The 26th of August 2012 was the SKPS Open Day and we celebrated with farm animals, face painting, a sausage sizzle and cake stall.

Thank you to all members of staff and committee for making the day a huge success. Thank you to all the mums and dads for baking sweet treats for our cake stall and supporting the day by bringing the children down to pet the animals and buy a sausage.

We would also like to thank Sandra from the Occasional Care Centre for opening her doors and being available for parents to ask questions.

We met many new families who were impressed with our facilities and our friendly, welcoming atmosphere. These events are an important part of building our community partnerships.
Welcome everyone to the end of Term 3 – I can’t believe it! My little person is in a three-year-old group and she seems to know so much more now than she did 6 months ago!

Once again it’s been a big term and the committee has been very busy updating our policies and adopting some new ones, to keep in line with the new regulations. If anyone is interested in having a look at our policies, they can be found in the parent library in the kinder room, or the new ones can be accessed through our website.

Things on the sensory garden front have not progressed as far as we would have liked, but it is still moving. We have had a landscape architect out to quote us on design plans and varying degrees of input for the implementation of the plans. As we have a small budget, we are considering reducing the scale of the project but I would still love anyone who has knowledge of, or even a flair for, this kind of project to have some input. We would be very grateful!

As we get closer to the end of the year and our AGM, I would like to bring to mind the opportunity of joining our Committee of Management. Being part of the committee is an excellent way to get a closer look at how the kindergarten is run and to have a direct input into the kinder experience of your child and that of many others. It doesn’t require business experience or even any previous experience of management or committees. The most important thing you need is enthusiasm and a desire to contribute to your community. We were all new to the role once and felt a bit out of our comfort zone, unsure of what we were doing. It is a supportive environment and no one is asked to do anything they are not comfortable doing.

South Kingsville is a wonderful place for our children to be spending their early years of education but it would not function without our committed staff and the vital support they receive from the committee. If you are interested in contributing in this way please don’t hesitate to contact me, or any of the other committee members. We will happily answer any questions you may have. You can find the committee members on your left as you enter the front door. For what it’s worth, I have been on the committee for 5 years now and I feel grateful for the experience. I have learnt an enormous amount, met some wonderful people and just enjoyed spending so much time in such a wholesome and fun environment.

“'The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving of what you have, but in giving of who you are.”’

Johnnetta B. Cole

Safe holidays everyone – Mel Shanahan
The 3-year-old groups have been learning all about farm animals and farms. We were fortunate to have a very special incursion to complement the children’s interest; ‘Farmer Kevin’ paid us a visit and brought with him some beautiful baby animals. The children had an opportunity to hold, feed and pat these lovely creatures and what a wonderful experience that was.

Our worm farm has also been of interest with many children asking lots of questions ranging from what they eat, to how they help us in the garden. Some children have been helping Dawn to feed the worms and turn them over. These types of conversations can lead to children learning about nature, recycling and sustainability.

Both the Cockatoos and the Lorikeets were busy working on beautiful portraits of their Dad for Father’s Day. The children were also able to share some very special information about their Dad’s favourite things.

We have welcomed two new children to Kinder this term. Ella has started in the Cockatoo group and Callum has joined us in the Lorikeets. Both children have settled in well and are busy making new friends.

Sadly, we had to say farewell to Ateeb in the Lorikeets group, as his family moved to India. We wish them all the best with their relocation.

The supermarket set up for pretend play proved to be very popular with both groups. As well as the children using their imaginations, they were also counting, sorting and taking turns. Currently, they are having a wonderful time creating magnificent hairstyles in our very own hair salon.

We are all looking forward to more exciting discoveries in Term 4.
KOOKABURRAS – Elissa & Dawn

The Kookaburra Group has had another term filled with many new and engaging learning experiences. With regular changes to the home corner, the children have had great opportunities to practice their social dramatic play skills. The children have camped by the river; cooked marshmallows over the fire, shopped at the fruit stall and made many creative hair-dos on their friends and family members.

