

Special Edition from the Kindergarten Management Committee

A community kindy means that we are a not-for-profit association. The word community kindy does not only mean we are not-for-profit, it means exactly what it says, we are a kindy of our community. We belong to this community and this community belongs to us. You have signed up for AEK for many reasons, we hope that one of those reasons is because you want your child to be enveloped in their community and to realise the real benefits of being educated in a participative and reciprocal community. Someone very wise once said 'it takes a village to raise a child'. We believe passionately in this idea and the underpinning philosophy. We believe that the child's experience of the world is enriched when they are surrounded by strong relationships with those that care for and educate them. A rich, diverse and tightly woven community enriches the child's experiences and educational potential.

One of the important functions of our kindy community is the management of the kindergarten. We the staff are so grateful for the work that the management committee do to keep our kindergarten operating. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee of 2015 for their efforts thus far with managing the kindergarten. Please enjoy this special edition of the newsletter with a number of updates on the activities of the kindergarten Management Committee.

Marie White—Centre Director



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IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE KINDY DISCO

We have needed to change the disco date to accommodate our fantastic DJ so the disco will now be held on **Friday 24th July**

6:00pm—7:30pm

Further details to come...



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

A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

A warm hello to parents from the Management committee of the Aspley East Kindergarten. The Management committee meets once a month to discuss various matters in operating the kindergarten and its finances - all parents are welcome to attend and participate. The next meeting will be at 7 PM on 10 June.

The last month or so has seen a number of exciting and challenging items at the kindergarten:

May 2015 flooding - On the afternoon of Friday 1 May very heavy rainfall across the north side of Brisbane resulted in stormwater flowing down the car park and through the playground of the Aspley East kindergarten. You may have already seen some of the photos distributed by email. We were lucky that the majority of children had already left the centre and the quick actions of the staff minimised the damage inside the centre. Please be assured that the committee is now approaching the Brisbane City Council with regards to the future plans in controlling stormwater, plus the staff are re-reviewing the evacuation and crisis management procedures for the centre. This includes contacting parents via a mass text message arrangement should evacuation be necessary and we ask that everyone provide Helen with their latest mobile phone and email details, if you have not already done so.

Special mention is made of the dedication of the staff who were present on the Friday afternoon in getting the centre evacuated and then prepared for the stormwater arrival, which minimised the damage inside. All available staff came back on Sunday 3 May to clean up

the centre and have it ready for children on Monday morning. The staff deserve our appreciation and thanks, so next time you come in to the kindergarten please say a special thank you to them.

Our 50th Anniversary Celebrations - 14 May 2016

in May next year the centre will be celebrating 50 years of providing kindergarten services to the community. The current plans for celebration include opening of the centre and a fair/fete on the Saturday afternoon. We would delight in having any old photographs provided to the centre such that we can provide a description of the history of the centre in pictures. A Facebook page been set up to allow past children, parents and teachers to place their comments and old photos (maybe even old paintings still kept!) and show others what the centre used to be like.

www.facebook.com/aspleyeastkindy. Is there anyone who has two, or even three generations who have attended the Aspley East Kindy?

We would also like people to register their interest for attendance at the fair and we also hope to run a fundraising dinner on the Saturday evening, with a guest speaker. A 50th anniversary subcommittee has been formed, to be coordinated by current parent Lee Andrews. We ask for anybody who wishes to be part of the subcommittee and assist in the planning to contact either Helen at the office or Lee Andrews on email lee4055@yahoo.com.au.

26 June 2015 - Launch of the 50th anniversary year and visit by three levels of government. At 9am on Friday 26 June 2015, a short commemoration and launch of our 50th year will be held with Luke Howarth (Federal MP for Petrie), Tracy Davis (State MP for Aspley), Councillor Amanda Cooper (Ward of Bracken Ridge) and C&K CEO Michael Tizard all attending. We hope to have a great photo of the politicians, the kids and the staff for inclusion in the local newspapers to raise the awareness of our forthcoming 50th anniversary in 2016.

Following the formalities, Marie and I intend to hold discussions with politicians on the current funding issues facing our kindergarten and the industry at large.

\$35,000 grant – the kindergarten has received a \$35,000 grant from the State government gambling fund to assist with continued improvement of the building. This money will be allocated towards continued replacement of the old doors and windows of the building, plus assisting with improvement of the resilience of the building to stormwater.

Donations to refurbish the Deck – recently John Andrews (our illustrious maintenance committee member) has organised for recoating of the rear deck. Through John's hard work he managed to obtain a significant amount of donated materials and decking oil to complete this task. We thank the **Paint Place Strathpine** and **Sikkens** for their kind donations of materials for this job. Any parents looking to do some painting in the future please consider those who have helped us out.

How the Centre operates - over the next month or so we intend to issue a short online survey to parents to assess whether the service suits the modern-day provision of kindergarten or whether any changes would be desirable for parents. It will primarily focus on the days and length of days provided for kindergarten, plus whether any services such as additional childcare hours would be desirable. We ask that you participate in this survey such that it can assist in future planning of the Centre's operations.

Help - We always need more help. Any parents who wish to provide any sort of assistance to the kindergarten either via their skills or on a monetary perspective, please get in contact with Helen, Marie or myself. It is greatly appreciated.

Doug Hawkes

President

Aspley East Kindergarten

Management Committee

PLAYGROUND

This is a reminder that the kindy playground is closed for use both before and after kindy hours. Please ensure that your children (including older and younger siblings) are aware of this expectation when you are coming to pick up your child from kindy.

