



newsletter

may 2011

Donvale preschool

learning to grow

Hello everyone and welcome to Term 2. The weather has certainly turned from our lovely autumn into **SOME** seriously chilly winter days of late, and I guess that's here to stay for the foreseeable future. Apparently all this unseasonably wet and wild weather is due to the El Nino, El Ninio, El Niinio, El something or other effect - hopefully it's on it's way out soon! I'm so cold I think I'll have my ugg boots surgically attached to my feet! (did I just admit to that aloud?) So remember to pack extra warm clothes into your child's bag - include a hat, jacket, a spare pair of socks and a pair of gumboots because they still go outside unless it's raining!

The committee and staff are pleased to announce that the drain outside the kinder front door has been fixed by council, which means goodbye to the enormous big puddle - which is great for the parents, not so great for the kids, as the chances of some serious splashing has been seriously diminished with it's demise!

This issue of the newsletter has the regular reports from the teachers, important dates etc etc, but what it also has is a letter from our president detailing the importance of fundraising and how it impacts the kinder. If you, (like me before I joined the committee) have no clue as to how the kinder operates, this article will open your eyes and may well go towards answering the question on so many parents lips of late - "why all the fundraising?"



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Hello too to our May coverboy Will Heliotis from 4 year old - gorgeous grin Will!

Term 1 Staff Reflection..

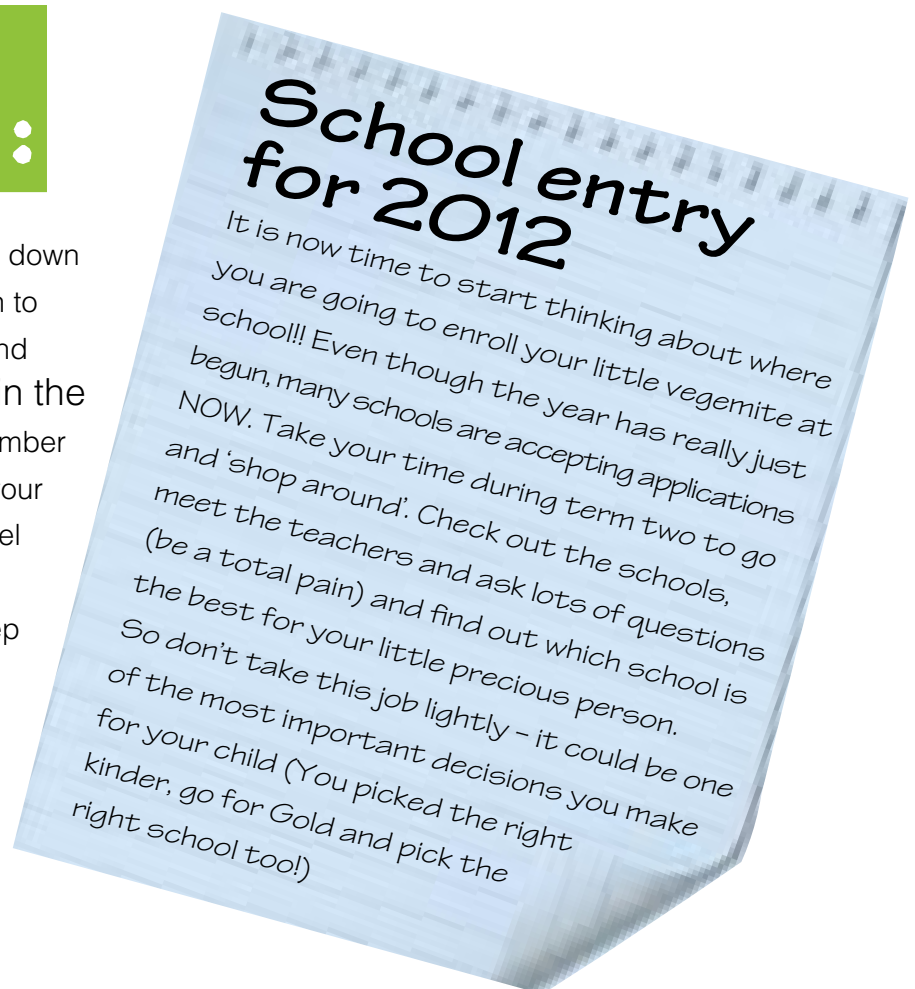
Over the past term our focus has been on fostering and extending positive interactions between children, teachers and families; and also ensuring that children feel safe and secure and are developing a sense of place and belonging within the new group and room.

