



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

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A Message from our President

This term is flying by! The children have been busy immersing themselves in the fantastic Kinder program, cooking up a storm, enjoying Playball, partaking in activities during Allergy Awareness Week and revelling in the wonderful Nature Kinder sessions.

Thank you to everyone who attended Mother's/Special Person's Day at BWK. Mums/carers had a fabulous time with the children, nail painting, taking fun selfies at the photo booth, making handprints, collages, paintings, listening to stories and receiving our beautiful handmade gifts. Thanks to the staff for creating such a special event to celebrate our BWK Mums/special people.

Many thanks to the families who came along to our second Working Bee, held on Sunday (27 May). We really appreciate the hard work and enthusiasm everyone showed. You've made a valuable contribution to the maintenance of our Kinder.

We have some exciting events still to come before the end of term. Our **Parent Education Night, 'Raising Resilient, Independent & Confident Kids'**, with guest presenter **Jo Lange**, is on **this Tuesday 5 June**. It promises to be a really informative session and we hope as many BWK parents/guardians/friends as possible can join us. (Full details on flyer). **Please RSVP as soon as you can** (RSVP deadline is extended to this Sunday 3 June).

To kick off the term break with a bang, we will be holding our **Kids Disco Fundraiser**, on the last day of term, **Friday 29 June**, from 5-6.30pm. (Full details in newsletter). We hope all our BWK children (and siblings) can come along for what promises to be a fabulous, fun event!

We are very pleased to welcome the Stander family to our BWK Community, with Caleb starting in Yellow Group this week.

Sadly, our wonderful casual relief Teacher, Emma Witham, has had her last day with us at BWK. Emma will be missed by the teaching team and the whole BWK community, and she leaves with our deep gratitude and our very best wishes for her new role. We are currently advertising to fill casual relief Teacher and Educator roles, so if you know anyone who may be interested in applying, please ask them to contact Nichole (Director) on 9557 8365 or bentleigh.west@kindergarten.vic.gov.au for further information.

Narelle Whiteley





Message from your Director:

For this month's message I thought I'd focus on the 'two years are better than one campaign'. As you may know, 4 Year Old Kindergarten is partially funded by the state and federal governments. This helps reduce the cost of 4 Year Old Kindergarten, making it more affordable for families. However, there is a constant problem with how Kindergarten is funded. Since 2013, the federal government has been funding part of the 4 Year Old programs so that children have access to 15 hours of 4 Year Old Kindergarten per week. However, the funding has never been permanent, which has meant teachers, educators, families, organisations and unions have needed to continually campaign to secure funding. Many of you have helped secure this funding in the past, but the unstable funding has presented a lot of insecurity for next year's timetable, for the jobs of teachers and educators and for families trying to organise their busy lives. And of course, it's the children who ultimately miss out if their Kinder hours are cut. 3 Year Old Kindergarten has never been funded by either state or federal governments. At the moment only 15% of Victorian 3 Year Old children are attending 3 Year Old Kindergarten programs which are taught by a degree qualified teacher. That means a whopping 85% of children are missing out on a vital year of Kindergarten. This significantly affects their schooling outcomes. International research has shown that children who attend 2 years of Kindergarten with a degree qualified teacher do far better both socially and academically once they begin school.

As a teacher I have been lucky enough to see children thriving in both our 3 and 4 Year Old programs. If the 15 hours of 4 Year Old Kindergarten is cut,

children will miss out on 1/3 of valuable education time. It's not fair that many children in Victoria are missing out on accessing 3 Year Old Kindergarten as families cannot afford to pay the fees.

Bentleigh West Kindergarten wants permanent funding for all 4 Year Old children so they have access to high quality Kindergarten programs the year before school. We also want funding for 3 Year Old children to be established, ensuring no child will miss out on accessing 3 Year Old programs taught by a degree qualified teacher. So, what is Bentleigh West Kindergarten doing to address these issues?