This is a safety consideration and we would appreciate the cooperation of families in keeping children safe.

PARENT INFO...

There is a new place for families to access parenting supporting information. Behind the sign in desk there is a shelf with many different types of information.

Examples include:

- Parenting courses
- Community centres
- Playgroup information
- Support for domestic violence

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

JENNY KNIGHT

ASSISTANT

UNIT 2—THURS/FRI

HELEN HUMPHRIES

ADMINISTRATION

MON/TUES/THURS/FRI

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANTS

CHERIE DUX

MON/TUES/ALT WED/THURS/FRI

Fundraising

Thank you for your support of our first fundraiser for the kindy year. As a result of your support the kindergarten received \$360 to spend on resources for the children.

We have ordered a light box which we are very excited to explore with the children.



Working Bee Wrap Up

Thanks to the Unit 2 Mon/Tues/Wed families for their support at the second working bee for the kindy year. The day was a great success with many important jobs completed such as:

- Stripping the sandpit deck in preparation for new varnish
- Cleaning of the patio concrete
- Cleaning of the cubby house ready for painting
- Oiling of timber furniture

Community donations to the working bee:

- Flood Australia for the donation of Citrus Strip
- Strathpine Paint Place for donation of deck cleaner and safety items

Some words from the Maintenance Coordinator...

Another Working Bee done and dusted, with a great turnout of dedicated parents and teachers willing to get their hands dirty. As the old saying goes "many hands make light work". How true this is.

From the staff car park, through to the play ground and the eating area, the Kindy is looking superb. So a big thank you to everyone that came along on Saturday, a job well done.

Thank you Lee for the yummy savoury muffins that you baked, was a wonderful way to end a great morning.

The next Working Bee is (unit 1-Thu/Fri families) on the 15th August. So please come along and help keep this Kindy looking in tip top condition.

Many thanks from the maintenance coordinator,
Johnny.

Autumn Gardening Project

On Tuesday the 12th of May, I had great privilege in helping the kids from unit 2 in planting up both the veggie garden and the flower garden.

It was great to see so many enthusiastic children involved. The most challenging part of the morning was navigating those tiny fingers into the gardening gloves.

As we headed outside, Emily split us into groups of five, it was heads down and bums up as the planting begun, lettuce, silverbeet, basil, peas, beetroot, marigolds, pansys, and alysum were all planted. With a little love and care from all the green thumbs involved and the other kids from classes, I'm sure they will be eating healthy in the weeks to come.

I must say the future of Australian agriculture looks in safe hands.

Thanks to the teachers for allowing me be involved in this special event.

John Andrews (Parent of Lachlan Unit 2 Mon-Wed).

RENOVATIONS AND PLAYGROUND WORKS

As our kindy is approaching its 50th year, 2015 sees the continuation of a number of years of renovation and refurbishment works to the kindergarten. These works are being completed in order to keep the kindergarten looking good and functioning well. During the course of 2015 you are likely to see a number of improvement works happening at the kindy. We will keep families informed of any planned works in advance and all projects are conducted outside of kindergarten hours (Usually in school holiday periods).

We were very pleased to learn recently that the kindergarten was successful in a submission for a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant for \$35,000. The kindergarten submitted a grant to cover the cost of the continued project to replace the original doors and windows in the kindergarten.

This project continues on from the replacement of the big glass sliding doors which occurred in 2014. The kindergarten will continue this project, replacing the big glass sliding door which leads onto the playground in Unit 2 along with a number of other windows that are in need of replacement.

It is hoped that this project will occur during the June/July school holiday period.

A safety audit was recently conducted in the kindergarten grounds by an arborist from the Brisbane City Council who has identified a number of well established trees that require significant pruning and, in some cases, removal. This audit was conducted as a part of a Brisbane City Council schedule in order to maintain the health and safety of trees as well as those who use the grounds where trees are present.

One positive outcome of the audit is that the kindergarten has received approval to plant an established tree to replace any trees that are removed. Once this tree has been purchased, we will hold a special ceremony to plant it. Similarly to the aforementioned works, the tree works will likely happen during the June/July school holidays.

If you have any questions or concerns about these projects please do not hesitate to speak with Marie in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

FUNDRAISING GOALS

Big thanks to those who have already donated generously of their time and or goods to the kindergarten. On page four you would have read that we have already purchased our first item with fundraising monies from the pie drive.

The next fundraiser will be a Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 6th June (sign up to help at the sign in desk). Items that the kindergarten is hoping to purchase in 2015 are:

I Pads, shockproof and waterproof cameras, mirrors for the classrooms and various new toys.

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CENTRE POLICIES—COUGHS AND COLDS

With the cold and flu season well upon us, we ask that parents please revisit the C&K policy 'Exclusion due to illness'. This can be found on the [kindy website](#).

We understand that it can be very difficult when making decisions about whether your child is well enough to attend kindergarten. Please refer to the policy to guide your decision making and speak with your child's teacher if you are still unsure.

Whilst we appreciate the difficulties when making these decisions we ask that you please take into account not only your child's wellbeing but that of the other children and staff at the kindy who often subsequently become sick. As a general rule, if your child is not well enough to participate in all aspects of the kindy day and cannot manage their own runny nose hygienically, it is not appropriate to send them to kindy. We thank you in advance for your cooperation over this, hopefully short, cold and flu season.

ASPLEY EAST KINDY HISTORY

Did you know?

That Aspley East Kindergarten has educated more than **4400** local children during our 50 years of operation?!



Aspley East Kindy celebration on the block of land now occupied by 'The Learning Tree' - Date Unknown