

REFLECTING ON THE SPIRIT OF HARMONY DAY— “EVERYONE BELONGS”

As we approach the end of the first term at Aspley East Kindy, I trust that you have all enjoyed the beginning of this exciting new adventure with your child. As we head towards the first break for the year I would like to take a moment to reflect upon what we have achieved at kindy in this first term of the year.

On the 23rd and 27th March the kindy will celebrate Harmony Day on 21st March. Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Each year the kindy celebrates Harmony Day by inviting an Indigenous Australian performer to come to the kindy. Lucas Proudfoot from Circular Rhythm has an amazing show that incorporates traditional music and cultural education. Check out some clips of his performances [here](#).

We all live in an ever changing and increasingly global world, with many difficulties and challenges to face which include war, famine and degradation of natural resources. This generation of children will need to use their understanding, empathy and sense of tolerance to work together for a sustainable planet and hopefully for a more peaceful world.

Harmony Day is not just an opportunity to learn about cultural diversity but to celebrate the value of difference and how this difference can help us to appreciate other ways of seeing and living in the world. This Harmony Day we are asking you to think within your family about how you enact values of respect and tolerance? Remembering that children learn about the world by observing those around them, do you show children how to be tolerant? Do you speak about difference in a positive way? There are some [fantastic resources](#) which can help you to speak about difference with your child and answer some of the tricky questions that children often ask!

Inclusiveness, respect and tolerance are fundamental values at Aspley East Kindy and something that we strive to enact everyday in our engagement with families and children at kindy.

Happy Harmony Day to all!

Marie White—Centre Director



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Teaching team update.....	2
Aspley East kindy culture	2
Working bee update	3
The importance of laughter	4
Kindergarten committee	5
Inclusion information	5
AEK history	6

DATE CLAIMER

- **COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday 11th March

- **FEES DUE**

Friday 1st May

- **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Wednesday 1st April (M/T/W)

Thursday 2nd April (Th/Fr)

- **HARMONY DAY
SHOWS**

Monday 23rd March &

Friday 27th March

- **WORKING BEE**

Saturday 28th March 8am-12pm

WELCOME KAMAY TO THE TEACHING TEAM

In the last newsletter you would remember the announcement that Jenny Knight left the kindy in 2014 to pursue a new career path. During the school holidays Marie and the kindergarten committee conducted interviews from applicants for the assistant position in the Thursday/Friday Unit 2 group

for 2015.

On behalf of the management committee I am pleased to announce that Kamay Eades has been appointed to this position and will work with Emily Clark (Teacher) for 2015.

*“Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress
Working together is success”
Henry Ford*

AT ASPLEY EAST...

WE DO PLEASE

WE DO THANK YOU

WE DO I'M SORRY

WE DO HUGS

WE DO LAUGHTER

WE DO RESPECT

WE DO MISTAKES

WE DO HAPPINESS

WE DO PEACE

WE DO GROWING

WE DO FRIENDSHIP

WE DO HELPING

WE DO CARING

WE DO KINDNESS

WE DO LEARNING

WE ARE FAMILY

2

KINDY CULTURE

In the last newsletter, we wrote about the way in which we establish our culture, our rules and our expectations with new groups of children. This is an ongoing task and one which we revisit often throughout the year.

Something that the staff hold as very important and you will notice in the programs here at Aspley East is our belief in the importance of relationships to learning. Since we know how important relationships are to learning, we need to focus a significant part of our curriculum on the development of social/emotional skills. Without social emotional skills, children cannot learn as effectively and cannot make the most of their learning.

The difficulty with this type of teaching/learning is that it can be difficult to spot. You won't see this type of teaching displayed on a poster of letters or numbers and you will likely not see it in the daily slide show, but if you look and listen closely, you will see and feel it. When teachers spend time helping two children to solve a problem or when teachers plan to incorporate a particular game into the program in order to help the children learn to take a turn, we are increasing their social and emotional development. Creating a positive, warm and supportive learning environment also allows children to feel safe and to function to the best of their ability.