Photos are used throughout the centre to assist in giving the children a sense of belonging within the room. A routine and flow of the day has been established which has assisted in creating a safe and regular rhythm to the children's day. Small and whole group discussions, songs and stories have provided many opportunities for children to renew friendships from previous years and foster new friendships with other children at our centre." It has been a very quick and smooth start to the kinder year."

Jackie, Sue, Jane, Ann, Jeanine, and Helen

Important reminders:

As the weather changes and is cooling down please remember to send your children to kinder in warm clothing with jumpers and jackets. We do still play outside in the middle of winter. Also please remember to change the spare clothes in your child's bag to appropriate winter apparel and to label everything. Also as the weather starts to cool down please keep in mind the exclusionary illnesses as stated in your kinder handbook and keep your child home if they are unwell.



Lost Property

Please regularly check the lost property box, which is located in the kinder foyer, under the sign in/out book.



Term 1 finished with the excitement of a visit from the Easter bunny who left several eggs in the baskets which the children had made. Although no one actually saw him, there were rabbit footprints on the carpet leading to our baskets and disappearing into the cupboard.



The children returned happily after the holiday break full of confidence and ready to begin a new term. The first few weeks saw us busy with activities and surprises for Mother's day. Each child made a handprint placemat as well as decorating a treasure box in which was placed a special pink heart chocolate for mum. We hope that all mums were suitably spoiled and enjoyed a relaxing day with their families.

It's been great to see the children co-operating together and waiting for their turn to jump from the board into the leaves.



On Monday 2/5, Jeanette from Dove puppets entertained the children with a nursery rhyme puppet show. The children were totally focused throughout and really enjoyed the silly antics of the puppets. After the show, all children were given the opportunity to play with one of the puppets from the show. Jeanette returned on Friday 13/5 to perform the teddy bear's birthday for the other half of the group. It was great also. Thanks Jeanette!

The autumn leaves in the playground have provided hours of fun and entertainment for the children. They have been raked into huge piles to jump into and the children have enjoyed rolling, throwing and hiding in them. It's been great to see the children co-operating together and waiting for their turn to jump from the board into the leaves.



Other activities this term have included finger painting with shaving cream, playing with the magnets on the legs of an upside down table, having great fun in the camping corner and creating very unique and interesting creatures at the pasting table. The children are now very comfortable with the rules and routines of the group and becoming more confident with the staff and their peers.



Autumn activities will be enjoyed for the next few weeks, followed by an exciting couple of weeks as we experience egg hatching and watching the chickens grow. Should be lots of fun and a new experience for many of the children.

Helen, Ann & Jeanine

4's

What's been happening at four year old kinder ?

The last few weeks of term one flew past us at breakneck speed, but we were able to cram a lot of learning and excitement into the last month of term.



We've had visits from many outside groups to add interest to our program.

The exciting visit of the drama toolbox on March 15th presenting their circus show, to the kangaroo's wombats and bilbys was a very exciting and fun learning opportunity. The children dressed up and participated in many circus activities. There were clowns, elephants, tightrope walkers and prancing ponies to name a few. This workshop then sparked a lot of fantasy circus activities for the next few weeks.

Next the Donvale Primary school marimba band performed for us and the children were able to join in and play a variety of instruments. Some past kinder children that are now preps at Donvale, talked to the children about what school is like.

This led us straight into Easter preparations, what fun we had. Because of the holidays we had a practice egg hunt on the last day of term and wrote a letter to the Easter bunny explaining our absence.

