



Welcome and Information Night

On Wednesday 7th March, we held our annual Welcome Night for new families. This night is an opportunity for families to come together and connect with others in the kinder community. The night was a wonderful success with families providing lots of delicious food to share and embracing our wonderful community spirit.

For the first time, the kinder also combined the Welcome Night with our annual information night for new families who are interested in attending Ascot Kinder. We had 8 prospective families attend and undertake a tour of the kinder with staff.

We would like to thank our families for their contributions to the night and particularly the volunteers who contributed to organising the evening for our community. We also congratulate the winners of the raffles on the night.



Assessment and Rating Process

As advised to the kinder community in October 2018 the kinder was nominated in term 4 to undertake our regular quality and assessment rating process. This process, which was revised in February 2018, is undertaken every 3-4 years and assesses the service against 7 Quality Areas known as the National Quality Standards. These Standards are: Educational Program and Practice; Children's Health and Safety; Physical Environment; Relationships with Children; Collaborative Relationships with Families and Communities; and Governance and Leadership. We are pleased to announce that Ascot Kinder was assessed as Meeting the National Quality Standard and providing quality education and care in all 7 quality areas.

As part of the assessment process Ascot Kinder is constantly assessing the quality of our service using our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). This document is a work in progress and records information such areas for improvement, goals, achievements and strengths. We encourage input and feedback from the community on the quality of our service at any time. Families may choose to be involved in a more formal way such as reviewing policies or nominating for the committee but we also welcome informal feedback, suggestions or questions relating to any of the 7 quality areas. If you would like to help or contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's teacher or a committee member.



2019 Committee

Please find below the list of committee members for 2019. We are very appreciative of the time and effort our volunteer committee members put into ensuring we provide a high quality service for our children and families.

Throughout the year the kinder will undertake a variety of fundraising activities such as cake stalls, barbecues and raffles. We would love to get more families involved in these activities to spread the load of these tasks across the different groups. It is also a great opportunity to be involved in your child's kinder and to contribute to our kinder community. If you feel you may be able to help at some stage throughout the year, please contact our fundraising co-ordinator to put your name down to assist.

Amanda - ascot.kin.fundraising@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Role	Name	Child's group
President	Megan Martin	Aqua Emus
Vice President	Katie Leliard	Burgundy Bilbys
Secretary	Anthony Szostak	Burgundy Bilbys
Treasurer	Bevan McLeod	Burgundy Bilbys
Working Bee Co-ordinator	Jonathan Morpeth	Aqua Emus
Fundraising Co-ordinator	Amanda Murray-Alston	Burgundy Bilbys
Policy Officer	Katie Roberts	Aqua Emus
OHS Officer	Geordie Fairweather	Burgundy Bilbys
Social Media and Web Officer	Talara Berry	Burgundy Bilbys
General Committee Member	Rebecca Jarvis	Topaz Turtles
General Committee Member	Gabriella Sudano	Burgundy Bilbys

Grants

In February, we were lucky to be awarded a grant of \$100 from Grill'd Moonee Ponds as part of their Community Grants Program. Thankyou to any families who voted for us and we have put these funds toward the expense of setting up two new worm farms. If you are aware of any community grants in our area, or through your workplace, please let us know via email at:

ascot.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Donations

If you are able to assist we are seeking the following items to be donated to the kinder:

- New underwear (sizes 3-5)
- Boxes of tissues
- Plastic bags (to be used to take home wet clothing)

Lost Property

Please check the children's locker room for any lost property prior to the end of term, if you have a chance, and regularly throughout the terms. Any items not claimed will be added to our spare clothes supplies.

Fundraising Update

The fundraising team are pleased to announce that the Welcome Night raffle raised \$225. The kinder will use these funds to purchase a Bamboo Channel Construction and Water Play Set, sensory sand and some additional Australian animals to add to our collection.

Cake Stall

The kinder will be holding a cake stall at the Flemington Farmers Market on Sunday 5th May from 9am – 1pm. Further details will be provided by the fundraising team closer to the date.

