

Diary Dates:

21 September 2012 - Last day of Term 3

23 September 2012 - working bee (9am- 1pm)

9 October 2012 - First day Term 4

25 November 2012 - Family Fun Day (3pm - 6pm)

27 November 2012 - Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome to our first electronically delivered newsletter. AELC has well and truly embraced the digital age with the recent launch of our new website and changing to electronically delivered newsletters. We trust these changes will improve the communication between AELC and you.

Since our last newsletter we have achieved some great things including securing several grants from Stonnington Council, launching the new website, and holding a very successful trivia fundraising night. More details are provided below.

Our teachers continue to do a marvelous job and their commitment to our children's well-being and learning is greatly appreciated. In recent weeks Margot has been particularly busy with presentations in regards children's education in 2013.

The Committee continues to share the load and as Julia would say, "get things done". Special mentions and thanks this newsletter to:

Sarah Wade: for her amazing work in building and launching the new website (www.armadaleelc.vic.edu.au);

Liuxin McOmish for her help with the website in particular with search engine optimization and diverting the old domain;

Janine Sheean for her proactive approach to her roles as staff liaison and grievance officer;

Polly Bongiorno for securing the Stonnington Council Community Grants;

Lisa Vivian for organising the upcoming family day, especially securing magician, Luigi Zucchini;

Sarah Barlow for organising the next working bee to be held this coming Sunday 23th September from 9am to 1pm; and

Stacey Farrell for her extraordinary efforts in organising last Friday's the trivia fundraising night.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Prompt arrival at pick-up and drop-off is greatly appreciated. With Term 4 fast approaching, it is excellent practice for the 4-year-olds in getting ready for school.

We also ask if you could please exit the rooms in a timely fashion as it aids in settling the children into their daily routine greatly. If you would like to keep chatting with the other parents, just move it along out of the rooms! We thank-you in your understanding with this.

Please don't forget the importance of saying goodbye to your child. Even though its tempting to sneak out without being noticed, it can make children more upset. They realise you've gone and haven't had the chance to say goodbye. It's

best to let your child know you're going and say that you'll be back later (sourced from the Raising Children Network, http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/settling_into_care.html).

Fees

I'd like to remind all families of the importance to the kindergarten of fees being paid in a timely manner. During the year we have had to chase late payment of fees on more occasions than we'd like.

Invoices for Term 4 will be issued on Friday 19th October and are due no later than Friday 2nd November 2012.

2013 Enrolments

Enrolments for 3 year old places in 2013 are very strong however we still have numerous places available in both 4 year old groups in 2013.

We are actively seeking opportunities to promote the vacancies and Marshall White has offered us up to six signboards for erection around the neighborhood as well as a digital advert in their weekly electronic distribution mail that goes to 13,000 subscribers for free.

If you have a property located in a high traffic area and would be willing to have a signboard erected promoting the kinder, please contact myself on 0408 138 170.

We would very much appreciate you proactively spreading the good story of AELC to parents looking for kinder places in 2013.

If you know anyone who may be interested in these please ask them to contact Sylvia Stutt (Administrative Officer) on 9509 3187.

Thank you to Sylvia Stutt for all her hard work in organising the 2013 enrolment offers.

Committee

We must start planning for next year.

The end of this year will see many families moving on from AELC to the next phase of child rearing i.e. being a parent of a schoolgirl or schoolboy. Unfortunately this will mean the loss of many of our hard working Committee members.

The next few months will see us begin to recruit next year's Committee.

The new Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting that is scheduled for Tuesday November 27, 2012.

All roles are up for re-election in accordance with our Constitution. However we expect some of the Committee will continue in their roles into next year.

I list the positions available below, so you can decide which might fit your abilities best.

They are:-

President

Vice President(s)

Secretary

Finance Coordinator

Grants Officer

Publicity Officer(s)

Fundraising Officer(s)

Maintenance Officer

Salaries Officer

General Committee Members

I am asking those parents or grandparents who have children in this year's 3 Year Old Groups in particular to review this list and let me know how you can help us. As you know we are a Community, Not-For-Profit Kindergarten. As such we rely almost solely on parents/grandparents to help support our Staff.

