the next few sessions. At group time we are choosing things to bring in our 'All About Me' bags. This opportunity allows children to practise speaking in front of an audience which builds confidence, self-esteem and performance skills. It is also a terrific learning opportunity to find out about children's special interests as we expand our general knowledge.

On the long days we have commenced our 'Mindfulness' program with Justine Telfer. Every session is fun and interactive, teaching children about breath, connection to their body, guided meditation and group creativity. The children use props such as

eye masks, learn to connect with their magical star and make wishes to a magical swan by the name of Esmeralda. They have also been taught to understand they are special and that everyone matters through valuable discussions and books.

This month's focus is the dinosaur area. In the dinosaur area children can be imaginative with their peers, expand their knowledge about dinosaurs and fossils and practise turn taking and sharing. We have an exciting incursion about dinosaurs coming up soon also. This area can build children's anticipation and excitement for the upcoming incursion promoting discussions and building curiosity.

Sophia, Nichole, Ann and Chris

3 Year Old Report

Green Group

The three-year olds are settling in very nicely. All the children are completing full sessions which is wonderful to see so early in the year. Every week the children are making new discoveries as they engage with the resources indoors and outdoors.

This month's focus is the mud pit. Mud play provides a fantastic sensory experience and many children are naturally drawn to it. It provides endless opportunities for discovery and experimentation. The children were shown how to use the water pump last Monday. They used their large muscles to pull the lever down and fill up their buckets. The children added water to the existing mud and enjoyed digging with their spades and shovels. Some children gravitated toward the creek bed next which is next to the mud pit. They were fascinated as the water trickled along the creek bed creating a flowing effect. This was also a great place to enjoy splashing with friends, feeling the sensation of water on their legs and bodies. Some children added trucks to the water and had races with each other.



We had an exciting incursion on Monday with a visit from 'Jack and Molly'. The topic was 'Becoming Me'. Children explored the differences and diversity of our abilities as we grow, such as:

- The changes that happen to us as we grow and our ability to perform harder tasks
- We encourage the children to 'Have a Go' and that mistakes can be a tool to help us learn
- Our skin might be different, as we are different, however we are very unique
- Day & Night – Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star in sign language and much more!!!

On Monday 19th March Di returned to kinder in her role as educator. We look forward to welcoming Di and forming new bonds. Emma will stay on board as our casual reliever and fill in for staff when they are absent. I'm sure the children will miss Emma very much as she has built a wonderful rapport with the children and families, but this is not goodbye!

Every week we are sharing the 'All About Me' book at group time. The children are enjoying learning about their peers and especially looking at their special page. During the session, the 'all about me' book is kept in the library so if you are on kinder duty please don't hesitate to have a read with your child.

Sophia and Emma

Vacancy in 4 Year Old Kinder

Dear Families,

We have an unexpected vacancy recently arise in our 4 Year Old Kinder groups. Do you have any family or friends in the City of Glen Eira looking for a 4 Year Old Kindergarten program this year? Please pass on my details to prospective families to discuss Kinder days/times currently available.

Erin Bainbridge - 4 Year Old Enrolments Officer
4yoenrolments@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

Policies for Review

The Anaphylaxis Policy has been updated and approved and is available upon request at the kinder, should you wish to read through it. This month we will be reviewing the Occupation Health and Safety policy of the kinder.

Please join us on Facebook

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

This is a great way to stay in touch with your kinder community. Like us, review us, and feel free to comment on any content on the page. Please remember this is not a closed group and this is our public page for both the community within and without the kinder. (No images of the children will be used without prior parent consent.)

Other ways to keep updated on all the current information are:

- Website
- Foyer Notice Board
- Your friendly group representative
- Teacher handouts
- Daily group journal



Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.



Personal Note:

You did it again!!! Thank you for taking the time to read the 2nd newsletter!

We hope you have a wonderful and safe Easter Holidays and we look forward to seeing you for Term 2!

Easter Holiday Activities you may like:

LOVE LOCAL

Easter

Chocolate Market

FREE EVENT!

SUNDAY 25TH MARCH

11AM-5PM

For more information on what's on, please visit www.thecraftandco.com.au and www.facebook.com/TheCraftandCo



SUPPORT THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

Visit any Victorian Lollipop's Playland on **Friday 30th March**

Every cent raised on the day from entry, cafe and in store activities will be donated to the appeal.

Even our AMAZING staff are donating their time.



For locations go to lollipopsplayland.com.au

In-store activities

Great Prizes

WONDERLAND THEATRE presents

Jack and the Beanstalk

COMMENCING: MONDAY 9th - SATURDAY 14th APRIL 2018

Session times: 10:30am and 1:30pm

@ Phoenix Theatre, 101 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood

BOOKING OPTIONS

CLICK: www.trybooking.com/TNYE

EMAIL: pantomimes@wonderlandtheatre.com.au

DIAL: 0428 397 767

EXPLORE: www.wonderlandtheatre.com.au

\$20 TICKETS



Easter Fun Day 2018 | Rippon Lea



Easter Fun Day

AT RIPPON LEA ESTATE

Easter Fun Day 2018
10:00AM - 4:00PM
SUNDAY 1 APRIL