The 5th of June 2012 was World Environment Day and we celebrated by being involved in an Eco-Carnivale!

The Craft Group from the Community Centre kindly made us calico bags, as an alternative to using plastic shopping bags, and the Kookaburras and Rosellas had a wonderful time hand-painting unique designs on these bags.

The bags went on sale for $5. Thank you for supporting our kindergarten and this wonderful cause!

This project encouraged discussion about sustainability and the reasons why we need to care for our world - a key principle in our new Educational Philosophy.

Thank you to Dawn for initiating this wonderful project and raising our awareness of World Environment Day.
I’m reading *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee again – trying to find my inner Atticus! Such a wise and patient man...

But let me start with the news! South Kingsville Pre School recently submitted a Grant Application to Mobil Australia to create a sensory garden in the playground. We have been awarded $4,000 to see this project come to life, which is incredibly exciting for us and for all the children who, before the end of the year, will have a whole new aspect to their outside play space.

As we are bound by time for the completion of this project, we will need help, and will be dedicating the next few working bees to the sensory garden. At this stage though, I would like to put a call out to anyone who is a landscape designer, or knows a landscape designer, who would be happy to come and have a look at the space and finalise the plans. Let your imagination (along with your inner child!) run wild. Please contact anyone on the committee or the staff. It would be greatly appreciated.

There was not a lot of interest from the parent community about the Quality Improvement Plan focus group, but my grateful thanks go to Tina Akers (Cockatoos) and Louise Mirabile (Kookaburras) for putting up their hands. Although the group is small, we have decided to go ahead with it and we would really appreciate any input anyone else would like to have.

We held an Information Night on 22 May to unveil our 2013 timetable and talk about our program. The evening was well attended, with many parents relieved to hear that we will be running a three-year-old program in addition to two 15-hour programs for the four-year-olds. If you would like to know more about the timetable, please see our staff or one of our committee members.

I hope to see everyone at the movie night on Friday 15th June to share some pizza and watch *Aladdin*.

Until then, enjoy your time with your little ones because no matter how frustrating or hard it is at the moment, this time will pass and she will no longer be dressing up as a princess dancing around the living room with the dog.
The children have continued to be very busy learners. We had lots of wonderful discussions about our mums in the lead up to Mother’s Day. All the children were very keen to contribute and explain what makes their Mum so special, and both groups shared a lovely morning or afternoon tea with their mums, grans and special grown-ups, surprising them with the beautiful presents they had made.

The Cockatoos have been busy exploring transport in all its shapes and forms. In exploring this theme we have had a great time learning new songs, reading stories and both genders have enjoyed constructing roads, railways and beautiful cities, alone, in small groups and on joint projects.

The Lorikeets have developed an interest in animals and have been spending a lot of time making habitats for them. A group of children created a very large zoo, inspiring great conversations about the different animals and lots of opportunities for group play.

Both the Cockatoos and Lorikeets have been experimenting with ink painting. First they used dye to create colourful backgrounds then they added detail with fine-line markers. They all really loved the experience and the results are wonderful. It is great to see them all so proud of their beautiful art works.

School Readiness

Soon it will be that time of the year when we begin to think of getting our 4 and 5 year olds packed and ready for school.

It is important to us that families are involved in decision making about their child’s learning and well being. Please make a time with your child’s educator if you would like to discuss their developmental progress or school readiness.

You may also find it useful to attend a lecture by Kathy Walker, an expert in the field of school readiness. She is delivering a free seminar at Hobsons Bay City Council on Thursday 28th June 2012.

Find out more information and how to register on our website. Go to the Parents menu and click on the Transition to School link.
The children started the term by talking and drawing about what they had done over their holidays, and for many that included celebrating Easter. It was a great opportunity to reflect and share their family experiences.

We had a hospital scene set up in the kinder room, which proved a great springboard to imaginative play and acting out scenes which some of the children may be familiar with. The children negotiated and communicated the different roles and characters associated with a hospital. Play like this really helps extend our children’s knowledge and understanding, as well as their skills, attitudes and achievements. In this case it also lead on to many interesting conversations about jobs, how we earn money and what we would like to be when we grow up.

We have also said a few farewells. Fourth-year VUT student, Rebecca, leaves us after a very successful placement and we have said a very sad goodbye to Campbell, as he begins his new journey in his new house and kinder.

We celebrated Mother’s Day with a special afternoon tea and the children were very excited to have their mums, grandmothers, and special visitors join us. After tea we did some dancing and played outside before presenting each of our guests with their very own hand painted plates and some special words on why the children love their mum.

What else? The children had an opportunity to climb into a real fire engine, thanks to Simone’s dad Peter, who is a fire-fighter. He just happened to be driving past kinder!

The children’s interest in magnifying glasses extended into creating treasure maps, jewels and a treasure chest. While outside, the children continued with this theme, hiding ‘jewels’ around the playground. They were very excited and ran around the yard with their maps looking for the precious jewels and gems. Many treasures didn’t make it into the chest past their pockets!

We have brought in the woodwork table and the children have been exploring, investigating and hypothesizing about what is inside an old laptop and DVD machine. The screwdrivers have certainly had a beating!

We look forward to many more adventures!
ROSELLAS – Emma & Dawn

Everyone has been so settled and busy this term. The ‘hospital’ has been a very popular place with lots of great role-play and now we have a ‘cafe,’ which the children also love. So much has been going on around the room I could go on and on and on, but here is a brief snapshot.

At the end of term one the children acted out the story of *The Three Little Pigs* as part of their group activity – they loved it so much they are now doing *Goldilocks and The Three Bears*.

