

Ballymore Bulletin



+think + play + learn + grow =



Ballymore Kindy



ISSUE 5 October 2014

DESLEY'S DIALOGUE



This final Bulletin of the year allows me an opportunity to extend many thanks to many people:

- To all our families for their involvement with our centre throughout the year. We hope we have played a positive role in your child's, and your family's, life.
- To everyone for their contributions throughout 2014, in whatever form they took – spending time on roster, helping with maintenance, joining in social functions, donating to our book library, sharing information about your child, donating toys, collecting collage materials, sharing skills and interests...Every interaction has played a part in maintaining our identity as a community centre.
- To our management committee for running our small centre. Thank you everyone for the unwavering support you have given to the staff and families of Ballymore and all your efforts. It has been a VERY successful

year!

- To our outgoing President, Deanna Kershaw. It has been a busy year with many tasks to take on, which you did so patiently and calmly, Deanna. We can't thank you enough for your sound leadership and for keeping our meetings to a reasonable time!!
- To Yvonne (Mrs Matthews) and Karen (Mrs Curling). They are fantastic colleagues to work with and bring so much skill, insight and commitment to their work. I value their contribution enormously.
- To Chris Nicoll, our office administrator! We would be in chaos without her!

Some reading:

In this final edition for the year I am including 2 short articles on making the transition to Prep. One includes some idea of what to expect at Prep – there will be changes for both children and parents - and the second shows us that throughout this kindy year, the children have been refining so many of the skills they will need as they move on to Prep.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating our End-of-Kindy with all our families. Hope you have marked your diaries.

Bye for now,
Desley

Friendly Reminders



As mentioned in Edition 4 of our news letter, Ballymore Kindy is back on Facebook. It is a great tool for us to communicate with our past and present families and also for spreading the word about our wonderful kindy.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the Ballymore Kindy Facebook page. We hope you are enjoying the updates and we appreciate everyone sharing the posts with friends. Desley will also post an update every Thursday/Friday to show families what the children have been up to each week. And please let us know if you have any specific ideas for posts - we'd love to hear them.

Thanks again for your support...



If you have a book from our parent library, please return in the next couple of weeks. The children's lending library will continue until the third last week of term (week beginning Nov 24).

WHAT'S INSIDE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Next month, the parents of the 2015 Kindy children will attend an information evening to find out more about Ballymore Kindy. It doesn't seem a year ago that was us. Our children have come so far this year, learning many things that will hold them in good stead for their big step up to school and beyond.

Ballymore Kindy really is a special place. We are lucky to have been the first year through with all the big grant works completed, but

this is not what makes our Kindy stand out. It is the warm feel and rich learning environment created by our wonderful staff, Desley, Yvonne, Karen & Chris. They are a well oiled machine, who have built a great education foundation with our children and made our jobs as parents easier.

The Committee this year has been a pleasure to be a part of. Everyone has been committed and so efficient at getting all the big and little things decided and done to

keep the Kindy ticking over. If you are continuing parents next year, or in the years to follow, I would highly recommend volunteering for the Committee.

We still have a couple of vacancies for next year and we know the vast majority of our enrolments are through word-of-mouth. Please let friends and family know, in case they are a candidate or know someone who is.

An easy way to keep up with Kindy news is to 'like' us on Facebook if you have an account. 'Sharing' our news stories is a quick way to get the word out about Ballymore, particularly on our couple of unfilled spots next year.

Before I get all teary about leaving Kindy (only for a year - we'll be back in 2016 with our youngest!), please mark your diaries for our Alumni Catch Up from 10am - 12noon on 1st March 2015. This is an annual catch up for Ballymore families past and present. We will be meeting at the park on Fagan Road,

behind the Kindy. The aim is for families to come to the park and bring whatever you like to play with and food if you want. It's a very casual affair, with the emphasis on catching up with ease. We hope to meet each year at the same place on the first Sunday in March. There will be more details and reminders closer to the date.

As we all get busier over the coming summer season, preparing our little ones for their big next big step to school, let's enjoy the precious few weeks left of the wonderful world of Ballymore Kindy.