Road Safety

Please continue to be mindful of road safety around the kindergarten. Please supervise children closely all the way to the front gate and where appropriate hold their hands.

Again, please be respectful of our neighbours and do not park illegally near the Centre when dropping children off or picking them up.

Remember also you must not leave children unattended in cars.

Finally

I'd like to take this opportunity to again thank all the Staff, Committee members and parents/grandparents for their hard work so far this year.

Please remember the working bee this Sunday 23rd September at 9am. Please don't leave it to a few. We look forward to seeing you there.

It has been a very busy Term 3 and I'm sure all children, parents and teachers are looking forward to a well-earned holiday to recharge the batteries before Term 4.
Happy holidays!

Regards,

Damian Dalton
President

FUND RAISING

Trivia Night

Thank you to all the staff, parents, friends and family members who attended our major fundraising event on Friday night. 81 people attended and a great night was had by all, led by our fabulous MC, Marty Callinan from Star Trivia.

We had 160 silent auction items and plenty of bargains were scooped up on the night by our attendees. Attached to the newsletter you will find a list of the many businesses who gave generously to our fundraising night, many of whom have donated items for the past three/four years. Please ensure that you show your support of them, just as they have shown their support of our kinder.

We raised almost \$10,000, which is a much-needed injection of funds into the kinder. There are a number of areas this money will be put towards, but particularly new classroom furniture and floor mats; and soft fall flooring on the veranda.

The teachers deserve special thanks as they spent a lot of time putting four fantastic canvases together to be sold on the night as part of our live auction. I hope the families are enjoying their new works of art.

Special mention and thanks must also go to Dom Dalton, Kylie Glenane, Christie Kelso, Joy Stewart, Sarah Wade, Melissa and Tom Larner, Kelly Blue, Lisa Vivian, Bec Bond and Lisa Stewart who assisted with set up on Friday afternoon and helped out on Friday night in a variety of ways. Also, Janine Sheean (and family), Justine Barnett and Janine Rouse for their fundraising efforts.

Picture Plates: Thank you to everyone for your patience with your picture plates. They have now been distributed to families who participated and I hope your child is enjoying their toast on their own personal picture plate in the morning.

'Chalk' and 'Parent Direct' & 'Toy and More' Catalogues

Early in August you received three catalogues to purchase a variety of items for your children, with 20 per cent of the total purchases going to the kinder. You can fill in the forms at your leisure and return them directly to the kinder by Thursday, 18 October (marked to the attention of Melissa Larner).

Tea Towels

The children have already completed their drawings for the tea towels and they have been sent to the manufacturer so the tea towels can be designed. We will receive a copy of the tea towels early in Term 4 you will be able to see what they look like.

Pricing of the tea towels will be available in the first week of Term 4 via a letter in lockers/pockets.

Thank you
Stacey Farrell

MAINTENANCE

There is a Working Bee Sunday 23rd September from 9 am til 1 pm. If you are able to help complete some small jobs around the kinder please come along.

There is a job list posted in the front entrance please sign your name next to any jobs you can help with. (please note will be cancelled in the event of bad weather).

Thanks Sarah Barlow
0403 933 497

HOUSEKEEPING

3-year-olds

Has Mama Kangaroo and Joebe or Fifi the Koala visited your house? Please be sure to put your name down on the wall calendar for Term 4 and get ready to welcome your special visitor into your lives.

4-year-old Fruit Duty

What better way to spend some time with your child at kinder than Fruit Duty? Please be sure to add your names on the Wall Calendar for Term 4.

Laundry Roster

Make sure you look at the weekly roster to see when it's your turn to make the hand towels bright once more.

Family Fun Day

Be sure to set aside Sunday 25th November from 3 - 6pm for the AELC Family Fun Day! There is entertainment for the children (magician Luigi Zucchini), sausages on the BBQ, cordial and icy poles! The perfect Sunday afternoon combination. Grown-ups can bring their own dinner and drinks too (why should the children have all the fun?). Hope to see you there!

