



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

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A Message from our President

What a busy and productive term we are having at BWK! I'm thrilled to announce that BWK's Community Services Grant application has been successful and we have been awarded a community grant of \$2,310 by Glen Eira Council, to support our 'Grow a Healthy Community Program'. This project aims to create an edible garden that will allow us to further promote healthy and sustainable living. We will replace the existing vegetable patches in the front yard with four elevated garden beds, which will vastly improve access for all children. This will provide the children hands-on environmental learning opportunities and will enable all BWK members to share in the growing and harvesting of fresh produce. Congratulations and thank you to **Chantelle Fox**, Grants Officer, for all her hard work on the application and achieving such a wonderful outcome.

We have been notified by the Department of Education and Training that they will be undertaking an assessment and rating of our service this year. The accreditation process, last undertaken at BWK three years ago, determines the rating level at which the Kinder meets the National Quality Standard. Staff and Committee are well into the preparation process for this and are working towards the assessment, which will take place on a date to be advised, between mid-Sep to mid-Oct.

We are aiming to improve upon our previous overall rating of 'Meeting' criteria to 'Exceeding'.

A friendly reminder our **Term 3 Working Bee** is being held this **Saturday 1st September, from 9am-11am**. Please join **Mark Gardiner**, our friendly Maintenance Officer, to help spruce up the Kinder for Spring, and importantly, to have it looking 100% ahead of our upcoming accreditation inspection. Please let us know if you can make it along by signing up on the sheet at Kinder.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new

Committee Member, **Katrina Busuttill**, who has stepped into the role of AGM Officer. Katrina has taken over from long-term Committee Member **Alicia Koschitzke** who has moved interstate. We are rapt to have Katrina on board and we know she will do a fabulous job of organising the BWK AGM, to be held on Wednesday 14 Nov. As we welcome Katrina, we farewell Alicia, and would like to extend a huge thank you for all the time and energy she dedicated to the Kinder. Alicia was a valued member of Committee whose warmth, commitment and enthusiasm will be missed.

Looking forward to seeing those who can make it along to our **80s Night Fundraiser** at The Deck Brighton, this **Friday at 7pm**. It promises to be a really fun night, raising all-important funds for our Kinder, and will be a great way to get to know others in the BWK community in a relaxed environment. There are some terrific auction prizes up for grabs, so if you haven't yet bought your ticket, there's still time...we'd love to see you there, with a dash of 80s flair! -Narelle Whiteley





Message from your Director:

Hi everyone,

Winter is almost over, and I've been looking forward to some warmer weather. This of course means that the UV is starting to rise again, so please make sure your child has a hat and is wearing clothing that covers their shoulders.

Many of you will know that all childcare services, kindergartens and out of school hours care servers regularly take part in an assessment and rating process. We have been notified that we will be assessed soon, and staff and committee have been finalising our QIP to submit as part of this. If you would like to know more, please read the below information and/or talk to one of our staff members. This month we have been reading books and fundraising for MS as part of the MS Readathon. A big thank you for those who donated or come in to read some books with the children. We appreciate your support. If you are yet to donate you still have time and the information to our MS fundraising page is below. We are aiming to raise \$500 but we have not reached our goal yet.

<https://www.msreadathon.org.au/fundraisers/bentleighwestkinder/ms-readathon>

The four-year-old children had a blast dressing up for 'Book Week' and I enjoyed guessing who everyone was. We were able to raise some more money through the gold coin donation as part of this event. The children enjoyed some great book

themed activities and of course we had a few group photos to remember the special event by.

This reminds me **photo day** is just around the corner so please check the diary dates, so you know when it's your child's turn.

Nichole

The quality improvement and accreditation system

The Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (**QIAS**) is an Australian Government initiative which was implemented to ensure all children's services (including kindergartens) are providing the same quality service Australia wide and that services are planning for improvement on a continuous basis. In Victoria, the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (**ACECQA**) is responsible for the accreditation system.

Every service receives a rating for each quality area and an overall rating. These ratings must be displayed by each service and are published on the ACECQA and the child website (<http://www.mychild.gov.au/sites/mychild>).

There are five rating levels within the national quality rating and assessment process:

- Excellent rating



- Exceeding National Quality Standard
- Meeting National Quality Standard
- Working Towards National Quality Standard
- Significant Improvement Required

Our kinder has been selected to undergo this process. Our window of assessment is Wednesday 11th of September until Wednesday 10th of October. During the QIAS accreditation process we will have to submit our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and will have assessors from ACECQA come to visit and observe the kindergarten. The effect on the children in the program will be very minimal, as the assessor's goal is to allow staff to run their program as normal. The kinder is in the process of updating our QIP which as you probably already know is always located in our foyer and there are post it notes and pens to leave your feedback. Submitting our QIP is the first step in the process.