See you at Kindy

**Deanna
President 2014**

FILMING BY QLD CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



Earlier this year we were visited by Leah and Madeline from the Qld Studies Authority (now Qld Curriculum and Assessment Authority). They filmed some aspects of our work with children to use as resources for other kindergarten teachers.

Some short films that they made of Group 1 have recently been posted on the QCAA website and can be viewed at:

<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/32474.html>
and
<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/32158.html>

THE BABY CHICKS HAVE ARRIVED....

On Monday October 13 the chicken eggs arrived from Living Eggs. The Children have been so excited to come over and see the little chicks hatch out of their eggs. Even the parents have enjoyed coming it to see the wee chicks during the morning and afternoon drop off.

About Living Eggs

Living Eggs is a very successful program which has been operating throughout Australia for 19 years. Schools and Care Homes love the program and re book year on year. The children in schools often record the Living Eggs experience as one of their major memories of primary school life. It touches everyone's heart to see a chick hatching no matter how young or old,

Living Eggs Ready Hatch is a two week comprehensive program providing all you need to successfully hatch chickens in your Classroom, Nursery or Care Home.

Embryo eggs are provided,

Did you know?

To produce an egg it takes a hen 24-26 hours, and to do so, she requires 5oz of food and 10oz of water. Thirty minutes later she will start all over again.



2-3 days from hatching. The eggs are candled prior to shipping to ensure the highest possible success rate. No need to wait 3 weeks.

The Living Eggs incubators are specially designed for classroom hatching. An electronic thermostat ensures accurate temperature control for a high hatch rate. The large viewing windows allow the children to see all stages of hatching.

A brooder box complete with heat light, bedding,

feed and waterer is supplied which allows teachers and children easy observation and access to the chicks.

Everything you need to successfully hatch and rear your chicks is supplied with the kit.

Teachers Resources, including hundreds of activities directly linked to the National Curriculum are supplied on a CD with the kit.

Colourful wall posters are supplied depicting Life Cycles and Embryo

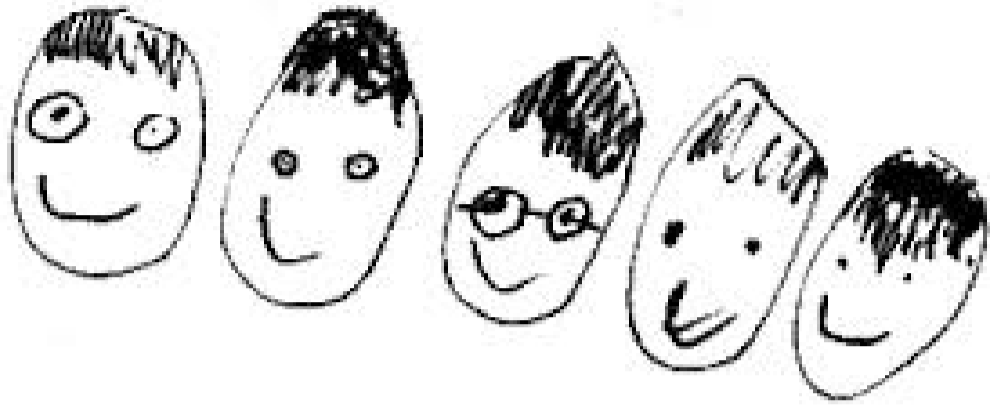
Development, depending on your pupils' ages. Thematic Plans are also available in poster size to support schools and nurseries in getting the best from the program

Living Eggs staff delivers the kit to your door. We set everything up for you and explain how it operates.

Not only do they experience life cycles and growth and development, the program encourages social interaction and promotes caring and nurturing skills.



FROM KINDY TO PREP THE HOW



The move from kindy to prep is both an exciting, and daunting, prospect for children and parents. This next step in education offers so many possibilities, experiences, dilemmas and delights.

From the close confines of a small kindergarten group and setting, the “preppie” moves into a busy world of hundreds of children, many different teachers and support personnel, an enormous and initially confusing physical environment, and timetables and regulations. Those first weeks and months of prep will potentially be the hardest as both children and parents come to terms with a new environment and new relationships.



