

What's been happening at Kenmore Park?

Red Group, Ms Fiona & Ms Lynsay

Books are a lovely way to share one on one time with a child, as well as connect with them about their thinking and develop lasting relationships with them. Our group loves to sit in book corner and look through books with a friend or sit with Lynsey and I on the couch reading stories. A favourite has been "There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly".

We have played this with puppets and are working on how to sequence the story – what animal came next. Some children have even noticed spiders in the garden and talked with me about the spider in this story – using part of the text, "that wiggled and wiggled and jiggled inside her". This is fantastic applied learning in their play, as well as recall to the story. Our group story time is a really valuable part of each day – I love to share stories, and encourage the children to watch and listen, share their thinking and most of all ENJOY! We start our whole group stories with finger plays to settle the group, as well as to focus towards me, and then we might look at the cover of the book, (is it one we know? Or do the pictures tell us what it could be about?) As the year continues we will have more opportunities to look further into stories – rhyme, sounds and letters, as well as making our own books.

EXPLORING THE WORLD AROUND US: We have had time in our busy day to think a little more deeply about our world. We have learnt more about clouds, rainbows and weather. We have looked at books, done art activities and science experiments relating to these concepts.

Come into our room and read comments from our group about "Why do the clouds hang low?" What a clever group of children we have!!!



Yellow Group, Ms Annie & Ms Karen

We certainly have enjoyed a busy start to the term – with many exciting programs beginning and children learning the difficult art of **separation**. Some of our children have really struggled at the time that their parent leaves them, but are often able to be relaxed and happy once the parent has left. This is a part of really normal, early childhood development, and shows that the child is not yet feeling comfortable when the parent is not there, but is learning strategies to manage. **Separation anxiety** reflects the child's wish to hold on to something predictable and safe in an otherwise busy, overstimulating environment and can last until a child is around 5 years old. Some of our children do not show any distress on separation, and this may be that they have established the belief that they feel safe away from the parent, and are practicing the strategies that they have learnt... even these children will have moments of going backwards- but expecting them to grow up more quickly than they are ready to won't help the situation. There are many things that can help during this difficult time:

*From time to time the parent helps the child to bring something special from home to share with their teacher- a favourite book, something interesting they found in the garden.

*The parents sets up the plan with the child for the morning..."Today I'm going to make a mud pie in the sandpit/ read a story with you.... before I go home" or "Would you like 1 or 2 stories before I go this morning?"

*The parent leaves after saying goodbye, even when the child is upset. This builds trust with the child.(Sneaking away, or trying to duck away may make the child feel you can't be trusted) Once you have said goodbye, try not to drag out your departure.

*Leave them occasionally with something special in their lunchbox, and let them know there is a surprise in there for them to find at lunch time (a little toy to enjoy at rest time, a note from you, a promise...) but they must wait until lunch to discover it.

***Keep them at home if they are unwell**- at Kindy we simply don't have the available staff to provide the extra care that unwell children require. Think how you feel when you're not 100%... would you be up for communicating and co operating for an entire day with your peers, your teachers – or benefit from a quiet place to properly recuperate? (Not to mention spreading your germs!!)

So what's been happening???

Our **Adopt- A-Granny** program began this month, with a local, retired Grandma/ex teacher coming to Kindy every **Wednesday** to read and share stories with your children. We are so grateful to "**Aunty Margaret**" for the commitment she has made to our children, and for adding a lovely sensitivity to our program. Perhaps you might like to encourage your children to make cards for her at home to share our gratitude?



Japanese Classes began last week, so expect to hear a few new words and songs over the next few weeks. We are extremely excited that the committee decided to fund this language program for the year, as learning a 2nd language in early childhood has so many benefits to the development of the brain, and to the understanding and respect of cultural diversity.

St Patricks Day falls **this Friday** the 15th March and we plan to turn the kids **GREEN!!!** So remember to bring them in their **old clothes**, and let me know if you have any objection to taking home a leprechaun that day!! Sorcha's Mum is going to be my number one accomplice in baking special (sour) bread, sourcing some traditional Irish dancers for a display, creating some beautiful badges, and playing with the colour green in many ways!! **Thank you Brenda**, for sharing such a special event with us.



On **Tuesday the 19th March**, the Kindy will be hosting the Sakura Dance Company for a special **World Harmony Day celebration**. Even though this isn't our Kindy day, **all are welcome** and encouraged to come for a **gold coin donation**. It will be held in the hall above us, and begins at 11.30am. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!



The 21st of March will see our Kindy turn into a farm hatchery until the end of term! **Henny Penny Hatching** is delivering a special bath of eggs for us to incubate, observe, and hatch. (We are asking that families contribute a gold coin for this program) These observations will form the basis of our program over the next few weeks with opportunities for the children to draw, discuss, craft and cuddle, whilst providing important learning opportunities for our children. **You can help your child** during this program by ensuring they are treating the animals respectfully at all times. At the **end of term (28th March)** we will be looking for good homes for our chicks, so let me know if you're interested!



Wishing you beautiful rainbows after all this rain.

