MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already into Term 3, with the kids well and truly settled into the kinder routine, and the enrolment process for kinder and school for 2016 well underway. I’m sure I’m not the only one wishing that time would slow down a little!

The welcome night at the kinder was a great end to Term 1. It was a very successful evening. Thank you to the fundraising subcommittee and to all of you for coming along and also for bringing such tasty food. Many thanks also to all of you who came along to support our working bees, both earlier in the year and last weekend. Tomas has done a marvellous job organising both mornings. I also wish to extend congratulations and thanks to the fundraising subcommittee for the brilliantly organised cake stall at the Flemington Farmer’s Market. We are very grateful for the generosity of all our bakers and sellers on the day – it was a great team effort. Thank you everyone!

Term 2 was an exciting term at the kinder. We saw incursions across the Purple and Orange groups, and the children and staff alike have participated with great enthusiasm. We have also started to see some cooking in all groups (pancakes, scones, pizzas, orange juice, soup – yum!). We’ve even had families sharing some of their favourite recipes with the children. If you’d like to participate, either by cooking with the children or bringing in some staple ingredients (or both!), please let your child’s teacher know. Both teachers are keen to take their 4 year old groups on local walking excursions during the remainder of the year. We will be in touch again to talk about the benefits for the children as well as the practicalities involved and this will also include getting your permission for your child to participate. There are some incursions planned for the three year olds too.

I’m pleased to share news that the kinder has received two grants over the past few months. We successfully applied for grants from the Telstra Kids Foundation ($1200) and the Moonee Valley City Council ($1135). Details of our purchases are in this newsletter. We are also applying for a Leader Community Grant and encourage you to support this, along with our participation in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program (see below for details). On a similar note, if anyone is doing any culling at home and has anything they think the kinder might be able to use, please mention it to your child’s teacher or a committee member. There can be some truth to the old saying that one person’s trash is another’s treasure!

You may have seen that the Federal Government has committed to funding 15 hours of kinder in 2016. The committee has voted on some changes to the proposed timetable. Our website has been updated with the new timetable and you can also find a copy on the notice board. The key change is that the Purple group attendance will be 3 days rather than over 4 days. We believe that based on past feedback from the kinder community that this will be a most welcomed change.

For those who were not in attendance, the Special General Meeting of members held on 19 May 2015 passed the special resolution ratifying the new constitution for the kinder. Consumer Affairs Victoria has now registered the new constitution. Thanks to those that came along.

Finally, I’d like to extend a warm welcome to Sally, Tina and Josh, our new assistants in Blue, Red and Purple groups. We are very pleased to have them on board.

Warm regards
Amelia
PURPLE GROUP

Term 2 with purple group has been amazing. I don’t think I have learnt so much from one group of children in my teaching career!

This group of children have so much to offer in diversity, interests, and perspectives in ways of being. The days are never predictable. Each day is inspiring.

The core element of all our sessions is learning how to become a community, how to work together in ways that is conducive to every one enjoying learning opportunities and the kindergarten space.

Our sessions all start the same way. The room has few changes unless the children are involved in the process such as introducing a new interest.

Making toast has become one of the regular beginnings of our sessions. Food is a wonderful time to celebrate community and this experience is encouraging children to meet others in the group, share skills and follow through with a procedure of making something and cleaning up at the end. It is a feature of our sessions, following a process from start to completion and leaving a space ready for the next person to use.

Cooking is part of our weekly program. We are working towards children being able to make things independently by following a recipe they know. This is adding to community, children working together problem solving, sharing and supporting each other with an adult facilitating the process.

Show and share was amazing. Children sharing their culture, stories about family and home. From a teachers perspective I learnt so much about the group. It is not often that you witness children really delighting in sharing elements of their home with the group and the group being so engaged. The experience has opened children to speak with others, observe similarities and appreciate listening and sharing at a very different level.

Music has also been a wonderful feature. The most rewarding session was a time when Janis and I were busy in the room. A child requested a particular song that could not be located. A compromise was reached and a song we were learning was played. Janis and I then observed a small group of children sing and dance to the song, following all the actions, movements in sequence after negotiating leading and following roles. Inspiring!

We are really looking forward to an inspiring term 3.

Janis, Nina, Sally, Josh and Heather
BLUE GROUP

Term 2 has been full of enthusiastic children embracing every moment of their three hours at kinder each week.

Our sessions are busy, productive and rich with vibrant energy. When an idea really excites and engages a small group of children, it is common for other children to join in. There is something contagious about a good idea, and other children will often add their own thoughts to enrich the experience. Our cooking experiences eventuated from ideas in the outdoor kitchen and the sandpit. At the conclusion of our sessions Tina and I encourage the children to discuss ideas from the day. The children come with thoughts for cooking, such as the pizzas and together we write a shopping list. These types of experiences provide children with opportunities to plan, think, contribute and discuss ideas.

