Welcome to Term 2 at Blossom Park Kindergarten! It has been an especially busy first term; the most noticeable and exciting thing is the brand new “Wattle” room! I’m sure all families, especially those who were around for the building of it, will agree that it looks fantastic and will be a huge asset to Blossom Park kindergarten in the years to come. A big thank you must go to staff and the committee of 2013 for all the extra hours that went into ensuring that our two room centre was ready for the 2014 school year. 

Family Opening Night

Our family night to celebrate the opening of the Wattle Room, back in March, was a massive success, and we can’t thank the families, past and present, of Blossom Park Kindergarten enough for their generosity and support. The chilly weather certainly didn’t affect the turn-out. We raised over $2000 on the night; these funds will go towards the existing gardens, planting next to the Wattle room and general landscaping. The best thing about the night was seeing the kindergarten so busy and alive with children and their families.

Staffing

As many of you would be aware, Term One has also been a term of staff changes. Our long term Educator, and Director, Abbey, has taken 3 months leave. While we look forward to her return in Term 3, we are thankful to Kate, who has been able to look after the Gumnuts group in Abbey’s absence. Kate is also a team educator of the Blossom group, and Educator of the Cherubs. Nicole P. has taken on the Director’s role. The assistant for the Bilbies and Joey’s group, Danni, has also unfortunately left us for a new position. We wish her all the best and thank her for being part of BPK. In her absence, and while looking for a new staff member, Mary has been filling in, along with Angela and Carmel taking on extra shifts. The Kinder is lucky to have staff that are always willing to help out where they can.

Term Two already looks set to be full of fun! The staff are busy preparing for the special Mothers nights over the next fortnight, and the children are extremely excited about coming to kindergarten in the evening.

The incursions for term 2 will be Enerjive and Reptile Encounters; dates and details will be advised closer to the time.

We are also hoping to hold a WORKING BEE at some stage this term; it will involved general clean-up and maintenance around the kindergarten and play areas, and we would love to see as many families as possible come and help out, even if its just for an hour. Many hands make light work. Once a date is set, details will be sent home.

A BOOK FAIR has been planned for the 27th and 29th May, books can make a great gift for your child! All proceeds go to the kindergarten. There are books available to suit all ages of children, not just kindergarten age. We would love to see as many families as possible attend!

What’s on for Term Two

Dates for the Diary

Mothers Day Evenings:
All run from 6.00—7.30pm
Blossom - Monday 5th May
Joey’s - Wednesday 7th May
Azalea - Thursday 8th May
Bilbies - Monday 12th May
Cherubs - Wednesday 14th May
Gumnuts - Thursday 15th May

Friday 16th May:
Orders for Springhill Farm fundraising due

Thursday 22nd May:
Committee Meeting

Week beginning 19th May:
Kindergarten photos
Gumnuts – Monday 19th May
Bilbies – Tuesday 20th May
Azalea – Wednesday 21st May
Joey’s - Wednesday 21st May
Blossom – Thursday 22nd May
Cherubs – Friday 23rd May

Tuesday 27th May:
Book Fair 5.30 - 7.30pm

Thursday 29th May:
Book Fair 5.30 - 7.30pm

Monday 9th June:
QUEEN’S B’DAY HOLIDAY - No Kindergarten sessions
Three year old Kindergarten

Enrolments are now being taken for our three year old kindergarten program. Forms are available from the kinder or the website. Please note—Blossom Park Kindergarten’s Three Year Old enrolment policy states that children MUST be three by 31st January in the year they will attending the three year old program.

Gates

It has been noted that gates, especially the one leading directly into the playground, have not been securely closed after parents have entered/exited the kinder. The gates are our only source of security at the kinder, not only do they keep unwanted visitors out, but they keep our little ones in! On both entry and exit please check behind you that the gates are securely closed. The gates are not swings! Children should not climb, swing or perform any other “tricks” with the gates. Our gates can be temperamental, so please look after them.

Uniforms

While uniforms are not compulsory, they do come in handy! If you would like to purchase any uniform items, order forms are available from the committee office. Wind-cheaters are now available for the cooler months.

