



newsletter

august 2011

# Donvale preschool

*learning to grow*

Bring on the sunshine it improves my mood! Not that I'm in a bad mood or anything, but I must admit that my spirits soar when I see blue skies and fluffy white clouds. It's a hint of Spring and that's all I need.

Kinder photos have been taken, mud pies have been made, a thousand box constructions have made their way home to happy happy parents (no doubt) and friendships continue to blossom.

Our kids are growing up so fast it's shocking and lots of the 4 year olds are starting to look a lot like school kids! It's lovely they are being able to grow in such a safe and nurturing environment.



**Lara and Jade giving us their most adorable faces.**



The committee, staff and all current children and families would like to welcome the following families who have joined the Donvale Preschool community recently ~ in the 3's we welcome Rex Sacristani and his parents Lisa & Rob, and Archie Ekhart with his dad Danny and his Grandmother Irene. And to the Kangaroo group in the 4's, a big hello to Khodi Brooks and his parents Shannon & Nathaniel. We all hope you have a wonderful time at Donvale Preschool.

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# 3's

Hard to believe that we are into the 5th week of term already, the year has really flown. The children are progressing well and developing and refining new skills each day. Confidence is increasing and this is evident as the children develop friendships and further language skills.

We have been using positional language with the children (on top, under, in front, behind, beside etc) and playing games to learn and reinforce its meaning. We as adults often wrongly assume that the children understand all these terms, when in fact they do need to be learned. It's been lots of fun and the children have encouraged each other to learn.

Kinder photos were taken last week and for the first time in many years, we had full house on both photo days. It is a little more difficult with the rotational program, but hopefully the parents will be pleased with their children's photos. Rather than have all children together, we had 2

group photos taken so some lucky children will star in both.

***We as adults often wrongly assume that the children understand all these terms, when in fact they do need to be learned. It's been lots of fun and the children have encouraged each other to learn.***



The home corner was set up as a construction area for a couple of weeks and the children had heaps of fun playing with the toy tools and pretending to be tradesmen. There was a lot of interesting and amusing conversation between the children and lots of sharing and cooperation needed. As a continuation of this theme, we have begun carpentry with the children outside. This is a great activity requiring a variety of different skills; eye hand coordination, patience, perseverance, imagination and



developing gross motor skills.

Winter has been the focus of many of our activities over the last few weeks. The children have matched and pasted wet weather clothing onto a man, decorated umbrellas and done some very striking pastings using black and white patterns. We have discussed changes to the weather, read winter stories and learnt a couple of new songs.



Outdoors, Ann and Jeanine have helped the children to plant pansy and polyanthus seedlings in the 3yo garden. Within the next few weeks, we should have a lovely display of colour to enjoy. The children have also decorated little yoghurt pots and put some wheat seeds on cotton wool to watch it grow. We have discussed the need for water and sunshine for our plants to thrive.

I will be finishing work on Wed 17/8 and taking long service leave for 5 weeks to travel overseas with my husband and friends. Anita Rentz will be teaching the 3yo groups in my absence. See you all next term.

*Helen*



Wow what a term we have planned for your children! Already we have started off with a bang. The visit from senior constable Linda was really exciting with the children learning all about the important job of the police, the police car (especially the sirens) and how to call emergency services. This inspired a lot of emergency services play and we gained a lot of knowledge from this topic.

# 4's

Our visit from the snake handler was extremely exciting and we all got to get up close and personal with some really scary and exciting reptiles. Even Jackie was game enough to hang a snake around her neck.

Mud play has been a really productive learning area. Many a construction site, water tunnel, mud brick house and swamp have been created. It's lovely to see the children being able to be free to explore such a messy area! I'm so thankful they do it here and not at home as I'm sure you are too.

Jackie and I are really thankful that we've been able to catch up with a lot of the parents for parent teacher interviews. Remember that we are also always available for a chat should you have any concerns or positive feedback you'd like to share with us.



Over the last few weeks we've had a real focus on construction. The children have been leading the ideas

for the program and are really interested in extending the activities with their own ideas. So we have provided lots of opportunities to extend their activities such as the painting area now has a shelf filled with different collage materials, brushes, rollers, paste, many coloured paints, crayons etc. etc.

Box construction is as always a hit with the children having many, many creative ideas that we are able to help and accommodate them with materials.

