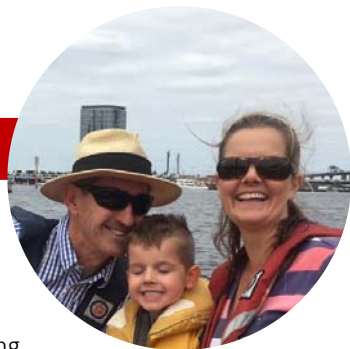


Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am very excited about the variety of ideas, suggested improvements, and help from our fantastic committee and parents to date.

Hoping your kids are making lots of new and inspiring relationships.

As you may have noticed the committee have started trialling one garden bed in the front yard (thank you Gillian Lunniss - Sustainability queen) and hope to grow some carrots, cauliflower, spinach and lots more vegetables. Bunnings have an education program and will be coming out on the **14 & 16 May** to educate all the kids on sustainability and growing their own vegetables and herbs (and yes, playing with dirt/soil will be a highlight I am sure) in the other 3 garden beds.

As you may know we have a few spots left in our 4 year old kindergarten program and I would love for you to spread the word as I am keen to make more friendships and help our kids have fun in a community run kinder.

A big thank you to Voula Hatzis (Vice President), Annabelle Low (Communications guru) and Linda Andonopoulos (4 year old enrolments) for creating and distributing the marketing material at the very last minute for our Open Day. If anyone lives near a major road and would be happy to have an "Open Day" sign displayed for one month, could you please let Danielle or Anne-Maree (Open Day Officers) know.

We are also currently trying to spruce up the image of Bentleigh West Kindergarten and have engaged the services of a professional photographer to come in on Wednesday 20 March (12:15pm to 1:45pm). The photographer will be taking photos of the kinder, vegetable patch, water pump etc. We will only be using Committee kids at this stage as the approval process to include the other kids will take a while. If your Angelic Little Angel is available for marketing photos in the future, could you please let Annabelle in Communications know as we hope to no longer use 5 year old marketing material.

Our Constitution is 12 years old and is in a real need for a review. If anyone has any legal experience I/we would really value your input next month please.

Please spread the word we are having an Open Day for 4 year old enrolments on Sunday 17 March, 10am to 12pm.

PLEASE pencil in these dates:

Saturday 16 March at 10am to 12pm - Working Bee

Friday 29 March 6pm to 8pm – Lollipop's Social Evening

I look forward to talking with you soon!

Kind Regards
Kaitlan Challis

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BUNNINGS WORKSHOPS

YELLOW group: Tuesday 14 May

PURPLE group: Thursday 16 May

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

I (Kaitlan) enjoyed reading an article from *Mamag* this month and thought it might be helpful for other mums and dads, and families out there.

"The Secrets to Successful Praise"

Avoid praising your child for their natural intellect or abilities. Focus instead on praise for effort and determination, which will help teach your child the value of hard work, make them more resilient and better equipped to overcome future obstacles. And ensure that your praise is genuine - children are perceptive and will pick up on insincerity.



Hi everyone and welcome to our first newsletter for 2019!

I'd like to start by welcoming our new families to the kinder and we hope you enjoy your time at BWK. A big welcome back to those families who are returning to our kinder community.

We use the kinder newsletter as an information tool to allow families to keep up to date with all the current events occurring throughout the year. So please make yourself a cup of coffee, tea or even grab a glass of wine and take a few minutes to read the newsletter each month.

This year the staff and committee are planning lots of fun events for families and children so make sure to read the diary dates too so that you or your child does not miss anything. You can also keep up to date by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Also, please feel free to book a time to chat to your child's teachers. We try to keep the chat at pick up short so as to not keep others waiting.

If you have some feedback on how we could improve the newsletter, please speak to myself (Nichole) or Annabelle (Communications).

REMINDERS

Sun smart policy reminder

With all this hot weather it is important that we are following the kinder 'SunProtection' policy. The staff will help children to apply sunscreen throughout the day as required. It is also important that children wear appropriate clothing for sun protection. This means **no tank tops or shoe string clothing** as this does not protect the child adequately and breaches our policy. We don't want to have to ask your child to play under the veranda, we know this is disappointing for them. So please ensure shoulders are covered.

