



"educating and caring for children since 1940"



## Community Newsletter

### Farewell and a Big Thank You



#### New Director News

We are very pleased to announce that Annie Kelly has been employed permanently as the new part-time Director of Kenmore Park and teacher of Unit 2, Thurs/Fri group. Annie will commence her role at the end of the week. Annie is a very experienced and passionate Early Childhood educator and someone who is the perfect "fit". Despite a large number of applicants we are still searching for that special someone for the beginning of the week, in the meantime Karen O'Neil will continue working with the group until we find the perfect person. **Welcome Annie!**

During my 27 years at Kenmore Park there has been considerable change across all aspects of our operation. Through hard work, dedication and collaborative partnerships between committees, parents and staff members, Kenmore Park has developed into a great kindergarten that is very well regarded as an early education centre of high quality and standards.

It has been an absolute privilege to work here and there have been many, many high points. Of most significance however are the wonderful relationships that have been forged over the years with children, parents and colleagues. I feel very blessed!

Kenmore Park will always hold a very special place in my heart. I feel confident in the knowledge that I am leaving the centre in good shape and in safe hands for its continued future. Thank you for everything.





## TEACHING REPORT FOR UNIT 2

Our first few weeks have been very successful and the children have all settled in well. To assist with the settling process many children attended for orientation play sessions, (at the end of last year and then before we started in January this year), prior to their commencement. This process worked very well and by the time they began at end of January, they were happy to be here and felt familiar with staff and our centre.

Our first days were an important time for children to explore their learning environment both inside and out; work and play together as part of a group; become familiar with individual group members; renew existing friendships and forge new ones and become familiar with our routines.

Routines are very important for helping children to feel settled and secure. At the beginning of the year we spend a lot of time helping children to feel familiar and comfortable with our routines and procedures. Familiar routines help children to predict what will happen next. This in turn assists various aspects of development and learning including:

- **Pre-mathematical skills** and concepts; time (before; after; telling the time)
- Sequencing, counting, number recognition, estimating.
- **Thinking /cognitive skills and development;** concentration, memory /recall Prediction, hypotheses, evaluation.
- **Emotional development;** feelings of familiarity, comfort , confidence and security.
- **Self-help skills;** care of belongings, putting things away; implementing safety and hygiene practices.



Social skills are being promoted through a range of games, activities and play opportunities, and backed up with lots of discussions.

Children are learning to share, take turns, help one another and to co-operate. These important social concepts and practices can be very challenging for some young children. Our early days abound with lots of discussions, stories, games and activities which encourage the development of these skills and enrich learning. Praise and recognition for the use of helping hands and kindness toward our friends works wonders as we endeavour to keep a very positive focus on everything.

The packing away of toys and equipment, at the end of our play sessions, involves the co-operation of all group members. Children are encouraged to participate and their efforts praised. We use positive reinforcement, guidance and choice to help children develop control of their own behaviour.

Group discussions are vital for the development of appropriate social skills. From discussions and role play, children are helped to determine appropriate and inappropriate types of behaviour. From this emergent understanding, our group rules are being developed. Our group rules promote, responsible, kind, caring and considerate behaviour towards one another..i.e. appropriate behaviour. Much time is spent exploring acceptable ways of solving problems such as differences of opinion and the appropriate expression of feelings (anger, frustration, etc.). By exploring these options children are supported in the management of their own behaviour. This is very empowering for children and really boosts their confidence and self-esteem.

Within each group, we have been focusing on friendship... with much discussion to help children understand: what it means to have friends and to be a friend to others; how friends should treat one another and the sorts of things friends enjoy doing together. Stories, games and getting to know you activities have helped children to work through these issues and to develop and adopt appropriate pro-social behaviours and skills.

Exciting, engaging and rich learning environments, both indoors and out, are vital to our educational curriculum. We are lucky at Kenmore Park that the environments are so attractive and interesting. Much thought is put into planning the indoor setting to stimulate,



challenge and encourage, exploration, discovery, participation and involvement. Resources and learning experiences are available for the children to select. They are encouraged to extend their thinking and learning and to access the materials they need for their own creations, constructions and endeavours.

