



FEBRUARY 2010

Olive Phillips Kindergarten.

Preparing your child for the future.

Co-President's Report - Sarah Carr & Claire Gray

On behalf of the Committee of Management and Teachers we would like to welcome all families of Olive Phillips. A special warm welcome to those families that are new to OPK, we know that your child will enjoy their time at the kinder during these very important years.

We welcome back Angela Barr, Emma Smith and Christine DeFontenay. Additionally we are fortunate enough to welcome Liz Dendrinis (who has previously worked at the Kindergarten) as our 3 year old assistant. They are all dedicated teachers who will continue to work together on joint projects and follow the Olive Phillips Kindergarten philosophy.

The Welcome BBQ was held on Sunday and it was a great success. Sharina and Neale's organisational skills and enthusiasm helped make Sunday a very enjoyable day for all the families who attended. Many thanks also to those families who helped with set-up, cooking and cleaning-up.

We now have a full Committee of Management as follows (colour-coded by their child's group):

Co-President - Claire Gray

Co-President - Sarah Carr

Treasurer - Sally Styles

Secretary - Andrea Parrot

Payroll Officer Admin. - Nadine McFadries

Assistant Secretary - Joanne Kimmings

Enrolment Officer - Katie Wade

Office Administrator - Becky Wattam

Council Liaison Officer - Marita Quirk

Social Officer - Sharina & Neale Delves

Policies Officer - Stella Clarke

Funds Acquisition - Nicola Harrop

Maintenance- Manole Plousi

Maintenance Assistant- Sandra Plousi

Maintenance Sub-committee - Job Van Dort

Newsletter - Alex Hamilton-Smith

The Committee are always happy to help wherever possible to make your family's experience at the Kindergarten enjoyable and rewarding. If we don't know the answer right away (we're all learning on the job!) then we'll do our best to get things sorted out ASAP.

As a first port of call for non-teaching/ educational related queries, please do use your wonderful Class Reps. They will track down the appropriate committee member if necessary or just simply get you an answer you would like. Shortly, your class rep will organise a catch up for Term 1 and we hope many of you will be able to attend.

Green Group - Jill Blackman

Blue Group - Sonja van Dort

Red Group - Sarah Barton & Pia diPaolo

We have many exciting things happening already this year - for example we are applying for a government grant to move forwards on our long-anticipated vision for an art studio. If anyone else would like to help out in any way and donate time (for social events, sub-committees such as for the art studio), goods etc., any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Committee of Management we hope you and your family have a fantastic year at OPK.

Kind Regards

Claire Gray & Sarah Carr

0413 647090

0418 591617



Upcoming Events

Monday 8 March - Labour Day Holiday

Sunday 14 March - Council/Police Tree Planting Day & 1st OPK Maintenance Day

Friday 26 March - End of Term 1

Saturday 17 April - Bayside Kinder Open Day

Kinder photos:

Red group - Tuesday 20 April

Green group - Wed 21 April

Blue group - Thursday 22 April

Sunday 25 April - 2nd OPK Maintenance Day



OPK Tree Planting Day

The Bayside City Council, in conjunction with the local police are holding a tree planting and graffiti removal day on Sunday 14 March. This will be also scheduled as one of the maintenance days for the kinder to allow approximately 10 families to participate.

Safety Reminder

- All children must be picked up from the carpet area/group area. Teachers will let the child know when they can leave with the right person.
- Older siblings cannot take children out of the centre.
- Younger siblings must be supervised in the kindergarten - especially before and after sessions.
- Term 1 & Term 4 require all children to be sunsmart - wearing sunscreen and hats with wide brims (please no caps).
- Your child's footwear should be appropriate for climbing and outdoor activity - thongs and crocs are not considered suitable.
- Please observe the Entry and Exit signs in the OPK car park.
- If you are unsure about the new laws for child restraints, you must visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/childrestraints/

Collecting your child

A gentle reminder to collect your child on time! As you are aware there are following groups commencing most days. After some session's teachers attend network meetings, staff meetings, in-services, and professional development. They also need to continue programming planning and organising the learning environment.



Notices

Social Events for Fundraising

Feedback from the 2009 OPK parent/carer survey identified some interest in holding one or more parent-oriented social events throughout the year. If you would like to be a part of a social/fundraising sub-committee, please let any of the committee members know. As a levy is currently applied to offset major fundraising, all events would be considered voluntary and would be aimed at raising funds for a specific project such as the art studio.

Overhead projector

Does anyone own an overhead project they no longer use? The teachers have some great ideas - please let Angela or Emma know if you have one for donating.

WANTED! willing volunteer to co-ordinate this years Bunnings BBQ - **Sunday 23 May**. Great fun and a fantastic way to get to know other families whilst raising \$\$\$ for the kinder: a file and checklist of things to do is available as well as the expertise of Bunnings veteran Nadine McFadries prior to the event. Please contact Claire (clairescriv@hotmail.com) or Sarah (carrek@ozemail.com.au) ASAP (latest 1st March)

Maintenance

Shortly, Sandra will put up a notice displaying when your family has been rostered on to attend the maintenance days. Each family is only required to attend **once** a year. If you are unable to attend, can you please arrange to swap your day with another family.

