

newsletter

march 2011



Donvale preschool

learning to grow

TA DA! Introducing our new logo!!! This is what happens when you give botox and liposuction to a flagging logo! This new image will help reposition us in the kindergarten arena and will hopefully (along with some other clever marketing ideas) entice new families to come and see how wonderful our kinder is. We all know it's a great place for kids to learn and grow - now the rest of the area needs to find out! You'll be seeing this new image popping up from now on and we'll be using it on the winter run of clothing, so keep an eye out for it. Of course there will be inevitable overlap, that's unavoidable, but from now on it's the age of the new tree! We hope you love it as much as the committee does.



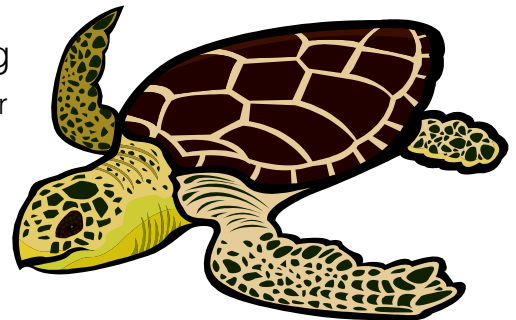
3's

What an enthusiastic and busy group of children we have in the 3 year old group! Artwork is being produced enmass and we struggle to keep up with writing names and hanging up masterpieces.



Our art activities have been based on sea creatures, and the children have had heaps of fun creating huge jelly fish, brightly coloured confetti fish, fruit loop star fish and painting with glitter paint. We have also used the sand and water trays with various sea creatures which have led to lots of discussion about the beach, rock pools and what lives in them.

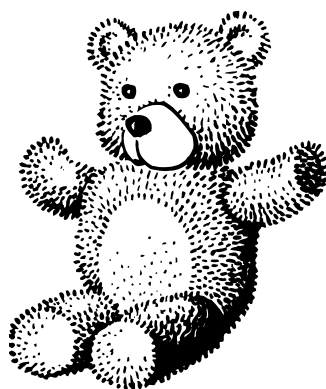
Home corner is a real favourite and the children are enjoying dressing up and role playing with the dolls. The indoor blocks have also been popular and we have added trucks, people and animals as extra props in this area. Sharing and turn taking are proving a challenge for some but this is all part of the learning process at kinder and will improve as the children mature.



At group time the children are demonstrating very good concentration and join in with

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enthusiasm. We have learnt several simple songs, and have begun using music CDs with dancing and action songs. For a young group so early in the year we are very impressed with their participation.



Outdoors the children are just as busy. They love the single bikes and scooters, the sandpit, the cubby and playing with the big trucks. We have been teaching them the correct and safe way to climb over the large A frames and are pleased to see an improvement in confidence and skills.

We have begun sending our 3 Friend Bears home with the children and look forward to hearing about the fun and excitement of his visits. The bears are a great teaching tool to help develop confidence in the children and to encourage and extend their language skills.

Overall, a great start to the 3 year old kinder year!

Helen, Ann & Jeanine

Well here we are into March already with our full time new rotational program up and running. Jackie Jane, Ann and myself are pleased to report that the children are settling into kinder really well with very little (almost no) separation anxiety. The children seem to be really enjoying the kinder program and are really embracing their familiar and new peers. We are watching new friendships emerge every day.

4's

The rotational program, though initially hard for the staff to get used to, has proven itself to be NOT impacting on the children at all. They are quite taken with the amount of friends they get to see over the course of the week and are really fresh and excited to work with the different staff members each week.

At this stage of the year our focus is on the children settling into the kinder happily and becoming familiar with the routines, safety rules, the other children and the staff. We are introducing them, (many for the first time) to group experiences where there are expectations on them to sit quietly with legs crossed, put their hands up when they have something to say (this takes months and months for some), to listen when others are speaking, to sit still on their bottoms and to not poke, touch or generally distract other children.

Pack up time is going well though there are always a few escapists hiding away or trying to look busy. We have introduced the pack up bell where the children stop when they hear it and pack away the activity they were using then help others to do the same.

