



## THE END OF THE KINDY YEAR

As we are racing towards the end of the kindy year, it is so hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our time with this group of families and children. Each year it seems to fly by quicker and quicker and we never feel quite prepared to say goodbye!

As you would be aware we have been very busy over the last few months preparing our enrolments for the new kindy class of 2016. This time of the year is one of mixed feelings as we begin to meet and go through orientation for new children, we recognise the need to begin to say goodbye to our current groups.

While it is always sad to say goodbye, it is now with a sense of pride and satisfaction that we look upon how much the children in our groups have grown into independent, cooperative and caring individuals. It is our aim that the children do not leave Aspley East Kindy feeling sad, but looking forward with a sense of confidence and excitement about the beginning of their formal education.

An important part of our preparations for the end of the kindy year involves the writing of transition statements for each child. These statements have been mandated for early childhood based on the research evidence which has demonstrated the importance of positive transitions between educational services. When you receive your completed transition statement from your child's teacher, please pass it on to your child's school as soon as possible as this document will help your child's teacher to get to know them.

On Saturday 7th November we will be holding our orientation BBQ for the newly enrolled families. Similar to last year's event there will be a BBQ, children's entertainment and information for parents shared by the staff. If you were new to the kindergarten community in 2015, you might remember feeling excited, anxious and/or worried about what it might be like for your child. We would like to invite anyone who might be interested to help us out at the orientation for new families by being available to provide some advice and words of wisdom to new families. If you might be interested and can spare an hour of your time on this day, please come and have a chat with Marie.

**Marie White—Aspley East Kindy Director**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In the news .....	2
Transition to school .....	2
Working bee .....	3
Playground development.....	3
Management committee .....	4

### Fire Brigade

The kindy is having its annual visit from the local fire brigade on Monday 26th and Thursday 29th October.

The officers will talk with the children, show them the truck and observe the whole kindergarten conduct a fire drill.



### 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**

## IN THE NEWS

### Button Battery Awareness study

Over the last few years, button batteries have received increasing attention in media campaigns which aim to educate the public about the danger that button batteries pose to young children if ingested.

The Queensland University of Technology are looking for participants to support a new research project which aims to identify parents' and carers of children aged 0-6 views about Coin Lithium Button Batteries (commonly called button batteries) and the products that

contain them.

If you are interested in participating, please click on the link below which will take you to the research information and an online survey:

<https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/184509/3623/>

If you would like to learn more about button batteries, follow this link

<http://thebatterycontrolled.com.au/>

### Transition to school

As the end of the year approaches, we are increasingly thinking about the transition that children and families will soon experience as they move on to formal educational settings.

The transition to school can be a time of great excitement but also hesitation about the changes ahead. Responding to increasing evidence about the impact of transition experiences to school, a number of early childhood organisations have developed a range of resources to support families and educators. Taking a community based approach to transitions means that everyone involved in a child's life should take responsibility for support the transition to school. This means families, schools and kindergartens working together.

Aspley East Kindy has, for a long time, worked closely with as many local schools as possible, not only to share information about children each year, but to develop working understandings of our respective teaching approaches and curriculums. While there is increasing public debate about play based learning and the role of play in schools, the benefits of working relationships between teachers in different settings is undoubted.

Please find below a number of resources that might be of interest to families in considering what you can do at home to support your child's transition to school.

A school readiness fact sheet:

[http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CPR\\_Vol14No3\\_PS\\_SchlRead.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CPR_Vol14No3_PS_SchlRead.pdf)

A site for parents about starting school:

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=122&id=1770>

Practical tips for the first few weeks:

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/starting\\_school.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/starting_school.html)

## FUNDRAISING

Thanks to Melita Toon for organising the family photo day fundraiser at the kindy on Sunday 11th October. Thanks to Melita's efforts the event has raised around \$400 for the kindy.

Just a reminder for families who had a photo taken that the viewing will be happening here at the kindy on Wednesday 28th October at 2:00-4:00pm.

## PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT

If you read the last newsletter you would be aware that the kindergarten was in the initial stages of planning some redevelopment to our playground. I am pleased to now announce that funding for this project has been secured and therefore, part of the kindergarten playground will be undergoing redevelopment in the Christmas holidays.

The kindergarten staff have started working closely with a landscaper who has already completed a number of projects for the kindergarten. We will share some drawings with families and children once they are completed and will be interested in hearing your ideas and feedback.

