

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019



FROM THE PRESIDENT

*"Are you watching our garden grow?
With silver bells and cockleshells
And pretty maids all in a row"*



Just like our vegetable garden our little angels are growing; socialising, learning, developing their emotions and hopefully discovering their strengths. With a psychology background I love the innocence and initiatives taken by our kids. As a mum, dad or family member you should also be proud of how far they (and you!) have come. I think we need to pat ourselves on the back now and again and remember to smell the roses.

Thank you to all the green thumbs out and about at the Working Bee on Saturday 16 March who made our Kindergarten shine even more. Lisa Raju-King, thanks for your organising and we really appreciate the extra time that you and Jarrad spent on ensuring everything looked great.

Sadly, the pump seems to be broken and will need to be replaced! Does anyone know a great 'certified plumber' that doesn't cost a lot? Lisa would welcome any names please.

A big thank you to Danielle Cranefield & Anne-Maree Yialas for making the open day such a success on Sunday 17 March. We had 15 families last year and had 22 this year attend (a great effort and thank you to everyone else that helped on the day. A special thank you to Lauren from *Bayside Face Painting* (www.baysidefacepainting.com.au) and Ramesh from *Your Day Photography* (www.yourdayphotography.com.au) for volunteering their services.

Kind Regards
Kaitlan Challis

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Our wonderful Working Bee volunteers!

PLEASE pencil in these dates:

Friday 29 March 6pm to 8pm - Lollipop's Social Evening (over 30 kids have accepted so far)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

"I Love Kinder Campaign"

Some local councils are lobbying the federal government to commit to recurrent kindergarten funding.

5 hours from Federal Government, and 10 hours from the State Government are currently provided, though this is being reviewed and an election prior to the 18 May will be held.

If you feel strongly like I (Kaitlan) do about ensuring the children of Glen Eira learn valuable social and academic skills to prepare them for an enjoyable transition to primary school, please fill in this easy and fast on-line petition before Tuesday 2 April.

<http://thismatters.org.au/kindercuts>



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I cannot believe how fast the year is going. Term 1 is almost over! A big thank you to everyone who came along and assisted during our first working bee on Saturday 16th of March. The kinder is looking amazing thanks to the help of many families. The children were excited to see in their words "new mud" in the mud pit and the "ocean of sand" in the sandpit. A few children tried to dig their way to the other side of the world! A big thank you to Lisa and Jarrad (Green Group) for organising the event, your hard work definitely paid off. If you couldn't make it to the first Working Bee, please check the diary dates as we will be having one each term.

On Sunday 17th of March we opened our door and invited perspective families into the kinder to see what we have to offer as part of our annual open day. It was great to meet many new families and reconnect with many we knew. We will also be offering tours of the kinder by appointment so if you know anyone who might like to see our kinder in action please give them our contact details. Another big thank you to Anne-Maree (Yellow Group) and Danielle (Purple Group) for organising the day and making sure perspective families had the opportunity to see the kinder. I'd also like to thank the families who assisted with the event either on the day or beforehand. The day was a huge success because everyone worked together.

We have had a great response to kinder duty and our team have found it very helpful to have an extra set of eyes and pair of hands to help. If you haven't had a chance to help, keep a look out for next terms kinder duty roster, we would love to see you!

In the following sessions staff will be chatting with the children to see what areas they would like to learn about next term. With that in mind, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break and keeps safe. For families who celebrate Easter we hope you enjoy spending time with your family celebrating and that the Easter bunny comes.

REMINDERS

LATE FEES

While we understand that due to unforeseen circumstances, there may be times that you might be running late to pick up your child.

Please call and let staff know that you or someone else is on their way. If families are continually late to pick up their child, the late collection fee will be charged. The fee is charged at a dollar per minute you are late. Therefore, if you are 10 minutes late a \$10 fee will be charged.

Open Day, Sunday 17 March



BWK's dedicated and enthusiastic teachers!



4 YEAR OLD PROGRAM REPORT

The four-year olds have adjusted to the program and drop offs are becoming easier for families. We recently introduced 'busy bags' and books for the first 20 minutes of the session to accommodate families who have school drop off or other commitments at the beginning of the sessions. There are many learning experiences in the 'busy bags' for the children to engage with and these bags are changed regularly to maintain interest. After 'busy bags' and books, we have commenced group time where we welcome our friends, teachers and helpers at kinder by forming a welcome circle. At Bentleigh West Kinder we believe that everybody should be valued and acknowledged therefore starting the session in this manner supports us to achieve this goal.