We also discussed NAIDOC week and what this represents. We looked at Aboriginal Art and experimented with painting with dots. We discussed symbols and the heritage of our Aboriginal soft dolls. We read a story called Tom Tom, which spoke about cooking and the smell of damper. With the assistance of Dawn we cooked a delicious damper and ate it with butter and jam. This will be followed up next term when we visit the Royal Botanical Gardens and go on a You, Me and Murawee walk.

We discussed and practiced road safety rules at kinder and how we need to keep safe near roads if we are walking, riding a bike or in the car. This was followed up with our excursion on the bus to the Essendon Traffic School. It was a huge success with Christine from the Traffic School reiterating the key messages.

We have been doing some still life painting with the small tabletop easels. The children had the opportunity to paint some Daphne and some feathers that a child brought into kinder. The finished pieces looked amazing!

The children were very excited about our Bunnings Father’s night. The children, along with their dads, built toolboxes or screwdriver holders. The children looked fabulous with their faces painted and all had a cuddle with the farm animals. It was great to see so many dads and grandfathers enjoying their time with their child/ren.

We have been looking at rainbow foods and healthy options of food. Lots of discussion around fruit, vegetables and water has been taking place. We had a tasting platter of lots of different types of fruit and vegetables and encouraged the children to try something new. We hope this information is filtering back into the home environment and stimulating conversation about rainbow food...

Father’s Day

This year our father’s enjoyed creative activities with their children at Bunnings Warehouse Altona.

Thank you to all dads who braved the cold and the crowds to make a toolbox or a screwdriver holder!

There were also balloons, an animal farm and a sausage sizzle.

All who attended had lots of fun!
This term, we held our Olympic games. The children were very excited and made their own medals out of clay, which were presented on the day. The children also made flags from different countries around the world for the opening ceremony. We had a great turn out from parents, which was much appreciated. The children are still talking about it.

The children loved having Ronaldo visit us on a Friday afternoon – I’ve never seen lunches get eaten so quickly so they could be in the first group to go outside! Ronaldo taught the children ball handling skills, motor coordination and how to take turns – a very complicated skill! It provided the children with a great education about being fit and active and encouraged outdoor play.

We also started our library sessions each Friday. It provides the children with responsibility to care for books as well as develop a love of reading books on a regular basis. The library sessions will finish in the middle of Term 4.

The traffic school excursion on August 21st was another success. The children loved every minute of it and we were so lucky with the weather. The same week we had Marty Challis, Daniel’s dad, who is a policeman, come in to talk to the children about life in the police force. He included discussion about road safety that was a great introduction to the traffic school experience. We also showed posters and had group discussions about it all.

Some of the children in our group celebrated Eid recently and they spoke to the children about Ramadan and what happens during the Eid festival. They also bought in some Lebanese pastries and sweets for the teachers. Yum!

We started doing some woodwork this term, which kept everyone extremely busy and it was a great way to lead into the Father’s Day Bunnings celebration. This was a great success and I think everyone enjoyed his or her special time with Dad.

The children have welcomed our student teacher Simon to the group. He is studying his 3rd year of the Bachelor of Education Early Childhood/Primary. He will be with us until the end of the term and we are enjoying our teaching/learning experiences with him.

Next term, we have an excursion planned to The Royal Botanical Gardens that will be held on Tuesday October 23rd. We will again need parent helpers to come along to cover supervision of the children, so if you can save that date and join us that would be great. Term 4 also brings to us the Transition to School Statements for all children heading off to school in 2013. (See page 9 of this newsletter for more information).

All in all we have had a very busy and productive term and I can’t believe we are almost in Term 4, which is always the quickest term of the year. Enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing everyone at the beginning of the festive season!

PARENT SURVEY

This year we are trialing a new method of surveying parents about the quality of our service. We will be sending a link to our online survey via email very soon. PLEASE take a few minutes to complete our survey!
Fundraising Report

Our Bunnings BBQ will be held during the school holidays on the 29th of September. Please keep your eye out for a notice in your pocket asking for volunteers. We would appreciate your support on the day and it is also a great opportunity to redeem your $50 maintenance levy!

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in our Father’s Day Raffle and congratulations to all of our lucky winners! Thank you also to the businesses that generously donated some fabulous prizes.

You will have just received a notice about our tea-towel fundraiser. For $15 you can have a gorgeous keepsake of your child’s kinder experience. Order forms are due back by the 18th September 2012.

