

Annie & Karen's Yellow Group

Welcome back to our final term at kindy. Just like the flowers blossoming under these warmer temperatures, our children have begun the term with great enthusiasm, working collaboratively and joyfully together.

The family movie night and September Celebrations were such a lovely chance for our families to come together. Thank you to our hardworking fundraising team, Inez and Belinda, and their band of merry helpers! The night was such a fabulous way to commemorate 45 years of Kenmore Park Kindy.



Our community artwork nears its final stages. The children hand rolled clay into big slabs, and then used special cutters and tools to create and pattern star and dragonfly tiles. We have been exploring the properties of clay throughout the year, so this project is an opportunity for the children to use all the skills they have practiced and developed. The final art installation will go at the top of our "possum pole" to be enjoyed for years to come, and as a permanent keepsake from your child's time at our magical Kindy. Thank you to the Kendal family for organising the Slab Roller so kindly shared by St Lawrence's College, and thanks go to Kenmore High School for so generously letting us fire our pieces in their kiln. The community spirit is such an important aspect of our Kindy as is our art and creative endeavours.



MEN'S SHED VISITORS:

We have been so delighted to have Aunty Marg visit with us each week. She is always available for a story, or a big comfy lap to sit on. This term, we have been lucky to bring the Grandads on board too! The "Mens Shed" have been down at the Kindy hammering and nailing, sharing the skills of carpentry and also, the knowledge of an older generation. This has been a truly beautiful experience for our group, and we are eternally grateful to these volunteers for enriching our program, and allowing our children the opportunity to grow and learn from them.



DENTIST TOMMY VISITS:

This term we have focused on good eating habits and good healthy choices. We were visited by a very special dentist, who checked our teeth, and taught us some valuable lessons on oral hygiene, and over the past weeks have read some amazing stories on keeping our teeth healthy and clean, good foods and foods that are only for treats. We also celebrated Nude Food day, and talked about trying hard to choose "nude food"- food that has just been picked, or has limited packaging as our first choice- not only to look after our teeth, but to also look after our bodies. Hopefully our lettuce will flourish under all the love and care they receive at Kindy, and we will be able to send some home fresh for your salads! Our Mini Mudder day was a HUGE success, raising funds to go towards some lovely new resources for the Kindy, whilst encouraging our children to be active. We have some great resources at Kindy for provide further information on good nutrition and health in these early years, so please feel free to use them. Hopefully, your children are keeping the healthy eating and physically active models alive at home too!!



GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY:

We hosted a special Grandparents Morning on the 1st of November, and were delighted that your child was able to share this day with a grandparent or special older friend.



Special Dates: Yellow Group

8th Nov- Parent /Teacher interviews

14th Nov- Last Japanese lesson, with a special cooking experience (\$2 donation towards ingredients please)

20th Nov- Stay and Play afternoon for new parents in 2014

21st Nov- "Renata's Multicultural Children's Show" Christmas performance

21st Nov- AGM and new parent information evening

5th Dec- Christmas workshop (parent helpers required)

12th Dec - Children's Christmas concert 11am-12pm

13th Dec - Last day of term.

Fiona & Lynsey's Red Group

What a busy time our group has had of late! The children are just so ready to explore learning possibilities for a number of day – they plan, discuss, play, reflect and discuss together, and then continue with these ideas/processes again over the week!

Our MINI MUDDER was just a huge success – the children were all excited to be part of the planning process – designing their own courses after looking on the I-pad at Tough Mudder and Stampede pics. They used resources with the collage area to create an amazing miniature obstacle course on one of the tables, and here they planned, predicted and trialed various techniques together to have the little wooden dolls go successfully down the flying fox they made. Then all this planning eventuated into the big day! What a great sense of community we all had – supporting our friends, parents cheering us on, and children with wonderful BIG smiles from ear to ear as they participated through the obstacle course!! THANKYOU!! Our group raised over \$380 which we will use to buy some fabulous resources for our room.