It makes sense then, that if social emotional skills help children to access their learning more readily and successfully, that the development of these skills significantly predominates in the teaching and learning program. Sometimes there is an assumption that the type of academic learning that occurs in school has little correlation with one's emotions or the social environment. Neuroscience has helped us to understand that this assumption is mistaken. We now know that there are direct links between emotions and learning. The same research has also demonstrated that systematic teaching of social emotional skills paves the way for better academic learning.



One of the marvellous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way that we couldn't as individuals . When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people.

WORKING BEES

The first working bee for the kindy year is scheduled for:

Saturday 28th March 2015 8am—12pm

There are four working bees during the kindy year and each working bee is allocated to one of the different classes. This working bee is the responsibility of the **UNIT 1 Monday/Tuesday/Alt Wed families.**

All working bees for the year have been set and can be found on the 2015 Dates to Remember (if you have lost your copy of this, it is also posted on the kindy website).

Keep your eyes out for a list of jobs that need to be completed and please sign on for something that you are happy to help out with. If you are unable to come to the working bee, please have a look at the list and see if you could complete any of the jobs at another time. Please have a chat with Marie in the office if you are wondering about jobs that you might help out with.

The kindy relies on help from families to keep the kindy maintained and in good condition. We ask that you please set aside this one morning in the year to help keep our kindy in good condition. There are some big jobs to achieve this year and we are very lucky to have recruited an enthusiastic and dedicated Maintenance Co-ordinator John Andrews (Unit 2 MTW group).



John and Lee Andrew's son Lachlan helps his dad to bring in some mulch for the fruit trees.

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM KINDY

As you would have noticed, drop off and pick up times at kindy can be quite busy with so many people entering and leaving the kindy at the same time.

When you collect your child in the afternoon, please ensure that you have either spoken with one of the teachers or at least made contact to let the teachers know that you are leaving.

It is the responsibility of the staff to ensure that all children have left the kindy and only with authorised adults. In order to do this, we require families to see us before leaving the kindy.

If someone is collecting your child for the first time (and is listed as an authorised person in the enrolment booklet), please ensure that they are aware of this information and that they bring identification with them. Please also pass on this reminder to all other people who regularly collect your child.

If you require your child to be collected by a non-authorised person (not in the enrolment booklet), you will need to fill in a 'temporary authorisation' form which is available on the website.

ASPLEY EAST STAFF

MARIE WHITE

DIRECTOR/TEACHER

UNIT 1—THURS/FRI

DEBBIE QUIG

TEACHER

UNIT 1—MON/TUES/ ALT WED

SUE PEARSON

ASSISTANT

UNIT 1—MON/TUES/ALT WED

EMILY CLARK

TEACHER

UNIT 2—MON—FRI

PETA BAHRE

ASSISTANT

UNIT 2—MON/TUES/ALT WED

NICOLE HOMEWOOD

ASSISTANT

UNIT 1—THURS/FRI

CHERIE DUX

ASSISTANT

UNIT 2—MON-WED UNIT 1 TH/FRI

KAMAY EADES

ASSISTANT FOR 2015

UNIT 2—THURS/FRI

HELEN HUMPHRIES

ADMINISTRATION

MON/TUES/THURS/FRI



In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

Khalil Gibran

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ That laughter really is contagious? According to David Goleman, author of “Emotional Intelligence”, glee spreads so readily because our brains are built on open-loop circuits designed for detecting smiles and laughter that makes us laugh in response.
- ◇ Humour, laughter and playfulness stimulate creativity, communication and trust (even though our games and songs might seem purely frivolous, they serve a much deeper purpose!). Laughter even stimulates physical health such as strengthening the immune system, boosting energy, diminishing pain and reducing stress).
- ◇ Laughter benefits children’s social skills as it strengthens relationships, enhances teamwork, defuses conflict and attracts others to us.

So.....have a good laugh as often as possible!

Our C&K Curriculum also says that **Shared understandings occur when:**

- there is belief in all children
- there is enjoyment and engagement in the learning process
- achievements are celebrated

Children are learning to demonstrate joy, interest and involvement in learning **with and alongside adults who** demonstrate intent in progressing children’s onward learning journey **in living and learning environments that** are dynamic, engaging and open to many possibilities. **Families** are informed about their child’s learning and achievements.

KINDERGARTEN COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting for the kindergarten was held on Wednesday 18th February and was attended by....