Amanda Murray-Alston, Fundraising Coordinator ascot.kin.fundraising@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



Sustainability Practices



Families may have noticed that we have new bins at kinder this term. As part of the review of our Sustainability Policy educators identified that we would like to improve our sustainability practices with regard to recycling. We have introduced bins that are more identifiable and talked with the children about what can and can't be recycled. We have also introduced a new 'soft plastic bins' which allows us to recycle additional packaging that previously went to landfill. Our aim to undertake an excursion to Woolworths in term 2 and deposit this rubbish in the Redcycle recycling bin.

We have also used our grant funds from Grill'd Moonee Ponds to set up two additional worm farms. The children have assisted in this process and we now have three operational farms that we can use to dispose of our food scraps.

Childhood Immunisations

Please be aware that due to changes in legislation on February 28, 2018 kindergartens can now only accept the official ACIR Immunisation Statement from Medicare as proof of immunisation. Kindergartens will also be required to request updates from families during the year when children receive vaccinations after they have commenced kindergarten. We ask that if your child receives any additional vaccinations in 2019 that you please request an updated copy of their Immunisation Statement and forward it to the kinder as soon as practicable. Please see the link below for further information.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/parent-brochure-starting-childcare-or-kindergarten>

Policy Updates

In order to comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, Education and Care Services National Law, the National Quality Standards and the Victorian Child Safety Standards, Ascot Kindergarten has a range of policies and procedures in place. These govern how our service operates and ensure the kindergarten meets our moral and legal obligations to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all children attending the service. If you would like to be involved in reviewing any of our policies, or participate in ongoing reviews throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact the Administration Officer at the kinder on 9375 3548 or via email at ascot.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au. We welcome any questions, feedback and suggestions from families. The following policies which will be under review in term 1 and 2 are: Staffing, Governance and Management, Information Technology, and Administration of First Aid.

Emergency Evacuations and Procedures

As part of our service management agreement with the Department of Education, the kinder is required to have an *Emergency Management* policy and *Emergency Management Plan (EMP)* in place. These ensure the kinder has procedures in place to manage a range of emergencies that may arise. The policy and plan are reviewed at least annually and staff practice emergency procedures with the children at least once every 3 months. This may involve discussing with children what an emergency is, who we would call and what we might do. It may also involve the children practicing an evacuation and leaving the kinder to meet at our emergency evacuation point/s. The staff will advise you either before or after the event, that a practice evacuation has been undertaken.

We do ask that families become familiar with our emergency procedures and evacuation points, particularly if you are remaining on the premises for any length of time. Our emergency procedures and maps are located near our first aid kit outside, just inside the front entrance and in the office space.

All staff undertake minimum training levels in first aid, as required under Regulations, and also complete annual CPR update training. The kinder has two first aid kits – one indoors and one outdoors – and has access to spare asthma medication and a spare epipen, in case of an emergency.

Community Events and Programs

Please follow the link below for information about school holidays activities in Moonee Valley
<https://valleyview.mvcc.vic.gov.au/events/festival-detail/7852e03ac8b6415190096c8d77bd337f>

HIPPY Program – Early Childhood Learning and Parenting Program

Please see the attached flyer regarding a home-based early learning and parenting program for families that is available in North Melbourne, Kensington, Flemington and Ascot Vale. Families may still apply in the next week to access this program using the contact details on the flyer.

“Scissors, Glue and Drawing Too” – Developing Fine Motor Skills in Pre-School Children

Please see the attached flyer for a workshop for children and families that is designed to assist children to develop their fine motor skills. The group is facilitated by Occupational Therapists from Co-Health and will be held at Avondale Heights Library beginning on 30th April.

Walkie Talkies Program

This program is a drop-in session where families can speak with a variety of health professionals if they have any questions or concerns about their child's:

- Talking and listening skills
- General learning and thinking skills
- Concentration and attention
- Behavior and play skills
- Meal times

Please see the attached flyer for further information

2020 Kinder Registrations

Please note that Moonee Valley City Council has made some significant changes to the dates for kinder registrations. Registration for three and four year-old kindergarten programs will now be opening and closing on different dates and acceptances will be notified at different times. Please refer to the website at www.mvcc.vic.gov.au for further information.