Our outdoor playground is very popular with all children, who love the challenges offered by the colourful climbing structure and the interesting obstacle courses set up each morning by Miss Lynsey. These promote the use of gross motor skills; co-ordination, balance, climbing, crawling, jumping, throwing and catching balls, etc. Various types of water play have been very popular during the hot weather; water trough and equipment; marine creatures under the sea; water buckets and brushes; canal system and boats; bathing the babies (dolls). The younger children especially, are really enjoying this play.

Children are beginning to plan the games they want to play and the toys and resources they will need. They are discovering where to find things and how to use them safely (self-help skills, independence and responsible thinking and planning).

Music, Movement and Literature provide wonderful opportunities to enrich and expand upon learning. During our music sessions, the children are learning that music can speak to us, telling us how to move and feel. Through a variety of songs and stories we have been learning about friendship, helping one another and how to co-exist with one another. Learning to listen carefully, is an important skill we have been encouraging. Through our stories and movement experiences children are encouraged to listen well, before following relevant verbal directions. Particular movement activities encourage children to respond accordingly and to move in time with the music. These planned sessions are lots of fun as the children learn through play.



### Continued...

The current favourite is Fuzzy the Clown which focuses on listening, and responding to changes in tempo and level (high and low). My Fuzzy puppet has created much interest with several children in the older group creating their own to use in the game.

We try to match current interests with related stories and discussions. Many, many stories are enjoyed during our days, helping children to build important early literacy experiences.

Group times are important opportunities for the consolidation of concepts and skills as well as an opportunity for children to build self-esteem, group cohesion and those special feelings of being valued and important group members.

Our group times vary in style and content but always remain an important part of our time together. For the younger children they are short at this time of the year as the children learn how to come together as a group, sit quietly, listen well and contribute when it is their turn! All children seem to love our hello song which we sing at the start of each day. It has a catchy tune and helps each child to feel included and special. Our group time at the end of the day is also important. It allows us to make plans for the next day before we farewell one another and go home.

Our days at kindergarten are very busy indeed! As this is my last report for the year, I wish you all the best for the future. I know that I will miss all my wonderful kindy friends, but wish them all the best for a great year of learning and fun. I hope to see you around!

**Pam Bentson.**  
**23rd February, 2012.**



## Teddy Bears Picnic – Update



Each year we hold a special social event for families to welcome-in the new kindergarten year. As in the last few years, the event took the form of a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Held on Saturday, 18th February, this very well organised event was a great success. The children enjoyed the various teddy bear-related activities which kept them fully occupied and engaged. There were plenty of opportunities to meet and mingle with other parents, families, committee members and staff. Congratulations to Inez and her fantastic helpers for a wonderfully successful first social function.

This event was also a surprise farewell for me. I was very touched by the acknowledgement of my 27 years service at Kenmore Park, with the kind words, celebratory cake and beautiful gift.



Thank you to all  
concerned.



# NOTES FROM MRS CHESTERS

## UNIT 1

Children are engaging in numeracy in personally meaningful ways.



The children are very enthusiastic about music so we made shakers. We talked about the sound. The children decided whether they would put 1,2,3 or 4 pasta pieces in their shaker.

Every day children have experiences relating to numeracy.

How many more puzzle pieces do we have left.

How many candles on the cake.

In the game "The Little Grey Ponies" we choose 4 long blocks and then 4 children to be ponies.

Songs and fingerplays "I have 10 little fingers", "1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive".

Transition time we choose a partner or choose a group of 3 or 4 and use this as counting practice. Much meaningful numeracy discussion is done spontaneously and is incidental to what we are doing.



We found a caterpillar and a spider outside so we looked and counted how many more insects we could find in our posters.

We negotiate how many blocks we need to share and how many we need.

Noa went across to block corner. He noticed the cylinder blocks and chose 4. He began to make a tower then he continued to add more. They fell over. He then persevered and put 5 on top of each other. I asked Noa how many there were. He counted up and said 5. Others began to choose the cylinder blocks. Noa continued and made 3 towers and made sure they were straight and balanced.