Our science experiments were really interesting and we learnt about chemical reactions, forces and motion and the art of 3D. There was also some nature experiments where we used a lily to suck up dye and look at how the plant has veins and we cleaned up a 2 cent coin in diet coke. Unfortunately our mentos and coke experiment fizzled - literally.

Our P.J breaky was a great success. We all looked fabulous and played some really fun games



such as bouncing our teddies on the parachute, musical pillows, sleeping bag jumping races, imaginative sleepwalking games, relaxation and of course the controlled pillow fight. Our pancakes, raisin toast and hot chocolate breakfast, was well enjoyed. I can't believe how much some of the children can eat!!

Looking ahead we are now focusing on the children's interests in fairies. Our fairy corner looks amazing thanks to Jackie and Jane and we are making our own fairy gardens and will make tiny fairies to add to them next week. You would think the boys wouldn't like this but they do. They're making jungle gardens and frog playgrounds!!

With our Box Hill Hospital excursion this week and next week we will also be focusing on health, hospital, senses, feelings and how the body works.

Chef for a day has been really fun with some yummy food made and lots of maths skills and turn taking practiced in the process. This is wrapping up in the next few weeks to be replaced by show and share. Look out for the bag that will come home with your child soon. Show and share gives your child the opportunity to share something special from their lives, describe it in front of the group of children and answer questions from their peers. As you can imagine these are really important skills to develop. Confidence, sharing, speaking in a voice that can be heard, responding, problem solving and imagination, not to mention turn taking and listening skills from the children on the mat.

Of course during all of these exciting topics the children are practicing, challenging, reinforcing and accomplishing many skill area's that are appropriate for this age group.

Now don't forget our conference day on the last day of term September 23rd, remember that this is a child free day. Next thing to roll around will be Peter and the Wolf.

Thanks,

*Sue, Jackie, Ann & Jane*



## Eating my colourful Fruit and Vegetables - 4 year old kinder

Our centre has been chosen to participate in a new program to encourage young children to try new veggie-type foods called "Eating my Colourful vegies and fruit". The program provides an avocado sampler of sensory food learning experiences for children aged 3 to 5 years. Children at our centre will be exploring, making and sharing avocados, and many other green vegies and fruit over the next few weeks. The program has been provided by avocado growers of Australia and samples of avocados will be available for the children to investigate, taste and cook with. Avocados are a great way to get young children eating veggie-type foods. They are extremely healthy and their smooth creamy texture is something young and old love eating.

Children's energy needs dramatically increase because of their rapid growth and high energy levels. That's why it is important to add high-energy foods to their diet, without increasing their intake of less nutritious food. Avocados are high in monounsaturated fats and are a brilliant source of energy and also offer many other health benefits to active, growing bodies.



## Toy catalogues

During August/September, a variety of children's toy catalogues will be sent home for you to keep, read through and if you are interested, to order from. Toy orders and payments are not due back at the kinder until the start of term four, so please keep an eye out for the catalogues, as they will be sent home as we receive them. If you do not wish to order from the catalogues, perhaps you could give them to your children to practice cutting with? If you require more catalogues for family or friends please see a staff member when they are sent home. Toy orders are optional.

# working bee

Here's the chance to get your Jamie Durie on... again!

**Saturday 17th Sept 1-3pm**

Remember just a 2 hour commitment from you and you'll get your \$40 maintenance levy back!

There will be a list of jobs put up in the foyer, so please sign up and we will see you there!

And of course children are always welcome (and we're not adverse to a little child-labour in the form of picking up leaves and the like either!)



## AGM Meeting

Our next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm. This is a chance to get the low-down on how the kinder is operating and to nominate for committee positions. Everyone is encouraged to attend, so please mark this date down in your diaries.

## Did you know?

- We regularly practice Fire Drills with the children
- We are run and managed by a committee of management
- We rely on fundraising to assist covering operational costs
- Parents can be involved within the centre by: sharing a talent, coming along for duty, assisting with maintenance tasks, being on the committee, assisting behind the scenes with administration.
- Staff take written observations of your children and set developmental goals based upon these observations.



## thanks so much...

Our thanks go out to Metro Signs Pty Ltd, 7 Wurundjeri Dve, Epping (phone 03)9422 1200, fax 03)9422 1209) [www.metrosigns.com.au](http://www.metrosigns.com.au) who have kindly donated a very impressive A-frame advertising board to the kinder - we're sure it will bring lots of new families to come and view our beautiful kinder.