Within these interest areas we have been assessing the children's individual strengths in areas such as cutting, grips, right or left handedness, gross motor skills such as hopping, skipping etc. to plan our program accordingly. As you can imagine a lot of practice goes into using scissors well and controlling pencils and brushes.

Our group times are becoming longer and more involved with the children showing an ability to listen for a longer period of time, to turn take and to participate more confidently.

The start of term two came around quickly with Helen and Jackie covering for Sue while she was off after her hand operation.

In our first week back the children have settled in very well. We are reinforcing the rules and routines we learnt last term, re- establishing friendships and getting used to separating from our parents and care givers again.

We have planned a very open ended program that will involve the children having a strong influence on the daily direction of the program. Hence activities may change or evolve over each day as the children's ideas and needs are recognized and implemented.

Our first week back also included another visit from the drama workshop. This time they told the story of Tiddalick the frog to the koala's, emu's and bilby's. The children dressed up as many different Australian animals and role played the story. This has opened up the



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interest area of frogs and frog lifecycles which can then move us into other lifecycles such as chickens which will coincide nicely with our chicken hatching program in June. It has also sparked an interest in Australian animals and an exploration of indigenous art. You may have seen the dot painting on hands and boomerangs around the room.

Mother's day has been another focus with the children making presents and cards Shhhhh..... We also shared a morning tea on Thursday and Friday 5th & 6th to show our mums how much we love them. Thank you to all the mums who attended our morning teas, we had a fabulous turn out and the children loved having you here.

Over the remainder of the term we shall be visiting each child's photo book and discussing family and homes. We will also be commencing show and tell, Wilbur the wombat and Katie the Koala will come to visit and stay at each child's house, Chicken hatching will run for two weeks and Museum Victoria will be out with their dinosaur fossils to visit... With only ten weeks to this term, we plan on keeping the children on their toes.



Does my child have a friend yet?

At the moment all children are exploring the kinder environment and trying out the activities and toys that the staff provide. Most children are learning to trust and relate to the staff who are new to them. Most children at this stage are not particularly looking for any special person to play with, rather they choose an activity that interests them and then will talk and may begin to play with whoever else is there. Some children will play in a very solitary way while they are exploring and adjusting. Most children spend time in this way as well as engaging with others. This is entirely normal for children of this age and is entirely developmentally appropriate. In order to develop an awareness of other children we have over the last term engaged the children in group activities that use the children's name – for example singing “what do you think my name is?”

Looking ahead...

Of course our beautiful tree outside has brought Autumn flooding into the centre. We will be talking about seasons in particular autumn, so if you have any nice autumn leaves around please bring them in some lovely red and yellow ones would be great.

Kinder borrowing library has started on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please bring along a library bag.

Jackie, Sue, Anne & Jane

PS. Wilbur is not a real wombat and Katie is not a real Koala – so please don't panic!

So what's with all the fundraising?

a letter from the president...

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the DPS management committee I am pleased to provide you with the accompanying fundraising and budget indicators. I understand that some parents feel that they have been inundated with requests to participate in fundraising. The thermometer shows the amount of money we are required to raise to meet our budget and break even at the end of the year. The chart illustrates the running costs of the kindergarten. Before volunteering on the committee I had no idea what was involved in the budget. I hope this helps to clarify why fees alone will not keep the kindergarten operating.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that Jackie Harkin is working incredibly hard in her role as volunteer fundraising coordinator. All of the prizes for the raffles have been donated by small local businesses and large corporations approached by Jackie. Not to mention the Tunstall Square Festival BBQ and merchandise stand, our most successful fundraiser so far this year was managed incredibly effectively. There is also a great deal of administration and scheduling involved in running each event. Thank you Jackie for your great ideas, your efforts really are appreciated.