Our major events for the end of the year will be the Obstacle Course Challenge and the Disco. The children always look forward to these two special events. Keep your eye out for information on the website and in your pockets.

Olympic Inspiration

The Olympic Games inspired the children to be very active sports participants.

The 4 year olds have thoroughly enjoyed the Playball program run by Ronaldo San Andres, building on ball skills and team spirit. This was a great opportunity for the children to extend their gross motor, eye-hand co-ordination and balance skills.

The Olympics also inspired creative artworks of the Olympic torch, country flags and the Olympic rings. The children researched the meaning of the 5 interlocking rings, what the colours represent and why we have an Olympic torch.
Oat & Raisin Cookies

250g butter, softened
¾ cup caster sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 egg yolk
2 ¼ cups plain flour
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 cups rolled oats
1 ½ cups raisins

Preheat oven to 180°C. Place the butter & sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer & beat until pale & creamy. Add vanilla & egg yolk & beat well to combine. Add flour & cinnamon & beat until a smooth dough forms. Stir through oats & raisins. Roll two tablespoons of the dough into balls and place on lined baking trays. Gently flatten balls, leaving room for cookies to spread. Bake 12-15 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Makes 18

(Recipe courtesy of Donna Hay magazine)

REMINDER

Please view your child’s portfolio when you next drop off your child at kinder. It is a great way to see how your child has progressed since the beginning of the year!

Website Updates

We have recently added a new collection of photographs to our Philosophy Page that show how we are teaching children to respect and care for our environment. We would particularly like to thank Dawn for her contribution to this wonderful aspect of our kinder program.

Keep your eye on our Policies Page. The committee has been working tirelessly to review and adopt a number of new policies to meet the new National Quality Standard Laws and Regulations introduced at the start of this year. Some of the new policies include: Administration of First Aid, Dealing with Medical Conditions and Water Safety. There is a policy folder in the parent library and in the kinder office if you cannot find the one you are interested in on the website.

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!

KINDER DUTY

WE NEED YOU!

We love parent/carer input into our program and the children love having extras in the room to help!

It is a great opportunity for you to observe your child and chat with your child’s teacher. Please don’t forget to put your name down for Kinder Duty in Term 4. See you at kinder!
COMING SOON!

We are spending some of our fundraising money to purchase a rainbow play stand and arch. During the process of developing our Quality Improvement Plan, one of the elements was to “provide for each child’s comfort and...meet each child’s need for...rest and relaxation”. We hope to improve our “quiet” space where children can rest, engage in quiet play and read books by purchasing this gorgeous rainbow arch to create a more intimate setting. We hope it will arrive early in Term 4. Don’t be afraid to sneak inside and share a story with your child or others – try not to fall asleep!

Quality Improvement

We are looking for your feedback to help us continually improve our service. Thank you to the parents who responded to our last newsletter.

Please take the time to provide us with your opinions about the two statements provided and return this tear off slip to the kinder office. Alternatively, email your response to skingkin@netspace.net.au

Thank you for your support!

Quality Area 2

2.2.1 Healthy eating is promoted at SKPS.

_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

2.2.2 Physical activity is promoted through planned and spontaneous experiences and is appropriate for each child.

_________________________________________________________
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TRANSITION TO SCHOOL STATEMENTS

The end of year is very busy for our 4-year-old groups as they prepare for their next year at school. It is also very busy for their educators who are responsible for providing schools with Transition Statements.

The information in the statement summarises the strengths of a child’s learning and development as they enter school, identifies their individual approaches to learning and interests and indicates how the child can be supported to continue learning.

Information in the statement helps Prep teachers to get to know the children entering their classes before they start and to plan for each child’s learning and development when they start school. It is a detailed document that also requires parent input. We will keep parents informed of the process as it draws near.

SHARE YOUR SKILLS!