Please note that if your child is attending a three year-old program **they are not automatically allocated a position in the 4 year-old program for the following year** and you will need to lodge an application with Moonee Valley City Council.

3 year-old kindergarten – registrations taken between 3rd June 2019 and 31st July 2019

4 year-old kindergarten – registrations taken between 1st March 2019 and 31st May 2019

If you have any questions about this process please do not hesitate to get in touch with our administration officer, Tara on 9375 3548 or contact Moonee Valley City Council.

2020 School Enrolments

Many local schools are now conducting enrolment and information sessions and school tours for 2020. If your child is attending school in 2020 we highly recommend you check the websites of local schools to determine their enrolment dates and criteria, as well as the dates for school tours.

If you have any questions about school enrolment or your child's readiness for school please speak with your child's teacher.



Useful Links

Road Safety with Children

As part of our kinder program we talk with children about road safety and how to keep themselves safe when we are out on excursions with kinder. This is an ongoing theme and will be discussed throughout the year.

Two of our staff have also recently undertaken additional professional development training in road safety awareness. This training allows us to request a Road Safety incursion for the children operated by Vic Roads and the Early Learning Association of Australia.

The Better Health Channel is a great source of information for families about how to keep their children safe around traffic. Please click on the link below for further information.

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyiving/road-and-traffic-safety-for-children>

Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards (the Standards) are compulsory minimum standards for all organisations that provide services to children including Victorian schools and kindergartens. The aim of the Standards is to ensure organisations are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect. It is recognised that many schools and kindergartens will have existing policies and procedures that aim to keep children safe.

The Standards provide a framework to identify gaps and improve policy and practices around child safety. On 26 November 2015, the Victorian Parliament passed the Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015, which amended the Child Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005 to introduce the Child Safe Standards that would apply to all organisations involved in child related work in Victoria.

The Standards are:

Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety

Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel

Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

Ascot Kindergarten has recently reviewed and update their Child Safe Environment policy. The service is now undertaking an annual Child Safety Review and reviewing our annual Child Safety Risk Assessment. If you have any feedback you would like to provide, or any questions about the Child Safety Standards, please speak with your child's teacher or contact us via email at ascot.vale.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Talk as you walk



Help your child to become an active thinker in the road environment. You can do this by talking together with your child as you walk. Ask them questions about roads, signs, traffic and how and where we cross the road safely.

For more ideas, visit Victoria's road safety education website at roadsafetymeducation.vic.gov.au



Starting Out Safety

Getting children in and out of cars safely



Make it a habit of getting your children in and out of the car from the kerbside doors – away from traffic.

As your children become more independent, they will then expect to continue this habit.

For more information, visit roadsafetymeducation.vic.gov.au



Starting Out Safety

Child Safe Standards aim to:

- promote the safety of children
- prevent child abuse
- ensure organisations and businesses have effective processes in place to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse.

Child Safe Standards work by:

- driving changes in organisational culture – embedding child safety in everyday thinking and practice
- providing a minimum standard of child safety across all organisations
- highlighting that we all have a role to keep children safe from abuse.

Although all children are vulnerable, some children face additional vulnerabilities. The standards provide three overarching principles for organisations to cover:

- the cultural safety of Aboriginal Children
- the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- the safety of children with a disability.

Important Dates

Friday 5th April	Last day of Term 1
Tuesday 23rd April	First day of Term 2
Thursday 25th April	Public holiday – no kinder
Sunday 5th May	Cake stall at Flemington Farmers Market 9am – 1pm
Saturday 11th May	Kinder Working Bee 9am – 11am
Thursday 31st May	Registrations for 4 year-old kinder close
Monday 3rd June 2019	Registrations for 3 year-old kinder open

Find us on 

Follow our Facebook page and keep up to date with all the news and upcoming events!

Search for our page:

www.facebook.com/ascotkinder

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.jellisraig.com.au