In the meantime, have a chat to the teachers about the project if you would like to hear more about our exciting plans to transform the outdoor learning space. Please also feel free to send in any photos of interesting play spaces that you might have seen along the way, we would love some more inspiration.

## Working Bee—Saturday 21st November

### Thursday/Friday Unit 2 Families

(Emily and Kamay's group)

Just a reminder to Unit 2 Thursday/Friday families that it is your turn to host the next kindy working bee. Some of the jobs scheduled for this working bee includes:

- Cleaning of the patio concrete
- Tidying and trimming in the kindy carpark
- Blowing and cleaning the concrete in the back garden
- Painting walls and touching up paint outdoors

Please look out for a sheet to sign up for jobs near the sign in desk.

## FEES

Please be advised that kindy fees were due on 16th October 2015. There are still a number of fees outstanding, please make contact with Helen in the office if you have not paid your fees.

## 50TH CELEBRATIONS

Would you like to purchase a 50th Anniversary Aspley East kindy t shirt?

These specially designed shirts will be on sale for families enrolling in 2016 however are available for purchase for any family who would like one. Please see Helen or Marie in the office if you would like one.



## A WORD FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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A warm hello to parents. 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 11 November.

**Nearly There** – As the end of the kindergarten year approaches, it is a worthwhile time to look back and reflect on how your son or daughter has developed from their experiences at the Aspley East kindergarten. I hope that there has been enjoyment, growth and also some preparation for entering into school next year.

When at the kindy, please take a moment to thank Marie, Emily, Debbie, Peta, Kamay, Nicole, Sue, Cherie and Helen for their wonderful efforts throughout the year.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations - 14

**May 2016** – A reminder to all departing parents that next year will be the centre's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We hope you return to support the 2016 activities and please keep up to date on the plans at [www.facebook.com/aspleyeastkindy](http://www.facebook.com/aspleyeastkindy). The organising subcommittee is chaired by current parent Lee Andrews and if you would like to engage with Lee, her contact email is [lee4055@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lee4055@yahoo.com.au).

**Fundraising Efforts** – Over the year, the kindergarten has undertaken a number of fundraising events, including a Bunnings BBQ, photography sittings, raffles on the disco night and others. A particular thank you to the fundraising coordination by Melita Toon and to Maryanne Coggins for the organization of the Bunnings BBQ and disco raffle.

**Assistance from Council** – We have been planning to undertake works over the Christmas break to repair some of the flood damage out in the playground. As part of that plan, we have sought a solution that will make the area more flood-water resilient, if flooding occurs again. We have approached the Brisbane City Council to assist with the additional costs over and above the insurance repair costs and we are very grateful for their contribution of \$9,025.

I am sure Marie will raise the emergency plans that everyone should be aware of should heavy rainfall leading to flooding occur.

**Maintenance** – Johnny Andrews has worked tirelessly for the kindergarten this year. Johnny puts in a heap of effort fixing the little things up around the place, planning the working bees, and identifying and organizing major works that need to be priced, approved and then done. Well Done Johnny. He has enjoyed it so much, he may be back next year!

**The future** – Members of the committee held a dedicated discussion on a recent Sunday afternoon on the long term planning for the kindergarten. Long term sustainability of the kindy, in its current form, presents some challenges. Some interesting thoughts came out of the discussion, but there was a key theme that was consistently expressed as being a necessity for the future – that the core values, the welcoming nature and the fantastic culture not change. We may seek one final survey from parents towards the end of the term on your thoughts for the future. Also, please feel free to communicate any thoughts you may have directly on [dhawkes@siepl.com.au](mailto:dhawkes@siepl.com.au) or 0417 716 390.

**Committee Thank You** – Thank you to the management committee of 2015. The work of the committee has continued on the now 50 years of tradition of community contribution into a wonderful cause by providing a great little kindergarten. I would like to express my personal appreciation for the efforts of all the committee members: Kirsten O'Conner (diligently preparing agendas and minutes every month), Liz Dillon (preparing the accounts), John Andrews, Nyleta McRae, Maryanne Coggins, Melita Toon and earlier in the year Brad Mells and Erryn Glew. A special thank you to Marie, Debbie and Emily who also participate in each meeting.

We wish all parents, children and staff all the best for the remainder of 2015.

Doug Hawkes

President

Aspley East Kindergarten Management  
Committee





**Jack and the Beanstalk is on at the Brisbane Arts Theatre until 14 November. Find details on the Brisbane Arts Theatre website**