

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT - KAREN MUNN & ALISON STANSBY**

Just when we were enjoying the predictability of routine, Term 3 is fast coming to an end. But I'm sure you will agree that the learning experience has been a very busy one this term.

Kicking off in week one with much excited anticipation was an excursion to the NGV with the blue and red groups. Here the children were exposed to the symbols and meanings of aboriginal art. Thanks to all the parent helpers who kindly gave up their time to join the children. It must have been hectic on the bus!

Then came the highlight event of the OPK calendar – the Annual Children's Art Exhibition. So much colour, creativity and detail expressed both in sculpture and artwork. Many thanks to our wonderful teaching team of Angela, Emma, Heather, Liz and Christine (and student helper Mel) for their nurturing of much artistic raw talent throughout the year. It was quiet an emotional event and I personally feel very honoured to have 3 OPK works of art on display at home - which all visitors are proudly led to by Lulu and Silas.

At the Exhibition we also got to get up close to the Eco-Cubby.



Initially on display in the foyer, it has now been dismantled and will be re-constructed to its full potential with a variety of plants and natural fauna in the next few weeks so that the children can enjoy playing in it in Term 4. We are pleased to announce that we have received a \$2000 grant for the Eco-Cubby. There are plans for an official ribbon-cutting style launch – so check your pigeon-holes for more info in the coming weeks.

Green group learnt so much from Seaweed Sally's visit last week and the kids got to touch all manner of sea-life. She was a big hit with everyone and Silas earnestly told me over dinner that evening that sea cucumbers are not for eating. Thank goodness!!!

Spring is finally here – the blossom is on the trees, the birds are singing and the sun is shining so... it's that time of the year again when we need our kids to be sunsmart and bring hats to wear when playing outside at OPK.

We wish you all a good end of term and look forward to seeing everyone well rested again in Term 4.

Kind Regards

**Karen Munn & Alison Stansby**  
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## PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Thank you also to all those parents who responded to the Parent Satisfaction Survey. We would like to use the forum of the newsletter to summaries the results and in particular address some of the key points raised by parents. Your feedback is important to the committee and staff.

- \* There was a 30% response rate (slightly lower than in previous years)
- \* Overall, feedback was exceptionally positive
- \* The staff and the program received an overwhelmingly positive response
- \* The kinder newsletter and information booklet could be improved and we have already discussed updating our information booklet.
- \* There is still majority support for the fundraising levy
- \* With regards to parent involvement: there was a 50/50 response regarding a duty roster and specific sessions (e.g. music, cooking) and this can be further discussed by the teachers as to which method they use.
- \* Use of television: there were several negative comments about the use of television and it has been removed from the program.
- \* 12 hours of 4 yo kinder is not enough. Unfortunately the government only provides funding for 12 hours per week and we are classified as a sessional kindergarten not a long day-care facility. However in 2013 4 yo kinder will be increased to 15 hours.

### SOME COMMENTS FROM PARENTS:

*The beautiful environment and natural play focus of the kinder. Passion from the teachers and their genuine interest in the children's learning/growth/well being.*

*The staff are excellent at making themselves available for any questions from parents. They are always friendly, helpful and approachable. I am amazed at how quickly they collate the information about each session in the front foyer.*

*The Art Exhibition was absolutely brilliant - so much time and effort had been put into this by the teachers and the art pieces they had encouraged and taught our children to do were amazing! Thank you.*

*I am extremely pleased by the professionalism and personal approach of the staff. They all seem highly skilled and passionate and give the kindergarten a very enthusiastic, exciting feeling.*

*Extremely impressed with all staff at the kinder and transition of one staff to another has been seamless.*

*Olive Phillips is a lovely place where children can be children! There is no rush to get them ready for the next phase of their life. They are cared for, educated and allowed to BE - a dying gift for children nowadays! Thanks!*

*Should you wish to discuss these or any other items further, please contact either the teaching team or ourselves.*



## 15 HOURS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARENT IN 2013

Last year the 2010 Committee of Management together with the teaching staff at OPK spent considerable months discussing and putting together a proposal in relation to which model of group session times would best suit all parties to enable the implementation of 15 hours to operate successfully at OPK.

Initial discussions between the Kindergarten's Co-Presidents (2010) and Teachers and more recently discussions at our last committee meeting indicate that it is still firmly believed that the best way to proceed would be to implement model "the Long Day model" as set out below. The primary reasons behind this are that the long day model appears to fit the way kindergarten provision in the future is heading. Additionally, the current teaching staff would be very happy to teach in this manner. Therefore, in a period of overall transition in the industry, Olive Phillips would be maintaining a great deal of consistency and stability which should be seen as very important in the eyes of the kindergarten community.