THREE YEAR OLD GROUPS

As Term 3 comes to a close your children continue to grow and learn and make us laugh every day. During this term we have certainly had the opportunity to build and consolidate our

understanding of our routines as well as our independence.

It is great to see children carrying in their own bag and putting their drink bottle and piece of fruit in the relevant spots. It is such an **achievement** doing these tasks. The children are also fantastic at packing up equipment. When doing this they are not only helping and **working co-operatively** with others but they are also establishing several mathematical concepts.

The children have been out camping for most of the term. While in this area they have been communicating with each other and really enjoying cooking on the barbeque and of course caring for the babies. During this experience children have been **showing interests in others and engage in and contribute to shared play experiences and display awareness of and respect for others' perspectives.**

For three weeks we had three guinea pigs in our room. They were being looked after by 4 Year old Group A and us while their owner Martha (from Group A) was away with her family. We thought that the guinea pigs were lovely to look at but most of us certainly loved patting them. They liked to play hide and seek and make very funny noises. The children have had the opportunity to **explore relationships with other living things and observe, notice and respond to change.**

There have been many cooking experiences this term such as fairy bread and ants on a log just to name a few. While participating in these experiences the children have been learning new skills such as **manipulating equipment and managing tools with increasing competence and skill.** The children are starting to show an **increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition.**

Another fun time was when the dads came to Kindergarten so we could celebrate Father's Day with them. The children enjoyed making their gifts but had even more fun spending time with them doing many experiences. Each child was so proud to show their dad what we like to do when at Kindergarten.

We hope that you really appreciate their drawing of you and that it is displayed in a special spot for many to see. It certainly is something that should be treasured. How were their answers to the questions asked????? They would have brought a smile to your face.

We have had a visit from Living Eggs, where only a few children saw baby chicks hatch from the eggs. The children learnt about how the chicks use their beak to 'peck and peck to get out' Initially they were in an incubator to keep warm and then as they got bigger they were transferred into a larger box, again with a light to keep warm and simulate their mum. Most children who were here held onto a chick and said they were "soft and little and they have feathers" **It was a good learning experience as they were able to explore relationships with other living things.**

The Mobile farm also came to visit us at Kindergarten. Most of us were excited to feed the many animals as well as pat them and even hold them. Farmer Sue showed us some eggs that came from different birds. There was an egg from a small chicken to the largest egg which was from an ostrich. The children were amazed by the size of the ostrich egg and exclaimed "WOW" Having the mobile farm at Kindergarten was another opportunity for the children **to show growing appreciation and care for other living things.** Farmer Sue also showed us how to make butter from cream in an old butter churner. What a great learning experience. With the butter we spread it onto bread and tasted it. Most of the bread was eaten and the children said that they liked it.

Both three year old groups were certainly excited about the Olympics and participating in many experiences such as jumping, running and relay while here. Part of discussing the Olympics was talking about the different countries, their flags and where they are. We have been examining the Globe and looking at an Atlas in relation to the size of the country, the name and how long it might take to get there. Even what animals live there. We continue to talk about how living in different countries people might do the same things such as going to Kindergarten, watching sport, eat lunch, go to

the beach but they might not sound the same as us. We do speak differently and we could wear different clothing. This contributes to **broadening their understanding of the world in which they live and to become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people.**

The Koala group continue to practise their cutting skills and make various designs from the different paper they have chosen. This group when outdoors absolutely enjoy playing games such as What's the time Mr Wolf, Farmer in the Dell and Duck Duck Goose. During these experiences the children **show enthusiasm for participating in physical play and negotiate play spaces to ensure the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.**

The Kangaroo group are showing an interest in how birds build their nests and how many different places the birds build them. The children are developing an understanding that there are many many different breeds. From reading a Dreamtime story called The Rainbow Snake the children have developed a big interest in Aboriginal dreamtime stories. We have read the story so many times now that the children can actually tell the dreamtime story. This demonstrates that the **children are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning and they participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based learning experiences.** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your care and support. And of course Fiona and Karen are such great educators to work with. Thank you to you both, I really do appreciate all you do.

