



## NEWSLETTER

November/December 2018

Contents	Page No.
President's Message	1
Director's Message	2
Enrolment Vacancy/Working Bee Refund	3
3 Year Old Report	4
4 Year Old Report	5
Summer Holiday Activity Ideas	6

### A Final Message from our President

What a wonderful year we have had at Bentleigh West Kindergarten...and how quickly it seems to have flown by! It has certainly been a year filled with some fantastic accomplishments for our Kinder. Thank you to all the BWK families who have been part of our community this year and an extra special thank you to everyone who has contributed to helping the Kinder run smoothly!

Green, Yellow and Purple Groups have now finished for the year. It has been such a joy to see how much all of our children have grown and developed over the course of the year, under the guidance of our professional, dedicated and caring staff.

Nichole, Sophia, Ann, Chris and Di have done so much throughout the year to make our Kinder such a wonderful place for our children. Their commitment and passion to early learning is to be commended and is reflected in the 'Exceeding' rating BWK attained this year when assessed against the seven quality areas of the National Quality Standards and Framework. An outstanding result.

Congratulations again to Ann and Chris for over 30 years of service, and to Di who has reached 15 years of service at the Kinder.

We welcomed a new member of the teaching team this year, and are looking forward to working with Namita as our regular relieving staff member in 2019 and beyond.

I would like to express my enormous thanks to this year's Committee for all their hard work.

A strong team effort brought about great achievements that will benefit our Kindergarten well into the future. BWK will have a brand new community garden in the front yard next year, along with new cooking equipment, thanks to successful grant submissions and we have purchased a number of valuable resources for the Kinder throughout the year, including fantastic new outdoor climbing equipment, from the important fundraising monies raised.

We've been very fortunate as a Committee, to have invaluable support this year from our Administration Consultant, Linda Andonopoulos and our Bookkeeper, Catherine Charles.

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Kate Challis, our new President for 2019 and all the new Committee members.

It has been a real honour to be President of Bentleigh West Kindergarten this year. True Community Kindergartens such as ours are becoming so rare and we are very fortunate to have the continuous dedication and commitment of a strong parent and educator team, all working towards the common goal of providing our children with a stimulating, inclusive and secure environment in which they can play, learn and grow. Long may this continue.





I wish you all a safe and happy festive season. Enjoy the summer holidays and best wishes to all the children who are starting school in 2019.

Narelle Whiteley, President 2018

### **Message from your Director:**

Wow, what a productive and busy year 2018 has turned out to be! I can't really believe that it's the end of term four already. It feels like just last week I was meeting all the children and families for the first time, and now it's time to say goodbye!

The BWK team has accomplished so much this year. We have used fundraising funds to update and replace outdated items, continued our sustainability efforts, welcomed new staff to the team and went through the accreditation process with amazing results. We have grown and eaten a wonderful vegetable crop and continually updated our policies and Quality Improvement Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire committee for giving up their time to help support the kinder and keep it running at such a high standard. You have all done an outstanding job in your roles. I would like to give a special thank you to Narelle who took on the role of President. Narelle worked hard to juggle all the requirements of the Committee and assist staff with key decision-making.

Thank you to Allison who was Narelle's second in charge (Vice President). Allison assisted in updating mountains of policies. Thank you both for your hard work and commitment. We know your roles have taken your time away from your family, and we appreciate this.

This year we were lucky enough to have two fantastic volunteers – Jenny, a local community member who assisted with the garden and Rosie, a young lady who volunteered her time each Wednesday afternoon and supported Yellow Group. Thank you both for giving up your time and being part of our kinder.

This year just would not have been the same without the teaching staff. They have given the kinder countless extra hours and give 110% each and every day. Thank you, Sophia, Di, Chris, Ann and Namita for being such a great team to work with. It's not at every workplace you work that you are lucky enough to have a great team you can call your friends.

Moving on to next year, I would like to say that I am looking forward to working with our new Committee which was recently elected. I also look forward to getting to know our new families, strengthening relationships with existing families and welcoming back returning families to our community.

To the 2018 BWK families, thank you for trusting us with the care and education of your children. Thank you for all your contributions to the program. To the children heading off to school next year, enjoy your holidays and I wish you all the best as you start your formal education. To the children heading off somewhere else next year, I hope you enjoyed your time at BWK. To the children returning next year, have a wonderful break. We can't wait to see you all again next year - 2019 is going to be an amazing year!

- Nichole



**Tell all your friends and neighbours!!!**



**WE CURRENTLY HAVE SOME AVAILABILITY IN OUR 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR.**



**Refund of Working Bee/Maintenance Levy**

At the beginning of the year, all families paid a working bee/maintenance levy of \$100 (4 Year Old Groups), or \$50 (3 Year Old Group), to BWK, with the understanding that if a parent/guardian attended at least one working bee during the year, they would be eligible to have this levy deposit refunded.

