



BALLYMORE KINDY

Term 2, 2015

June 2015

NEWSLETTER, EDITION 2 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Desley's dialogue

by Desley Jones, Director

It is astounding to think that we are already almost halfway through our year at kindy!! Second term is certainly proving to be a busy one for both the children and teachers.

It has been great to see the children adapt to new routines within our days and weeks including: library borrowing, the What Is It? Bag, using additional bins at meal times for reusable materials and switching off lights when we go out to play. Routines may seem fairly mundane within the context of a busy day, however they offer great opportunities for learning and development, such as:

Library:

- Being able to make a choice from a selection of books
- Being responsible for belongings

The What Is It? Bag:

- Being patient when waiting for a turn at the What Is It? Bag
- Listening to clues and considering suggestions
- Showing the self regulation needed to put up hand and wait for a turn to give suggestion.

Sorting scraps:

- Thinking about materials and selecting appropriate bin
- Engaging in conversations about the environment as we sort

Turning off lights:

- Patience and turn taking again
- Finding own name on the checklist
- Further conversations about the environment

Learning is always much deeper when it is purposeful and has meaning for the individual. These routines provide these experiences and offer an increasing complexity to our thinking through the day.

At this time of year, I know that many people are beginning to have visits and/or interviews at primary schools. In this Bulletin I am including some questions that parents may find useful to ask schools as they consider Prep for their child next year. The questions are intended to serve as a way to gain added information about what the next year will hold for both child and parent. Having extra information means fewer surprises!

On the other side of the Prep story, I am also including questions put to us by a local school when enrolling new children. It is interesting to read what aspects of development they feel are most important as children move into a more formal learning environment.

I hope you received the email inviting you to a parent discussion evening about moving onto Prep – Wednesday 10 June – at kindy (please see notice by sign in book).



Preparing for prep

Useful information regarding what questions may be asked by the school and what questions you could ask to gain valuable knowledge, to help prepare you and your child prepare for prep.

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Recipes

Handy recipes, fun for the kids!

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Social update

Read up on recent social events and upcoming events.

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President's Report

by Kathryn Napier, President 2015

Welcome everyone to term two at Ballymore Kindy. I can't believe we're almost half way through the year.

The last couple of months have been a busy time for the kindy as we planned for our recent Open Day. Fortunately, the weather cleared on Saturday morning after that impressive downpour and we had a number of new families (as well as families already enrolled for future years) come to visit.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us spread the word about our wonderful kindy through the mail drop and other methods. It was a fantastic help and it is times like this I realise the group effort that goes into running a community kindergarten. In particular, I'd like to mention the following people:

- **Nerida Hillstone** for organising articles and advertisements and participating in the whole promotional period
- **Sarah Connolly** for her graphic design skills with our various advertisements / notices and for agreeing to feature in our City North News article

- **Mel Beikoff** for lending us her marketing expertise in scripting our newspaper/mail drop advertisement
- **Lucy Jenkins** for assisting Nerida and Desley at the Northey Street Markets stall and helping with the class photos in group 1
- **Sarah Bender** for initiating the 'Grill'd Burgers' community fundraising campaign. At the time of writing this newsletter, we were in leading position ahead of two other groups. If this continues we will hopefully be awarded \$300 at the end of May
- **Cath Bonifant** for coming along to our Open Day and talking to prospective parents about the kindy
- The **Williams family** and the **Phan family** for arriving very early on our Open Day morning (some with head colds) to clear the yard after torrential rain and prepare it for our visitors
- And also our highly efficient administrator **Chris Nicoll**, whose assistance with updating our website is greatly appreciated.



While our external advertising is necessary in attracting new enrolments, we still find the majority of kindy families choose us based on a personal recommendation. So please remember to let parents know about our new operational hours for 2016, as we hope they will meet the needs of many people. Also, if you have a spare five minutes, please take a look at our new website where you will find lots of useful information and see some familiar faces in the gallery.

We also hope to see as many of you as possible at our annual family bushwalk in June. The children find it such a novelty to see their friends outside of kindy and the destination is perfect for a picnic and ball games afterwards.

Thank you again and enjoy the rest of term two!



IMPORTANT KINDY EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY!

15 - 19 JUNE

Book fair

Our centre will be hosting a display of quality children's books from Riverbend Books at Bulimba over the week of 15-19 June. Commission made from the sale of books will be used to purchase more books for our centre library. Your support will be greatly appreciated!! And we will ask Riverbend to include some adult books (for those rare quiet moments?!).

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

Family bushwalk

Further details to come.

Information gathering for prep

by Desley Jones, Director

These questions may prove useful to parents as they visit schools and as they talk with other parents about their experiences at Prep.