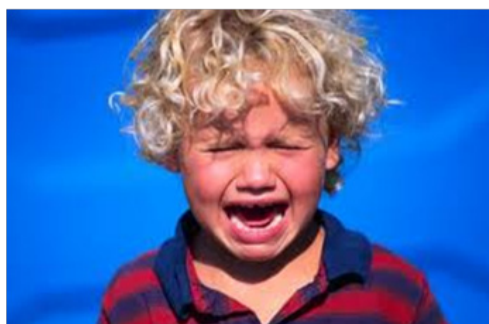
Gone are the days of close adult supervision whereby parents could be reasonably assured that their child had eaten at least enough to keep body and soul together, that they remembered to wash their hands after visiting the toilet (or even that they remembered to go to the toilet), that playground problems of “who can I play with” were met with “Let’s go over together and ask...”, that belongings remained at least in the same space if not always the same bag. And gone too, may

be the days of being able to check-in each afternoon to ask “How was his/her day?” For parents it is often a time for steeling the nerves and crossing fingers.



Schools have many strategies in place to manage the demands of such a large number of children in any one place – from “buddy systems” to playground monitors. They have to deal with these issues each day. It is perhaps fortunate that at heart most children love the structure that rules and timetables afford and in no time will have acclimatised to where they need to be and with whom.

It is worth being prepared though to accept that particularly in the first weeks, a 5 day week will be exhausting! And many parents will be met by tired, cranky and teary children at the end of the day.



Most experts agree that it is a good idea at this early stage to

keep afternoons and weekends as relaxed and “unbusy” as possible. Encouraging children to have a rest time on weekends can be a sanity saver for both child and parent in the week ahead. This routine often has to be set by the parent - a very busy child who cannot slow themselves is often demonstrating overtiredness! Young children are not always great at reading their bodies’ needs and parents need to set the pace for them.

Relax



While many of us understandably think that knowing the alphabet and numbers will hold a child in good stead as they begin school, prep teachers will tell you that top of the list for what will help a child at Prep is their level of emotional and social competence. How do they go at:

- Making friends
- Taking turns
- Respecting themselves and others
- Being resilient when faced with disappointment
- Asking for help
- Not stressing over the little things eg dirt on their hands, a smudged page, a lost ball
- Accepting you don’t always win and you may not always even get a turn
- Accepting that things might seem hard or be hard!
- That there are challenges to be faced

Are they reasonably able to:

- Organise and be responsible for their belongings
- Mentally plan, for themselves, what they need to do
- Start and finish tasks
- Process information and instructions in a busy space!!
- Follow routines with limited supervision

It is hard not to make Prep sound overwhelming. The reality is that, with patient understanding, guidance and time, children will adapt to the demands of this new environment. But it is also worth considering that “education is not a race” and for some children delaying the start of their formal education can make the difference between managing at prep and thriving at prep. Every child is different and every family will approach this new experience in the way that best suits their needs.

Feel free to come and chat anytime whether you are in need of reassurance or just a sounding board before this next big parenting venture.



Desley



MAKING THE TRANSITION TO PREP



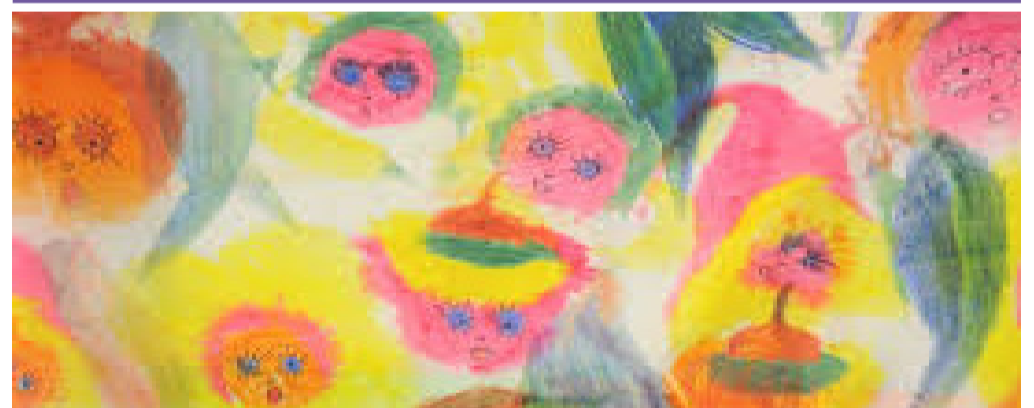
As we near the end of Term 4 our attention obviously turns to assisting families to make the transition to prep and the “big school” environment. For some – children and parents – this may seem very daunting but we would remind everyone that our kindy experiences have been supporting the children’s development in a range of skills and attitudes. Their level of maturity means they are able to step into a new environment with a greater sense of competence and confidence.

