

## Diary Dates:

**18 December 2012** - Kangaroo Christmas Party

**19 December 2012** - Last session for 4 Year Olds

**20 December 2012** - Extended Hours Christmas celebrations 9am to 11am  
- Group A Christmas celebrations 1pm to 2.45pm

**21 December 2012** - Clean up day and Working Bee (9am - 1pm)

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As the Director of Armadale Early Learning Centre I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the families moving on to new experiences, best wishes and many wonderful times. Please come back to visit so we can see how much you have grown and hear what you have been up to. We are very fortunate to have been a part of your lives. Thank you

To the families who will be returning we look forward to continuing our great relationships with you.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the Committee members. You contribute not only your knowledge and skills but your time. It is greatly appreciated by the A.E.L.C. community.

To all the staff, a big thank you, as it is your dedication, nurturing care, knowledge and skills which contribute to providing a high quality environment for fun and learning.

I wish everyone a very merry time and a safe holiday.

Best Wishes

Annette

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"Spaghetti, spaghetti, spaghetti!" It seems that this has been shouted a thousand times in our household since the Family Fun day. Luigi Zucchini never fails to entertain and all the children (and adults) seemed captivated by his skills and humour. The Committee takes great pleasure putting on this free event to celebrate the year that is coming to a close. We thank Lisa Vivian for all her hard work in organising the day.

A few days after the Family Day we held the AGM and it was good to see some new faces in attendance. Fortunately we have many of the committee lining up again in 2013 but a special thanks to those retiring from Committee - Lisa Vivian, LuiXin McOmish, Siobhan Dunckley, Christie Kelso and Polly Bongiorno - for your significant contributions to AELC.

We still need someone to fill the Publicity position on committee for 2013 so if you think you can help please let us know. Also, in 2013 we will be appointing class representatives so please keep an eye out for more details.

I'd like to acknowledge David Cunningham, of Essentia Accounting and Financial Group and a past parent, who kindly conducts the audit of AELC on a pro-bono basis.

Thank you to those who responded to the Parent Survey. The results will be posted on the noticeboard and website shortly.

I would like to recognize the Stonnington Council for their ongoing support. They have been more than responsive to our requests, and we are very grateful.

I would also like to thank our Teachers and Assistants. They are the real face of the AELC, and they make the kinder what it is.

We thank everyone who helped in any way during 2012; from fruit duty, laundry duty, donations, to participation in fundraising activities.

I, personally, and also on behalf of the whole AELC community, wish to thank all the hardworking Committee Members for their contributions this year. They have been outstanding!

For those of you leaving the AELC, we wish you well wherever next year finds you.

To those returning, we look forward to welcoming you back and hearing of your adventures.

On closing, I also wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

Regards,  
Damian Dalton, President.

## **FUND RAISING**

A big thank you to all the families who very generously participated in our fundraising efforts this year.

More to look forward to in 2013.

Thank you.  
Stacey Farrell

## **MAINTENANCE**

Thanks to everyone who has helped out at the kinder working bees this year.

Please don't forget the Clean Up Day this year will be held on the morning of Friday 21st

December 2012. Whether you can spare 30 mins or 2 hours during this busy time of year, we will be very grateful for your help. It will not be hard labour just some cleaning and sorting.

We are grateful for any help that you can give the kinder. It is also a great way to say Thank You to the staff for the fabulous job they have done this year.

Merry Christmas.

Thanks, Sarah Barlow  
0403 933 497

## **TEACHER'S REPORTS**

### **Three Year Old Groups**

I cannot believe that the end of Three year old Kindergarten is nearly here. It really amazes me how time flies when you are having so much fun. Now they are all embarking on another part of their lives where they will continue to be supported through their learning and development.

The children have achieved so much during 2012 and it has been such a fantastic opportunity to be a part of their lives. Some children started the year cautiously while others were adventurous and full of confidence. As they participated in routines and play each child was learning valuable life skills.

