



Term 1, March 2010

Family BBQ 16 April

The family barbecue will now be held at **6pm on Friday 16th April**.

Come along and meet other families with Kindy children and at the same time enjoy some good food and live entertainment. Food and drinks will be for sale on the night:

- Delicious steak burgers \$4.50
- Sausages in bread \$2
- Soft drinks and bottled water \$2
- Juice poppers \$1.50

Please bring:

- A plate of finger food to share for dessert
- Your own alcoholic drinks, plates, cups and picnic rug

All parents, relatives and friends are welcome. See you there!

Dates to remember

- Working Bee Saturday 27 March
- Family BBQ Friday 16 April

Last day of Term 1

- 3 Day Group: Wednesday 31 March
- 2 Day Group: Thursday 1 April

First day of Term 2

- 3 Day Group: Monday 12 April
- 2 Day Group: Thursday 15 April

Pupil free days

- Monday 12 July 2010
- Thursday 12 August 2010

Last day for year

- 3 Day Group: Tuesday 7 December
- 2 Day Group: Thurs 9 December

Our fundraising

An explanation

As we are a not-for-profit community Kindy, it is inevitable that we need to undertake a certain amount of fundraising to ensure that we have the best possible toys and equipment for our children. Top of our list of priorities this year are bridges for the digging patches, fans for the veranda, and new puzzles and books.

That said, we do try and find a balance so families do not feel overwhelmed by continuous requests.

Following on from the success of last year's fundraising activities, the 2010 Social and Fundraising Committee has decided to focus on a few key events spaced through the year:

- The first of these will of course be the Easter raffle which we are very excited about as we have some fantastic prizes this year.
- And then next term, with the help of Nadia Woodbridge, the Kindy will be hosting a very special event – the details of which are to be finalised.
- Following this will be the annual Obstacle-a-thon.
- And finally in term 3 we will organize the Paint-a-plate again which is always so popular with parents (and children!).

From time to time we will also introduce a secondary fundraising project where the Kindy will usually

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receive a commission on products purchased by you. The Scholastic Book Club and the Christmas catalogues fall within this category.

The Book and Puzzle Committee will separately hold a Book Fair later in the year to support the children's lending library.

We hope this clarifies things for you but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn O'Byrne, Social and Fundraising Convener on 32012451 or caroandjustin@optusnet.com.au.

Book Club

The Scholastic Book Club has started for 2010. There will be two orders per term, except for third term when the Kindy holds the Book Fair instead.

The club offers a huge range of books for children from Pre-prep to Primary. Please support the book club if you can. With each order, the Kenmore District Kindergarten receives bonus coupons allowing the teachers to order free books. Any queries please see Leigh Baxter, Book Club Convener.





President's Report

Stewart McLeod

2010 marks the 53rd year of Kenmore District Kindergarten and Preschool. If your family is new to Kenmore District, we offer a warm welcome and hope you and your children have settled-in and are enjoying your time.

The recent Parent Information Evening and AGM were well attended. At the Info Evening, I trust you found informative the presentation by the teachers on the C&K curriculum 'Building Waterfalls'. The AGM continued in the tradition of its fast-moving format followed by guest speaker, Dr Peta Lilley, a psychologist from Lilley Place Clinical Psychology. Dr Lilley gave us a great insight into the root causes of many childhood behavior problems and tips for avoiding the pitfalls in order to develop children with emotional resilience.

Both these events are great starting points for becoming familiar with the centre and curriculum, and for catching up with other parents. I hope you enjoyed them.

The real social kick-off for the year is the Welcome BBQ. So we postponed it. Just kidding... The grounds were saturated from the deluge the week prior and wet grass just can't survive a few hundred boots or my high heels. So it is now on Friday 16th April. I hope you can come – the kids have a great time, parents get to meet other parents, and the whole thing raises money for the centre's Fundraising Fund. (So, what is the Fundraising Fund for? Simply put, it provides for additional children's resources – for example, we're currently exploring the purchase of new outdoor blocks, play bridges and enclosed outdoor ceiling fans for both patios from this Fund.) As is tradition, this BBQ is the final event organized by the prior year's committee. So look out for them, no doubt they'll be wearing party hats!