Snack time

Blossom Park Kindergarten encourages and promotes healthy eating, therefore snacks need to reflect this. Fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese and cold meats are acceptable. Water is the only drink allowed at kinder. As per our policy, sandwiches are introduced in Term Four as part of school-readiness.

Cooler Weather

During the cooler months, we remind parents to ensure children have a warm jacket and beanie (labelled) for outside play. Gumboots aren’t encouraged as it can make it difficult for little feet to still climb and run around.

Fundraising News

Our fundraising officers have been hard at work this year! After the success of the Family night, which was the major fundraiser for Term One, they have listened to past feedback and backed it up with a healthy fundraiser! You can get a box or more of Springhill Farm’s wholesome slices and biscuits, and sell them for $1.50 each or buy the whole box yourself! Taste -tested by committee, they were given the thumbs up! Forms need to be in the fundraising box by Friday 16th May, and final payments due by Friday 20th June.

2014 Committee

President: Danielle Schroeders (Joeys)
Vice President: Chris Van der Poel (Joeys)
Treasurer: Elena Ciavarella (Gumnuts)
Secretary: Emma Curran (Joeys)
Enrolment Officer: Julia Mancuso (Gumnuts)
Fundraising Officers: Cinzia Bommarito (Joeys) & Bianca O’Connor (Bilbies)
OHS Officer: Nicole Dindevski (Blossom)
Maintenance Officer: Danielle Scarmozzino (Gumnuts)

Uniform Officer: Nicole Dindevski (Blossom)
General Members:
Adriana Ackar (Gumnuts)
Sarah Waterhouse (Bilbies)
Emily Duffell (Azalea)
Belinda Petkovski (Gumnuts)
Sally Nejkoski (Gumnuts)

Our next meeting is at 7:00pm, Thursday 22nd May. Please let a member of the committee know if there is anything you would like discussed at this meeting or if you would like to attend.
**End of sessions**

We kindly ask parents to wait outside the gate to the Banksia room at the end of sessions until all children have gone back inside for their end of session routine. With 2 groups needing to share the outside playspace, it means a group may still be outside if parents arrive early. We also remind parents that siblings are not to use the play equipment left outside, and that they are the parents responsibility if they do.

We also ask parents to keep siblings from knocking on the windows when waiting for the end of the session. The Educators are trying to keep the children engaged in routines until the very end of the session, and some groups, especially the younger ones, can be disrupted by seeing their family members at the window. We appreciate your support with this.

**Parent Helpers**

We always welcome parents to come help out during their child’s sessions; there is a roster near the sign in book, and is a great way to see what your child does at kinder, and who they socialize with. It’s also a nice way to get to know your Educators. There is no obligation to stay for the entire session, even an hour is appreciated. It’s not just for Mums and Dads, either, if grandparents, aunties, uncles, etc would like to help out, they are more than welcome!

**Your trash is our treasure!**

We need your trash! CLEAN 1 litre milk cartons would be greatly appreciated. Any other CLEAN bits and pieces would also be happily received, such as boxes, items for dress-ups or anything you think could be of use at kindergarten. We are also in need of spare clothing, especially in smaller sizes, CLEAN underwear, socks and girls clothing. Size 000 clothing for dolls would also be greatly appreciated!

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**Blossom Park Kindergarten is on the web!**

Nicole P. has been hard at work updating our webpage to make it easier to find information. On the website you will find important dates, forms to download, and newsletters. Check it out at http://www.blossomparkkindergarten.vic.edu.au/

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**Please support these local businesses that supported us at the Family Night!**

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<tr>
<th>Fiddly-Bits Handmade party crafts</th>
<th>Simone Perele - University Hill</th>
<th>Buzy Kidz - Sth Morang</th>
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<td>Café Vivere</td>
<td>Kmart</td>
<td>Kids Space - Epping</td>
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<td>FryDays Fish’n’Chips - Mill Park</td>
<td>Avanti Restaurant, Witchmount Winery</td>
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<td>Fifth Avenue Jewellers</td>
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