- Writing to both state and federal MP's and inviting them to come and visit our Kindergarten to see our programs in action
- Lobbying and sharing the research with state and federal MP's

What can you do?

- Sign the Parenthood online petition: www.theparenthood.org.au/budget_2018
- Call or email the state and federal MP's (details below) and tell them about how Kindergarten has benefited your child OR

Email the BWK team your stories of what Kindergarten has meant for your child and we will pass this information on, (on your behalf)
Federal Member for Goldstein: Timothy Wilson (Liberal)
95574644 tim.wilson.mp@aph.gov.au
State Member for Bentleigh: Nick Staikos (Labour)
95797222 nick.staikos@parliament.vic.gov.au

Thank you for your support in ensuring the best possible outcomes for all children!



Staff Resignation - Goodbye Emma

Recently Emma Witham, who has worked casually at the Kindergarten for the past two years has resigned, taking up a full time position at Vision Australia. Emma has been a wonderful asset to the Kindergarten. She has been flexible with her time and always happy to step into a range of roles and positions. Over the last two years Emma has shared her expertise with us and enriched our programs. She has been a welcoming and familiar face for children, families and staff. While we wish Emma all the best in her new role, she will be missed as a valuable part of our team.

Mothers and special people morning/afternoon celebration

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'mother's and special people' morning/afternoon sessions. The children were very excited about the event and your support made this a great success. We hope you enjoyed the session as much as we did.

Cold weather reminder

This term is the start of the cooler weather so please remember to pack your child a jacket so that they can keep warm while playing outside. The UV is now starting to drop, and children are needing their hats less often and this allows them to get their required vitamin D. Once the UV remains low we will be asking the children to take them home and this is a great chance for a wash.

Illness reminder

With winter fast approaching the cold and flu season is about to begin! Please remember to keep your child home from Kinder when they are sick so that illness doesn't spread. We always appreciate a call when your child misses a session. Please alert the Kinder when your child is diagnosed by a doctor with an illness - we like to alert other families by sharing anonymous information about illnesses that have been identified in the group.

If you feel that your child is not well enough to play outside we recommend that you keep them at home until they are fully recovered and able to join in the full program. We thank you in advance for your support in keeping everyone happy and healthy at kinder.

Keep Me Home If...

- I'm vomiting
- I have a rash, lice or nits
- I have diarrhea
- I have an eye infection
- I have a sore throat
- I'm just not feeling very good.
- I have a fever

Two or more times in 24 hours.

Body rash, especially with a fever or itching, Lice or nits

3 or more watery stools in 24 hours.

Thick mucus or pus draining from the eye.

With fever or swollen glands.

Usually tired, pale, lack of appetite, Confused or cranky.

Temperature of 38 (C) taken under the arm AND some of the symptoms my friends described.

When Your Child is Sick:

1. Have plans for child care back-up.
2. Call the school to report the absence with a short description of the symptoms.



Professional Development update:

This year Bentleigh West Kindergarten has been fortunate enough to be accepted into the 'Let's Count' program, which is funded by the Department of Education with support from the Smith Family. We have sent four staff members to the training, which is two days over a six-week period. Our team has already begun implementing some of the theory and learnings gained from these sessions, with lots more to come as the year progresses.

This month our team has also been lucky enough to have Sarah Asome come and run a professional development session with the whole team. Sarah is the Learning Support Leader at Bentleigh West Primary School. The focus of the training was supporting our team to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to support children to build early literacy skills. These skills are need before children can learn to read and how to spell. There is a strong focus on building children's phonological awareness (e.g. understanding of syllables, rhyme and alliteration) before working on phonemic awareness. This builds on what we are already doing within our programs. You will notice in our Kindergarten programs there will not be a large focus on teaching children phonics, (sounds letters make), as children must have phonological awareness first or they risk having literacy learning difficulties later in their schooling lives.