Our discussions at kindy are focusing on reflecting with the children on the similarities, and differences, between kindy and prep. The children’s visits to prep have been, and will continue

to be, great discussion starters. Noting similarities can help with a sense of confidence and security, while thinking about the differences can instil a sense of excitement about what prep, and school, has to offer. In addition we know our kindy children are GREAT problem solvers – they have been doing this all year in their games. We will be using this strength in thinking about some of the experiences change will present – such as new classmates, new routines, new playgrounds, new rules – and how to deal with these.

As parents and children talk about moving onto prep, you may want to keep some of these similarities in mind:

| SCHOOL | KINDY |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School days may be very organised with timetables to follow | At kindy we have followed our basic routine each day |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prep days may consist of teacher-planned activities and child initiated activities. | Our kindy days consist of group times & opportunities for child initiated play. While our group times are often driven by children’s ideas, they are always teacher managed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be more rules - class rules and school rules | Our kindy program relies on firm expectations in terms of behaviour & regards for others and for equipment. Children accept these when they understand why they are needed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early learning experiences in prep will be hand on, manipulating equipment, exploring & experimenting | Kindy & prep use similar materials - construction sets, dress-ups, art & craft, puzzles, books, and more |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children may not always be able to choose who they work/play with | In Buzz Groups, transition times and routines such as tidy up, kindies are asked to communicate with and help children they do not usually play with |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language – listening and talking – is a strong focus in learning | Talking about games requires kindy children to listen to one another & express ideas. The social nature of play means that children are constantly required to talk & listen with others |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will increasingly use letters and numbers in their prep activities | Pretend play emphasizes using one thing to represent another – the basis of symbolization. Games allow children to use writing and numbers for “real” purposes. Letters and numbers are a natural part of our day |

