



## From The President

### IMPORTANT DATES

**April 19** – Parents Night Out; 2 Brothers Brewery Moorabbin

**April 22** - Purple Group Working Bee

**April 28** - Open Day

**Week commencing Monday 30 April** – Sandringham Hospital Visit for 4 Year old programs

**1 May** – Enrolments for 2019 placements open (via Bayside Council Website)

**May 12** – Mothers Day Movie Fundraiser; Dendy Brighton

**May 26** - Bunning's BBQ

**May 27** - Red Group Working Bee

**Week Commencing Monday 25 June** – Kinder photos

Term 1 has come to an end and I hope you all had a wonderful Easter holiday. We are kicking off Term 2 already and I can't help but think - where has the time gone?!? Term 1 was a busy one with the Welcome BBQ, Working Bee, Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser, Peter Rabbit Family Movie day and Easter egg hunts that each group participated in. A big thank you to everyone who came out to all the events and volunteered their time to ensure each event was a success.

Our Hot Cross Bun and Peter Rabbit Family Movie fundraisers raised over \$500 which is a great result for the kinder. I want to thank the social committee for all their hard work organising and making each of these a success.

Thanks to our IT Coordinator, Ashley Bell, we also now have a great new website!

This years' Parent Participation Rebate activities include the following:

- Working Bee
- Open Day Volunteers
- Bunning's BBQ
- Major Fundraiser Set-Up/Take-Down
- Lawn-mowing

Please note that you must complete 2 of the above listed activities to get your \$100 back. Attendance will be recorded at each event and your participation will be noted. If you have participated at 2 events prior to term 4, your \$100 will come off your term 4 fees. If you haven't completed your 2 events before the start of term 4, December 14th will be the cut-off date to apply for the rebate for the 2018 year. All dates for the above listed activities can be found on the OAK website.

We are looking forward to an exciting term 2 and want to thank everyone who has already volunteered their time as the kinder runs on the help from all our families.

Thanks,  
**Aileen Lozie**  
**OAK Committee President**



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### Blue Group News

The Blue Group children have had a busy and fun filled first term at Olympic Ave Kinder. We spent a lot of our times exploring all things related to water. Term 1 was very hot so we loved playing with water and keeping cool. We even set up our own sprinkler and wore our bathers at kinder.



Highlights this term have included our Sports Day sponsored by Sports Star Academy. For this session Blue and Purple groups joined to participate in a range of sports activities in Pennydale Park. The children practiced some footy kicking, tennis and soccer skills. It was great fun and a good opportunity for us to get to know our friends in Purple Group.

The Seaweed Sally incursion is always a highlight. Seaweed Sally bought her huge collection of marine life both living and non-living for us to touch and explore. She talked to us about how the marine animals exist in the wild and reminded us how we can help protect animals in their natural environments. Whilst on the topic of animals, Pascal, Hadrian's dog, came for a visit and the children showed great respect for animals in their approach to him. Bec also showed the children the Blue tongue lizard (before he escaped!)

The children have all settled well and are already showing us how independent they are becoming, bringing their own bags into kinder and putting away their own belongings. This may seem like a small step, but it's an important part of their school readiness program.

Blue Group 2018 are keen learners. They have enjoyed many of the activities on offer at kinder, painting, play dough, block construction and LEGO. As part of our STEM program we have explored concepts of sorting. They enjoyed creating their own clouds in a jar then adding liquid dye to the cloud and making it rain.



We've also used cooking to explore the concepts of liquids solids and gases, making pancakes and jelly! The children have loved exploring the outdoor spaces on offer at kinder. They are big fans of the Zoom Chute, playing with Carl the guinea pig and climbing and jumping from play equipment in both gardens. They are also excellent at constructing obstacle courses and often invite the Purple and Red Group children to come and try them.

The end of term was a time to celebrate with 2 Easter egg hunts! Thank you to Adele, Sophie's mum, for organizing the park hunt and social activities for Blue Group. We've loved having many parents come and spend some time at kinder. Please feel free to stay whenever you have time.

Looking forward to a great Term 2.

**Donna & Bec**



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### Red Group News

Red Group has seen a busy and productive start to the year, with the focus being on developing a strong sense of identity. By getting to know all their friends' names, the children will begin to feel that they belong to their kindergarten community. Every day we have played games and used photos of the children to learn each other's names. Many of the children have brought in photos of their weekends or something that they have found as they walked to kinder and this has helped us all to get to know one another, too.

The children have been exploring aspects of their identity through lots of role-play, becoming familiar with the routine of the day and developing confidence to explore their environment. With four educators and 16 children in the group, we have been able to strongly support the children to play co-operatively and work collaboratively with their peers.

Following on from the Parent Information Evening regarding Emotional Intelligence, we have had been focusing on recognising emotions. Liz is exploring the 'Thinking Brain' with the children, encouraging them to be 'Mindful' and to understand that all emotions are acceptable, it's how we manage them that is the key.

Jen's Yoga session with the children, funded by our Committee, reinforced our strong focus on the children's health and wellbeing. We all love these sessions and with Jen's leadership, all staff are building on their own knowledge and practice of Yoga, so that we can continue to work with the children in this area.



