

Kinder News

AELC Newsletter No 1, March 2013



Key Dates

Term 1: 29th January to 28th March

Term 2: 15th April to 28th June

Term 3: 15th July to 20th September

Term 4: 7th October to 20th December

A Group Morning Tea – Thursday 21st
February, 11am – 12pm

Welcome BBQ and Picnic – Sunday 3rd
March, 3-6pm

President's Report – March 2013

Welcome

A big welcome to all our new families, returning families, committee members and staff to another exciting year at AELC.

This is our first newsletter for 2013, and the only one for Term One. However, there will

be two newsletters during each of the remaining terms and regular updates posted to the parents' section of our [website](#). I hope you find them interesting reading and a useful source of information throughout the year.

Vacancies

There are still a few vacancies in our groups so if you know of anyone looking for a kinder or looking for more hours/days please refer them to Sylvia Stutt (our Administrative Assistant).

Application Deadlines for 2014 Enrolments

Children who have had a sibling attend the Centre, or who have a parent or guardian living, working or studying in the City of Stonnington, receive preferential treatment

Armada Early Learning Centre, 3 Fulton St, Armadale, 3143. Ph.: 9509 3187,
armadale.elc.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au, <http://www.armadaleelc.vic.edu.au>.



on the waiting list each year providing applications are received by the stated deadlines.

Applications for children wishing to attend the Centre next year, who are eligible for the above preferences, must be submitted by the last day of Term 1. Applications received after this date will receive no preference and join the waiting list in order of application receipt.

While we have signs posted to remind people who visit us of this, please use your networks to pass this information on to anyone not currently at the Centre to whom you think it may be relevant.

Welcome BBQ

This year AELC will be hosting a Welcome BBQ rather than the traditional cocktail party. The Committee feels the family barbeque will be a better forum for families to get to know each other and form important support networks for the year ahead. We hope you can all make it along on Sunday 3rd March.

Drop-off & Pick Up Times

Please be respectful of our neighbours and do not park illegally when dropping children off or picking them up. Please obey the road rules and parking zones, and especially supervise children closely when crossing driveways and the road.

Remember also you must not leave children unattended in cars.

We all share a common objective: to ensure the safety of your children. Please do the right thing.

Feedback to the Committee

Throughout the year we welcome your feedback to help us shape the Centre's priorities and goals for this and the coming years. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know, as we are here to represent you.

Complaints are also welcome and may be directed to **myself or Janine Sheean**, our Grievance Officer.

This year's Committee Members are listed in full on the back page.

Involvement in the Kinder

Not everybody has the time to be on the Committee, but there are many other ways to be involved; whether it is by doing fruit duty, being on the laundry roster or by offering your skills and expertise. Having great Staff is one thing, but the AELC will always be enhanced by parent and grandparent support and involvement.

I hope you and your children have enjoyed your AELC experiences so far this year, and have already established some networks and routines.

Hopefully we can continue to make this a great year for all involved in 2013 at the AELC.

Damian Dalton
President
0408 138 170

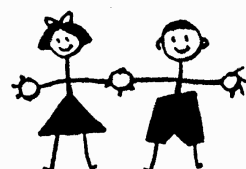
Director's Note

I would like to welcome all our new families to the Kindergarten and look forward to getting to know you all. We are very fortunate to have so many existing families return. The year has started generally happily for all the children. From what I have seen and heard the children are exploring their new environment and participating in the many and varied experiences. I am very excited about the year ahead.

Annette Baker
AELC Director

Social

New to the committee and the AELC this year, I am very excited to be a part of



it all! Thank you to everyone who has already made my family and I feel so welcome and I hope that all the new families are feeling the same.

Social activities have already kicked off for the year with some group morning teas and play dates happening and our first major event, the **Welcome BBQ**, taking place this weekend.

To remind you all of the details it's on **Sunday 3rd March, from 3pm - 6pm** at the centre. Please bring your picnic rugs, something to eat and drink and a smile! We will have some sausages and icy poles for all the children to enjoy. It is an ideal opportunity to meet and get to know the other families involved in the centre.

Don't forget to check the board for upcoming activities and if you wish to contribute or have any ideas about future events you'd like to see on our social calendar then I'd love to hear from you.

We look forward to what we hope will be a fun and rewarding year for everyone!