If you have helped out at a Kinder working bee this year and would like to request a refund of your deposit, please email [treasurer@bentleighwestkinder.org.au](mailto:treasurer@bentleighwestkinder.org.au) with details of your bank account name, BSB and account number. Please also state your child's name and group. Our President, Narelle will then verify against the working bee attendance lists and arrange for these refunds to be made.

Thank you to the families who have already asked that their money be donated to the Kinder, this is a wonderful gesture.

We had a wonderful turn out for the final Working Bee a huge thank you to all who donated their time throughout the year to help keep our kinder gorgeous!







### Three-Year-Old Report

The year has just flown by and I find myself writing this final newsletter with mixed emotions. It has been a pleasure teaching Green Group this year. We have had a very productive final term, particularly with the implementation of our sports program 'Playball'. The children responded well to Victor building a rapport with him early in the term. The program focused on building skills in cooperation, teamwork and listening skills through a range of ball sports. Each session we focused on a different sport, including baseball, football, soccer and tennis.

The last few sessions were themed around Christmas. The three-year-olds were busy making Christmas gifts for their families, singing Christmas songs and reading Christmas stories. To celebrate the last session for the year we offered additional open-ended Christmas craft, Christmas puzzles and a small-world table where children could create their own Christmas stories. We also had a special lunch with our friends and popped some bon bons.



As many of you are aware, the threes have been fortunate to meet Nichole and Chris during the past few weeks. Nichole teaches Purple Group and Chris is the educator for both Yellow and Purple Group. Both Nichole and Chris have joined in the program and started building relationships with the children in preparation for next year.

Thank you for your attendance at the 'End of Year Concert' on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, along with your special celebration in the park following the concert, organised by our dedicated group representative Amy.

Thank you,  
Sophia and Di



## Four-Year-Old Report

I can't believe its fourth term already! What a fantastic year we have had in our four-year-old groups. We have been lucky to teach two fun, lively and energetic groups. We wish our children all the best next year as they embark on the next chapter of their educational journey. Every session we practiced our end of year songs for the fantastic concerts. We are so pleased to hear that many families also practiced with their children at home. Great work! The children were very enthusiastic about singing day after day and with Christmas just around the corner, we are often listened to Christmas carols during play time to get into the festive spirit. In the collage area we decorated and created many types of Christmas ornaments and decorations. On the last week, we learned about how various other countries around the world celebrate Christmas and other special end of year events.



The four years olds also enjoyed bringing a Christmas bauble to kinder to hang on our 'Celebration Tree'. These were then sent home with the children on their last kinder day. The 'Celebration Tree' was a lovely way to unite our three groups together as well as acknowledge children's individual interests, building on their sense of identity and community.

We enjoyed some great fun events to finish off our Kinder program for the year, including 'School Uniform Dress Up Day' and 'Picnic in the Park', along with our terrific end of year concerts. Our wonderful four-year-old group representatives Tiffany and Bree also planned special gatherings to celebrate the end of the term.

Thank you,  
Sophia, Nichole, Ann and Chris





<https://www.bricks4kidz.com.au/melbourne-baysideportphillip/program-events/camps/>

Or why not check out the excitement at the **Australian Open Kids Tennis Day** on Saturday 12 Jan:

<https://ausopen.com/visit-whats/family-fun/kids-tennis-day-12-jan>

A BIG thank you to our local on IGA on Patterson Road for your kind and generous donation! The team at IGA always looks after our kinder so, next time you're shopping don't forget to say thank you!

[IGA Bentleigh Plus Liquor](#)

## Summer Holiday Activity Ideas

If you're heading away for the summer holidays, we wish you safe travels and a fabulous time. For families staying home for the summer, there are so many fantastic activities happening in around Melbourne, and lots going on locally in Glen Eira.

Look no further than your local **Glen Eira Libraries** for some excellent workshops and entertainment:

[file:///Users/james/Downloads/Glen\\_Eira\\_Libraries\\_Whats\\_On\\_Guide\\_Summer\\_2019.pdf](file:///Users/james/Downloads/Glen_Eira_Libraries_Whats_On_Guide_Summer_2019.pdf)

Glen Eira's Party in the Park Under the Stars concert series kicks off at Packer Park, Carnegie on Saturday 19 Jan:

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Places-and-events/Arts-and-Culture/Party-in-the-Park/Under-the-Stars>

For all the Lego lovers out there, consider a **School Holiday Program at Bricks for Kidz:**