At group time we are choosing things to bring in our 'All About Me' bags. This opportunity allows children to practise speaking in front of an audience which builds confidence, self-esteem and performance skills. It is also a terrific learning opportunity to find out about children's special interests as we expand our general knowledge.

On the long days, we are forming groups and engaging in a range of varied learning experiences with the teachers. Some weeks its construction inside and group games outside, while other weeks its messy play outside and drawing inside. There is always a staff member managing each group, then after about half an hour, the children swap so that everyone can participate in the other learning experience.

This month's focus is the mini-beasts area. In the mini-beasts area children can be imaginative with their peers, expand their general knowledge and practise turn taking and sharing. We had an exciting incursion all about mini-beasts recently where the children were introduced to many types of creatures including cockroaches, beetles, spiders, worms, lady birds and much more. There were many 'hands-on' learning opportunities for the children to touch and hold the special creatures. We will be doing some follow up activities themed around mini-beasts over the next few sessions to reinforce the learning.

'Harmony Day' was celebrated in the four-year-old programs on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March. Children were invited to wear the colour orange and/ or bring something to share from their cultural background. This was also a wonderful way to promote the message that everybody belongs. Thank you to everyone who supported this program!

Sophia, Nichole, Ann and Chris



3 YEAR OLD PROGRAM REPORT

The three-year olds are settling into the program well building a sense of belonging with their peers, teachers and educators. There are less tears at drop off and most children are completing the full four-hour session now. Recently we welcomed Krishna to the group. He had his first short orientation last Monday and settled in well. Please make him feel welcome when you see him next week.

It's been quite warm on the Monday sessions therefore staff have set up a range of water play activities both indoors and outdoors. Inside, small groups of children enjoyed exploring a range of sea creatures in water. The water was dyed blue for a different effect. With the upcoming incursion themed around sea life approaching, we will continue to explore sea creatures in the program. Outdoors, many children discovered the water pump and enjoyed collecting water in small buckets to add to their sand and mud creations.

At group times we have been learning about our peers using the 'All About Me' book. Every session we have been reading a few pages from the book and finding many similarities and even some differences with our peers. The book started going home with families last Monday so stay tuned for your child's turn. During the session, the 'All About Me' book is kept in the library so if you are on kinder duty please don't hesitate to have a read with your child. We have also played games such as 'Doggie, Doggie, Who's got the Bone?' and 'Guess Who's Hiding under the Blanket?' to support children to learn their peers' names.

For the next few months we will be keeping the routine as consistent as possible as we feel consistency is the key to a healthy transition. The session will commence with indoor play followed by group time, 'brain food', outside play, group time and lunch. After lunch, we will often read stories on the mat or take part in some dancing with our friends. As the year progresses and the children have settled in, we will make modifications to the routine such as starting the session outside or offering indoor/outdoor play for part/all of the session.

With Easter fast approaching, we will be offering Easter craft, an Easter dramatic play area and we might even expect a visit from the Easter bunny. If your family has a special Easter tradition you would like to share with the group, please speak to staff and we can incorporate your ideas into the program.

Sophia and Di





SOLAR PANELS FOR THE KINDER!

Over the past 3 years Bentleigh West Kindergarten have been trying to raise much needed funds for solar panels for the kindergarten's roof.

We are keen to educate our 'kids of the future' about sustainability as well as help the environment. The chance to reduce our power bills would be an added benefit.

We are needing a further \$2,500 to accomplish this exciting challenge. With your help we really believe anything is possible. Every bit helps for us to move closer to our goal.

Please help us achieve this long term goal by heading over to our **Go Fund Me** page to donate.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Small Ideas Digital Membership

Thank you to those who purchased a Small Ideas Digital Membership. \$100 was raised for the kinder.



Stuck on You

Ongoing fundraising activity. Please purchase through Stuck on You when you have a requirement. www.stuckonyou.com.au.

Use our fundraising code: **BENTLEIGHWESTKINDER**.

Bag it and Bring it

Ongoing fundraising activity. Please place any second-hand clothes etc. in the big wheelie bin to the side of the kinder front doors.



The kinder's major fundraising event for the adults will be held on the evening of **Saturday 22nd June** at the Bentleigh RSL. A Trivia and Auction night. Stay tuned for details!

Lollipops Playcentre Social Evening

Friday 29th March, 6pm-8pm

Reminder to RSVP attendance for this kids and adults event to fundraising@bentleighwestkinder.org.au.

\$15 per child. Cash on the night.



VACANT POSITIONS

4 Year Old Kinder Enrolments (Volunteer)

Conduct tours, admin tasks, liaise and mailout placement offers to parents. We could **REALLY** do with your help, there are only 6 months left of the working year (if you minus school holidays...). Please speak to Lindy or Kaitlan.