Leading up to Nude Food Week we had a visit from Becky's son Tom. (Becky is our fabulous pre-kindy group teacher on Mondays and Tuesdays). He spoke to the group about caring for our teeth and the types of food that make our teeth strong. The children extended this play by turning part of the kindy room into a dentist office. Busy dentists checked their friends teeth, offered a clean of the teeth, and then gave them a toothbrush that was made in the collage area!

The children discussed recycling, healthy foods and thought carefully about plastics on our Nude Food Day! We were thrilled that on this day our rubbish bins at morning tea and at lunch stayed empty!! We then made some healthy pikelets with banana and berries!

The Men's Shed now comes weekly to visit the group and help them develop their carpentry skills – what a wonderful kindergarten we have!! It is such a caring community in Kenmore that we are able to learn so much from these fabulous volunteers. We have made a created a wooden step stool, and small aeroplanes.

Our group is also working on a yearly project for the grounds of our unit. Each year my group of children have created clay works of art for our back fence. This year we are making a sun shape to go with the lizard, snake, and the leaves. Annie (our wonderful director) showed the children how to roll the clay and create textures on the clay pieces. These will be coloured and then fired.

The children are all talking about prep and thinking what it means to be going to school – some are excited to learn to read, others want to wear a uniform, some want to play in the big playground. Here at Kenmore Park Kindy we encourage school readiness from the very first day they start with us..... We want them to be creative learners, build resilience, learn to be part of a group, see that learning is for life, enhance social skills, discover and investigate the world around them and be excited about "what might happen next!" Some children in the group are exploring numbers and the letters of the alphabet – we played a fun hammering game (as well as encouraging listening skills), the children had to "smash" a letter or number as I called it – bit like playing Bingo!! It was fun to watch how the children associated letters with what they know – "I have a E in my name!!!"

Please check the attached sheet with the dates for the remainder of the term!!!

Thanks, Fiona Guthrie.



Special Dates: Red Group

Fri 8/11/13	Grandparents/Special Friends Morning (9.15 - 10.30am)
Thurs 14/11/13	Last Japanese lesson (special cooking activity planned)
Wed 20/11/13	Stay and Play afternoon for the red group of 2014
Thurs 21/11/13	AGM and New Parents Evening for 2014 families
Fri 29/11/13	Multicultural Christmas show for the children
Wed 4/12/13	Christmas Workshop morning (some parent helpers required)
Thurs 12/12/13	Our Kindergarten Christmas concert for the parents of red group (9.15 - 10.15)
Fri 13/12/13	Last day and children break up party (more details to follow)

Kate and Margo's Purple Group

Well here we are in term 4. Haven't we grown such a lot! It is always such a pleasure to see how far children come in 1 short year of kindy. Negotiation skills, managing emotions, building and maintaining friendships, gaining the confidence to attempt things even when they may not work out...all such vital things to develop to branch out positively into the world.

Woodworking with Kenmore Men's Shed volunteers

This term we have had volunteers from the Men's Shed in Kenmore visiting and teaching us the skills of woodworking. It is such a valuable thing to have different people in our kindergarten building relationships and skills with our children. The children have really enjoyed the hands on approach to building something. By offering children the opportunity to use real tools, not ones that have been modified to be 'safe' and showing them the correct technique for using these tools we show that we trust them. They are capable and by offering these opportunities they can demonstrate how responsible they can be.

Mini Mudder

What a great success our 'Mini Mudder' event was. We searched for pictures of the real 'Tough Mudder' to get ideas. Did you know they run through real fire?! We had a great time planning what sorts of dirty, mucky challenging things we would like to do. It was hard to wait for the real thing!! When the day finally came it was a fantastic feast of the senses. I think Margo was the one who got the muddiest in the end though. She did great stomping in the mud encouraging the children to let their hair down (we had a few tiptoesers). I was on the camera so that was my excuse! A great event all round raising over \$1000. There were some very generous families and we sincerely thank you for your support. It is only with support like yours that we can continue to be such a fantastic kindy. If you still have sponsorship money please bring it along. Every little bit helps.



