

MAY 2010

Olive Phillips Kindergarten

Preparing your child for the future

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

The year is galloping past very fast and we're already deep into the second term. There have been and will be many wonderful things happening at the kindergarten this term and we hope you're making the most of them.

The kindergarten participated in Bayside City Council's Open weekend on the 17th April. About 50 prospective families toured the kindergarten and both the interior and garden looked fabulous. Many favourable comments were received so a big thank you to the teachers and Katie Wade for showing off the kindergarten to its full potential. Green group parents, don't forget to ensure your enrolments for four year old kindergarten are with the Council by 30 June.

We're sure you've all also enjoyed last week's Mother's Day celebrations. The children seemed thrilled to show off their Tiddalik story and thanks once again to the teachers for serving us our morning tea.

The four year olds have also been lucky enough to see *Wombat Stew* at the National Theatre. This excursion was integrated into the programme thanks to the initiative and hard work of Pia di Paolo. It was a great morning out for all and many of the children will be talking about it for a long time to come!

Don't forget the Bunning's BBQ this coming Sunday 23rd of May. If you haven't volunteered already, please pop your name on the sign-up sheet: it's a great bonding opportunity over the barbie and is a fantastic source of funds for the kinder.

Friday 18th June is the kindergarten's Winter Solstice event. This is a magical evening at the kindergarten where all families are welcome to enjoy some bread and soup, good company, music and the children can bring their torches to go hunting for animals in the trees.

Lastly, but by no means least, the kindergarten's website has just been re-vamped. Its aim is to reflect the kindergarten's sustainability policy and to provide simple and accessible information for families and prospective families. We are very proud to be one of the only kindergartens in the area with a meaningful website so please take some time to take a look and spread the word. Any input to the content of the website would also be gratefully received:

www.olivephillipskindergarten.com.au

Claire Gray & *Sarah Carr*
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THANK YOU to the FAMILIES who VOLUNTEERED to help out at the BUNNING'S BBQ this Sunday 23 May

And thanks to Pia di Paolo & Sarah Barton for helping to organise this great fundraiser.
Only two slots remaining to fill the roster – please nominate yourself or your partner!



Upcoming Events

Sunday 23 May - Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser
Sunday 6 June - OPK Maintenance 9-11am
Monday 14 June - Queen's Birthday holiday
Friday 18 June - Winter Soltice event
Friday 25 June - End of Term 2
Monday 12 July - Start of Term 3

Maintenance - Sunday 6 June

1. Sylvia Palanca & Paul Beyer
2. Lyndl & Scott Harrop
3. Gunjana & Scott Dargan
4. Rachel & Clinton Evans
5. Danielle & Andrew Corcoran
6. Melanie & Mattew Gude
7. Emma & Clint Harrison
8. Effie & Peter Alexopoulos

If you are unable to attend the above time, please arrange a swap with another family.

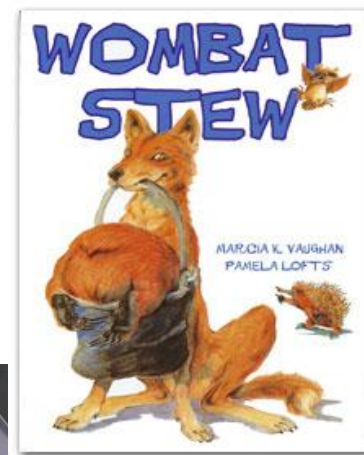
Welcome Jan

A warm welcome to Jan Garret, our new relief teacher who commenced at the end of Term 1. Jan usually helps out on Tuesdays and Thursdays and allows the regular teachers to take a proper break during the long day session.



Wombat Stew Excursion

On Tuesday 11 May, Red & Blue groups visited the National Theatre in St Kilda and watched a performance of the much-loved story *Wombat Stew*.



Some comments from Red and Blue Group

- I like when the wombat was saved because he was funny
- I like the songs and the end song
- I liked the platypus
- I liked the clever dingo
- I like when the emu put the feather in the stew
- I like the dingo because he wanted to put the wombat into the stew
- I liked it when they saved the wombat
- I liked the singing



From the Teachers...

Dear all Olive Phillips Kindergarten Parents

We as teachers at Olive Phillips Kindergarten would like to share with you our thoughts, philosophical views and principles of working with children at this special place. We are passionate advocates for early childhood children and the importance of education and care in these years. We invite you to come along and actively participate in the program. We are working on some interesting projects. Please let us know when you are available to come in. We welcome your input.

The following statements belong to and represent Olive Phillips Kindergarten:

Emphasis on a system of relationships

- Children, their families and teachers work collaboratively.
- We encourage respect, responsibilities and rights.
- Close attention is paid to the formation of a complex set of relationships for each child. We work on mutual trust and support – emotional, physical, social ...

Special attention to the carefully planned environments

- The environment promotes children's daily life, feelings of well-being in aesthetic surroundings. It provides a good climate and spaces for play, moments of rest, and sociality. Materials of high quality are used as a resource and stimuli.
- Our programs have a family -centred, play- based and inquiry-based approach.

Experiment with innovative programs

- Children have opportunities for exchanges with their peers and adults in personalised, effective ways. We offer a generous variety of learning experiences for individual and group play. Materials are inviting and challenging.
- Teachers are aware of current research and reflect on these in light of the children in their care.
- Teachers view other early childhood programs – including ones representing best practice and innovation.

Documentation

- We document children's learning and development through written observations, photographs, evidence in the daily diaries, children's portfolios and project work.
- The documentation is made visible to children and their families.