Our focus on culture and diversity has seen the children explore the idea of ‘Who am I?’ Rebecca, our student educator, has been doing some small group work with the children as part of her placement, with the children talking about their family and making a collage of themselves.

On 8 June we had a Multicultural Lunch to follow on from this learning. The children came to kinder dressed up as different nationalities and parents were invited to bring along a dish to share. There were lots of foods from different cultures to try and some lovely family favourites.

Speaking of food, cooking continues to be a favourite activity for many of the children. When Will came to kinder telling us how he and his family had made pesto, Dawn organised all the ingredients and the children made their own (nut free) basil pesto from scratch, which we ate with pasta. Not only was this a great learning process, it was yummo to eat!

Dawn also made a beautiful tepee for our yard. The children have begun making decorations for it and love reading books and playing all sorts of games in it.

Earlier this term we had our first Group Meeting to find out what the children want to do at kinder and how we can improve it for everyone. We started by gathering in a circle and showing them a basket full of little treasures. Everyone was asked to choose one treasure from the basket and put it into our Talking Box. By placing a treasure into the box we were all consenting that we would listen to the person who was holding the Talking Box. So the only person who could talk at the meeting was the person holding the Talking Box.

Sounds good in theory, right! Well it worked really well. It was a very successful first meeting and we collected some great feedback from the children. For example:

*Sylvie* said: ‘I want to make it the biggest place in the world by just building another part because then there would be more rooms to put stuff and play.’

*Becker* said: ‘I want to play play dough and read storybooks – we already have those at kinder. I think we have everything already.’

*Kami* said: ‘I think more dress ups, girls and boys dress-ups.’

*Oliver* said: ‘It would be good to have a big bedroom upstairs. We could also have a cup of tea.’

A big thank you to Genevieve’s mum, Katrina, has donated some carpet squares. They make perfect yoga mats, giving the children their own space and reminding them of where their bottom needs to be when doing the yoga poses.

We have started talking about recycling and will focus on this subject more in the coming weeks. There has been a lot of interest from the children and many of them already know so much about this topic.

We say farewell this term to our fourth-year VUT student, Rebecca. Thank you to everyone for making her stay with us so enjoyable and helping her with her units of work by providing information and photos of their child. It has been great to have Rebecca in the kinder room and we wish her all the best as she completes her studies.
Fundraising Report

Our Bunnings BBQ will be held in September. Please keep your eye out for a notice in your pocket and on the website. We would appreciate your support on the day and it is also a great opportunity to redeem your $50 maintenance levy!

Picture plates are always one of our most popular fundraisers. If you didn’t get your order in on time, don’t worry, we are ordering extra templates. Simply ask at the kinder office. You can never have too many handcrafted dinner plates!

The Mother’s Day Raffle was a great success! We raised over $900! This money will be put towards the creation of our sensory garden. Thank you to the families who sold raffle tickets and congratulations to the lucky prizewinners!

We always welcome your feedback. If you have suggestions on how we can improve on current fundraising initiatives or you have a brand new idea, please speak to a committee member or send us an email via the website.

The autumn leaves falling off the trees and vines in our outdoor area have provided the children with inspiration to create beautiful pieces of art. There was much excitement about mixing the paints to colour match the leaves.

Please take the time to look at these gorgeous creations next time you deliver or collect your child.

Some of them are worth framing!
Healthy Eating

We have been promoting healthy eating by cooking some of the delicious vegetables we’ve grown in our kinder garden. Recently, the Kookaburras have enjoyed making bok choy noodles and vegetable soup.

The Rosellas showed interest in Japanese food so they made their very own Nori Rolls. Delicious!

Please help us to promote healthy eating by providing appropriate, nutritious snacks in the children’s lunchboxes. If you are stuck for ideas, look up the Parents page on our website, where you will find a list of suggestions.

Thank you for your support!

REMINDER

Our Newsletter is now online! This will be the final printed version! Don’t miss out on vital kinder news. Leave your email address at the kinder office TODAY!

Website Updates

If you haven’t had an opportunity to browse our new-look website, do so NOW!

We have recently added two new links on the Noticeboard. Our ‘Community Partners’ page acknowledges the support of local businesses and our ‘In the News’ page includes our latest press releases.

Our brand new Educational Philosophy can also be found on the website. We are very proud to have such an inspirational philosophy to help guide our decision-making and best practice.

The website is the first place to look for breaking news about program events, new policies and enrolments. Speaking of enrolments, don’t forget that enrolments for 3-year-old kinder in 2014 opened on June 1st 2012. Don’t miss out on a place! Download the Registration Form from the website TODAY!

WASH YOUR HANDS!

We aim to improve our hygiene practices by encouraging children to wash their hands prior to entering the kinder room. A hand wash pump will be placed on the sign-in desk. We will also display new posters in the wash area and encourage children to think of other ways we can practice better hygiene.
EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY
We exist to help guide our children to discover their own potential – to develop confidence, resilience and happiness to belong to and shape their own world.

OUR PRINCIPLES
We believe in the educational and developmental power of a play based and emergent curriculum.

We believe in fostering freethinking and creative minds.

We believe in the critical role of working with families for the development and growth of the child.

We believe in developing the whole child – nurturing the child’s well being through an independent mind, a healthy body and their understanding of their place in a sustainable world.

We believe in the core principle of respect and care – for yourself, for those around you (by embracing differences) and for your world.

Quality Area 1

1.1.2 Each child’s current knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program.

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1.1.4 The documentation about each child’s program and progress is available to families.

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