Nude Food Day

This national day of awareness led to many discussions in our group about rubbish and recycling. We liked the idea of food with no clothes on and continue to monitor our lunch boxes to see how 'nude' we can be. See if you can set the challenge of having NO RUBBISH at all in a lunch box. Buying big packets of things and using containers, putting your sandwich or cut up fruit in a container rather than wrapping in plastic wrap or foil can make a big difference to the amount of rubbish we produce in a day. We also have been looking for the recycling triangle on our cardboard and plastic packaging. AND we reuse lots of things by having them in our making space.

Other things

We have been looking at literacy and numeracy concepts in a fun spontaneous way during our play and in our group times. Learning these concepts should be a joyful thing for children where they feel confident and capable. When they are enjoying the process even if they are not quite grasping all of the concepts they keep their love of learning and experimentation and when they are ready the concepts can naturally fall into place for them.

We play games with picture cards hearing the sounds that the pictures start with, read books that show the letters and have many illustrations of things starting with that letter/sound to find, explore the names of the people in our class and what sounds we can hear, read the names on hats that we find in the playground and return them to their owners, listen for rhyme in stories and songs... all of these things help to build a solid foundation in literacy.

Numeracy is approached in a similar way. We count spontaneously, discuss how many more we might need, look at shapes discussing what is the same and different about them, make tapping patterns with our bodies, make patterns with jewels on our block constructions or in our collage work... these are all spontaneous teaching opportunities that are present in our everyday kindy experience. We have also learnt some rhymes to help us practice writing the numbers. 'Down, across and down some more. That's the way to make a four'.

We have also begun exploring some basic addition and subtraction with number songs we use to take turns heading off to the bathroom. By changing these songs slightly we can explore how many we get when we add two more instead of just one and start to see patterns in number. These kinds of games also allow children to hear and use mathematical language to communicate what they are seeing.

Learning is so much fun!!

Here's to another full and inspiring term.

Kate and Margo



Reminders Purple Group

Our last library week will be this week. Please can you return all books and tick your name off the list. Thank you

A gentle reminder that our kindy day finishes at 2.30pm and we do attempt to open the doors a few minutes before then (sometimes we just HAVE to finish something important!) and then we organise the room for the following day. We are finding that the children are getting very restless on the carpet when they are waiting and watching others go and that we have less time in the afternoons for organising so please be mindful of these times. Thank you

If you have an insulated lunch box can you have a look around at home for one that is just plastic please. The insulation actually works against us here at kindy because it keeps the cool of the fridge OUT of the lunch. Keep them for school next year when they may not have a fridge.

Special Dates: Purple Group

5th Nov	Parent /Teacher interviews
12th Nov	Last Japanese lesson, with a special cooking experience (\$2 donation towards ingredients please)
13 th Nov	Grandparents Day celebration to honor these special people in our lives 8.30- 10am
19th Nov	Stay and Play afternoon for new parents in 2014
19th Nov	"Renata's Multicultural Children's Show" Christmas performance
21st Nov-	AGM and new parent information evening
26 th Nov-	Sri Lankan dancing workshop
27 th Nov	Christmas workshop (parent helpers required)
3 rd Dec	Christmas Nativity Play at the Kenmore Anglican Church (just up the road)
11th Dec	End of year celebrations and Clean up

Becky Lynsey's Pre-Kindy News

What a great start to the term with Mini Mudder. The children and parents who took part thoroughly enjoyed the day, from crawling under the net and climbing over hay bales to avoiding the crocodile in the swamp, squelching through the mud or slipping down the water slide. Icy poles and medals were a great way to finish off a fantastic day.