Friendships are forming and children are learning others names through small group games and opportunities to offer peer support. Children are encouraged to request help from each other as well as the adults. This sets up opportunities to share skills, knowledge and supports connections within the group.

Tina and I are looking forward to a busy and exciting term 3.

Tina and Heather

A NOTE FROM KIRSTY

Welcome back to term three…the half-way point! Well, I feel it’s been some time since I have seen you all with both my daughters being sick during the last week of term two and then being stranded in Bali during the first week of term three. I am back, healthy and eager to get term three underway. Term three has always been my favourite term in the sense of children’s learning and development.

ORANGE GROUP

At the completion of term two we focused on being helpful towards one another. We discussed the importance of being a good friend and the meaning of friendship. We talked about why we need to listen to one another, show empathy and how being kind, considerate and respectful is important in developing successful and positive relationships. This opened up discussions on what makes us feel happy and sad. These conversations came about, as there had been a few conflicts between friendship groups. Often conflicts give us the opportunity to work through different emotions. Giving children an insight in to how our behaviours can at times affect other people’s emotions and to be mindful of this. These are important elements of social and emotional development. Conflicts are often seen as a negative behaviour, however, without conflicts we are not giving children the opportunity or ability to solve them, to negotiate, to compromise and to stand up for what they believe in.
At the end of term two, the children were interested in playing footy and soccer. They organized teams, communicated the rules and were able to play cooperatively. Imaginative play still dominates the orange group. We have set up a hospital corner along with a café to continue to develop their social interaction. It is wonderful to observe children making sense of what they have seen in their worlds and act this out in their imaginative play. Please refer to the reflection folder for weekly summaries of children’s interests and learning. So much happens within one day that it is difficult to put it all in a newsletter.

During term three we will continue our fortnightly Friday cooking classes. Please feel welcome to come and share your favourite dish with us. A big thank you goes out to Jeremy (Dulcie’s dad) for sharing his tomato soup recipe! I am disappointed that I missed it. Show and share will continue on Wednesdays and George the bear will continue his weekend adventures. We will also introduce walks around the community later in the term. These may include a visit to Ascot Vale PS. A picnic and play in the park, a walk around the block looking at different trees, houses, sign post and other things of interest.

This week we have introduced the pull a-part table. The children are using screwdrivers and pliers to pull apart old machines to further investigate what is inside of them. If you have any old DVDs, telephones, laptops that are safe for us to pull apart, please bring them in.

Thank you to all the parents who made time to chat about their child’s development and school readiness. It was great to touch base with you all and to set goals for the remainder of the year. There are a few parents that I haven’t yet seen and I will endeavour to make a time in the next few weeks.

Kirsty, Janis and Nina

**RED GROUP**

This is a lovely, fun and interesting group who are inspired to learn from one another.

They enjoy having snack time together and are starting to share conversations during this time. Mini maestros incursion was a great experience for many of the children. The children actively engaged in the music program and for those children who stood back and watched from a distance also found that they were dancing and singing. During the incursion the children played instruments, followed instructions, sang songs and engaged in musical games. The red group is highly motivated by music and enjoys this part of the program. Throughout term three we will continue to see friendships developing, this will encourage development in children’s language and communication skills. Children’s confidence will also build as they develop a stronger sense of self and belonging within the group.

Group time is an important part of ‘coming together’ it is during this time that we share stories, sings songs, play games, listen to one another, follow instructions and have group discussions. We have decided to introduce group time during the middle of the session to give children the opportunity to extend on their concentration skills.
end of the session children are tired and excited about reuniting with their families so it can be difficult to keep them all focused.

We look forward to a fun, exciting and happy term three.

Kirsty and Sally

**A FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

The kinder cake stall at the Flemington Farmer’s Market on Sunday 31 May was a huge success. We had an overwhelming contribution of delicious treats, lovingly baked by our talented kinder parents and their children. The rain held off and we had a steady stream of shoppers throughout the day. The high calibre of baked goods and their beautiful packaging enabled us to raise $965.

Thanks to all the kinder families that visited the stall and bought our yummy treats. A big thank you to all those who baked and a special thank you to those who helped on the stall on the day; Luisa Smith, Melinda Rolfe (and Thomas), Julie-Ann Carbon, Emily Ramage, Monique Damasco, Amelia Moore, Karen Hellwig, Cathie Staunton, Lucy Shaw, Tracey Williamson, Natasha Noonan, Fiona Macri, Daria Butters and Shari.