At group time we have sung a selection of familiar songs, stories and finger plays as well as introduced some new ones.

Outside is a favorite as always - the children have been encouraged to explore the environment in order to expend their energy in an appropriate way and to use the equipment. Dressing up outside has been really popular with the construction workers outfits and the fairy dresses stimulating lots of dramatic play.



Recently we introduced the use of scissors with a free play cutting activity. We are currently observing the level each of the children are at with their cutting ability.

Unfortunately our dinosaur program has been cut short by the postponement of the Melbourne Museum incursion. Over the last week the children have really enjoyed sharing their knowledge about dinosaurs and learning a little about each one.

In the coming weeks as we power on towards the end of term we will be cooking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and working on many skills areas with the children.

Sue, Jackie, Jane and Ann

homework for the holidays for 4's

Next term the children will be further exploring the theme of “families”. For this theme we would like the children to create a book about them. This is your homework for the holidays.

We would like you and your child to get an exercise book or staple some paper together and select approx 10 photos to put into the book. We would also like you to assist your child to write a couple of sentences about each photo.

We will then share the books at kinder, with every child's book being “read” to the group. The aim of this exercise is to bring the children's home life and kindergarten closer together. It will also increase the children's confidence as they talk to the group about their book.

Remember we do not need an extensive story to go with the photos, just a sentence or two to help trigger their memory. This will allow your child the opportunity to fill the blanks in when it is their turn to share with the group.

Ideas for photos include:

- Family photos, including brother, sisters, grandparents cousins, uncles and aunts
- Baby photos
- Holiday snaps
- Photos of pets, friends, special places,
- Picture of your home or a special place.

The list is really endless, basically any photos that have meaning to your child.

Jackie and Sue



please let us know..

Is your child coming home from kinder and telling you that something bothers them or you? If so, please come and tell us. They probably have not told us. Even if whatever they are saying seems trivial, it is bothering them enough to tell you, therefore we need to know. Then we can prevent/solve/monitor issues before they become huge and unpleasant. Often it is simply involves asking another children to stop something that they were unaware was bothering someone else.

duty parents

Thank you to all parents to who complete duty. It is of great assistance to us. While you are on duty please remember confidentiality. If you see behaviour that you don't like or something happens that makes you feel uncomfortable we would ask that you discuss the issue with staff rather than in the car park. It is the role of the teacher to discuss any concerns about children with their parents.

come play with us

We would love more parents to be involved in the program. If you have a hobby, skill, interest or occupation that you could share with the children, please talk to the staff about a suitable time to visit. For example: bring in your pet, play a musical instrument, teach a sport or craft activity, cook with the kids, Even if you don't think you have anything worth sharing the children would still love your company.

kinder program and reflection book

To keep you updated with what is happening at kinder an outline of the current program is located on the main notice board in the foyer. The staff freely welcome questions and queries regarding what we do and the how and why behind everything. We will attempt to keep you posted of all upcoming changes within the program.

Please keep an eye out for our Photo reflection book – this visual diary shows what is happening within the kinder room whilst you are not here. Sometimes a photo can say more than a thousand words. Make sure you stop and look at this book throughout the year. We endeavour to take photos of all the children throughout the year. We keep this booklet next to the sign in book in the foyer.





Happy Birthday to you & you & you

~ 4 year olds

~ 3 year olds

march	
Ewan Healy	23/03/06
april	
Matthew Elliot	24/04/06
Oliver Percher	14/04/06
Oliver Schley	24/04/06
may	
Amelia Spurrit	18/05/06
Daniel An	03/05/06
Lauren Preston	30/05/06
William Heliotis	22/05/06
Wilson Cai	10/05/06

march	
Marco	2/3/08
Lucas	29/3/08
april	
Sophia	2/4/08
Siena	3/4/08
Mila	11/4/08
Laclan	15/4/08
may	
Adam	11/5/07



A big thank you goes to Kerri Brown for a fantastic job cleaning up the overgrown veggie patch and transplanting dozens of daisy bushes to the garden along the front fence. Thanks Kerri, we really appreciate your efforts

Just a reminder to all parents that committee meetings are open to all and we welcome everyone's thoughts. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month (however with the holidays, the next meeting will be Tuesday 10th May). Minutes from each meeting are also posted in the foyer so you can keep up to date with what's going on at your kinder.