Parent Education Night Reminder:



Raising Resilient, Independent & Confident Children

Guest presenter Jo Lange will explore what resilience is, and how families can help their child build resilience

When: Tuesday 5th June
Where: Bentleigh West Kindergarten
21 Patterson Road, Bentleigh
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm
Cost: Free for BWK Parents/ Guardians & \$5 cash for wider community members
RSVP by Friday 25th of May:
vicepresident@bentleighwestkinder.org.au
* Seats are limited RSVP early



Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

Please join us at this fantastic session on Tuesday evening.
To RSVP, email Allison Biggin, (BWK Vice President) ASAP, at vicepresident@bentleighwestkinder.org.au.
RSVP deadline is extended to this Sunday 3 June.
An email will be sent confirming your attendance.



Three-Year-Old Report

The Three-Year-Olds had a wonderful time at Kinder on Mother's/Special Persons' Morning recently. Thank you to all the special guests for making time to come and join in the program. As the weather was lovely and warm we spent most of the session outdoors in the sandpit and mud pit, on the new obstacle course and on the grass building the marble run. We also liked the adult/child hand printing activity which was particularly popular indoors, as was the purple playdough and box collage! Last Monday we made thank you cards for our guests who attended.



This month's focus is the dental area. Recently we had a visit from Donna, a friendly Dental Therapist, who works in the local community. Firstly, we talked about what a dentist's room looks like. This was a great way to teach children that a dentist isn't scary, and provide some reassurance. One of the children dressed up as a dentist too! Then the children were taught how to brush their teeth thoroughly and make healthy food choices. We

brainstormed many healthy foods for our teeth and some healthy drinks too! The children had a good concept of healthy foods and drinks. We call these 'everyday foods/drinks'. A dental table has been set up in the playroom with a pretend set of teeth, toothbrush, brushing poster and puzzle for the children to consolidate their learning in the coming weeks. As the weather is getting colder we ask that you please remember to send a coat to Kinder every week and appropriate clothing for the weather. We will be offering lots of opportunities for outdoor play and soon will be introducing an 'indoor/outdoor program' during the session. This is where the children can choose to play indoors or outdoors at their leisure, which guides their independence and learning. There will be a staff member supervising both areas to ensure the children are playing safely and cooperating with their peers.

At group time we have been enjoying a game called 'Guess Who's Hiding Under the Blanket?' In this game everybody hides on the mat as the teacher covers one of the children up with a blanket. The children must then try to guess who is missing. We find that this game supports children's sense of identity as it encourages them to recall the names of their peers and feel a sense of pride when they make these discoveries.





Recently, we participated in 'Walk to Kinder Day' at Kinder. Many children walked, rode their bikes or scooted to Kinder, warming up their bodies for a busy day. This was so much fun and a great initiative to promote healthy habits for life. We followed on with some group exercises including toe touches, jumps, jogs and stretches.

Sophia and Di

4 Year Old Report

'This is a busy term for the four-year old's! Both groups recently walked to the Post Office on Patterson Road to post a letter. Once we arrived we were greeted by the new owners of the Post Office Michael and Melissa. The children received a special show bag for being on their best behaviour. Then it was time to post our letters in the big red post box. Thank you to our parent helpers for assisting on this excursion. When we returned to kinder we learnt about how the mail system works as the children were very curious to find out what would happen to their letter next.

'Nature Kinder' has commenced in the four-year-old program. Please check the kinder duty rosters as there are some spaces vacant to assist in the program. Each group will have six opportunities provided we have enough helpers. As an introduction to the program, the children recently read a story called 'Welcome to Country' by Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy during group time. This story educates children to respect and acknowledge the land we play on discovered by the Wurundjeri People a long time ago. Our team discussed the idea of beginning every 'Nature Kinder' session with a 'Welcome to Country' and this has now been implemented by both groups before the children are dismissed to play on the land.