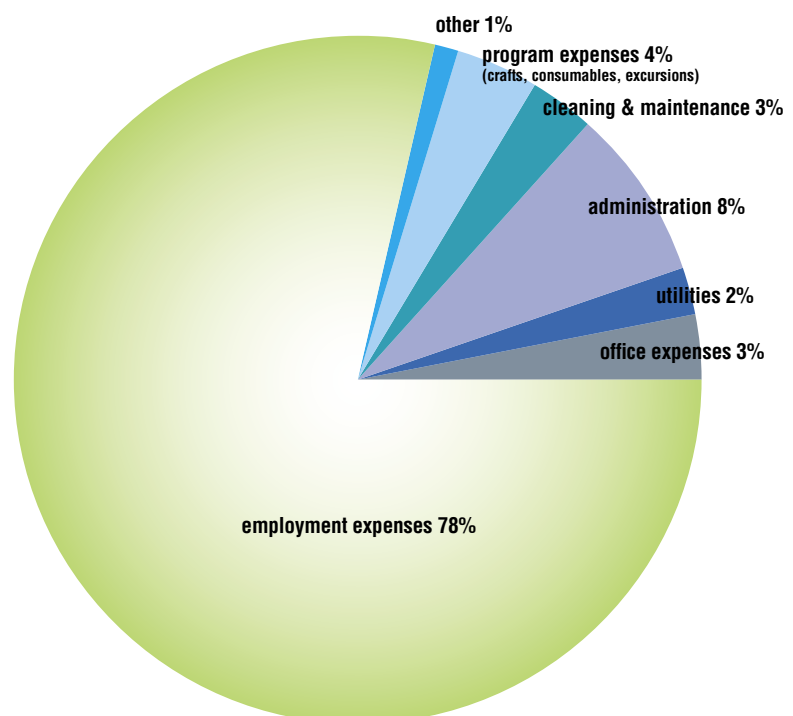
As parents we all understand the time and financial pressure of running a family, but to avoid a substantial increase in fees we have no choice but to fundraise. Should anyone like to ask more about the kindergarten operating costs or budget, please contact me anytime. Likewise the best way to understand why fundraising is so important is to get involved – even if it is for just one event – we love families to be involved.

Regards,

Sally Wilson – 0400 140 176 or email

sallywilson141@hotmail.com

Jade's Mum - President





Call for donations for the Trivia night

Our trivia night is fast approaching and we are currently seeking donations from family, friends, friends of family, friends of friends of family - actually anyone who's willing to donate any goods, vouchers, services, or just cold hard cash that we can auction or raffle off to raise funds for the kinder. So get your best thinking caps

and game-faces on and try and rustle up something that everyone's going to want! What's in it for those who donate - apart from all that goodwill and the warm fuzzy feelings that go with helping little kiddies? For businesses it can be great exposure to a huge variety of families, fantastic word of mouth and free advertising in our newsletter, and not to mention the wonderful certificate of appreciation that shows others how wonderful and generous they are. And did we mention those warm fuzzy feelings...?

Easter

Raffle Prize Winners

We had 7 prizes of varying sizes and therefore 7 lucky winners...
Robbi & Eddy Sadler, Mary Hevern, N Bonello, Kiara Ferris, Steve Marsh, C Vitale & David Weymouth

Thank you to all who kindly donated Easter eggs and those that sold or bought tickets for this raffle, your contributions to our kinder are appreciated.

this month's thankyou's

- Cadbury's for the Easter hamper
- Kymmi's Domestic Cleaning
- Alair 4 Hair
- Mr Chook
- Down Under Tunstall Cellars
- Rodney Clarke
- Simply Natural Therapies
- Shuway
- Fletchers Real Estate

Fundraising totals so far

Tunstall	\$1122.83
Cadbury	\$1441.31
Easter	\$621.95
Mothers Day	\$504.00
total	\$3690.09



Mother's Day

Raffle Prize Winners

We had 3 fantastic prizes to pamper & treat mum and therefore 3 lucky winners...