All committee positions have now been filled. The following informal roles are available should anyone still wish to be involved in helping the kindy (without needing to attend committee meetings).

- Events co-ordinator for the kindy's 50th Anniversary in 2016

- Committee members for 50th Anniversary planning
- Fundraising co-ordinator
- Grants officer

Please come and see Marie in the office if you would like to help out in any of these roles.

When children play, they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand. This is why play is one of the foundations of the early years learning framework.

Inclusion at Aspley East

At Aspley East we practice a philosophy of inclusion. Inclusion at AEK means that everyone no matter their ability, gender or social circumstance are supported to engage fully in the educational program.

We feel that inclusion is not only important for children's learning, but is in fact a right of all participants in the community. We feel that the values of inclusion support strong attitudes of tolerance, kindness and respect.

Our kindergarten practices inclusion for all children, but especially for those who face challenges in their learning journey either due to disability, learning delays or difficult life circumstances.

Within the programs, inclusion is not just about allowing those with the above challenges to be here, but is much deeper and involves taking measures to support full participation.

Some examples of what this might look like are:

- Teaching sign language to the whole class to facilitate communication with a child who signs
- Purchasing toys and equipment that allow participation by anyone regardless of ability.
- Teaching children important values of inclusion: respect, support, tolerance, kindness, compassion etc.
- Teaching children about diversity in the world around them and promoting difference as a value, rather than something to be scared of.

What can parents do?

At Aspley East we feel that it is important to discuss difference openly and honestly with children, not to highlight how different those, for example, with disabilities are, but to recognise that we are really more the same than we are different. Some people just need a little extra support in order to do the same things that most children are able to do with no difficulty.

We take a very responsive approach to children's difficult questions about disability and difference and try to answer them honestly and openly (within their developmental level and ability to understand). Follow this link for a great article which explains how you can [respond to children's questions about difference](#).

ASPLEY EAST KINDY HISTORY

Aspley East Kindy has been operating since 1966 and has a rich history with many stories to be told.

In 2016 the kindergarten will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In order to prepare for this special celebration we are looking for parents who might be interested in either participating on a committee or helping out with other jobs. For example, we have some Kodachrome slides that need to be scanned using a special scanner. If anyone owns one of these and who can help in this task, please talk to Marie.

C&K ASPLEY EAST KINDERGARTEN

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ASPLEY EAST KINDY HISTORY—DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Aspley East Kindergarten and Preschool has been offering play based educational programs for children in the local community for almost 50 years!

As you can see here from this picture taken in the 70's, play has always been a part of the culture of kindergarten in C&K and here at Aspley East.

As the world continues to change at a rapid pace and technology continues to influence the way that we live our lives and engage in play and leisure activities, we continue to engage in many similar experiences with children that have been offered right from the kindergarten's beginnings.

Paint is one such experience that generations of children have enjoyed when coming to kindy and offers so many educational benefits.

We are so excited to begin prepa-



rations for the kindergarten's 50 year anniversary in early 2016. During the year we will ask families and children to play a role in preparing for this celebration and look forward to learning more about the kindy's history.

We hope that you enjoy this space in the newsletter to get to know a little more about this special place.

If you would like to be involved in the preparations, please come and have a chat with Marie in the office.

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE KINDY WEBSITE YET??

PLEASE GO TO THE WEBSITE AND SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AT KINDY

Through play in a C&K service your child will:

Build
personal and
emotional
resilience,
independence and
self-confidence

Learn
early literacy
and numeracy
skills

Explore,
interact and
appreciate
the world around
them

Be an
active
participant
in their own and
others' learning

Build an
understanding
and respect for their
own and others' social
and cultural
heritage

Learn
to share their
knowledge and ideas
with others through
engagement and
enjoyment in
the learning
process

Explore
media and
a variety of
technologies

Learn
to think
logically and
deeply

Explore
relationships
and developing
friendships

Build
increased control
of their physical
skills, and learn
about personal health
and hygiene

Represent
their understanding
and thinking
in many ways

Actively
negotiate
and create their own
play environments
and projects

Be
valued &
respected

Learn about
nutrition and
wellbeing

Learn to
appreciate the
ideas and thoughts
of others

Develop
social
skills

Be
supported
to transition
successfully to
school

Engage
in physical
activity