The 2010 Social Committee, headed by the very dynamic and equally talented Carolyn O'Byrne, has commenced its first event – the Easter Raffle. Contribute goods; sell tickets; it's all for the benefit of the children. They really enjoy this time of year and are fascinated by the Easter Bunny. As am I.

There are a few works that have happened since the last newsletter of 2009, so let's take a waltz through some of them:

- The roof has been painted with insulation paint thanks to a Brisbane City Council Sustainability Grant;
- Solar panels have been installed, also thanks to a Brisbane City Council Sustainability Grant, and will soon be connected up;
- New cupboards in both children's bathrooms;
- A link block retaining wall has been built to the Unit 1 side to create a garden bed for the children to give their little green thumbs a workout; and
- New gardening equipment has been purchased thanks to a Commonwealth Volunteers Grant.



Grants, as you can see, are a large contributor to our facilities and resources and there is an enormous amount of work that goes into applying for them. Our collective thanks to Victoria Brown and her team for doing an outstanding job leading these applications in 2009.

Watch for escapees!

They're little and they go like lightning! Keep an eye out for children trying to slip through the gates without their parent or carer. Cheeky little rascals just don't mix with fenders!

Voice your ideas and concerns

You can talk to us about any issues regarding the centre.

If you wish to talk about your child's progress, the program or curriculum, have a chat with your child's teacher. Quite simply, they're great and they want the best for your child. So they're very happy to listen, explain and provide feedback.

If it's about something else, speak to someone on committee; and your class rep is probably the best and easiest point of contact with the committee. We love to hear new ideas too, so don't be shy.

Child Protection

Child protection is taken very seriously at Kenmore District. All staff are trained and follow C&K's child protection policy for any incident of injury or harm to a child that occurs whilst on site. A copy of the policy is available at the

Centre, should you wish to peruse it.

If you have a concern regarding the safety of a child, report it immediately to the Director or an executive member of the Management Committee.

Birthdays

Everybody loves a birthday party, especially me. Sometimes I don't get invited, and that used to make me sad; but now I've learnt to deal with it. Most children haven't developed

that acceptance, so staff refer the conversations back to home – it's a tactful way of discouraging conversations about parties and who is being invited. We'd appreciate parents being mindful of this and discrete in handing out invitations. Just so you know, party invitations for me can be placed in my pigeon hole in the admin office – it's close to the door and has a big label under it that says 'President' so you just can't miss it!

Finally, and importantly, on behalf of all families I would like to express our gratitude to the 2009 committee for their various contributions in managing the kindergarten resources and staff. I'll also take this opportunity to give an 'advance thank-you' to the committee of 2010. I'm looking forward to a great year.

If you have any questions, I encourage you to ask a teacher or a committee member. I'll see you next term. In the interim, enjoy your holidays.

Stewart



From the Teachers and Assistants

All the children in both two day and three day groups have been adjusting well to their kindergarten environment with only a few tears at times when separating from their parents. All groups of children have been making new friends, exploring different environments and equipment, and becoming familiar with the routine, boundaries and responsibilities.

Routines help the children feel secure and ensure that children know what will happen next, e.g. after rest Mum or Dad come to take me home. Boundaries and responsibilities are necessary for the safety of the children and to ensure a smooth running program. We try to help the children understand the basis of each boundary and why it is necessary. Responsibilities help the children develop independence as well as helping to keep everyone safe.

All groups of children will be involved in a Teddy Bear's Picnic. Each child will bring in their favorite teddy or soft toy for the day. The children will help prepare honey and vegemite sandwiches to share with their bears at morning tea and there will be lots of opportunities for games, songs and cuddles with the teddies during the day.

During the upcoming Easter period, all the children will be involved in planning and creating Easter activities and experiences. These will include making baskets, decorating eggs, collage pictures and paintings, cooking, reading stories and learning new songs and rhymes. Please remember us over Easter and save all your chocolate Easter egg wrappings, cards and ribbon.