Kinder duty

Kinder duty began in the second week of this term and we thank all the wonderful family members for giving up their time to help improve the kinder. Your support is imperative to a successful kinder program. Please note for **4 year old kinder duty only one helper** is required and for **3 year old kinder duty two helpers** are required.

A few things to remember when you are on duty:

- Please wear closed toe shoes, clothing that covers your shoulders, and bring a hat to ensure you are following our OH&S and sun protection guidelines.
- When on duty please sign in our kinder duty book, if you're not sure where it is just ask and a staff member will show you.
- If you would like a cup of tea or coffee while on duty feel free to pop into the kitchen make a cup and enjoy it there, we don't allow hot drinks in the play room for safety reasons.
- Most of all don't forget to have fun and enjoy seeing our amazing program in action!

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QIP)

What is a QIP?

The QIP is a document which every service creates and continually updates, and which focuses on the service's strengths, areas for improvement and what they plan to do about their areas for improvement. The aim of a QIP is to help services self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care, and to plan future improvements. The QIP also helps the regulatory authorities with their assessment of the service. Last year when the kindergarten went through accreditation our QIP formed part of the documents we had to submit.

What information has to be included in my QIP?

The QIP must:

- include an assessment of the quality of practises of the service against the National Regulations and National Quality Standard
- identify areas the provider considers may require improvement
- contain a statement about the philosophy of the service.

The QIP focuses on the following areas:

- 1: Educational program and practice
- 2: Children's health and safety
- 3: Physical environment
- 4: Staffing arrangements
- 5: Relationships with children
- 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- 7: Governance and leadership

Family feedback

Over the past few years we decided to get all families more involved in our QIP by posing a different question each month based on the 7 quality areas. We also survey families twice year and use this information to feed into our QIP. One of the ways we will be asking families to have their say is by asking families to answer a quick question and place their answer in our QIP suggestion box. Last year we did this as a blitz at the end of one session a month. This worked really well, and we will repeat the process again this year.

REMINDERS

Birthdays policy reminder

Birthdays are a special event for children and we love to help children celebrate their special day. If you wish to give out invitations at the kinder please note that this can be done at the end of the session by the child and parent but **only if every child in the group has been invited**. If you do not wish to invite everyone you will need to make other arrangements, the class contact list should help.

If you wish to share a treat to celebrate your child's birthday you can. We recommend non-food item like balloons, bubbles or stickers. We ask you to arrange a time with your child's teacher at least 24 hours in advance to avoid disappointment when celebrating their birthday at kinder.

Clothing reminder

Please label all your child's belongings. This includes their drink bottle, lunch/snack box, hat, bag, shoes and other clothing. If something gets lost it is more likely to be located if it has the child's name on it. It is also the child's responsibility to look after their belongings, not the teachers.

Please pack a set of spare clothes for your child as sometimes children have accidents or get dirty during messy play. Especially in our mud pit! If you don't have a spare set, we will have to ring you to bring another set or your child will have to stay in their dirty clothes as **we do not have spare clothes**.

Lunch and brain food

All three groups of children have been enjoying starting off their sessions with some brain food. When packing your child's lunch and brain food the following reminders might be helpful.

- Due to anaphylaxis risk baked or home prepared items such as cakes, slices, sweet biscuits, pancakes and energy balls are not permitted
- Due to anaphylaxis risk we only allow rice/corn cakes and crackers so please keep the other dry biscuits for your child to enjoy at home

Please remember to refer to the permitted food table when packing your child lunch. If you're unsure just ask a staff member.

Do You Work in Corporate?

Do you work for a major bank, Telstra, Origin Energy or other major corporate organisation? Most of these businesses have Community Grants Programs that we may be eligible to apply for to raise funds for equipment, resources or special projects.

If so, please contact our Grants Officer, Hayley Mitchell email

grants@bentleighwestkinder.org.au and Hayley will take care of the paperwork!

SAVE THE DATE!

WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 16 MARCH, 10AM – 12PM



CLICK HERE
TO RSVP!