This month's focus is 'learning bags'. Each week two children are selected to take home a 'learning bag' themed around the topic of mathematics. Our aim is to encourage families to play maths games with their child at home by creating two kits with a different maths games. There is also a feedback sheet which we would appreciate families to take some time to read, complete and return by the due date as listed on the front of the bag. We hope these 'learning bags' will also encourage families to have rich conversations about maths at home building their knowledge and understanding of different maths concepts.



Term 2 Family Feedback Survey

At Bentleigh West Kindergarten we are continually reflecting on our practises in order to achieve the best outcomes for the children. In order to assess how things are tracking we regularly seek family guidance and feedback, both formally and informally. Part of this process includes online family surveys. This year we have decided to survey families in Term 2, along with our annual end of year survey (to be conducted in Term 4). Please keep an eye on your inbox next week for our Term 2 Family Feedback Survey that we ask all families to complete by Friday 15 June.

Working Bee

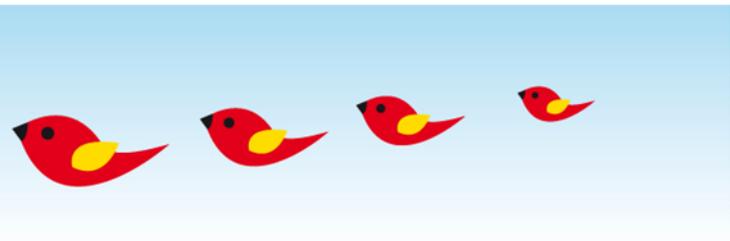
Thank you to all the families that helped make our kinder shine at the working bee on Sunday May 27th!!

On the long days we have enjoyed 'Playball' with Coach Victor and cooking various vegan recipes. We have also spent time doing special crafts for Mother's Day. Both groups learnt some new songs for the Mother's/ Special Person's Morning which was hosted at the kinder recently. The mornings were a success in both groups and the children enjoyed partaking in some special adult/child bonding experiences with their guests. The 'selfie' area, hand print and 'nail station' were most popular.

Please don't forget your child's coat over the coming weeks. The weather is expected to drop considerably. In addition, it is a good idea to bring a rain coat and gumboots on 'Nature Kinder' days as the program will only be cancelled in extreme weather conditions.

Sophia, Nichole, Ann and Chris





Fundraising Announcement:
FRIDAY JUNE 29th 5:00 -6:30pm

BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN



FRIDAY 29TH JUNE 2018

Bentleigh West Scout Hall (next to kinder)

Hit the dance floor from 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Cost: \$20 per child + \$10 per sibling

Light refreshments will be served after the disco formalities conclude from 6.15pm

Please give your children a light snack before the disco
And don't forget to bring their water bottle



REQUEST YOUR FAVOURITE SONG
AT WWW.KIDSDISCOS.COM.AU

Please save the date and make sure the kiddos are ready to boogie!

Grill'd Campaign Update:

We came in 1st!

More details to come...

Thank you to all the friends and family for making this possible!

Personal Note:

Thank you for reading Newsletter #4!

My apologies for the delay in delivering your May newsletter, I hope you and your family take serious precautions against the flu this year as to avoid losing a whole month of your busy lives, as I did. It's a whopper!

Community News:

Four Year Old Immunisations:

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Places-and-events/Whats-on/Four-year-old-immunisation-Bentleigh>



Parent Education <https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Places-and-events/Whats-on/Understanding-childrens-behaviour-%E2%80%94-two-part-workshop>



Storytelling Festival: <https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Places-and-events/Arts-and-Culture/Storytelling-Festival/Children/Lah-Lah-10th-Birthday-Party-1>



Christine and Melanie are pleased to announce the opening of their new store. **"Bella & Grace Clothing and Accessories store"** We hope you can pop in and visit us sometime soon at 59 Patterson Road, Bentleigh. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am (closed Sunday & Monday)
As our gift to you we would like to offer a **10% discount** to Bentleigh West Kinder parents/carers and staff of the Kindergarten until the end of June 2018. We look forward to meeting you.