Kate Rafferty
Social Officer
kate.rafferty@me.com

Fundraising

Welcome to a year of exciting opportunities to support AELC through a variety of fundraising efforts! Stacey Farrell will again be heading the Fundraising team, and she does a completely amazing job. Please refer to our [website](#) for a complete list of fundraising events for the year. (You will find the list on the Parent Access page, under the 'Home' tab. The password is the same as the gate code)

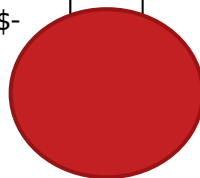
To inspire you all, a list of items that we are looking to purchase through fundraising will be placed at the front of the kinder. The

target this year is to raise **\$13,500**, so get ready to be involved and raise money for new resources for your children!

The fundraising this year will be kicked off with **chocolates** (Yum!). Each family will receive a mixed box of Cadbury chocolates to sell to family and friends (or to keep for yourselves, which is what I will be doing). Boxes are \$50 each, which means that the kinder will make a profit of \$20 per box. Boxes will be delivered and distributed to all families during Term 1.

Easter eggs anybody? Stacey has thought of everything and there is no need this year to buy your eggs at the supermarket - bags of Easter eggs will be placed in the kindy foyer for \$4 each.

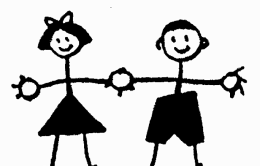
\$13,500
\$12,000
\$10,500
\$9,000
\$7,500
\$6,000
\$4,500
\$3,000
\$1,500
\$-



The other fundraising event for the first 2 terms is the **Caring for Kids Raffle**. This is organised by KPV (Kindergarten Parents Victoria) and is a fantastic and easy way for you to support AELC. Books of 20 raffle tickets valued at \$40 (\$2 per ticket); will be distributed to all families prior to the end of Term 1, in either your children's lockers or pockets within the classrooms. **Prizes:** Myer shopping spree (valued at \$10,000); Myer shopping spree (valued at \$2,000); 2 nights at Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island (valued at \$700); and Aver&Line Photography Session (valued at \$680).

For each raffle ticket sold at a cost of \$2, AELC will earn \$1. Last year, we raised \$1,153 for the kinder, which was a sensational effort by all families.

Book your babysitter in now for **Friday 6th September**. This is the night of the **AELC Trivia/Auction night**, to be held at the Banquet Hall at the Malvern Town Hall. This will be an evening to relax and have fun whilst raising much-needed funds for our Kinder. This is the major fundraising event



for the year and last year, \$10,000 was raised. It is a fabulous evening (M.C.'d by a professional Trivia Host) with plenty of opportunities to "bag a bargain" through our silent and live auction items. If you are able to contribute items to the event (particularly big ticket items such as signed football jumpers; a weekend away; rounds of golf; etc.), please contact Stacey at stacey.farrell@live.com.au.

The next event to pop in your diaries will be the **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle** on **Sunday 18th August**. AELC will be running a third Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Hawthorn. In 2012 we raised an outstanding \$2,100 and in 2011 we raised \$1,500. These funds are coming from outside the kinder. The sausage sizzles requires a number of volunteers from AELC to BBQ and sell the sausages and drinks throughout the day. We require at least 3 to 4 people at any given time. Your help will be greatly appreciated, plus it's a bit of fun! For the dads (and mums), it's a fabulous opportunity to assist our Kinder in a fun way, as well as having an excuse to pop into Bunnings once your shift is over. If you are able to assist on the day for approximately 2 hours, please contact Stacey Farrell at stacey.farrell@live.com.au (the sizzle will run from 9am to 4pm, so time slots will be 8.30-10.30am; 10.30am-12.30pm; 12.30-2.30pm and 2.30-4.30pm).

All kindy groups will have a **Class Representative(s)** this year. This will be your main point of contact(s) for fundraising (as well as social) activities. They will also follow up the various activities, collection of monies, raffle tickets, etc.

Should you have any general fundraising questions/suggestions; would love to volunteer for the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle or to assist with the Auction/Trivia night, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Thank you,
Stacey Farrell
Fundraising Officer
stacey.farrell@live.com.au

Policies for Review

As part of meeting our NQF requirements, policies that are being reviewed by the Committee and staff will also be posted on the AELC [website](#). This is both to seek feedback and to make sure that you, as AELC families, are aware of changes made to policies that may impact you and your child. Please visit the Parent Access Page, under the 'Home' tab to view the policies out for review (the password is the same as the gate code). Please email any feedback to sarah.e.wade@live.ca. Happy reading!

Housekeeping

Reminders

Please remember to sign your child both in and out when dropping off / picking up. You must also sign in and out any other children you are dropping off and picking up.

Prompt arrival at pick-up and drop-off is greatly appreciated.