- ✓ Does the school have a transition program?
- ✓ What will be the number of children in prep class?
- ✓ How many hours of aide time will the prep class have?
- ✓ Are there specialist early childhood teachers in the prep classes?
- ✓ What is the prep classroom's physical arrangement – upstairs; toilet in class; close to upper school?
- ✓ Meals and play – where; who with; transition into routine?
- ✓ What is the daily routine – is there time for physical activity; play-based learning; flexibility?
- ✓ What is the expectation in terms of prep participation in whole school events? Is there a transition into activities such as whole school assembly?
- ✓ Rest? Is there any provision?
- ✓ Is parent involvement encouraged?
- ✓ What are the school's expectations with regard to individual children's learning styles and rates?
- ✓ When does homework begin? What will it involve?
- ✓ When will the children commence a formal reading program?
- ✓ Are teaching decisions strictly based on the national curriculum or on the children's abilities and level of development?

Queries from one school regarding commencing Prep

Here are the questions asked by one local school as children commence prep. Their interest is in whether children can do **most** of these things fairly **consistently** and **independently**. You will notice that they did NOT include: Can they count to ten? or Do they know the alphabet?

He/She:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Is able to be understood by peers and adults | - Engages appropriately with others |
| - Is able to follow instructions | - Solves problems |
| - Remains attentive | - Takes turns appropriately |
| - Engages in a wide variety of activities (preferred and non-preferred) | - Asks for assistance from adults when required |
| - Perseveres with a task | - Expresses needs and wants appropriately |
| - Organises belongings | - Accepts discipline and consequences |
| - Works independently | - Recognises own name |
| | - Uses scissors with some accuracy |
| | - Uses the bathroom independently |
| | - Separates from parents/carers. |

Kindy Playdough Recipe

by Mrs Matthews and Mrs Curling

Ingredients

- 3 cups plain flour
- 1 ½ cups salt
- 6 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 cups water
- Colouring/food dye

Method

1. Put all ingredients into large saucepan.
2. Mix thoroughly and consistently, until it all comes together.
3. Take off heat and cool.
4. Knead, Store in an airtight container once cooled.



Wheat & dairy-free energy slice Recipe

by Mrs Desley Jones

Here is the recipe for the slice we made recently – yum!!

Ingredients

- 120g (3cups) rice and oatbran bubbles (Lowan Whole Foods brand is recommended)
- 200g finely chopped mixed dried fruit of choice (eg sultanas, peaches, apples and apricots)
- 100g (1/2 cup firmly packed) brown sugar
- 55g (1/3 cup) rice flour
- 35g (1/3 cup) desiccated coconut
- 60ml (1/4 cup) vegetable oil
- 2 eggs, at room temperature

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160°C. Line the base and sides of an 18 x 28cm slab pan with baking paper.
2. Combine rice and oatbran bubbles, dried fruit, sugar, flour and coconut in a bowl.
3. Place the oil and eggs in a jug and use a whisk to combine. Add to dry ingredients and stir with a wooden spoon until well combined.
4. Spoon the mixture into a lined pan and use the back of a metal spoon to press firmly into edges. Bake in preheated oven for 30-35 minutes or until puffed and golden.
5. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. Cut into portions to serve.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Cool weather considerations

As the temperature drops, it is a good idea to send a small blanket with your child for rest time. This time of year invariably brings with it a number of ills and chills particularly when young children are sharing a space together. Here are some health notes put together by one of our medical parents in an earlier Bulletin:

HOW CAN WE REDUCE THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS IN OUR CENTRE AND TO THE REST OF THE FAMILY

- KEEP CHILDREN HOME IF THEY HAVE **THICK OR GREEN RUNNY NOSES**
- KEEP CHILDREN HOME IF THEY HAVE A **TEMPERATURE, SORE THROAT, MOIST OR PERSISTENT COUGH, OR SORE EARS**
- KEEP CHILDREN AT HOME FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS AFTER THE LAST **VOMIT OR DIARRHOEA**
- TEACH CHILDREN TO:
 1. SNEEZE, COUGH OR BLOW NOSES INTO TISSUES AND THEN DISPOSE OF IN NEAREST BIN.
 2. SNEEZE OR COUGH INTO THEIR UPPER SLEEVE OR ELBOW
 3. WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER AFTER SNEEZING OR COUGHING, AFTER TOUCHING THEIR NOSE OR MOUTH WHEN THEY ARE SICK, BEFORE AND AFTER EATING, AFTER GOING TO THE TOILET AND BEFORE AND AFTER PRESCHOOL.

Thank you to Bunnings

We would like to say thank you to Bunnings at Albion for kindly donating a \$100 gift card to the kindy. This donation will likely go towards a new mower.

We're on Instagram

You can now follow Ballymore Kindy on Instagram as well as Facebook. Thank you to Cath Bonifant in group 1 for initiating and setting up this new account.

Save the date

Coffee



Ballymore Kindy
Term 2

Group 2
Willow and Spoon (Newmarket rd)
straight after drop-off

Friday 22nd of May

Park Playdate



Downey Park playground
(Green Terrace)
Windsor
Wednesday, 17th June

Bushwalking Day

21st of June
(further info TBA)



Group one have already had one coffee morning on the 5th May and a play in the park on 27th May.

More information to follow. Any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.
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