Next term, we will introduce ipads to the group to support STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) practices. In readiness for this, we have been utilizing things in our natural environment to encourage the children to sort by attributes, working on their problem solving, communication, creativity and curiosity. It is interesting to see how many different ways you can sort sticks, stones or shells!



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The magnifying glasses and binoculars are in regular use as the children explore our gardens for mini-beasts. As a result, we have now eradicated our kinder of snails and slugs, resulting in a very well-fed baby blue tongue! Unfortunately, last week he disappeared and we have all been very busy searching for him around the playground! It wasn't a great week for our lovely pets, as Lenny our Guinea Pig died. The children helped to bury him in our garden and we have painted an enormous headstone for him too. Carl, our other guinea pig is receiving lots of love, but it is clear he is missing his friend.

Our Seaweed Sally Incursion was such a great learning experience, offering a 'hands on' experience of marine life. There was a huge display of preserved ocean specimens and the children were able to handle whale bones, shark eggs, octopus, cuttlefish, and seahorses. The children were also able to handle LIVE animals such as sea stars, elephant snails, sea squirts, and sea urchins. We learnt so much about some ocean animals, their environment and how to preserve and protect them. Seaweed Sally encouraged the children to explore the rock pools in our bay the next time they are at the ocean.

Our last week of term included some Easter festivities, with an Easter Egg hunt on Thursday!

Thanks so much to our families for spending time with us at kinder through parent duty, taking home the washing and communicating what you have been doing as a family, through photos, ideas to extend the children's learning at kinder and regular chats before and after kinder.

**Kathryn, Liz , Sarah and Michaela**



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### Purple Group News

What a great start we have had to the year so far! It is always exciting and challenging settling in a group of children into a new environment. There is constantly so much for each child to do and think about each day. Things like being responsible for their own bag and other personal items is a constant skill that takes persistence and decision-making skills on a daily basis eg:

- Where do I put my lunchbox?
- Where does this rubbish item go? Recycle? Worms?
- Where are my shoes? Where is my hat?



It is wonderful to see the children settle in their new environment, develop their confidence, begin to form trusting relationships with staff and friends and simply enjoy participating in a range of learning areas. Purple Group has shown a particular love of learning and singing new songs and usually say "Can we sing it again?" Their favorite by far is a song called 'This is my singing voice.'

They also love listening to stories which at times we have attempted to act out. The Big Red Bath and The Gingerbread Man. With so many wonderful learning experiences happening every day it is difficult to list them all but some of the highlights this term have been:

- \*Cooking pancakes.
- \*Digging in the mud patch.
- \*Cuddling Karl and Lenny; sadly Lenny passed away at the end of term but he is buried in our garden.
- \*Cooking cherry tomato and egg muffins.
- \*Yoga with Jenny.
- \*Seaweed Stevie Incursion.
- \*A nature walk in Pennydale Park.



Please feel free to chat to us about your child and their experiences at kinder or ring/email if that is more convenient. The beginning and end of kinder are always very busy times of the day but it is very important that we share information regarding your child and their progress at kinder. Being on duty will give you a wonderful insight into your child's experiences at Kinder they always love sharing their special moments with family/friends. Please remember if you or anyone in your family has anything they would like to share with us we openly invite all suggestions eg cooking/recipes, instruments/music, pets, photos etc

**Mary-Ellen & Cynthia**



### Orange & Yellow Group News

We have had great first term in both 3 year old groups with the children becoming familiar with the Kindergarten routine, their new friends and teachers. During the year we will be focusing on helping the children to play co-operatively, learning to care for themselves and others, experiencing different activities and above all having fun.

The children have had a lovely time experimenting with sensory play this term. The children have gotten knee deep in mud, shaving cream and even shredded paper. We have also had lots of helpers as we've made play dough and experimented with colour mixing and enjoyed the texture of warm fresh dough.



We have had many discussions during the term about caring for each other. The children have learnt the mantra "Is it safe? Is it fair? Does it show that we care?" We have also read some great stories about working together and inclusion; "I can be a Super Friend!", "Pig the pug" and "Superworm". The children in Orange group have enjoyed taking home the Super Friend cape this term as they demonstrated caring and helpful behaviour. During the year we will continue teach the children social skills by modelling behaviour, role playing and stories.

During each session the children are chosen to have a turn ringing the bell, snuffing out the candle and using the tickle sticks. The children love being chosen for these special jobs that give them an opportunity to build their confidence in front of the class and to feel that they belong. Waiting for their turn can be a real test of patience for the children! Names are chosen from a jar and as the children will tell you "the jar decides".



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# OLYMPIC AVENUE KINDERGARTEN

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018

Some of the many highlights of this term have been getting to know our guinea pigs (Carl & the late Lenny), trying out the zoom chute, putting out imaginary fires, block building and construction painting, playing in the sandpit, acting out songs and stories and so much more.



It was exciting to finish off the term with an Easter egg hunt! We were super lucky that the Easter Bunny made a special trip to both groups to help us celebrate Easter and the end of term. The egg hunt was so much fun and a great opportunity to practice our counting and highlight the importance of being fair and to share.