Please remember that I am available to talk to you about your child. We can arrange a time that is suitable for each of us. If you have any ideas, concerns or would like to contribute in any way that you feel comfortable please let me know. Remember that it is you who knows your child the best so we would love to know what you get up to over the weekend and what they are interested in doing with you. Hope you all have a very happy and safe holiday.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Sunscreen must be applied prior to Kindergarten. We do have some on the shelf in the foyer if you do forget.

Hats must be worn each day

Clothing that covers the children's shoulders must be worn

Labelled water bottles are to come in each day

Appropriate footwear for climbing and running is to be worn.

Annette, Karen and Fiona.

GROUP A

Another Term flown by, bringing the joys of the warmth of Spring and the idea of School approaching.

We are encouraging the children's independence, which leads to increased confidence, which builds self esteem. which helps the desire for learning. We aim to stimulate the children's interest and curiosity in what is happening around them. The children are working well together, and are increasingly trying to help their friends and to work together to achieve an aim.

We have had many exciting things happening this term- and the children have shown an increasing awareness of the world around them, and an interest in finding out more information - the joy of discovering and learning.

The Olympic Games opened up such learning experiences - we collected pictures and set up displays, we discussed the various sports and held our own Olympic events, such as running races, running relays, jumping over ropes, balancing on beams, long jumping into the sandpit - the children developed an awareness of their own bodies and what they could achieve, they learnt that trying new skills is fun, and taking part is important.

We discussed the Countries that were taking part and where they were in the world, learning that each Country has a different flag, the children designed their own flags, and we had a World table with a Globe, an Atlas, Maps. a book on flags, so that the children could learn about these things. We learnt that different Countries have different languages, and we put

the children's names in other languages on display in our room so the children could compare them, we are learning how to say hello in different languages - the children are very interested.

We had a tent /camping area set up- the children have spent many happy times having picnics, socialising , conversing, interacting, and imagining with each other.

We encourage the children to imagine and create their own games - to be able to rely on their own resources - a very important life skill.

Imagination is such a wonderful thing - we have an imaginary person - Mr Nobody - who fills in if we need another person to play table games- the children play his turn for him - the children were asked to draw a picture of what they thought Mr. Nobody would look like - the results were wonderful, you will have seen them on display in our room.

The children really enjoy playing table games together - this encourages turn taking, patience, respecting others, observation and interaction - again really important life skills they are learning.

They are very creative and achieve some wonderful drawings and paintings - encouraging the children's awareness of and exploration of colour, shape, pattern and design, pre reading and pre writing skills.

We have enjoyed many animals visiting this term -we minded 3 Guinea Pigs , our 10 chickens we successfully hatched and looked after, and the Mobile farm will be visiting very soon. We have only one Stick Insect left now as the others have died - but this demonstrates that all creatures and living things have a life cycle - hopefully some of our Stick Insect eggs will hatch and we will raise more (we did breed the ones we had).

We have Silkworms which have just hatched and we will observe their complete life cycle as they grow, spin cocoons, hatch into moths, and lay eggs again.

These experiences help the children to be aware of natural life cycles and how creatures live - they teach the children that we need to respect other living creatures, and how to take care of them carefully, how to handle them gently, and we are able to look up Reference books and posters to learn about these creatures - a wonderful hands on experience for the children.

We hope that nurturing a love of nature will develop into an interest in the world around them, and an awareness of the environment and the need to look after our world. Respect and empathy are such important ideals for our children. The world needs everybody to show care and respect for each other in order to become responsible members of our society, which means the ability to work with each other, respecting each others' needs, feelings and belongings, and to learn to be able to self regulate their own feelings, as sometimes we need to accept boundaries - society does have rules.

We live in an instant world - let us help the children to use their sense of curiosity to explore, question, experiment, and build successful relationships and communication skills, and also to retain their sense of fun and wonder.