For more information email Lisa
(maintenance@bentleighwestkinder.org.au)



Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.
currently have 2019

4 Year Old Kindergarten VACANCIES

21 Patterson Rd Bentleigh 3204

Please contact Linda:
4YOEnrolments@bentleighwestkinder.org.au
0400 115 524

RATED
EXCEEDING
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD



4 YEAR OLD PROGRAM REPORT

What a wonderful start for both Purple and Yellow groups have this year! There haven't been many tears at drop off instead we have seen lots of happy smiles and excited children ready for lots of learning and fun! We are very happy with how both groups of children are settling in so far. It has been a bit hot on some days and this has bothered a few children. We are delighted to see new friendships forming and the strengthening of old ones occurring across both groups. While Chris is on sick leave, we have had Ann F (from McArthur) join the program. The teachers have enjoyed meeting all the new children and families and welcoming back many returning families. Soon we will be creating an 'our community wall' in the foyer. We have taken some photos of each child and a family member to add to the wall but please feel free to bring in a family photo to add if you would like to replace the one, we have taken.



The main focus this term is building a sense of belonging and identity within the groups. We will also be focusing on allowing everyone to get to know each other thus creating a happy, safe and fun place for all. Both groups have been doing lots of fun games to help the children learn each other's names e.g. 'name songs' and 'bean bag game'. We have also been teaching the children social skills like how to make a friend as part of our intentional teaching program.



Some of the learning areas within the indoor and outdoor environment the children have been enjoying are:

Sandpit – the children have been enjoying mixing water and sand together.

Play dough – there has been many wonderful and creative play dough models built, and lots of pretend cooking too!

Home corner – the children have been role playing family life and cooking for their friends and teachers, along with caring for the baby dolls.

Collage table – the children have been enjoying exploring a range of different collage resources and seeing what they can make with them, lots of problem solving and creative thinking occurring at the collage table.



Insect area – there has been much interest in this table and we have planned a follow up mini beast themed incursion in a few weeks.

Tool shed (cubby outside) – the children have had so much fun dressing up and fixing a range of 'broken' objects. This area has had children working in teams on the tricky tasks.

Staff have been monitoring the long days to ensure everyone is coping. Our advice is if you feel your child isn't coping pick them up early especially in this hot weather.

If you would like to know more about your child's progress speak to your child's teacher and book a time to chat. We try to keep the chat at pick up time minimal to make the process quick, however if you want more information about your child's day book a time for a chat. You can learn more by reading the group reflection book which is displayed on the sign in table each day. We will also email you a page or two each week that you can read at your leisure. Please be respectful of the images of other children.

Nichole, Sophia, Ann A and Ann F



3 YEAR OLD PROGRAM REPORT

Welcome back everyone for another fun-filled year in three-year-old kinder. Thank you for your participation during our first orientation session. We understand the first few weeks of kinder can be overwhelming for children and families and we are here to guide and support you. As mentioned in the group email you received recently if your child is settled, we have found in the past that a kiss and cuddle followed by saying goodbye works best to support a healthy transition from home to kinder. We have now had our two orientations and staff have touched base with families about those children you may need to have individualised orientation schedules. If you are one of these families just remember to stay positive and trust that we are here to support, you and your child. We have a range of strategies which we can trial over the next few sessions to try and settle your child which have been successful over the years.

This term we will be focusing on activities which foster the children's sense of belonging. At group time we will share the **'All About Me'** book as a means of introducing the children to one another and learning about each other's interests. Over the course of the year, every child will have the opportunity to take the book home for a week and share the information with their families. Please be patient as it might take several months before it is your child's turn to borrow the book.

We love parent participation here at BWK. We call this **'kinder duty'**. The kinder duty roster will be available for families to sign up as of next **Monday 11 February**. Please check the green table outside the kinder when you drop off your child and choose one suitable date to volunteer. Kinder duty is a wonderful way to spend time with your child as well as support the teachers and educators by completing some light cleaning tasks, filing art work and preparing resources for the program.

Indoors we have a range of inviting learning experiences on offer such as collage, home corner play, blocks, cars and playdough. Some of the learning experiences to look forward to outdoors include the sand pit and mud pit, nest swing, cubby house (themed as a workshop) and painting.