**Kinder Raffle**

Tickets for the annual kinder raffle also went on sale at the cake stall which proved popular and raised a further $140 on the day. **Raffle tickets will be on sale until 2 August with prizes drawn on 14 August.** Tickets are $2 a ticket and the top 4 of the 10 prizes include:

1st prize Diesel sunglasses (valued at $269)

2nd prize Pamper package = Facial + hamper + Pepper café voucher (valued at $230)

3rd prize Children’s pack = DVDs + stationery + toy (valued at $220)

4th prize Entertainment package = 4 x movie passes + wine + Sugarbeat cafe voucher (valued at $130)

All families will be provided with a ticket book to sell/buy, with instructions on the front. To obtain additional raffle ticket books contact Anna on 0435 879 942 or at ascot.kin.fundraising@kindergarten.vic.gov.au. Funds raised from this raffle will be used to purchase furniture for home corner play, construction toys and equipment for cooking with the children.

Look out for details of future fundraising events, including a sausage sizzle at Bunnings on November 28.

*Anna Beaumont –Fundraising Co-ordinator*
Cake Stall Proceeds

Funds raised from the cake stall have been used to purchase the items shown below. The children have been enjoying the lego and the hammer set already and look out for the new furniture in the home corner soon!

*Chair and table set*  
*Stove for home corner*  
*Tap tap hammer set*  

*Lego Wheels set*  
*Lego doors, windows and roof tiles set*  
*Lego tech machine set*

Kinder Photos

In term 2, we had Narelle from Filoco Portraiture take our annual kinder photos. As part of our arrangement with Filoco, a dollar amount for every photo sale is donated to the kinder for fundraising. This year we have raised $335 which was used to purchase a children’s cash register, extra chairs for the home corner, a Build-a-Pic magnet set and a set of Lego Community People.
Dear Parents,

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our kinder – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards).

*If your family shops at Woolworths, we are asking you to participate by collecting the Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. These can be placed onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box located at the kinder or at the Woolworths store in Moonee Ponds.*

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our children – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

**GRANT UPDATES**

**Leader Community Grant**

Ascot Kinder has also recently applied for a Leader Community grant of $1000, with the aim of purchasing some new chairs and tables for the kinder room. The grants are assessed by a panel of judges over the next week and if our application is shortlisted, then families are also able to vote in order to support the grant application. We are asking all families and extended family to register using the following link


If we are shortlisted for the Moonee Valley area, we will advise families via email as soon as possible (if not, then we can reapply if subsequent rounds). Families can then begin voting for our idea from 9am on 3rd August until 5pm on 14th August. You can check out our submission now at [www.leaderlocalgrants.com.au](http://www.leaderlocalgrants.com.au) under ‘Current Ideas’. Our entry is titled “New Equipment to Support Learning”.

**Moonee Valley City Council Community Grant**

Earlier this year we were fortunate to receive a Community Grant from Moonee Valley City Council. The grant funds of $1135 were used to purchase two pedal rollers and a pick up trike, which the children can be seen enjoying below. This equipment provides the children with great opportunities to extend their gross motor and co-ordination skills, particularly for those children who may not have access to bikes at home. In line with our philosophy of promoting physical activity and health we are also purchasing a rack that can be used for bicycles and scooters to encourage children to ride to kinder. The rack should be available in the kinder yard soon.
Telstra Kids Fund Grant

In March this year we submitted an application for a grant from the Telstra Kids Fund, which was sponsored by our Kinder President, Amelia Moore. In April we were advised that this grant was approved and the staff have been discussing which equipment and resources are most needed to enhance the program. The focus is on bilingual and multicultural books as well as interest books and resources that reflect our diverse community and the children’s interests. The Multicultural books including My Mothers Sari, My World Your World. A Divali Story, Festival Time: Ramadan and Eid, Thanking the Moon: a mid-Autumn Festival and Celebrations Around the World.

We have also purchased, or will be purchasing, the following items:

- A selection of bilingual children’s books incorporating languages within our community such as Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Marithi, Greek and Oromo.
- A set of Duplo Community people and vehicles that reflects a range of jobs within the community
- Additions for our Mobilo set
- Books about the human body and a set of Junior Games
- New dolls reflecting different cultural backgrounds for the home corner and dolls house
- A small selection of books to complement our existing children’s library

Jellis Craig are proudly associated with Ascot Kinder and will donate 10% from your property sale fee to our kinder.

If you are thinking of selling your home or would like a current property appraisal, please contact:
John Morello on 8378 0500
291 Racecourse Road, Kensington.

www.jelliscraig.com.au