Pre-Kindy News

We have continued to have a wonderful time in Pre-Kindy, despite the rain and puddles. The children have all settled so well and are starting to recognise each other, learn routines and settle for longer at activities. We have been working on making friends, using our words when we want a turn at something and recognising how our friends may be feeling: "Did that make you feel sad or happy?"

The joy and laughter that Lynsey and I see is just wonderful as we dance around the room to music playing instruments and freezing when the music stops.

We have been looking at our own faces, trying out different expressions and emotions while looking in mirrors and then recognising photos of ourselves. This promotes self-awareness in the children, all helping with the new found independence of coming to Kindy.



Learning how to master scissors, paint, glue, pens, paper and threading have been very popular and are a great way to develop fine motor skills; it will be wonderful to see the children improve these skills over the year.



Group activities are always fun, whether that be waving the parachute up and down, moulding play-dough around the table together, or swirling our fingers and hands through finger paint. (Lynsey loves this! 😊). What a wonderful way to learn, have fun and develop friendships with each other.

We're looking forward to welcoming the afternoon pre-kindergarten children after the Easter holidays.

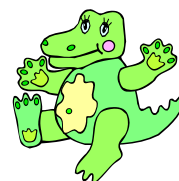
Purple Group - Ms Kate



Well we have had a busy learning time! Chinese New Year was a great opportunity to explore some Chinese culture. We looked at some Chinese symbols and made a dragon for a dragon dance to scare off evil spirits. We even had a go at using chopsticks.



We have also been learning about animals that lay eggs. Birds, turtles, snakes and even crocodiles lay eggs and have nests! Did you know that it is the father Emperor Penguin that hatches the egg? We practiced moving like penguins on the ice, waddling, swimming and tobogganing (sliding on our bellies) after watching them on the iPad.



We started a pizza restaurant using our playdough and then collage for the pizza. We practised our early literacy, reading and writing menus, taking orders and then paying the bill when we were done. Then we thought we could make REAL pizza. We chopped up the ingredients and followed the recipe to make our own mini pizzas. It was fun setting the table just like a restaurant. The children all agreed that they were 'yummy' and 'delicious'.



Dates for March

16th 7-10am Working Bees
18th Henny Penny
chicken's arrive
19th World Harmony Day
23rd Teddy Bears Picnic

Important Reminders

1. No insulated lunch boxes (as a kindy/Gowrie policy we need to keep the food at a certain temperature and when the child has lunch in one of these types of lunch boxes they can not be guaranteed to be at the correct temp.
2. We thought that each month you could add snippet sections of the handbook to refresh parents on KPPK (e.g.: sickness/illness, birthday cakes etc...) I believe that everyone was sent the handbook in PDF but not sure when its a 76 page document that everyone read it...therefore each month it would be great to have "information" from the handbook to refresh our memories!
3. All classes ALWAYS need items for collage - toilet rolls, boxes, milk bottle lids, wool, ribbon, odd wrapping paper etc...





MAINTENANCE ROSTER

DATE: MARCH 16 2013.

TIME: 7-10am at Kindy.

Hi everyone,

The following families are rostered to attend their maintenance roster this Saturday.

JASKI, O'CONNOR, ROBSON, YAU, LEONG, LARKHAM, PEEBLES, RAE, ROWE, SARTOR, TORKINGTON, CATIONS, ABBOTT, BUDDEN, CHOU, DEARDS, EMBER, GARDNER

Please bring water, hats, sunscreen, brooms, rakes, gardening gloves and wear closed-in shoes.

(Thanks to Leonie Mellor and husband Jamie who have kindly offered to run this roster for Tom and I...see you all next time!. Jenni and Tom.)

MAINTENANCE COORDINATORS.

Hi! We are Jenni and Tom. We have 2 energetic boys - Alex (4) and James (2). This is Alex's second year at KPPK and he is in the Red group - Miss Fiona and Miss Lynsey's class. Fiona and Lynsey are marvellous with Alex who finds it all a bit daunting, but who is thriving each day with their guidance!



In taking on the Maintenance role, we realised early on that you need to be willing to give absolutely anything a go! It also means contributing our time to all of the 'Working Bees' as well as coordinating other odd jobs throughout the year. As busy as it can be, Tom and I both agree that the role is rewarding. I think any parent who has volunteered their time for a 'Working Bee' would also agree (that as hard as it is to get up on a Saturday morning for that 7am start) you always leave at the end feeling like you have contributed to something worthwhile. Especially considering all of the jobs that are carried out are done to help keep Kindy safe and clean for all of our kids.

As a family, I work part-time as a Medical Receptionist at the Wesley Hospital and Tom is an ICT Project Director for Qld Health. We have also just moved house to Anstead before Christmas last year and are adjusting to our new 'semi-rural' life. James and Alex love it...and especially enjoy having a lot of space to run around. We now have 3 chickens to take care of - Max, Ruby and Louise - and are enjoying our daily 'free range' egg supply



This year we hope to meet everyone from KPPK at both their rostered 'Working Bees' and other events. We would also like to thank everyone again for volunteering time from their busy lives

Photograph Survey

Thank you to those of you who took part in our recent survey reviewing the KPPK Photograph Policy. The feedback was fabulous. A special sub-committee was formed to assess those results, see what other centre's were doing and get advice from Lady Gowrie and C&K. As a result your committee has endorsed a new policy.