Implementing OPK's vision

- Aim to be a model/research centre, environmental ly sustainable(eco-cubby project 2010) and to upgrade our facilities.
- Teachers will continue reflecting and implementing parts of the vision plan with members of the kindergarten community.



Strengthening our professional work

- We are valued for our dedication and professional work and growth.
- We present lectures, mini conferences, meetings and information seminars to early childhood and primary school teachers and pre-service teachers.
- We have strong relationships with two universities and work in a research capacity with them.

OPK children

- Children are viewed as **strong** and **capable**. Child observations are important – having knowledge of child development and a **holistic approach** to education.
- Use strategies to **empower** children – **listening** to their views, children **creating** their own curriculum, children creating their own **charter of rights**, **collaborative** work and **participation**.

OPK programs

- **Play** being central to the program allowing children to reach their potential.
- We have a process that **monitors** and **evaluates** the program– child observations, reflective journal, quality assurance tools, committee of management.
- Programs foster **equality** for all children.

OPK partnerships

- **Partnerships and sustainable relationships** with families, local schools, maternal and health centre, teachers network groups, universities, local council, Department of Education and specialist services.

Reminders

- **Suitable clothing (to accommodate the changing weather)** -jumper, jacket, raincoat, gumboots, boots/shoes (pull-on, Velcro and/or buckles encourage independence)
- **Sunhats** -are not needed (Term 1 and 4 only)
- **Drink bottles** -Please remember to label, re-fill and regularly clean your child's drink bottle. Bacteria can grow rather quickly from exposure to sunlight.
- **Drink bottle trolley and fruit basket** -The drink bottle trolley and fruit basket will now be located in the foyer at the beginning of sessions to free up congestion inside the doorway. Please continue to encourage your child's independence allowing them to take responsibility for placing their fruit and drink bottle in the designated place.
- **Daily diary** -Please take the time to read our daily diary. It is a great way to see what the children have been engaged in during their time spent at Olive Phillips Kindergarten. A snap shot is captured via... work samples, photographs, children's comments, drawings, collages, creations, project work and much more... Your feedback is always welcomed!



• From the Teachers (continued)

Mother's day morning tea

All of the children at Olive Phillips Kindergarten put lots of love and care into creating a special gift for mum. We hope you had a pleasurable time at the kindergarten and enjoyed our version of Tiddalik the frog. Thank you for your help with the food platters and clean up. What a wonderful community of families we have! Some of the children's comments...

I love my mummy because...

- She gives me big cuddles and kisses
- She cooks cakes and bakes cookies with me
- I love cuddling her and watching DVD's with her
- I like her and I sneak into her bedroom
- She chase me and we go swimming
- She reads books to me

OPK Garden

- **Worm farm** - re-established (red group children with Travis, Emma and Christine)
- **Seedlings planted** -(red group, they also made signs)
- **3 fruit trees** -Olive, dwarf lemon and cumquat still to arrive (Blue group children/ families to plant and make signs)
- **Compost bins** -(Blue group children and families)
- **Donations from families** - Thank-you for your kind donations and searching efforts! We are making good use of the plant pots, bulbs, seedlings, stones and pebbles, palm branches, tree stumps etc...

Please continue to help us collect, recycle and re-use items to create an enchanting garden and play space for your children.

Ideas: Plumbing pipes(off cuts), bamboo sticks, logs, palm branches, terracotta pots, wood off cuts, tree stumps, pebbles, pine cone, gumnuts, baskets, large pieces of materials, watering cans, plants, outdoor wooden table...

- **Succulent garden** -In the back corner of play ground (Green group children have been digging, planting and watering)
- **Weeding** -The green group children have been weeding the rock river bed.
- **Music and movement** -"I love my veggie patch". The children have been singing and joining in the actions - it is their favourite! (Dig all day, plant all day, water all day, weed all day).

Garden beds

We need to raise our garden beds in the vegetable garden, to create depth for our vegies to grow and easier access for the children. The Bunning's fundraiser will help us to make this possible! A big thank you to the families who have kindly volunteered their time.



Art Studio Project

The OPK committee is keen to appoint an extra member to their team, who would be the Art Studio - Project Manager.

The Kindergarten has had a vision for some time of creating a new special "space" at the kinder where the children can focus all their artistic and creative energies.

Now is the time to turn that vision into proper brainstorming, researching, planning and pulling together of information so that it can be made into reality at some point in the future.

You would work in consultation with the teachers and a small sub-committee to make things happen!

For more information please contact either Claire Gray or Sarah Carr (contact details on first page).

Kinder Policies Review

Policies under review in May by Stella Clarke will be Codes of Conduct, Qualified Staff and IT policies.

As usual, hard copies will be available for consultation in the office, including the new KPV updated versions.

Can you help?

Fluffy Toys for Winter Solstice

The teachers are asking for donation of furry friends for the Winter Solstice event. They will be placed in the trees and the children will go searching for them with their torches.

Balls

The kinder is accepting donations of balls - large and small - for the children's play.

IT expert

Have you had experience networking office computers? The three computers in the kinder office need to be networked. If you can assist, please contact one of the teachers.

Kinder Photos

Everyone should have received an email from Tuesday containing a link to your child's photos. The deadline for ordering photos is Sunday 30 May.

If you have any queries, please contact Tuesday Veldhoven on 0412 553 404 or by email tuesday@tuesdayschildphoto.com.

Thanks

Thank you to Beaumaris Primary School for loaning OPK an overhead projector.