Casual Teachers & Assistant Teachers

Lindy, Nichole and Kaitlan are currently interviewing for casual paid staff. They are keen to have a backup person if someone is sick, and would also like to start training up a BWK workforce. If you know anyone that would be great for us, please let us know as soon as possible.

POLICIES

March Policies to be reviewed

- Sun Protection Policy
- Fees Policy

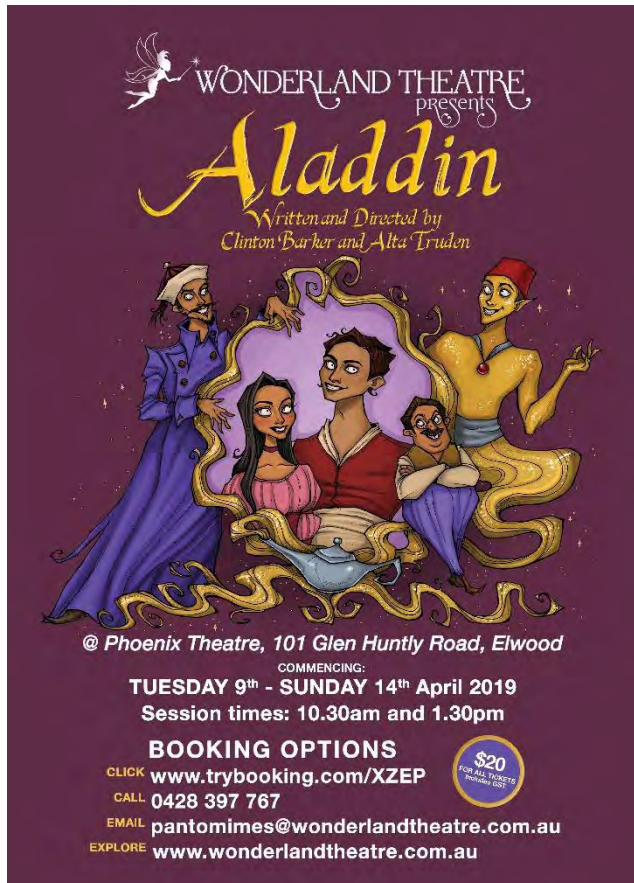
April Policies to be reviewed

- Curriculum and Development Policy
- Food Safety Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

If you have any questions relating to any of these policies, please email vicepresident@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

Please note: A hard copy of the policies is available on-site at the kindergarten if you wish to view them.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



WONDERLAND THEATRE presents
Aladdin
Written and Directed by
Clinton Barker and Alta Truden

@ Phoenix Theatre, 101 Glen Huntly Road, Elwood
COMMENCING:
TUESDAY 9th - SUNDAY 14th April 2019
Session times: 10.30am and 1.30pm

BOOKING OPTIONS

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

\$20
FOR ALL TICKETS
THRU MAY 2019



Lunar Drive In

115 SOUTH GIPPSLAND HWY, DANDENONG. 9706 9988

MARCH 21 THE LEGO MOVIE PG	MARCH 28 DUMBO GTC
WONDER PARK? APRIL 6 GTC	SHAZAM! JUST SAY THE WORD APRIL 4 GTC
AVENGERS END GAME APRIL 24 GTC	MAY 16 POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU GTC
Disney Aladdin MAY 23 GTC	ALL CARLOADS MON-WED \$25* THUR-SUN \$30* (per movie)

SESSIONS AT WWW.LUNARDRIVEIN.COM.AU
Information correct at time of printing. All dates and films are subject to change.

MEET YOUR 2019 COMMITTEE!



KAITLAN
PRESIDENT



VOULA
VICE PRESIDENT



KRISTY
SECRETARY



NATALIE
TREASURER



LISA
MAINTENANCE



FIONA
FEE COLLECTION



AMY
FUNDRAISING



DANIELLE
AGM/OPEN DAY



ANNE-MAREE
AGM/OPEN DAY



LINDY
HR



HAYLEY
GRANTS



LINDA
4YO ENROLMENTS



KELLIE
3YO ENROLMENTS



ANNABELLE
COMMUNICATIONS



GILLIAN
SUSTAINABILITY



SIMON
IT



JAN
GENERAL



BRONWYN
PURCHASING



NARELLE
GREEN GROUP



ANNA
PURPLE GROUP



SHANTHANI
YELLOW GROUP

THANKS FOR READING! REMEMBER, BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN IS ON
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM.
CLICK THE LINKS TO FOLLOW.



@BentleighWestKinder



@bentleigh.west.kindergarten