Our program provides an environment in which children can develop emotionally and become socially and physically confident. It is important that children are confident to have a go, express their views and are eager to explore new learning. Play has an important role in the development of a child's positive self-concept as it is through play experiences that children learn to lead, to follow, to co-operate, to take turns and to wait. Through play, children learn and practice new skills, building on them each time they repeat the activity/experience. Among other things children learn to make choices, interact with other people, to challenge themselves, explore their environment, to develop their language skills and to be creative.

Some of our learning experiences have involved block building where the children are now

designing and building many amazing structures. During this experience the children are communicating their ideas, working together, co-operating, using their knowledge and understanding of balance, size and comparisons. From here there could be our future architects and engineers. Cooking and learning about healthy eating has been another experience that they have participated in. The children have discussed what they like to eat and even what others like to eat, where different foods come from and how we are able to grow some of them in our own garden. Our interest and love of animals and nature has continued. Many children have pets which are often spoken about with love and care. The silkworms at the moment have generated lots of discussion about lifecycles.

The changing weather enables us to watch and talk about, what happens around us, the leaves blowing, the clouds moving and the thunder and rain occurring. Another aspect of science that many children have been interested in are magnets and how/why they work. Music, singing, dancing and musical instruments have been a successful and fun way to use their energy and to learn about rhythm, beat and different styles of music. These are just a few examples of how the children have participated in their three year-old program.

The children have worked hard during Term 2, 3 and 4 listening, building their self concept, learning to care for each other, learning to take on leadership roles and most importantly to have fun and laugh. There were rules put in place and expectations were high, but there was always lots of fun and laughter. As their confidence grew they explored and experimented with many experiences learning how things worked, where people lived as well as about their family and who they are within it.

Many families have moved homes this year. Talk about a big change in any ones lives, especially children. Thank you so much to all the families who have given us your new address. We hope your building many special memories in your new home.

Have you returned the celebration information that was given to you a while ago now? It is

important for us to reflect family celebrations as we do not wish to offend or hurt any family in any way by what we do.

So far our discussions about celebrations have included, putting up a tree and decorating with all the family, going on holidays and helping with cooking. We are also looking at how many other families have celebrations and what they do, what they might eat and even what they might wear.

To all the children, I cannot thank you enough for letting us into your world, sharing so much with us and giving us so many memories. You will continue to learn about the world around you, enjoy and have fun. For the children who are going into Group A or Extended Hours have a great time and don't forget to say HELLO.

I would like to say goodbye to some families who are leaving the Kindergarten for family reasons. We have had a lovely time having you as part of our community and you have contributed so much to us. Best wishes to you all. Please come to visit us and show us how much you have grown.

To all mums and dads thank you for sharing your precious gifts with us, for trusting us and for supporting all that we did within our program. Your time was greatly valued and we hope you have been able to take happy memories with you. I feel very fortunate to know you and your children and look forward to seeing them grow through their journey.

Thank you so much to Fiona and Karen for all that you both have done.

HAPPY CELEBRATIONS TO YOU ALL  
WISHING YOU A VERY SAFE AND HEALTHY  
HOLIDAY SEASON

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**FIONA, KAREN & ANNETTE**

**Group A**

Once again it's time to look back on a very busy year, and sadly say goodbye - we become

attached to our children and their families throughout the year.

It seems only a short time since we were saying hello and getting to know each other. It is exciting to acknowledge how the children have developed over the year into the special little people they are now - confident, independent, capable members of the group, having learnt many life skills they will use for the rest of their lives, and now ready to move on into the big wide wonderful world.

We have explored many things this year - we've encouraged the children to be curious and try to find out more about the things that interest them - looking up reference and information books.

The children have shown a great interest in nature and creatures and the environment. Over the year we have observed chickens hatch and grow, baby rabbits grow and develop, we have caught and observed many snails from our garden, we have admired our stick insects, and observed our silkworms, which we watched hatch from eggs, feed, grow, spin cocoons, and then emerge as moths to mate, lay eggs and then die - the complete life cycle, what a wonderful hands on experience- the children have been so interested and observant, they check the progress every day.