**Jan Chesters.**  
**29th February, 2012.**

## Maintenance Rosters and Working Bees 2012

Kenmore Park Preschool and Kindergarten is a non-profit, community based centre. Operating costs are carefully monitored to ensure that there is no unnecessary expenditure, leaving more money available to spend on equipment and facilities for the children. As such, parents are asked to assist in certain areas. One such way, is through parental involvement in maintenance - type working bees, where tasks are carried out

to ensure that clean, safe and attractive learning environments are maintained for all children.

**Parents are required to assist with 3 working bees during the year. Parents may choose which 3 rosters they prefer, from the six that will be offered throughout the year. Each roster runs for approximately three hours on a Saturday morning from 7:00am to 10:00am.**

**Term 1**

**Sat, 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**Term 2**

**Sat, 12<sup>th</sup> May**

**Sat, 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**Term 3**

**Sat, 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Sat, 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Term 4**

**Sat, 10<sup>th</sup> November**

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## Community 'Whats On' March 2012

**Friday 30 March end of Term 1**

Monday 16 April start of Term 2

**Tuesdays in March, 2 sessions**

**10:00 - 10:45 am & 11:00 - 11:45 am**

**Gallery of Modern Art - Toddler Tuesday**

Bookings required, Ph: 3840 7255 or

Email: [schoolbookings@qag.qld.gov.au](mailto:schoolbookings@qag.qld.gov.au)

**Every week on Tuesdays until 27 Mar**

**Story Time In The Gardens**

Mt Coot-tha Library, Brisbane Botanic

Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Rd, Toowong

Bookings required, Ph: 3403 2550

**Every week on Tuesdays until 28 Mar**

**Sports For Little Kids**

Cubberla Creek Reserve, Kenmore

Meeting point is at the playground.

Requirements are to please bring a hat, sunscreen and water.

## KPPK 2012 Management Committee

Below are the 2012 KPPK Management Committee's contact details.  
Please contact them should you have any queries or wish to volunteer.

POSITION	NAME	GROUP	EMAIL
President	Peta Oelkers	Unit 1 W/T/F	<a href="mailto:peta_sutherland@yahoo.com">peta_sutherland@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Teresa Holding	Unit 1/WTF	<a href="mailto:gandt4@bigpond.com">gandt4@bigpond.com</a>
Treasurer	Jeremy Wicht	Unit 2/MTW	<a href="mailto:jeremywicht@gmail.com">jeremywicht@gmail.com</a>
Minutes Secretary	Leonie Muller	Unit2/WTF	<a href="mailto:lmuller@networkten.com.au">lmuller@networkten.com.au</a>
Workplace Health & Safety Coordinator	POSITION VACANT, URGENT HELP REQUIRED		
Maintenance Coordinator	Anne-Marie Boyle	Unit 1/WTF	<a href="mailto:annie_boyle@yahoo.com.au">annie_boyle@yahoo.com.au</a>
Social/ Fundraising/ Parent liaison	Vanessa Swift	Unit 1/WTF	<a href="mailto:swifhome@bigpond.com">swifhome@bigpond.com</a>
	Robyn Neill	Unit 2/MTW	<a href="mailto:William_neill@hotmail.com">William_neill@hotmail.com</a>
	Belinda Tang	Unit 2/WTF	<a href="mailto:belindatang@live.com.au">belindatang@live.com.au</a>
	Inez Forkgen	Unit 2/WTF	<a href="mailto:inezforkgen@live.com.au">inezforkgen@live.com.au</a>
	Lou Rae	Unit 1/MTW	<a href="mailto:raefamily2@bigpond.com">raefamily2@bigpond.com</a>
Marketing/ Advertising Coordinator	POSITION VACANT, URGENT HELP REQUIRED		
Grants Coordinator	Kitty Kendall	Unit 2/WTF	<a href="mailto:kittykendall@optusnet.com.au">kittykendall@optusnet.com.au</a>
Newsletter & Website Coordinator	Chris Ryan	Unit 1/MTW	<a href="mailto:ryansonthemove@gmail.com">ryansonthemove@gmail.com</a>

## Your Details - Do they need updating?

Parents if you have changed your details since filling out enrolment forms last year, please let Lois in the office know. As well as needing up-to-date phone numbers in case of an emergency, we also regularly send out information via email, including the monthly the newsletter.

## Contact Details

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