For more details on each group's weekly journey, please see the group's folder or window. We try to update this each week with photos for your interest and information. This will hopefully help you tap into the activities your child has experienced and encourage them to talk about it with you at home.

This aims to give you a glimpse of the group's interests and experiences and projects they are working on rather than

focusing on individuals. Individual children's interests and learning journey can be found in your child's portfolio (see portfolio section following).

At our parent information evening we explained the C&K curriculum "Building Waterfalls" and where it correlates to the National Early Years Learning Framework. We examined how literacy and numeracy are incorporated into a play-based curriculum.

For those who were unable to come we have included a short description of our curriculum.

The curriculum is based on our belief that children aged 3-4½ years learn best in an unstructured environment where play is the main learning tool. Learning through play is the most successful way for young children to develop the skills necessary to be lifelong learners, setting them along the road to a well balanced adult life. We want children to question, think, and find out about things – to be enthusiastic about learning. We involve children in the learning process, so they are able to experiment and discover for themselves rather than absorb knowledge passively.

In the new national Early Years Learning Framework it states:

"Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking. Play can expand children's

thinking and enhance their desire to know and to learn. In these ways play can promote positive dispositions towards learning. Children's immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being.

We as teachers take on many roles in play with children and use a range of strategies to support learning. We engage in sustained shared conversations with children to extend their thinking. We provide a balance between child led, child initiated and teacher supported learning. We create learning environments that encourage children to explore, solve problems, create and construct. We also recognize spontaneous teachable moments as they occur, and use them to build on children's learning. We work with the children to promote and model positive ways to relate to others. We actively support the inclusion of all children in play, help children to recognize when play is unfair and offer constructive ways to build a caring, fair and inclusive learning community."

Therefore much of the centre's program is child initiated, and negotiated with the children following the children's interests and needs. Our curriculum is an immersing one rather than a prescribed one. The self selective nature of the program helps children

develop resourcefulness and independence in occupying themselves constructively without continually relying on adults. This will help prepare children for school and lifelong learning.

Building Waterfalls also recognises the value and richness of play as a catalyst for children's learning and their ongoing engagement in meaningful experiences. When children play they approach

experiences with interest, ownership, empowerment and possibility.





In addition, Building waterfalls acknowledges that adults play a significant and powerful role in valuing and supporting children's play.

Adults who recognize play as an important learning experience and actively support that play make a difference to the level of play that occurs (Dockett et al 1999).

Many parents ask about when we are going to teach the children letters and numbers. In both frameworks they outline that numeracy and literacy are interwoven into the curriculum and are not taught in isolation. So you might see in home corner children pretending to go on a bus. We as teachers will encourage the children to make a ticket – where they are going to and how much. Their symbols may not be readable to us but it is the beginning of numeracy and literacy learning. Rather than sitting in front of the whiteboard learning that A says ‘a’.

Portfolios

The purpose of the child’s portfolio is to provide a way to show each child’s growth and development, and demonstrate their competencies, telling the story of their learning and experiences during their time at Kenmore District. Each child will be encouraged to take ownership of their document by collaboratively constructing their folder with the support of teachers and parents. It is a shared journey between the individual child, other children in the group, teachers and parents. We value the uniqueness of every child, family and group, and as a result every portfolio will be slightly different, but at the same time will include common elements and experiences shared.

We use the portfolio as a tool to connect the learning, development and experiences that occur in the kindergarten and home environments. It encourages children to reflect on their achievements and interests.

Things you’ll find in your child’s portfolio:

- Photos of your child involved in the program.
- Comments, commentary and information relevant to the experience pictured.
- A combination of individual, small group and large group interests.
- Examples of pre literacy and numeracy work.
- Samples of children’s work from individual and collaborative projects and investigations, experiences and play. These may include original, photo and digital work. For example: - original work such as paintings & drawings; photos e.g. block structures, dough work, sand/digging patch projects; power point presentation.