Hopefully this love of nature and creatures will stay with the children for the rest of their lives - the world is a very interesting place and we need to be aware of caring for our environment. We have explored our creativity and imaginations. The children have shown themselves to be wonderful artists, and have produced some very exciting and imaginative art works - exploring colour, design, and shape.

This exploration of design has also extended into involved and intricate block building and designs made with all sorts of bits and pieces. The children have developed the skills of working together to achieve an aim. We have encouraged the children to be able to use their imaginations to create ideas for play, using whatever materials are available, you don't need expensive toys, just imagination and creativity and time to explore.

We have worked on our fine motor skills and concentration, and extended our physical and gross motor skills. The children have learnt that playing group games requires following rules and respecting each others' rights. The children are so proud when they have learnt a new skill. We have explored numbers and letters informally through play, games and group time- recognizing, sorting, copying, placing, identifying - all part of pre literacy and pre-numeracy skills, learning while we have fun.

We have measured ourselves on our height chart; the children have grown so much. The children have been signing themselves in each day in their own sign in book, practicing writing their own names and the basic principle of writing from left to right in a designated space, also recognizing alphabetical letters in their own name and other children's names. Following the Olympic Games and learning about other countries, we explored how our names were written in other languages - thank you to the parents who helped us do this. We have encouraged the children to be independent, which leads to confidence which leads to learning.

We have developed a love of books and stories - using our imaginations to make up our own imaginary "Margot Stories", with the children contributing their own ideas - the weird and wonderful tales we make up as we go along, some of these stories continue for many days. This is great fun, and a wonderful way of extending their imaginations and their ability to put their ideas into words, how to put sentences together to make a story- learning to express themselves and use language confidently. The children explored this further by drawing a picture of "Mr. Nobody" who sometimes fills in when we need an extra person to make up a group for dice games etc - they were so imaginative and creative.

We have carried out some science experiments by making our own exploding volcano after our dinosaur visit, by planting some wheat and observing it grow, then learning how this is made into flour then bread, by carrying out an experiment to illustrate how plants drink water.

We experimented with special glasses to illustrate how people with limited vision see the world when the Guide Dog came to visit.

We were thrilled to welcome so many Grandparents on our Grandparents Day, and the children prepared for this visit by cooking their morning tea for them. Thank you also to all the mums and dads who came to visit on their special days. Our families are a very important part of the children's lives and our Kindergarten. We have enjoyed our dancing sessions with Karen, and our music sessions with Janet - my thanks to them both for providing a wonderful extension to our program.

My thanks to you all for your help and support - your children really love and benefit from your involvement. We hope that you have enjoyed your Kindergarten experience and made many friends along the way - we will miss you all - all children leave an imprint behind them - keep in touch and let us know how your children are going.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your children's lives - we hope we have helped them along the way into the big wide wonderful world and the next part of their education. The world is an exciting place for you to share with your child - enjoy this time together - your children grow up very quickly - enjoy each other, make time to play, talk and have fun together.

A special thanks to my co-workers Ann and Lisa - who are always there when I need them, continually cheerful and supportive and I value their help greatly

Have a safe and happy holiday, keep in touch!

**MARGOT, ANN AND LISA.**

### **Extended Hours Group**

A big thank you to all parents, staff and children who has made this year one to remember!

It has come to the end of the year and it has really flown by so quickly! The children have been discussing the new chapter in their lives when they start school next year.

We asked some of the children 'what are you looking forward to when you start school?'

- Leon** 'We will have to listen to our teacher'  
**Kylah** 'I'm looking forward to going the library to use the computers and play video games'  
**Nikia** 'I want to see my new friend Shara'  
**Henry** 'I'm looking forward to doing maths.'  
**Zach R** 'I can already write'  
**Claire** 'I want to play football'  
**Leo** 'I'm going to do homework'  
**Billie** 'Playing in the playground'

Term 4 has been all about resilience, autonomy and independence as all of our children head into formal schooling next year. Most transition programs are well underway, with many positive experiences told by the children who visited their schools, met their new teachers, peers and grade 6 buddies.