### THE LONG DAY MODEL

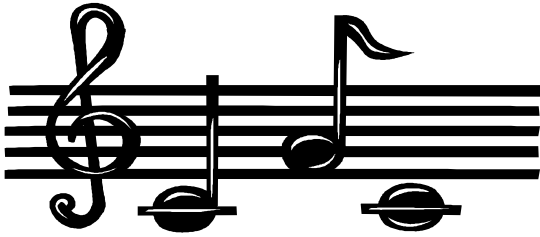
<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNSDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>
08:30 - 16:00 (7.5 hrs)	08:30 - 16:00 (7.5 hrs)	08:30 - 16:00 (7.5 hrs)	08:30 - 16:00 (7.5 hrs)	08:45 - 14:45 (6 hrs)

The model above is loosely based on what several community and private kindergartens currently provide in Bayside and surrounding areas. It enables both 4 year old programs and a 3 year old program to co-exist. It would still mean two very long days for the 4 year olds (although arguably shorter than many children spend in long day-care scenarios) and would mean that the kindergarten would need to employ a lunchtime reliever for 5 days per week instead of the existing 2. The Committee of Management will be voting on the preferred model at our next Committee of Management meeting scheduled for 10 October 2011 and we are providing the above information to all OPK families to give all parties an opportunity to raise any questions or concerns in relation to the above model.

Please feel free to email myself on [munnkaren@hotmail.com](mailto:munnkaren@hotmail.com) with any feedback on the above model. Should anyone be interested in viewing the entire 12 page proposal document, I am happy to forward you a copy.

Regards

Karen Munn (co President)



## **BETH GEORGE LIVE**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**7pm-10pm**

Singer Songwriter and OPK Mum Beth George is performing her originals plus favorite jazz and blues covers at The Urchin Bar, 424 Hampton St, Hampton.

Come along and enjoy yummy food, wine or cake and coffee.

## **BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE**

**Sunday 23rd October**

**10am-4pm**



## **BLUE GROUP WORKING BEE**



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**@ 10am-12noon**

A reminder that we have our Blue group working bee on Sunday 18th September 10am – 12 noon . It would be fantastic if we could get a great turnout to help the kinder with some general duties inside and out. Also we are looking to top up the sandpit on the day (sand is delivered on Saturday, ready for us on Sunday) Bring a shovel if you have one!

Hope you can make it, let me know if you can. No problems if you need to bring your children along. Thanks for all your help in advance!

Ingeborg



## GREEN GROUP EVENTS

A Winter Lunch Special was enjoyed by 18 Green Group parents and kids at Six Keys Restaurant on Friday 9 September 2011.

Next Event for Green Group is an end of term picnic lunch in the park behind kinder on

**Friday 23 September 2011 at 11:45am**

**Activity: Treasure Hunt!**

No need to RSVP, just come along!

Michele McNamara

Green Group Class Rep

Pictured: A very happy Lily, Olympia and Finn outside Six Keys after lunch

## IMPRESSIONS FROM THE OPK ART EXPO



More than 300 people attend our art exhibition

### PARENT COMMENTS:

*“It is just beautiful to see how respected the children are at Olive Phillips and this is apparent each and every day you walk through the doors”*

*“Inspiring! A wonderful collection of creative minds and hands at work. So proud that our children were part of this.”*

*“So many wonderful concepts to put before children!  
And what wonderful results  
—  
congratulations”*





## CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FOREST



### CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS ON TREES

*"If there weren't any trees  
there wouldn't be any  
people because trees help  
us breath"*

*"They are good for giraffes  
because they eat leaves"*

*"They are good because  
they grow fruits on them  
and they grow healthy  
things"*

*"When they cut down trees  
birds won't fly anymore"*



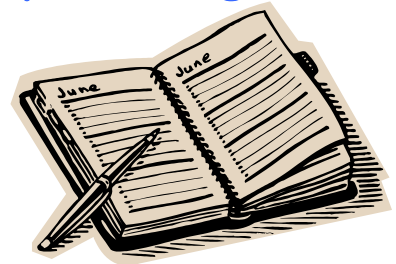


Olive Phillips Kindergarten celebrated the United Nations International Year of Forests. A beautiful giving tree has been created by children in all three groups. For more information on the International Year of the Forest 2011 please refer to:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>



## Upcoming Dates



- **Blue Group Working Bee  
18<sup>th</sup> September**
- **AGM 15<sup>th</sup> November**
- **Fundraiser cake stall at  
Beaumaris Concourse  
26 November**

**Raising Money  
For Charity**  
[www.starbright.org.au](http://www.starbright.org.au)

\$92.00 have been raised for Starbright Learning Exchange. Angela has been selected to write a teacher training program and to work in partnership with orphanages in South Africa in 2012. To support this foundation you can become a member by referring to the website.