At the end of the day we will be singing a goodbye song to provide children with a sense of closure. Don't forget we open the doors five minutes early as often as possible to avoid the 'hustle and bustle' of queuing up at the end of the session. If you would like to speak to us about your child's progress in more detail please don't hesitate to email Sophia (teacher@bentleighwestkinder.org.au) or book an appointment.

Thank you,
Sophia and Di



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Hello Bentleigh West Kinder families! I am looking forward to helping the kinder raise some solid funds to put towards the wish list items that Nichole has provided me for 2019. With your help and the help of the wider community we can make purchasing these items achievable.

To start off the year we have some ongoing fundraising activities – **Bag It and Bring It** and **Stuck On You**. There is also the **Small Ideas Digital Membership** that you would have received information on by now.

At the end of March, we are holding a social evening for kids (and adults) at **Lollipop's Playcentre**. This is a good chance for our children to socialise outside of the kinder and for the adults to catch up. I look forward to seeing you there!

Amy Ashford
(Fundraising)

LOLLIPOP'S SOCIAL EVENING

What child doesn't love a playcentre! The kids have fun, while the adults chat. Families and friends of Bentleigh West Kinder will have exclusive use of Lollipop's Playland. Spread the word...the more kids the merrier!

Where: Lollipop's Playland
234 East Boundary Road
Bentleigh East

When: Friday 29th March

Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Cost: \$15 per child

(Adults & children under 2 are free. Siblings & family friends are welcome!)

RSVP: 22 March

fundraising@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

Please provide your SURNAME and # of children attending.

Cash payment on the night or
pay by EFT into the Bentleigh West Kindergarten bank account.
Reference: PLAY and your SURNAME
BSB: 033034 Account No: 374466

Please note:

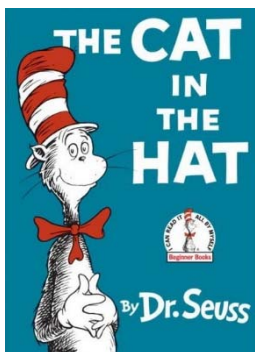
*No outside food or drinks allowed at the playcentre. There is an onsite café.
The car merry go round will be operating, as well as the rock-climbing wall for kids 5 years old+.*

Socks must be worn in the play area.

Shoes must be worn for the rock-climbing wall.



GLEN EIRA UPCOMING EVENTS



DR SEUSS' BIRTHDAY BONANZA

Saturday 2 March
2pm – 3.30pm
Bentleigh Library

"If you never did you should. These things are fun and fun is good."

Dr Seuss

PARTY IN THE PARK

Sunday 17 March
10am – 4pm
Packer Park, Carnegie



YOUR 2019 COMMITTEE!

<i>PRESIDENT</i>	KAITLAN CHALLIS
<i>VICE PRESIDENT</i>	VOULA HATZI
<i>SECRETARY</i>	KRISTY RUMMANS
<i>TREASURER</i>	NATALIE MCLELLAN
<i>HUMAN RESOURCES</i>	LINDY CHIN
<i>PURCHASING</i>	BRONWYN DUNLOP
<i>FEE COLLECTION</i>	FIONA PARTRIDGE
<i>FUNDRAISING</i>	AMY ASHFORD
<i>GRANTS OFFICER</i>	HAYLEY MITCHELL
<i>4YO ENROLMENTS</i>	LINDA ANDONOPOULOS
<i>3YO ENROLMENTS</i>	KELLIE ANDERSON
<i>MAINTENANCE</i>	LISA RAJU
<i>COMMUNICATIONS</i>	ANNABELLE LOW
<i>AGM/OPEN DAY</i>	DANIELLE CRANEFIELD/ANNE-MAREE YIALAS
<i>GREEN GROUP REP</i>	NARELLE WHITELEY
<i>PURPLE GROUP REP</i>	ANNA KLIETZ
<i>YELLOW GROUP REP</i>	SHANTHANI ERLICH
<i>WEBSITE/IT</i>	HO-JUNG (SIMON) YOUN
<i>SUSTAINABILITY</i>	GILLIAN LUNNISS
<i>GENERAL MEMBER</i>	JAN ASHFORD

THANKS FOR READING! REMEMBER, BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN IS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM.

CLICK THE LINKS TO FOLLOW.



[@BentleighWestKinder](#)



[@bentleigh.west.kindergarten](#)