Our families are a very important part of the Kindergarten - the family unit is the central pivot of the child's focus- their security base and their support. Thanks to all the Mums and Dads and grandparents for helping us with the fruit roster, and a special thanks to those dads (what a wonderful response we had) who were able to come and celebrate Fathers Day with us - the children were very excited.

Next Term's roster is up ready for you to choose the days that suit you - the children love you to come!

We were sad to say Goodbye to Willow and her family, but we wish them well.

Some important things for you to remember - Please remember to sign your child IN and OUT each day, also any other child you may be taking

home - this is Departmental Regulation

Hats will need to be worn next term, please make sure these are named.

Please remember that I am available on Tuesday and Friday afternoons if you would like to talk to me about your child.

My thanks again to Ann and Lisa - my wonderful and always cheerful co-workers - they are a very important part of the Group.

Have a safe and happy holiday -

Margot, Ann and Lisa

EXTENDED HOURS GROUP

It has been a busy term 3 for the Extended Hours Kindergarten. All the children have come a long way since the beginning of the year becoming confident learners and developing a real sense of who they are as individuals.

We are extending the children's independence skills through routines in the room and having high expectations for each child to look after belongings, themselves and others. Skills such as dressing, taking responsibility for our room, self-help strategies and using appropriate social skills during interactions with peers are at the forefront. All the children have come along in leaps and bounds in this area.

With school on the horizon you may have questions regarding your child's school readiness. Play is the way most humans, but especially young children, make sense of their world. Play-based learning is an important way to develop active learning. While it may look like 'free play' a lot of learning occurs when children interact with one another 'collaboratively' in a group situation. These play based activities lay the foundation for more structured schooling.

When children play, they

- Explore the world - natural and social
- Develop and practise social and language skills that may be more complex than in everyday activities
- Expand and challenge their physical skills
- Experiment with new ideas including symbolic competence required for formal learning

- Enhance their self-confidence
- Think and express themselves creatively
- Respond to experiences with or without language
- Develop their sense of self and identity.

As the children move towards the end of their kindergarten year, the preparation of DEECD (Department of Education & Early Childhood Development) Transition Learning & Development Statements are being compiled ready for parents to see in Term 4.

This statement summarises the strengths of each child's learning & development; identifies children's interests & approaches to learning & indicates how each child can be supported to continue their learning when they attend school next year.

The information in this statement is written by kindergarten teachers and is shared with parents and the prep teacher where each child will attend. More information will be given to parents about transition reports next term in preparation for a smooth transition for the beginning of your child's school years.

The children have had the opportunity to care for guinea pigs and are currently looking at the life-cycle of chickens. All the chicks are now out of their shells and are continuing to grow in size and strength and the children will be able to handle them gently and nurse them in their arms and laps.

At the beginning of term we looked at dinosaurs. Outside many of the children found bones in the sandpit which brought about a lot of discussion about dinosaur fossils and excavation. Many of the children have seen real-life skeletons at the museum. Our favourite books have been 'Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus' and 'TINYRANOSAURUS and the BIGFOOTOSAURUS' not to mention dancing to the dinosaur stomp!

We are now looking at 'Uno's garden' a wonderful book with some important messages about our environment.

The animals go by one by one
 A hundred plants, then there were none
 And all the while buildings double
 This numbers game adds up to trouble...

We are beginning to look at our environment and sustainability and how we can make a difference in our daily life by turning the light off at home when where not using it, saving water when showering or brushing out teeth and thinking of ways to reduce pollution e.g. walking to kinder instead of driving. Environmental education of children is a powerful and effective force for the kind of sweeping change in attitude and practice essential to real improvement.

We would like to welcome back our twins Ha-Jin and Ji Dan who have just come back from overseas and to our newest addition to the group Akis who has already settled in well from Greece.

Thank you to all the Dads who came on father's day and we hope you enjoyed sharing some of the kinder experiences with your child.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Amy, Tracey, Helen, Fiona, Karen 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