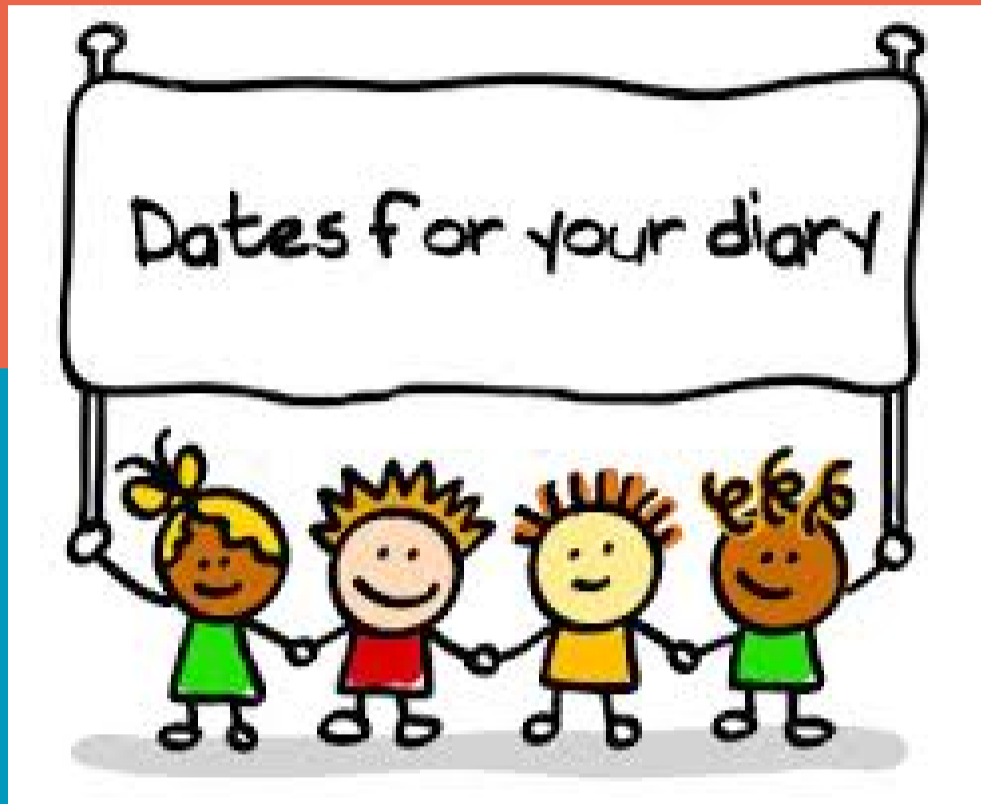


These are just a few examples of the similarities between the kindergarten and prep environments. We hope they help in discussions with your child. Helping the children to see that they already do a lot of what they will do in prep next year will assist in building their (and their parents’) confidence as they make this next step in their education journey.



SAVE THE DATE

DATES FOR THE DIARY



2015 Children and Parents



On Monday November 17 (Group 1) and Thursday November 20 (Group 2) - we will have our 2015 Children and parents join us for a play at outside time

Coffee Date



Group One: Cafe 63, Wilston Village straight after drop off - Wednesday December 3

Group Two: Willow and Spoon, straight after drop off - Wednesday November 19

Cheese and Wine



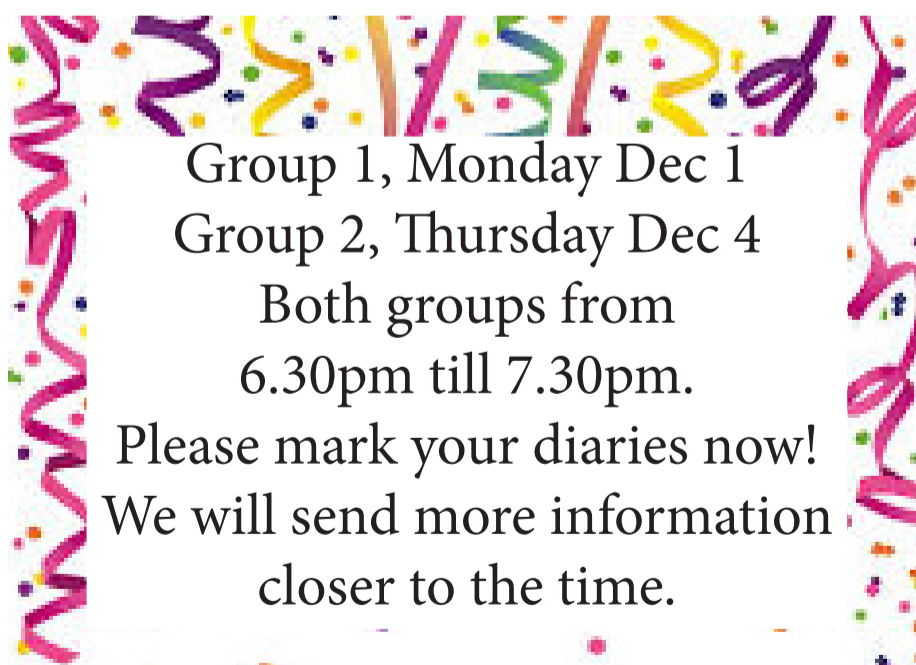
We will be having a parents end of kindy celebration cheese and wine night on Friday November 28, from 7pm. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW....

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Lisa on 0427590525

Scientist Visit

Wednesday Nov 5 (Group 1) and Thursday 6 Nov (Group 2) – we will be visited by scientist and educator Dr Joe with some great experiments to share

End of Kindy Family Celebration Evening



Group 1, Monday Dec 1

Group 2, Thursday Dec 4

Both groups from 6.30pm till 7.30pm.

Please mark your diaries now!
We will send more information closer to the time.

Park Play Date



Group One: Wednesday November 12 at 9:00am, Silvester Stree Park Wilston

Group Two: Wednesday November 19 at 9:00am, Grange Library Park, The Grange

Last Days of Kindy for 2014

Tuesday Dec 9 (Group 1)

Friday Dec 12 (Group 2)