We are enjoying the warm days with lots of water play, so please make sure you have spare clothes in your child's bag in case they get a little wet. Last week the children spent a day with lots of big stickers and empty boxes and built the most amazing construction. The morning children started it off, with most of the children coming through and having a turn at adding a few boxes. The afternoon children then carried on the building and even started decorating it with scrap fabric and bits of paper. It was wonderful to listen to the discussions between the children while they were building, the excitement and joy they shared as they watched it grow and all decided what it could be... a rocket? a space station? a castle with Rapunzel living at the top? ... or could it be a jelly fish?? Yes it could be all of them because our imaginations are the most amazing things! ☺

Pre-Kindy has been such a success this year, providing all the children with a solid foundation to go onto big Kindy and then school. It has built confidence in those children who had trouble separating from parents and has been a starting point for children to learn how to interact with each other, grow friendships and build resilience and strategies for dealing with conflict. It is really important for children to learn these things slowly and gently in a safe, fun and caring environment and this is what Lynsey, Kirsty and I have been striving to do ☺





Special Dates Pre Kindy

Tuesday 19th Nov Parent teacher chats

Tuesday 26th Nov Sri Lankan dancing

Tuesday 3rd Dec 9.30am Nativity Play at the Anglican church

Monday 9th Dec Last day of Pre-Kindy, with Christmas party 😊

Pre Kindy Reminders 😊

Please bring a USB memory stick into Kindy BEFORE the last week of term so I can put photos of your child's time in Pre-Kindy onto it for you. Thanks !

Please bring into Kindy ... BOXES BOXES BOXES and tubes, toilet rolls and anything else we can use for construction and craft. Thank you!



MAINTENANCE ROSTER

Hi everyone,

Who can believe that we have now completed all of our Maintenance Rosters for 2013??!!

Our last roster was held on Saturday, November 2.

We had a really successful morning. The main job completed was giving all of the wooden play equipment a very thorough clean, and then painting on an oil based lacquer to re-stain it, and help protect it against the sun. It is big job...so well done everyone!

Other than that, there were a lot of general cleaning tasks. Things like weeding, sugar soaping lockers and play equipment and even pumping up balls in the equipment shed were completed.

A special 'thanks!' to 2 dads - Elton Peebles and David Smith – for doing the rubbish runs to the dump. This has been a really successful part of almost all of our rosters this year and has allowed us to keep our green waste at a minimum.

We still have a few jobs/tasks left if you need to make up that dreaded final roster you may have missed or forgotten. But please note: any of these tasks need to be completed in the next 3 weeks.

If you are unsure where you stand with regards to your rosters please email me at: jenni@craddock.id.au

If you are down a roster, we can't promise anything, but don't leave it too late as you may be able to make it up 😊
Thanks again to everyone for volunteering this year!
Jenni and Tom.

Message from the President

Hello everybody and welcome to the final few weeks of term 4. It's that time of year where everything seems to get a little crazier as we start getting organised for end of term and then Christmas. Many of our children will be moving onto Prep next year. I for one am a little sad to see this next transition take place as it signals the end of our family's involvement in the kindergarten. But it's lovely to look back at all the friendships made, not just for my daughter but among the Mums and Dads at Kenmore Park as well. It's also been wonderful to see my daughter grow, learn so much more about her environment, how to communicate, and make such a special group of friends. I'm sure you feel the same with your child. Others of you will be staying with Kenmore Park next year and I trust you will enjoy it just as much in 2014.

There is always plenty happening at KPPK.

New events: like the awesome Mini Mudder, where I'm told not just the children got dirty scampering through the muddy obstacle course! Apparently there are photos??? And of course there were plenty of laughs.

New ideas: like the gentlemen from the Kenmore Men's Shed who have been visiting the kindy to pass on some of their skills and valuable time with our little ones.