What will the assessor be looking at?

The QIAS covers seven quality areas, related standards and of course national laws and regulations. These guide the kindergartens policies, practices, procedures and quality improvement plan. The seven quality areas are:

- 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

The assessor will be measuring our kindergarten in the above areas. At the end of the process we will be given our rating. Our current overall rating is meeting. Each of the quality areas is then given it's own rating. We have a mix of meeting and exceeding across the seven quality areas.

The system has undergone some changes since we were last assessed. We will be putting some extra information on our noticeboard if you are interested in reading more about this process. If you would like to discuss this process or require further information, please talk to Nichole our director.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessments-and-ratings#sthash.BgazaPhD.dpuf>

Policies

We are constantly updating and reviewing the Kinder's policies, should you wish to have a read, or contribute please speak to your teachers for further info.

Policies reviewed this term:

- Asthma
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Governance & Management of the Kindergarten

Policies for review next term:

- Incident, Injury & Illness
- Diabetes



Welcome Namita

The Committee of Management along with our teachers recently conducted interview for a new team member to join our team in the role of a casual. We are excited to welcome Namita who has already started working. Namita will cover both the teacher and educator roles for all 3 groups. If you see her around, please welcome her to our community.

My name is Namita and I am casual teacher at Bentleigh West Kindergarten. I studied my Master of Early Childhood Teaching at Melbourne University. I have 6 years of experience working with kindergarten children. I also have my own two children and I love to spend quality time with them when I am not working. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, reading, watching movies and catching up with friends.



Immunisations: just a friendly reminder to please provide the kindergarten with an up to date copy of your child's 'immunisations history statement' if they have recently had any immunisations. You may also receive a call or email from us to remind you if you are yet to do this.

Sun Protection Reminder

Sun protection is recommended whenever UV levels are three or higher. Average UV levels in Victoria are three or higher from mid-August so it's time to dust off the sun protection gear now.

During high UV we need to remember to:

- *Slip* on covering clothing (covering shoulders is a must)
- *Slop* on SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Remember to reapply throughout the day.
- *Slap* on hat that shades the face, neck and ears
- *Seek* shade
- *Slide* on wrap-around sunglasses (labelled AS 1067) if practical

Further information visit:

<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/downloads/communities/early-childhood-primary-school/resources/family-notice-we-are-sunsmart-early-childhood.pdf>



Too much UV
can cause
sunburn, skin
and eye
damage and
skin cancer.



Glen Eira Council Building Safety Improvement Project

We have been notified by Glen Eira Council that they will be undertaking a project in all Council-owned buildings, including our Kinder, to label any materials containing asbestos, for identification and regulatory purposes. Council will also be installing essential safety cabinets containing documentation specific to our building such as essential services information, safety data sheets and emergency plans. So you may see tradespeople around Kinder in the coming months carrying out this work. We will receive a full report after our building has been inspected and will provide any relevant information to families. Any enquiries or concerns about the project can be directed to Council's Buildings and Properties team on 9524 3333.

Fundraising –

Grill'd Local Matters

Last year we were lucky enough to win the Grill'd local matters competition. As a result were awarded \$300. We finally picked up our winnings. A big thank you to the 2017 fundraising team, Grill'd and everyone who voted for us.



80's Night!!!!



It's here!!! This Friday @ The Deck, Brighton from 7pm!

If for some reason you have like totally forgotten to get your tickets, please contact

fundraising@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

You can still reserve yourself and all you friends a place by transferring your payment (\$45/per person) to:

Bentleigh West Kinder:

BSB: 033 034 Acct: 374466

Please put your Surname and 80's as the reference.

We can't wait to rock out with you!



Three-Year-Old Report

The three's have been busy exploring the new obstacle course outdoors in the yard. There are many obstacles to complete including a rock-climbing wall, a-frames, balancing beams, tyres, tunnels and stepping stones. Some of the children have been talking about the television show 'Ninja Warriors'. We recently converted the obstacle course into a special 'Obstacle Course for Warriors' complete with a start sign, buzzer to press once complete, blue material for pretend water and decorations. Through this experience we are building gross motor skills, developing strength and coordination.