We all have hidden talents – what are yours? We welcome parents to come to kinder and share their expertise with the children. Can you bake gingerbread like Geraldine or make your own recycled paper like Sally? Can you share stories about your work like police officer Marty? Please consider sharing your talents with us! Let your child’s teacher know when you are available.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

- To our Fundraising sub-committee for organising the Father’s Day Raffle and tea towel fundraiser this term.
- To Pete, Simone’s dad, for securing the matting around our outdoor poles.
- To Crystal, our Secretary, for securing a donation from Bunnings Altona for a brand new BBQ.
- To Fabian, Estelle’s dad, for manning the BBQ on Open Day.
- To Jody, one of our fundraisers, for obtaining a donation from Masters Braybrook for a brand new esky.
- To members of the committee for all of the work they do supporting the staff & the children who attend our kinder.
- To our educators who continue to amaze us with their energy and dedication.

CONGRATULATIONS EMMA!

We would like to express our delight upon hearing the news that Emma is expecting her 2nd child early next year. The news was met with much excitement and joy, especially from her 4-year-old group!
SITUATION VACANT

We are currently looking for an interested person to help make our kinder room sparkle!

A cleaning job is available 2 days per week, for 2 hours per day, starting next year.

Please see Elissa Stafford (Director) or Mel Shanahan (President) for more details about rates of pay and employment conditions.

VISITOR BOOK

Under the new National Laws and Regulations, parents or others whom visit the kinder for longer periods of time other than for delivery or collection must sign a Visitor Book.

You will find the Visitor Book located on the sign-in desk. We would appreciate your cooperation next time you join us for Kinder Duty.

Healthy Choices for Children

Hobsons Bay City Council would like to engage the community and the local food industry in a program of providing healthy choices for children when eating out, eating at school or daycare or eating at home.

Learn more about the Healthy Choices for Children program and check out the tasty recipes at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Healthy_and_wellbeing/

Does your child have a favourite dish that is high in fibre, low in salt, sugar and fat? Hobsons Bay City Council would love your suggestions for healthy choices. Please send to publichealth@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Hatch on the Run

We look forward to introducing the children to a Duckling Egg Hatching program. It is a fun, interactive way for children to experience the miracle of birth. Our duckling eggs arrive on the 29th of October.
Drowning is the second leading cause of death for children aged 0-14 years in Victoria. In 2009/2010 there were 10 drowning deaths of children aged 0-14 years in Victoria; double the number of deaths observed in 2008/2009.

Infants and toddlers are the group most at risk of drowning, with 7 drowning deaths in 2009/2010 occurring in Victorian children aged 0-4 years. Compounding this figure is data demonstrating that in this age group, there are 7 non fatal incidents for every drowning death. Non fatal drowning incidents often result in permanent brain damage and disability.

The home environment is the most common location for childhood drowning, with the majority of incidents occurring in backyard swimming pools and spas.

**Why children are at risk?**

Children like to explore their environments; they are naturally attracted to water and have little fear or understanding of the dangers that it poses.

Children can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water, therefore it is essential that access is restricted by safety barriers, and that they are constantly supervised around water. Toddler pools, backyard ponds, bathtubs, the washing machine, buckets of water and even pet drinking bowls must be recognised as potential drowning hazards.

**Prevention:**

Kidsafe recommends that parents and carers take the following precautions to reduce the risk of childhood drowning:

**Supervise:**

- Active Supervision involves parents and carers keeping an eye on children at all times. Do not expect older children to look after their younger siblings. Children have short attention spans and can be easily distracted.
- Remain within arm’s reach. This will ensure that you can get to the child in time if something goes wrong.
- Take children with you if you leave the water area.

**Reduce the Hazard:**

- Restrict children’s access to water through safety barriers such as pool fencing.
- Remove hazards such as pot plants and chairs well away from pool fences to avoid children climbing on to them and over the fence.

- Do not prop any doors or gates open that allow children access to a body of water.
- Create a safe play area to separate your child from bodies of water such as swimming pools and dams. This is especially important on farms and larger properties.

**Knowledge**

- Water familiarisation lessons can assist in teaching children to swim while also helping them understand water safety.
- Enrol in a resuscitation course and update skills annually so you are able to respond in case of an emergency.
- Resuscitation posters are a good reminder to keep around pools and spas.

You can also complete pool safety checklists (from national RLSSA website - www.royallifesaving.com.au). Please conduct this annually, as weather conditions and general wear and tear can affect your gate.