And

New faces: You might have noticed a lovely new smile behind the desk in our office. I'd like to welcome Sue West, our new administrative officer. Please say hello to her when you get the chance and make her feel welcome. She takes over from Cathy Mayer who helped us move into our new office and whom I'd like to thank for everything she has done over the past year. I also want to say a huge thank you to Lois Smith who has been back in the office working incredibly hard - often volunteering her time - to get the enrolment process underway. We really appreciate all your efforts and dedication Lois.

The committee has just two meetings left this year. November 14th will effectively be our last and to celebrate we're heading out for an end of year dinner with the staff. It's been a huge year ... and hugely rewarding as we watch the kindy continue to grow.

The final meeting will be on Thursday, November 21st. This will double as an information night for new parents. There will be nibbles and drinks prior as we welcome new faces. Seasoned parent are also invited to attend as we'll be holding our AGM that night and we are looking for new torchbearers to continue the work that's been done by decades of KPPK parents. All positions will be vacated, so if you've ever thought about being on the committee I'd love you to come along and get involved. There are a variety of roles which require filling from the usual President, and secretary positions through to social coordinator, grants officer and a new role we're establishing which involves social media. So if you've ever thought about being involved Nov 21st is the night to come along and find out more.

Wishing you all the best over the coming weeks.

Leonie Mellor
President

Tips for a smooth transition to school

Prior to the September holidays, the teachers of Kenmore Park met with some of the local prep teachers to chat with them about expectations of prep, and “readiness for school”.

Some of the practical points we discussed together are as follows....

- Visit your child’s school regularly between now and the start of prep to help them get used to the size of the school, the layout and learn where the prep rooms are, the toilets etc..
- Show them how to open and close the locks on the school toilet doors, and encourage them to just pull their pants down (not take the shorts/skirt/underwear all off!)
- If you have a boy – does he know what a urinal is – has he used one before??
- Can your child open and shut their lunch box themselves? Why don’t you have a picnic out in the backyard and see if they can open what you pack them without help! Remember being independent in this task will elevate stress for them during the lunch breaks. Also only pack what you think they will eat as they want to go play with their new friends, and not feel like they are there in the lunch shed forever trying to finish their food!
- Name everything!!!! Show them where you have put their name on items of clothes, bag etc.. as at school everything will look the same!!!
- Regularly talk about prep positively at home – after you have visited your child’s prep room, remind them or chat about all the familiar things you saw (e.g.” I liked the blocks they had set up, that looks like fun to have such a big space to build in!” or “I saw lots of books on the shelf for you to look through with a friend – you love to read books at kindy too!”).
- Just remember your anxieties are easily felt and noticed by your child! Even if you are feeling a little apprehensive, don’t show this – put on a brave face and take a big deep breath yourself! See it as a really positive and exciting new time to share together as a family.
- Take first term slowly – try and limit or avoid after school activities as your child will be very tired and emotional in those beginning weeks. Good rest and nutrition is really important for them. Those first few weeks is usually exceptionally hot Brisbane weather, so they will be exhausted from the heat as well as emotionally drained from 5 days/week and new school experiences and classroom expectations.

Thanks, Annie, Kate and Fiona.

Fundraising

Movie Night celebrating Kindy’s 45th Birthday

We do hope you enjoyed the Movie Night featuring “The Cat in the Hat” and “Shaun the Sheep” held at kindy on Saturday 14th September. We made a profit of \$734.65 for our beautiful kindy.

Such events are not possible without a huge amount of work happening behind the scenes. Special thanks to the following:

- Thank you to all parents who prepared sweet and savoury items for our bake stall. This contributed greatly to the event’s bottom line.
- Special thanks to the Kendall family for borrowing the movie projector, screen and speakers and for setting it up Friday afternoon for a trial run.
- Special thanks to Caroline Renshaw for designing the eye-catching flyer.
- Special thanks to Rochelle Ellis for bringing the marvellous popcorn machine and making popcorn as part of the children’s “movie snack pack”.
- Thank you to Miss Annie’s boys for being our traffic directors at the event.
- Special thanks to Shona Bailey for preparing the in-class activities of crown-making, discovering “buried treasure” and the icing of the milk arrowroot biscuits. I know the children really enjoyed these activities.