All families will now need to sign a new release form which will be sent out soon. It enables families to take photographs of their children at special kindy events, whilst protecting those who don't want to be photographed.

The key changes it stipulates include:

- * Photographs of students may be taken by staff for use in the kindergarten newsletter;
- * Where staff wish to publish photographs either on the kindergarten website or newspapers to be viewed by the general public, specific parental approval will first be sought;
- * Parents and family members are encouraged to take photographs of their children at special kindy events and concerts, but only for personal use and not to be loaded onto any social media.

Key Results

26 families responded.

Of those:

- * 11 respondents were happy for their children to be photographed under all circumstances stipulated. They did not wish staff to seek specific approval for their child to be photographed to promote the organisation in newspapers or on the website.
- * 11 respondents gave qualified support in that they were happy to have their child photographed for the purposes of circumstances stipulated but they wished staff to seek specific approval before photos were used in newspapers or on the website.
- * 4 respondents did not wish their child's photograph to be used to promote the organisation in newspapers or on the website.
- * Of the 4 saying 'No' to photographs in newspapers or on the website - three wanted staff to seek specific approval, one did not.
- * All respondents wanted the opportunity to video/photograph their child at special kindy events like fetes, concerts etc.
- * No respondents had an issue with their child being photographed by other parents in the process of photographing their own child's activities.

Your Comments

"I give my general approval and trust you would not take or use inappropriate photos of my child."

"Thankyou for trying to find a solution for the problem of not being able to take photos of your own child at kindy events."

"I don't mind our kids photos being used but I would be upset if their names were published in newspapers and on the net. Kindy newsletters is OK. I just feel it's a security risk and don't want the general public, potentially disgruntled staff or tenants knowing where our kids can be found."

"Please let us photograph our kids. Maybe we could sign a statement saying for personal use only. No intention of putting on Facebook or social media."

"Good luck keeping her out of a photo."

Leonie Mellor
President

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

We hope all KPPK families will be able to come along and enjoy our first social function for the year! It will be a great way to meet the teachers and other families.

**Saturday
23rd March**

2PM to 4PM

Kenmore Park Unit
1 Playground

Fun kids' activities!
Face painting &
teddy bear crafts

Sausage Sizzle!

Please bring your
child's teddy and a
picnic rug

The much anticipated Teddy Bears Picnic has a new date! It will be at the kindergarten on Saturday 23 March, from 2 to 4PM.

We hope all KPPK families will be able to come along and enjoy our first social function for the year! As it is the last weekend before the holidays, it will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to catch up with friends they have made, while giving those families that will be starting next term a chance to meet and get involved. Hopefully the weather will be glorious! There will be kids' craft activities, face painting and a sausage sizzle.

Please bring along your child's teddy and a picnic rug, and parents are welcome to bring their own wine, cheese, etc.

If you'd like to help, volunteers on the day would be greatly appreciated! Volunteering is a great way to become a part of the kindergarten community, and to meet other parents. Please see the sign in desk closer to the date if you are able to help with the barbeque, stalls or after event clean up.

One of our key fundraisers for this year will be the Entertainment Books.

The sale of Entertainment Book has proven to be an effective school and kindergarten fundraiser as it offers great discounts to families on dining and activities. The books cost \$65 and \$13 from each book sold contributes to fundraising for the kindergarten – so if you choose to buy a book, everyone benefits!

If you pre-order the new 2013 | 2014 Entertainment™ Books before their official launch date, you will automatically receive over \$180 in additional offers – great value! Order forms have been sent to all families, but you can also order/purchase online if you wish.

Please contact Inez Forkgen on 0414 532 974 should you have any questions.

The NEW 2013 | 2014 Entertainment™ Books are coming, so pre-order a copy today!



Receive over \$15,000 worth of valuable dining, accommodation, leisure and retail offers when you purchase an Entertainment™ Book. Plus, order today and you will receive bonus offers you can use straight away!

Here are a sample of businesses featured in the new Books:



To see a complete list of participants in the 2013 | 2014 Entertainment™ Book, visit www.entertainmentbook.com.au

KENMORE PARK KINDY CELEBRATES WORLD HARMONY DAY

Tuesday 19th March 11:30am - 12:30pm

Kenmore Uniting Church Hall, 982 Moggill Road Kenmore

COME AND BE INTRODUCED TO THE SPIRIT OF JAPAN

The Sakura Dance Group pride themselves on originality, innovation, entertainment and happiness. They aim to spread awareness of Japanese culture and history through traditional Japanese dance.

Come and be entertained by a 40min unique Japanese cultural experience featuring a fusion of traditional dances. The Sakura Dance Group is a non-profit dance group based on the Gold Coast.

GOLD COIN DONATION WELCOME



For further details contact the kindy on
3378 4469 or info@kenmorepark.com.au



If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I'd model less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

Diane Loomans