At the time of printing we have the following clothing items available

2 x size 6 pink polo shirts
1 x size 4 pink polo shirt
& plenty of hats are still available.

If you are interested in any of these please contact
 Annette Powell - agpowell7@bigpond.com



Got stuff???
 Bubblewrap, packing starch, foam pieces, whatever - they all can have a second life at kinder. Bring them in and have them transformed!! We can't tell you exactly WHAT they'll be transformed into, but it will always be something 'interesting'.

Tunstall Twilight Street Festival - Update

Well our first foray for 2011 into the realms of fetes and festivals went very very well with a profit of over \$1000. For those of you who came by and saw us, we sold 360 sausages

and the flashing products sold extremely well - we will definitely be doing these again as the profit margin is quite good - plus they're heaps of fun! If we keep kicking these sorts of goals, we'll make some really good money for the kinder this year. Jackie our fundraising/events coordinator did a fantastic job of organising this event in a very short time, and in wangling some product from local suppliers. Special thanks goes out to the following parents for donating their valuable time in manning the stalls - Jackie Harkin, Sally Wilson, Marina & Emily Younger, Sue Thomas, Nikki Healy, Melinda Pecher, Stephen Spencer, Wayne Elliot, Annette & Glenn Powell and Kirsti LePage. For those of you who thought about signing up, please

consider doing so next time as we would like all families to participate in some way. We're not asking for heaps of cash (but if you've got it, we'll take it!) but your time is equally valuable to us. We don't always want to be relying on the same people, it's just not fair - we're doing this for ALL the children - and that includes YOUR child!

what, when
& how much

**Support those
who support us**

Mauro Bros butcher
Bakers Delight - Tunstall
Caltex
Tunstall Fresh
Coles Donvale

Chocolate Drive: Feb 28 - 24 March

How's that choccy selling going? Have you managed to offload most of it to family or friends, or is your middle decidedly rounder?

Won't tell you how mine went because my scales have busted! lol

**Remember to get your chocolate money back before
Thursday 24th March please.**

Money is to be placed in the fee money slot adjacent to the handwashing taps in the childrens bathroom

Cadbury



Stuck on You
Labels for every Tom, Dick or Harriet

*The Stuck on You fundraiser is ongoing
throughout 2011*

The Stuck on You fundraiser is ongoing throughout the year. All orders placed on online will earn the kinder a 20% commission but you need to remember to select Donvale Preschool when ordering.

Check out www.stuckonyou.com.au

event calendar

for the 3's

Wednesday 30th March – Nursery rhyme dress up day

Friday 1st April – Nursery rhyme dress up day

Friday 8th April – Last day of term one

Wednesday 27th April – First day of term two

Monday 2nd May – Dove puppets

Sunday 8th May – Mothers Day

Friday 13th May – Dove puppets

Monday 16th – Friday 27th May
– Chicken Hatching Program

4 year old children can look forward to a variety of special events during 2011, including – a visit from Museum Victoria, a visit from Snake handlers with their reptiles, a trip to Box Hill Hospital – for their hospital awareness program, a trip to Kew Traffic School to learn about safe bike riding and road safety. A dance and movement show, a musical performance and much much more!! We will keep you posted as the term progresses

working bee

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

Sunday 3rd April
10am-12pm

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

for the 4's

Tuesday 15th March –

Drama Workshop "Circus" – Wombats, Kangaroos, Bilbies

Friday 8th April – Last day of term one

Wednesday 27th April – First day of term two

Thursday 28th April – Drama Workshop "Tidderlick the Frog" – Koalas, Kangaroos and Emus

Thursday 5th May – Mothers Day Morning Tea – Koalas, Kangaroos, and Emus

Friday 6th May – Mother Day Morning Tea – Wombats, Bilbies and Emus

Sunday 8th May – Mothers Day

Monday 16th – Friday 27th May –
Chicken Hatching Program

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 See you next month. Cheers, Nikki Healy