# Happy Birthday to you & you & you

## ~ 3 year olds

### august

Sarah	14/8/07
Amarli	16/8/07

### september

Peter	7/9/07
Nathan	9/9/07
Noah	13/9/07
Chantal	20/9/07
Lara	21/9/07
Jade	24/9/07

### november

Mitchell	7/11/07
Alison	10/11/07

## ~ 4 year olds

### august

Grace Saxton	03/08/06
Maisie Shimmin	26/08/06
Orlando Franklin	04/08/06
Sofia Marchionno	17/08/06

### september

Alessio Guerra	29/09/06
Charles Mercuri	17/09/06
Luca Orsini	04/09/06
Samantha Spencer	29/09/06

### november

Oscar Thomas	14/11/06
Sophie Cunningham	16/11/06

# movie night

We had an impressive turn out for our first movie night, showing "Rio". Thank you to everyone for coming, making it such a wonderful event and to all those that pitched in with the tidy up. It was fantastic to see so many faces on Friday night. As it was such a hit, we will hold another movie night soon. See you next time!

*Jackie Harkin*





## FATHERS DAY RAFFLE

**Tickets \$2 each**

**Please print NAME & PHONE N°  
on the left ticket stub**

**Please return all money and tickets  
by THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Raffle drawn Sunday 4th Sept 2011, winners will be phoned**

You all will have received your Fathers Day raffle tickets in your pockets lately. Please try and sell them or return them before Thrusday 1st September. Thanks soo soo much to all the families that are participating.



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You can dear if  
you wish...  
I'll organise the drinks

Darling I here that the  
Trivia Night is coming soon?  
Should we study?

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**\$15 entry**  
+ great prizes  
on offer

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**7.30pm at Donvale Primary School Hall  
(Elata St Donvale)**

**Bring your friends, some food & drinks**

There will be an auction and silent auctions too  
- so make sure you bring your wallet.

(start collecting your gold coins as well for our party games!)

for further details contact Jackie Harkin on 0411 232 071

# Family Business

The committee has placed a large A-frame board just outside the front door for anyone with a family run/owned business to promote their products/services to other kinder families. So if you'd like some free advertising please feel free to post something on this board.

Do you need a product or service? - why not support another kinder family by checking out this board for details. It's located outside the front door undercover with the words "family businesses" across the top. We like to support members of

our kinder community and we think that this is a great way of supporting each other.

(please note - the kinder committee in no way endorses or guarantees any of the products/services advertised on this board, so please make your own judgements as to whether they will be suitable for you.)



## **Start Spreading the Word - Enrolment Drive**

If you love your kinder ('of course I do' I hear you say), why not start dropping the word "donvale preschool" into everyday conversation?

We're on a mission to get another 15 kids enrolled by the end of November to grow the kinder, so please remember to mention us to your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, local maternal health centre nurses, in fact, anyone who will listen!



Thankyou to the families that purchased an Entertainment Book this year. We raised \$286 for the kinder which is a great effort. We hope you get a lot of use and many fun adventures from this great resource.

# event calendar

## for the 4's

**Tuesday 6th September**

- Peter and the Wolf

**Wednesday 7th September**

- Peter and the Wolf

**Thursday 22nd September**

- Last day of Four year old kinder for term three

**Friday 23rd September**

- **Staff Conference day**

- Child Free Day for 4 year olds.

No kinder in the morning.

**Monday 26th September – Friday 7th October**

– School Holidays

**Monday 10th October**

– First day of term four

# Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

**Sun 4th Sept  
8am-6pm**

Please sign up to help us with the Bunnings sausage sizzle - we're still looking for lots of families help - we know it's Fathers day but unfortunately we didn't get to choose which day we wanted - all we're asking is for a couple of hours, so please help where you can. Sign-up sheet is located above the sign-in book.

Got something you think should be in the next issue? Great, I need all the help I can get!! Send me stuff at [nikki@gravitydesignstudio.com.au](mailto:nikki@gravitydesignstudio.com.au) See you next month. Cheers, Nikki Healy



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Donvale Preschool 7 Florence Avenue Donvale 3111 Victoria

(03) 9874 6848 ABN: 64 674 574 404

[donvale.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:donvale.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)