Many of the prep teachers have come to visit children in their kinder environment to get a better understanding of your child as an individual for an easier and more supportive transition to school.

The children enjoyed our Guide Dog presentation and visit from the Museum. We learnt about the role of a guide dog and met Austin the Golden Retriever who belonged to Catherine who is semi-blind. Catherine explained to the children about Austin and how he helps her on a daily basis. The museum showcased large dinosaur bones with a leg large enough to touch the roof when held upright.

The children are really taking in a lot of factual knowledge and communicating with others what they already know. Our group times have become more interactive as the children have become more confident in communicating their ideas, feelings, personal experiences and thoughts. We believe the children have become more confident learners laying the foundation for more formal schooling and future endeavours.

We have been very busy starting our Christmas art and decorating our room with beautiful paintings and wreaths. We are practising for our Christmas concert which is on Thursday 20th

December and finishes at 11.00am. We might get a friendly visit from Santa Claus with lovely gifts for the children. Make sure you place your name next to a food plate so we can cater for all parents and children for morning tea.

Please make sure you take all your child's personal items because Friday we are having a big centre clean up! Please lend a helping hand on Friday 21st if you can.

It has come to the end of year and while we are happy celebrating the festive year we are also reflective and sad to say goodbye to our beautiful children who we've developed strong relationships with. We wish all the children and families the very best for the future and hope you all have fond memories of your time here at Armadale.

Merry Christmas and have a safe and joyful Christmas!

We asked the children 'what will you miss most about kinder?'

<b>Angus</b>	'I will miss Sam'
<b>Oliver</b>	'I will miss building'
<b>Alexander</b>	'Playing with my friends'
<b>Ha Jin</b>	'I will miss Jeong and Nikia'

We would ALSO like to thank six wonderful women who have spent countless mornings slaving away in the kitchen for fruit duty and being incredibly supportive throughout the year.

Melissa Larnner- finance committee member and fruit duty

Lisa Vivian- social events and fruit duty

Janine Rouse- fruit duty and for donating wonderful resources

Merideth McInnes- fruit duty and boxes

Marika Lawford- fruit duty

Viji Kalaicheluam - Washing duty

**AMY, TRACEY, HELEN, KAREN, FIONA AND ANNETTE.**

## 2012 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ROLE	NAME	TELEPHONE
PRESIDENT	Damian Dalton	9510 2356 0408 138 170
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Sarah Wade Janine Sheehan	9500 8296 0433 328 699 9529 1339 0408 399 853
SALARIES	Marcus James	9525 2052
SECRETARY	Bec Bond	9530 3032
GRANTS	Polly Bongiorno	8060 9025 0410 882 028
FINANCE CO-ORDINATOR	Melissa Larner	0431 072 557
FEES OFFICER ENROLMENTS	Sylvia Stutt	9509-3187 (kinder)
MAINTENANCE	Sarah Barlow	9576 3285 0403 933 497
FUNDRAISING	Stacey Farrell	9822 8856 0407 360 559
PUBLICITY	Siobhan Dunckley	0424 592 320
SOCIAL	Lisa Vivian	9509 3226
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Christy Kelso Kylie Glenane Liuxin McOmish	0407 823 955 9824 5372 0424 947 720 0400 296 892



**Connections**  
CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

## DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD?

THE PSFO SERVICE IS FREE TO FAMILIES OF CHILDREN IN 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Are you concerned about your child's development, ability to play with others or behaviour?

All families can refer to the PSFO service for help. Talk to your teacher about referral or contact us directly.

For more information you can contact your  
Preschool Field Officer on  
9519 6632



## ANIMAL YOGA FOR KIDS

A 45 minute kids yoga class, which is a mixture of yoga, chi gung, breathing, stretching, stories, meditation and fun.

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