Welcome to South Kingsville Pre-School 2012

Welcome to all those families new to us in 2012, and to those returning; we hope you had a safe and restful summer break.

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Joining our team of 3-year-old Educators this year are Janine Dawson and Rachel Brown. We are all delighted to have Janine and Rachel join us and look forward to sharing their skills and passion with Emma, Elissa and Dawn and the wider kinder community.

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The Pre-School is committed to building healthy partnerships with our families and ensuring positive communication between home and kinder.

We do not conduct formal interviews, but instead promote an ongoing communication process, encouraging parents and carers to approach us in person at drop-off or pick-up time if they have any issues or concerns they would like to discuss. Those not able to get to kinder for a chat are welcome to call or email us.

Of course, kinder duty is a fantastic way to get a hands-on feel for how your child is settling in and to have a chat with their teachers about their progress. The children also love to show you around their kinder and share their favourite activities with you.

In addition to kinder duty, we are always keen to facilitate family participation in our programs, so feel free to talk to us if you have any skills, ideas or suggestions you would like to share.

The group Reflection Folder located at the sign-in desk is another great way to get a feel for what is going on inside the kinder room. The folder is updated regularly throughout the term with photos and information about our ever-changing program.

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We are currently looking for a parent from each group to act as our Social Reps. This person typically organises a class contact list so families can organise their own catch-ups, as well as organising the occasional group play date or coffee morning. Jemma Reynolds has kindly offered to do this for our Cockatoos, but we would love to have a Social Rep for each group. These added activities are part of what makes our kinder such a warm and friendly community.

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We also have a reminder for those picking up their children from the Monday and Tuesday morning Groups. These sessions finish at 2pm, leaving just half an hour before the next Groups start at 2.30pm. With such a tight timeframe, we will be setting up
activities for the next Group as the earlier Groups finish. It would be greatly appreciated if parents collecting their children from the earlier sessions could restrict their children from playing with the newly set up activities. Your co-operation with this request will be greatly appreciated.

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The New Year also means a new volunteer committee of management. We have a number of returning and new members joining us this year, and their first business for 2012 involved reviewing our kinder philosophy.

While our overall commitment to providing a high-quality, play-based service remains unchanged, the team put a great deal of time and thought into working with our Educators to define our vision, mission and values at a recent Sunday morning workshop. The workshop was professionally facilitated by one of our parents with expertise in the field and proved to be an extremely rewarding process. We look forward to sharing the final document with you as soon as it is finalised.

Those interested in finding out a bit more about the committee and its’ work are welcome to attend one of our monthly Monday night meetings at the kindergarten. Meeting dates for this term include: 13 February, 5 March and 26 March.

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Further kinder news can be found in our newsletter, which will continue to be printed once each term, but ongoing updates will be posted on our new website. If you haven’t added this to your favourites already, it is well worth a look at www.skps.vic.edu.au.

In the meantime, we are all looking forward to getting to know our new groups and another great kinder year in 2012.

**Elissa Stafford**
Director, South Kingsville Pre-School