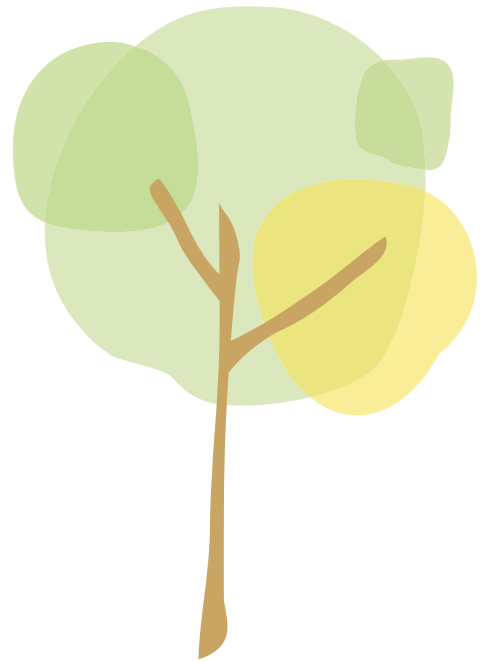
1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
Kelly	Adelina	Jess
Shimmin	Guerra	Jensen

Thank you to all those who sold and or purchased tickets for this raffle, your contributions to our kinder are appreciated.

Open Day

A very big thank you to all those who helped rake leaves, set up, bake, serve morning tea, letter box drop, invite friends and other jobs for Open Day. We had a great morning despite the occasional shower of rain!! It was lovely to have children playing happily with each other. There was a good feel at the kinder and many new faces having a look around and enjoying themselves. A big thank you to Silky the Clown who face painted and made balloon creations, she would be a great addition to any child's birthday party. Thanks also to our wonderful teaching staff for all their work on and before the day.

Kirsti Le Page, Vice President



Happy Birthday to you & you & you

~ 4 year olds

may

Amelia Spurrin	18/05/06
Daniel An	03/05/06
Lauren Preston	30/05/06
William Heliotis	22/05/06
Wilson Cai	10/05/06

june

Alexia le Page	05/06/06
Eddy Saddler	10/06/05
Robbi Saddler	10/06/05
Zoe Hagger	02/06/06

july

Amelia Ronchi	12/07/06
Astrid Harkin	25/07/06
Hamish Warner	16/07/06
Isabella Bonello	20/07/06
Jaimi Cook	11/07/06

~ 3 year olds

may

Adam	11/5/07
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july

Joshua	1/7/07
Malcolm	3/7/07
Tom	5/7/07
Claudia	28/7/07
Archie	29/7/07

event calendar

for the 4's

Monday 16th – Friday 27th May –

Chicken Hatching Program

Tuesday 14th June – Museum

Victoria Dinosaur Program – Wombats,
Kangaroos, Bilbys

Wednesday 15th June – Museum

Victoria Dinosaur program – Koalas,
Emus – Bilbys will still be in attendance
but will be engaged in another special
activity as they participated the day prior.



Could you please keep all assorted boxes, containers, lids and bits and pieces??? We love it when families bring items they have collected at home for the children to construct with. A large box will be placed out the front of the kinder, please feel free to place items in it that you feel would benefit the kinder. For example: boxes, cylinders, lids from bottles and tins, old cards, wrapping paper, wool, material etc, the list is really only limited by your imagination. Due to egg allergies, we ask that NO EGG CARTONS be brought into the centre or boxes that may have previously contained nut products.

4yr olds – ADVANCE NOTICE for term 3 – please note changes to session times

(Notices will go home next term)

Tuesday 26th July – “Snake Handlers Reptile Show”

8.30 am – 11.00 am Wombats, Kangaroos and Bilbys – please pack a small snack

11.15 – 1.15pm Emus and Koalas (Extra Class) please send lunch with your child.

Tuesday 9th August – 4 year old kinder photos

8.30 – 11.30 Wombats, Kangaroos and Bilbys

11.15 – 2.25 Emus and Koalas (extra Class) – please note parents are required to stay from 11.15 – 11.30 whilst we take the large group photo. Children can be signed into kinder at 11.30 am after morning class children have been collected and signed out

11.15 – 11.30 – All children in attendance for full class photo

Wayne Elliott

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As a parent and supporter of DPS I am pleased to be able to donate a % of profit from any job booked through word of mouth from Donvale Preschool. No obligation consultation and quotes available for your building projects.



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