Inez Forkgen and Belinda Tang

Fundraising Co-ordinators

As part of our continued efforts towards improving our service we have identified some areas of the National Quality Standards to further develop during this term- and we would like to share with our families our progress in these areas:

QUALITY AREA 2 - CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY This area of the National Quality Standards focuses on safeguarding and promoting children's health and safety.

Element 2.2 Healthy Eating and physical activity are embedded in the program.

The kindergarten celebrated Nude Food week - we looked at ways that are sustainable for the environment (less packaging and plastic in our lunch boxes), and thinking about healthy food options that sustain our body for play.

Our kindergarten was inspired by some of the active mums in their weekly exercise program, and the children helped design and plan a Mini Mudder obstacle course for the kindergarten. Through play the children researched on the I-pads obstacles from Tough Mudder and the Stampede. They then drew many designs that encompassed fun and active play. They had a wonderful morning participating with their teachers through mud, slime and challenging obstacles. The children used their bodies to crawl, slide, climb, jump, and all the way through the course, they encouraged and cheered on their friends!!!

QUALITY AREA 6 - COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES This area of the National Quality Standard focuses on collaborative relationships with families that are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children and community partnerships that are based on communication, consultation and collaboration.

Element 6.2 - Families are supported in their parenting role and their values and beliefs about child rearing are being respected.

Kenmore Park hosted another parent evening (Paula Barrett talk). Through these talks, Kenmore Park supports families to broaden their parenting skills, and to explore new ways to build family relationships. Our parent library (located in the office) has had new parent resource books purchased to share with all our kindergarten families. Kenmore Park will continue to offer parenting talks in 2014.

Element 6.3 - The service collaborates with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing.

Kenmore Park offers many varied learning opportunities within the educational program, offering the Mens Shed for carpentry skills, Auntie Margaret (retired early childhood teacher) who has made strong connections with the children sharing her skills, and offering quiet opportunities to read books and share conversations with small groups of children weekly.) The teachers continue to build relationships with local schools and kindergartens with sharing ideas on transitioning to prep and play based learning.

Kenmore Park Kindergarten open's it's heart

In the middle of the Free State, a province in South Africa, lies a little known school, Bodibeng-ba-Thuto (Fountain of Learning). To get there one must travel at least 20kms on dirt roads and it is 100kms from the nearest city (Bloemfontein). The children attending this school are farm labourers children, from all the neighbouring farms. The school was built by the farmer and consists of 4 simple classrooms, a small office and a library. There are about 60 children, ranging in age from 5 to 15, Year 1 to Year 8, with 4 teachers.



The children at this school walk there every morning – up to 10kms – some having had no breakfast. The children at this school have a small playground. At break some play netball, or kick a ball around. Many children have no uniform – others wear second hand uniforms donated by a Bloemfontein school. The children at this school have no lunch boxes filled with healthy treats. They only eat when they get home in the evenings, after another long walk.



These children consider themselves lucky because their school has electricity, a library and outside toilet facilities. This is better than a lot of other farm schools.

At Kenmore Park we are lucky to have dedicated, highly qualified teachers. We are lucky to have beautiful playgrounds full of wonderful equipment and lunchboxes packed with healthy treats to eat when we are hungry!



The children and teachers of Kenmore Park have been touched by the story of this little farm school miles away and have donated clothes, books and puzzles. This month the first suitcase full of clothes arrived at the school and has been gratefully received. The second load will arrive before Christmas, helping to bring some extra cheer to this community over the Christmas season.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, especially Mrs Kalugin, whose lovely clothes are going to make for some very happy children in South Africa!