Fruit Duty

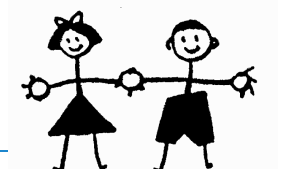
Have you checked your child's group fruit duty roster? Please add your name as we enjoy having families participate and your child loves having you there. It's also a great way to meet your child's new friends!

Child Care Eligibility

You may be eligible for the Child Care Benefit if you are working, looking for work or studying. There are also other eligibility requirements which are detailed on the Centrelink website. If you are still unclear you need to speak with someone at Centrelink. If you are eligible, you need to take your receipt for Term fees to Centrelink for processing.

The Child Care Rebate is different and does not apply to children attending AELC.

Regards,
Sylvia Stutt
Administration Assistant



Thank you

Thanks to Fiona Stanway and family for displaying a promotional board for AELC at the front of their house over summer. And also thanks to Danielle O'Donoghue and family for agreeing to have it relocated to their home! If you would be happy to display a board for the kinder, please contact Sarah Wade (sarah.e.wade@live.ca).

Teacher's Reports

Group A

What a great start to the year we have had. The children have settled in very well, lots of familiar faces, some new faces, lots of new friends to make and activities to participate in together. Welcome to our new families, it was great to see so many parents come to our Coffee Morning to have a chance to meet each other. Thanks to Nicola (Lily's Mum - who has offered to be our Class Representative this year - if anyone else would like to offer as well, that would be great) and Janine (Haydn's Mum for organising this morning. A Kindergarten is a busy place, with so many personalities and cultures involved, working together to create the whole Kindergarten Community.



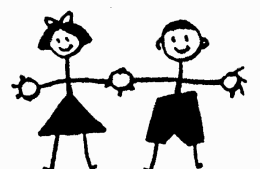
Please do not feel unloved if your child rushes to their friends on arrival - this means they are feeling happy and confident, life is very busy and there is so much to do. Every now and then things may not go so smoothly, but that is what growing up and learning how to get on with others is all about. Learning to be part of a group is a very important part of Kindergarten - developing from being little individuals to being part of a cohesive group. Remember I welcome and need input from you about your child - it helps me to provide the best experience for them, and remember I am available on Tuesday and Friday afternoons for us to meet together if you would like or

feel this would be helpful.

The Programme is planned to provide opportunities for the children to take part in a variety of activities, often working by themselves - which is important - everybody needs their own space sometimes - or joining in with others in the group. You may notice if your children were in the 3YO group last year that some of the activities will seem the same or similar- but the children will explore these further and use them differently. It may look as though the children are just playing - but that is how children learn. The activities are open ended, so the children can explore them at their own level and at their own pace - playing within their own capabilities, achieving satisfaction and confidence, without necessarily needing to achieve a set goal. There is no competition to be the best. When confident they are then ready to try new skills and new challenges. Activities remain set up for a number of days, so the children can extend their play, learning new skills through repetition and practice, perhaps playing with different children, opening up new ideas and extending their own. Sometimes we do have

activities that require the children to follow instructions or do things a certain way, perhaps working as a team. Tables and equipment are set up to encourage conversation and interaction, encouraging children to use their imaginations and to think of the possibilities. Items may be arranged to suggest an idea for a game or story. Often in this "instant" age - too many things happen at the press of a button, rather than working things out for themselves, or using their own ideas.

We want to encourage the children to be imaginative, creative, inventive, curious



and interactive - to rely on their own resources.

We aim to promote the development of self-confidence, independence, behavioural and social skills as well as cognitive and motor skills, to develop awareness of each other's feelings and needs, to develop a sense of community.

The children are exposed to sorting, matching, classifying, counting, remembering, recognizing, questioning, discussing, reasoning, exploring, concentrating - all pre literacy and pre numeracy skills while playing - a natural development and growth.

Through observing the children play, we can note their interests, skill levels and where they need help or support, and use this knowledge to plan for each individual child and the group as a whole.

Although we do not have "show and tell" as this can become very competitive and not very meaningful, we have other ways to give the children opportunities to feel confident and important within the group. However if you find something interesting, please bring it along so we may learn about it.

We will be starting our Art books that include the children's artwork throughout the year, also photographs of the children taken during Kindergarten sessions - these books will go home with the children at the end of the year. We will also be setting up a growth chart, so we can measure the children each term, so they can see how much they have grown.

Nature plays a very big part in our programme, hopefully we will help the children to become curious and aware of the world around them, and the interesting things they can find and learn about, which will extend into an awareness of how we can look after our precious world. Nature and science are interwoven and many of our activities include science experiments and experiences, such as when we froze things in

ice - how did we make this? Why did it melt? How long did it take to melt? Did it melt faster if we rubbed it with our warm hands or put it in a sunny spot? Learning is fun! We put out Reference Books for the children to find out more information - this encourages curiosity and the desire for answers.