Policy Review

At OPK we have an ongoing process of policy review and update. You are welcome, if you have questions or concerns, to forward these to your policy officer, Stella Clarke, on stella.clarke@bigpond.com.au. You are invited to consult the OPK Policy folder located in the office. The policy presently under review is Behaviours Guidance.

Newsletter

Thank you to all those families who supplied their email addresses to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by hard copy, this saves lots of paper! If you did not choose to receive the newsletter electronically but would like to be added to the mailing list, please email Alex on alex.hamilton@iinet.net.au.

Communication

The best way to stay abreast of current issues and happenings is to remember to check your child's information pocket located near the front door. Also check the notice board in the bag room regularly for correspondence and committee minutes.



Uniform

If you would like to purchase an OPK uniform (t-shirt, windcheater or hat), the order forms are located on the notice board next to the fees box. Please complete the order form and place it (with your payment) in the fees box. When your order has been filled it will be sent home with your child.

Your Class Representatives

Pia - Red Group



Jill - Green Group



Sarah -
Red Group



Sonja - Blue Group



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

Anaphylaxis and Food Allergies

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life threatening allergic reaction. This year at OPK we have a number of children who have medically diagnosed allergies and severe anaphylactic allergies to a number of different foods and consequently we regard the anaphylactic risk at high. As a result, effective immediately, **we are requesting that the following items not be brought into the kindergarten:**

NO

- Eggs
- All dairy products (yoghurt, cheese, milk)
- All nuts (and any other products containing nuts eg biscuits, snack bars, chocolate)

This will help minimise the risk of exposure for these children and to help staff in the management of the risk.

Some healthy alternatives for lunches and/or snack time may include, but are not restricted to the following:

- Fresh fruit or tinned fruit
- Dried fruit eg. Sultanas, apple, pear, apricots
- Vegetables eg. Carrot sticks, celery sticks, lettuce, capsicum, cucumber, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms
- A variety of breads eg. Sliced bread, mountain bread, pita bread, Turkish bread
- Biscuits eg. Rice crackers, rice cakes, Saladas
- Fillings can include: Spreads eg. Avocado, vegemite, jam, honey, tomato sauce, chutney, salsa, hummus dip

Meats eg. Ham, Chicken, salami, tuna

Salad eg. Lettuce, tomato, beetroot, cucumber

- Pop corn

Use your imagination and take the opportunity to introduce new foods to your child if they have not tried some of these options before.

If you feel that you must send food from the list of allergies, please inform your teacher so that they are able to separate your child from the child/ren with allergies during lunch or snack time.

Background

In order to comply with OPK Anaphylaxis Policy and to help protect these children at risk of anaphylaxis from harm due to accidental exposure to food allergens, there are several steps the staff have and will take:

- Ensuring they are trained and regularly refreshed to recognised the symptoms of anaphylaxis and in the use of EpiPen
- Ensure all children wash their hands before eating
- Sit with children with allergies to ensure food is not shared
- Clean the tables and areas where food is consumed after eating
- Conduct practice drills in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

There are many ways that the broader kindergarten community can help minimise the risk. **Parents/carers can help by:**

- **Ensuring that all children come to kindergarten with clean hands and face**
- **Following correct food handling procedures while at the kindergarten**
- **Restricting the foods brought into the kindergarten by children enrolled at the kindergarten as well as siblings and other children attending the kindergarten during duty or drop off or pick up time.**

The Royal Children's Hospital does not recommend the banning of products that contain specific allergens, as banning will not succeed in creating an allergy free zone. It is also difficult to achieve a 100 per cent ban, for a variety of reasons. For example, product labels can be confusing, parents of non-allergic children may not comply and staff can become complacent.

The Anaphylaxis Policy recommends that each service writes to all families requesting that specific procedures be followed to minimise the risk of exposure to a known allergen. This may include requesting the following are not sent to the service:

- Food containing the major sources of allergens, or foods where transfer from one child to another is likely, for example peanut, nut products, hole egg, chocolate
- Food packaging of risk foods eg. Cereal boxes, egg cartons, yoghurt containers.

OPK cannot and does not promise an environment completely free of anaphylaxis hazards (or any other hazard) but the staff and committee has made real efforts to minimise the risks of a tragic event. We want to make the Kindergarten an inclusive environment to the fullest extent possible, where children are not excluded because of unfortunate conditions such as Anaphylaxis but this does require some degree of compromise by everyone. We are sure you will agree this is not overbearing and is in the best interests of the overall community. We ask you to please be considerate and respectful of duty of care that the teachers and Committee of Management have to all children at the kindergarten.

If you have any questions regarding the Anaphylaxis Policy or would like to see a copy, please contact Claire Gray clairecriv@hotmail.com or Sarah Carr carrek@ozemail.com.au