Ways you as a parent can contribute and share your child’s portfolio:

- Share a special family event or experience by completing a page WITH your child using photos, comments and children’s own dialogue (remembering to use A4 size paper). Sharing family traditions & cultural events. These

may be displayed or shared with the whole group so please give them to your child’s teacher before they are included into the portfolio.

- Helping to add their centre experience pages into their portfolio. This is a lovely way to share in the Kindergarten experiences of your child.
- With your child choose photos, cut, paste and scribe for your child their thoughts and ideas about photos taken during the kindergarten day, e.g. Teddy Bear’s Picnic.
- Include your thoughts about your child’s learning and experiences on pages already in the portfolio or include your own.

These portfolios will be used during parent/teacher discussions and sent home in the latter half of the year to share with other family members.

At the end of your child’s time at the centre they will take their portfolio home to keep and will be able to remember and reflect on their time spent at Kenmore District.

Collage Materials

We are also in need of the following collage materials – these we collect and use all year. **Remember if the box collage container is overflowing please store some items at home for later use.**

Most Prized Materials

- Cardboard rolls from paper towels, cling wrap, foil
- All Sturdy cardboard boxes
- Milk top lids (washed please)
- Corks
- Greeting cards and post cards, particularly birthday and celebrations (not Christmas as we have plenty)
- Egg cartons
- Ribbons, bows and wrapping paper from gifts
- Easter egg and chocolate wrappers
- Architects paper

Please Do Not Send

- Toilet rolls
- Styrofoam
- Milk and soft drink bottles
- Glass
- Boxes that have stored cleaning materials (e.g. washing powder)
- Packets and food wrappings that have had direct food contact (e.g. fish fingers, chips)



Sickness and medication

With the cooler weather approaching, we may see more colds, viruses and illnesses spreading through the children. It is important to keep in mind the ease at which viruses can spread and to be mindful of the other families at the centre. Please keep your child at home if they experience any symptoms such as temperatures, headaches, vomiting and diarrhea, nausea, or severe colds until a full 24 hours has passed without further symptoms occurring.

Please do not send your child to Kindergarten if you have administered any medication, including paracetamol, decongestants, nasal sprays or the like, as this masks symptoms which may reoccur in the child whilst they are still at Kindy. This impacts not only on your child's ability to participate in the program, but also increases the risk of infection to other children at the centre.

Please phone before 9am if your child will be away for any reason.

Committee

We would like to thank all the people who have volunteered for a position on the management committee and its sub-committees. We do appreciate you giving up your time to help make Kenmore District an efficient and fun place to be. Throughout the year's program there will be many opportunities for all parents to help through roster and other activities. We all look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Our Management Committee meetings are on the **third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm**. All parents are welcome to attend. Your ideas and contributions help make Kenmore District a true community kindergarten.

Parking

Please be considerate of the Kindy neighbours and do not park across their driveways. These Moggill Road houses are accessed from the lane way and car park area.

If we are all courteous to those using the car park it will be a safer area for all of us and our children. A suggestion has been made to reverse in before the children are let out in the afternoon to minimise the potential for an accident. Also park efficiently so that there are enough spots for everyone, i.e. nose/tail in rather than parallel where appropriate.

Thankyou

A big 'Thankyou!' to **Thomas Dixon's Grandfather** for fixing the wooden car in the play ground. The children are delighted with the restoration!

Thank you also to Lawrence Dorsett of **Muffin Break** Indooroopilly who, through his Community Partnership Program, donated a percentage of all money spent by parents of the Kindy for a month last year back to the Kindy. He has kindly invited us to join the program again later this year. In the meantime, why not visit Muffin Break, situated in the Food Court at Indooroopilly and enjoy some of their muffins and other yummy things.

Centre for Hire

Our building is a popular hire venue for various community groups. With air-conditioning, off-street parking and a central, signed location the rooms are hired out for meetings when we are not using them for Kenmore District program or events. This provides valuable additional funding for our centre. Please pass on to interested groups/people the contact details of our 2010 Venue Hire Co-coordinator, Nadia Woodbridge, which you can find on the committee list.