Some important things to remember:

- Each child must be signed IN and OUT each day - this is a Department Regulation.
- Please make sure that you hold your child's hand when coming and going to the Kindergarten - their safety is paramount. Also please be extra careful that you do not inadvertently allow another child to go out the door or gate as you leave.
- If your child is unwell please keep them at home - germs spread very quickly at Kindergarten, and a sick child cannot enjoy Kindergarten.
- On Wednesdays (rest day) your child may like to bring a soft toy to cuddle.

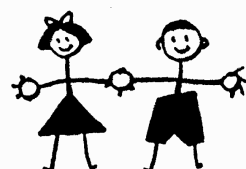
Thank you for your interest, support and enthusiasm, and for helping with our Roster - your children love you to come and help. We hope you are enjoying your Kindergarten experience.

A special thank you to my wonderful co-workers Ann and Lisa - they play a very important part in the programme.

Margot, Ann and Lisa.

Extended Hours

Welcome to all the families and children for 2013 in the Extended Hours Group we



hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for a fun-filled year as part of our kindergarten community. The first few weeks will be very casual to allow the children to settle in their new surroundings, learn the routine, understand room rules and boundaries and get to know peers and staff members. We have four consistent staff members Amy, Tracey, Helen and Fiona who are here to guide and support your child's learning and development.



The children have engaged in a wide variety of activities these will slowly change to reflect children's interests based on our observations. Our programme has started with a lot of 'sensory' play focusing on our 'five' senses'; touching, listening, tasting, feeling and seeing. The sensory experiences with jelly baffle and water allow the children to engage in a therapeutic and calming environment. We believe the environment should be visually appealing as well and functional without being over-stimulating especially at the beginning of the year. Please don't be alarmed to see a few 'empty' tables we do not always use every space at all times and will use some areas for more spontaneous play.

In the mornings the children learn to sit and listen to a variety of sing-along books and structures games. Mat time in kindergarten is important class time when the entire group gathers, usually in the morning and several times throughout the day. The children have created their own room rules, which they are able to refer back to throughout the day. We've enjoyed Thomas bringing in books from home and using the puppets for 'The

old lady who swallowed a fly'. We've learnt 'puff the magic dragon' and continue to practice the 'memory game'.

We asked the children what they have enjoyed doing at kindergarten so far...

'I like making things for Charlie and the swings' (Lucy)

'Making a volcano in the sandpit and building a city' (Jordan)

'Showing the children the Gruffalos sing along book' (Thomas)

'I like puff the magic dragon' (Niamh)

'I love the bubbles' (Eve)

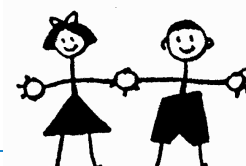
'Making play dough' (Metecan)

'Puzzles' (Max)

'Playing princesses with material' (Annabel)

We value parent contribution throughout the year. Many of you have individual talents and ideas, which could be incorporated into our program. In the past we have had violinists, pet presentations, T-shirt printing and cooking activities organised by parents with the support of staff. Our program is play-based and links directly to the Early Years Learning Framework focusing on five main areas; learning, community, wellbeing, language and communication. Our program will be on display throughout the year so you are able to keep up with ongoing interests and projects in the room. Individual portfolios are created for each child to capture their learning journeys through stories and pictures.

In the first term a lot of emphasis is made in supporting the children to develop 'self help' skills where children learn to look after themselves and gain confidence in dressing/undressing, packing-up, looking after personal hygiene and taking responsibility for personal belongings. It is important parents continue this at home in preparation for school. The children will take on more responsibilities and 'special' jobs in the kinder room as the year progresses.



A few housekeeping reminders:

- Make sure your child has a hat and water bottle and it's full each morning
- A hat and spare clothes (named). If you would like to buy an Armadale hat please ask a staff member
- No thongs or crocs (they are not safe for climbing)
- Spare clothes and underwear in bag
- If children take items from the kindergarten please return them
- If you have any recycled materials please put them in our big box for art/craft activities.
- If your child has long hair please have it tied up to avoid getting lice and passing it on to others.
- Remember to bring in fresh fruit each morning
- No nuts, eggs or seafood
- Please put your name down for fruit duty and washing on your free days



The following are what we consider to be the most significant points of teaching in Kindergarten. The six principles reflect three major areas of the early childhood professional's work:

Collaboration

1. Family centered practice
2. Partnerships
3. Equality and diversity

High Quality teaching and learning

4. Responsive engagement
5. An holistic approach

Continuous professional improvement

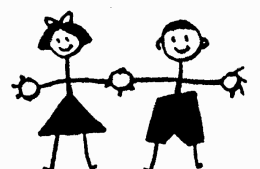
6. Reflective practice

Our philosophy

- All children are unique and bring their individual set of valuable knowledge, culture and capabilities into the Kindergarten.
- Children learn best through open-ended play and meaningful experiences.
- Self-confidence and self-esteem are vital for children's future contentment and achievement.
- The curriculum should grow from the children's individual interests, value the child's uniqueness and inspire a love for learning.
- The value of a partnership between parents, educators and children; communicating openly and honestly to gain understanding in order for all to reach their full potential.
- Australia's multicultural society offers copious knowledge, and that cultural diversity needs to be acknowledged and celebrated across the curriculum.
- The importance and uniqueness of Indigenous Australia, and that it should constantly be reflected naturally within the learning environment and in conversation.
- Respecting the environment is an integral part of learning about our place in the world, and our role as citizens of the earth.
- The attitudes and values of people have the strength to affect the entire world.

We hope your child and family enjoy being part of our kindergarten community

Amy, Fiona, Tracey and Helen ☺



3 Year Old Kangaroo and Koala Groups

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our families to the Kindergarten. Of course we are still settling in and becoming familiar with the routines as well as each other. The children have generally started happily and are developing relationships with their peers and adults. They are all being supported and encouraged to participate in many experiences provided indoors and outdoors.

Initially the experiences are generally the same each session so each child can become familiar with what is provided and build their awareness, skills and confidence in attending our Kindergarten. We want to provide children with the opportunities to gain success, accept challenge and further their learning. By maintaining similar experiences it also enables you to talk to your child about what they might have done while here. You could ask your child questions such as:

- What colour paint did you use today?
- How many cups of tea did you make when you were in home corner?
- What song did you sing today?

Of course you will have many more questions to ask. Knowing what experiences are generally available you could use them to encourage your child to come to Kindergarten if they are feeling reluctant.

We have had fun being outdoors exploring our environment. The sandpit has seen lots of cooking happening as well as the emergence of sharing and turn taking. It has also been a place to keep cool during the hot weather, as there has been lots of water included in play. Being on the swing has enabled the children to view the yard from a different perspective and of course have fun. The experiences on the verandah have seen children make choices about what they want to do and how to do things.

Indoors, easel painting, clay/play dough and collage (pasting) have been very popular. Another experience that has enabled each child to build their knowledge and skills is block building. Here there has been much talk about size, matching, balancing, making patterns and working together to construct some amazing structures. Of course home corner has been where relationships are developing along with role modelling what they are familiar with. They are practicing their skills – fine motor/manipulative (small muscles), imagination, and creativity as well as decision-making and problem solving.

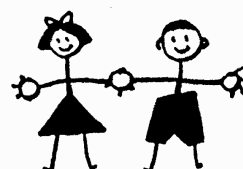
Fruit time is not just about eating fruit it also involved making choices about who to sit next to, what to drink and what to eat. Do you know that your child can use tongs to pick up their fruit? How skillful and talented are they?

It's great to see some children carrying in their own bag and putting their drink bottle and fruit in the baskets. What great self-help skills are developing!! As this continues their self-esteem and confidence will flourish.

When sitting on the mat we are getting to know each other. We sing songs with our names in them or action songs. We have been talking about who we are and about our bodies and what we can do. At story time the children are building their listening skills and developing their understanding and love for storybooks, using their imaginations and storytelling.

Some Reminders:

- If you have any changes or additions to your child's enrolment forms please let me know.
- Please be aware that when the doors are closed on your arrival the session has not yet started and educators are still preparing the room/experiences for all the children. You are able to enter the room when the door is opened by the educators.



- Hats are to be worn and sunscreen applied.
- Appropriate clothing is to be worn. Please see our clothing policy.
- Appropriate footwear needs to be worn so your child can climb, run and play safely while at Kindergarten. Please read our Kindergarten handbook.
- Please bring in a water bottle (water only). Your child's drink bottle should be labelled and one that your child knows how to use.
- All your child's belongings are to be labelled, including water bottle.
- You have to sign your child in and out. Please be aware of where you are signing.

Your children have given us many smiles and made us laugh. Karen and Fiona have been a great source of knowledge and support for the children and I. I'd like to thank both of them very much for their great work.

We look forward to getting to know everyone better as the year progresses.

Annette, Fiona and Karen

Our Kinder Committee

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armadale.elc.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

President: Damian Dalton 0408 138 170,
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Vice presidents:

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