'Crazy Day' was a hit with many children getting into the spirit and dressing up in a costume or with a crazy hair style. We participated in some crazy dancing too with the popular song 'I Like To Move It' from Madagascar, being played on the CD player during group time. We also read a crazy book called 'This Is a Ball' by Beck Stanton and Matt Stanton. The children filled the room with laughter as the book played lots of funny tricks on us.



grandpa's. The children enjoyed adding their artistic flair in the collage and painting area. We have been reading books about families and this lead us to discuss what we could make at kinder for 'Father's Day'. Many great ideas were shared which we have adapted into the program. There is also a special 'Blokes Day' at kinder on Monday 27th August where the children can invite a male guest to participate in the last hour of the program.

As you may already be aware our kinder is participating in the 'MS Readathon' this year during the month of August. Thank you to our recent helpers who have been reading to the children in our library during the session. Please keep it up as our goal is to read 100 books by the end of August. Also, a special thank you to families who have donated money to this worthy cause.



-Sophia and Di

With Father's Day fast approaching we have been busy making gifts and cards for our dads and



Four-Year-Old Report

This term has been a busy one so far with the children enjoying the music program 'Hey Dee Ho' and a visit from an Aboriginal artist. The children had the opportunity to create their own works of art some of which have been displayed in the room. There has also been lots of storytelling and reading of Dreamtime stories supporting children to make a connection with and learn about Aboriginal culture. Both groups have participated in 'National Tree Day' by planting some native plants. Our garden is looking amazing and some veggies are ready to harvest. Some vegetables will be used in our cooking program, while others will be offered to families to take home for a gold coin donation. We would love to hear what you made with our produce.

This term we celebrated science week by hosting 'Crazy Hair Day.' This event is filled with fun, colour and lots of amazing science experiments. The children make 'grass heads' and then in small groups conducted a 'crazy milk' experiment themed around colour. The children were amazed by the experiment.

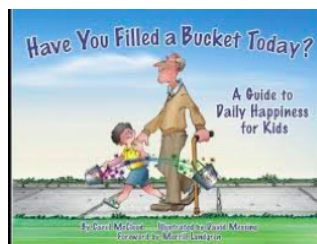
Science provides a great opportunity for children to explore, experiment, make discoveries and create. However, the real focus of the experiment was to get children excited about science and to help build a love of it from an early age.



Last week we had a special 'Book Week' dress up day to raise money for the MS readathon we are currently participating in. The children enjoyed been told the story of 'Goldie Locks The three Bears', cooking cake, reading some of the books they were dressed up as, and many other fun book themed experiences. A big thank you to everyone who dressed up and joined in the fun!

We have also been reading books themed around emotions and building social skills. A book called "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" is offered to children to take home to read with families. We hope you enjoy this book as much as we do.

Nichole, Sophia, Ann, and Chris





MS **ALL NEW!** Readathon

This year we are excited to be taking part in the MS Readathon. We are reading as many books as we can in August and we are raising funds for kids who have a parent living with MS. Funds raised by the MS Readathon go towards sending kids on awesome 'Family Camps' where they can learn about MS and have fun with their family. Families can support us either by donating through the details below or signing up themselves (you can link this to the kinder page).

To donate: click the below link and press the blue sponsor button to make a donation.

<https://www.msreadathon.org.au/fundraisers/bentleighwestkinder/ms-readathon>

To join in: click the below link and press on the blue register button, next select to register an individual and then add Bentleigh West Kinder in the school name section. We would love to hear how your MS Readathon adventure goes.

<https://www.msreadathon.org.au/>

If donating is not for you: We will also be inviting families to come in and read a book to a small group of children in our library area to help us read as many books as possible. You could volunteer 10, 20 or even 30minutes of your time. Every little bit helps.

Thank you in advance for helping us and supporting our MS Readathon adventure.

Personal Note:

Can't wait to see you all at the 80's Party! Hopefully it will be the final hurrah for this chilly season...brrrr. Thank you as always for taking the time to read the Newsletter, I know sometimes it can be a bit dense, however your committee is working overtime behind the scenes to keep this beautiful Kinder running and we like to share just a glimpse of their efforts with your. Stay warm, and get ready for a super boogie on Friday!!

WONDERLAND THEATRE presents
Alice in Pantoland
Written and Directed by Clinton Barker and Alta Truden
Adapted from works by Lewis Carroll
@ Phoenix Theatre, 101 Glen Huntly Road, Elwood

COMMENCING:
TUESDAY 25th - SUNDAY 30th September 2018
Session times: 10.30am and 1.30pm

BOOKING OPTIONS
CLICK www.trybooking.com/WNXQ
EMAIL pantomimes@wonderlandtheatre.com.au
CALL 0428 397 767
EXPLORE www.wonderlandtheatre.com.au

80% REDUCTION