Thank you to all the family members who have helped out this term. We are looking forward to a great term 2!

Many thanks,  
**Jenny & Shelley**



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## EDUCATIONAL LEADER UPDATE

On 6<sup>th</sup> March OAK hosted a parent information evening in partnership with our other cluster kindergartens, "Emotionally intelligent parenting and positive behaviour support". It was very well attended, with over 60 parents and educators hearing from Denise Ball, a Behavioural Therapist and Counsellor. She gave us an introduction on how to help our children to recognise and regulate their own emotions and for us as parents to recognise our own emotions and responses. A huge thank-you to the OAK staff for helping to set up and pack up, and to OAK, Jack and Jill, East Beaumaris Kindergartens and Gordon St Preschool for supporting the event.



OAK is a Healthy Together Kindergarten. This year we are working towards recognition in the area of Physical Activity. During term 2 we are hoping to introduce walk or ride to kinder days, and our Committee grants officers are keeping their eyes out for grants that will allow us to install bike and scooter racks. Some great ideas and resources for getting children and families moving and active can be found at the Premier's Active April website: [www.activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au)

**Denise Batchelor**



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### STEM

Olympic Ave Kindergarten is proud to be one of 100 preschool services from across Australia selected to take part in the 2018 ELSA Pilot. This is a play-based digital learning program for children to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) practices.

To introduce a STEM concept, we will help children notice STEM concepts whilst they are playing, for example, whilst building towers with blocks or collecting sticks outside. Following a hands-on experience, your child will have a chance to represent their ideas through an ELSA app on our recently purchased I pads. The apps will encourage children to do things like create colourful patterns and sort healthy food by shape, size or other attribute they choose. The activities on the apps have been designed for children to play together, communicate and engage with the world around them. Following this, the children will be able to apply what they learnt from the app with more hands-on activities. They might find new ways to express ideas and be inspired to do things differently with the ideas they have developed.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

OAK would like to thank **Terry White Chemmart Cheltenham & Cheltenham Rotary** for their very generous donation of 6 iPad minis. The iPads will play an integral role in our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) pilot program for our 4 year old groups.

A number of local businesses also provided donations for our welcome BBQ:

- Bakers Delight, Charman Road
- McKenzie Smith Butchers, Charman Rd
- Rosella (sauces and chutneys)
- Woolworths Southland (veggie burgers)



Blue & Purple groups were also lucky to have a Sports Day put on by **Sports Star Academy**. For this session the children participated in a range of sports activities in Pennydale Park. The children practiced some footy kicking, tennis and soccer skills.



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### Social News

After such a successful Term 1 we're looking forward to some exciting activities in Term 2 so mark your calendars!

#### Mother's Day Fundraisers

Spoil yourself, your Mum, Wife, Mother-in-law or someone special in your life with a gorgeous handbag from [Prene Bags](#) available at a discounted rate exclusive to OAK families.

Look out for the order forms in your child's pigeon hole from Monday 23rd of April.

**Saturday 12th of May Mother's Day Movie - [Tully](#)**  
2pm at Dendy Cinemas, 26 Church Street, Brighton

Join the Mums, Aunties, Grandmothers & friends of OAK for a ladies day out at the Movies - your snacks and drinks will be taken care of so you don't have to think about anyone else but yourselves for this afternoon!



More details to come.

**Bunning's BBQ - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 8am-4pm;** Mentone Bunnings, Nepean Hwy.

We are calling on parents to volunteer two hours of their time on the day. We need 4 adults per time slot -2 for cooking, 2 for selling (*this activity counts towards the \$100 Parent Participation Rebate*)

The roster is pinned to the notice board for you to fill in your name and contact number next to the time(s) that best suit you. We will then be in touch closer to the date to confirm further details.

**Our major fundraising event and social function: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August.** Join us for what is set to be a fantastic night out celebrating 60 years of OAK and raising funds for our wonderful Kinder!!

We will be asking for donations to auction off at this event, so if you know any local businesses that would be happy to donate please let the social and fundraising team know [Jacquiebracchi@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquiebracchi@gmail.com)

**Jacquie Bracchi**  
**Social Co-ordinator**



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## House Keeping

### Parking

Please consider our neighbours and do not park across their driveways. Don't forget you can park in Wembley Avenue or Paul Street and walk through the park.

### Sign in Book

Remember to sign in and out of the session along with who will collect your child. If you are helping on parent duty, please remember to sign the volunteer book in the foyer.

### If your child is unwell!

If your child is showing signs of ill-health, please consider the wellbeing of all children and staff at our kinder. In addition, there are some children whose health is severely compromised should they become ill so please do not send your child to kinder if they are not well.

### Allergy & Anaphylaxis

A number of children here at OAK suffer from severe allergic reaction or Anaphylaxis that requires emergency medical treatment. Therefore:

#### **OAK AIMS TO BE A NUT-FREE KINDER**

We ask parents not to pack nuts or foods containing nuts in their kids snacks and lunches. This includes peanut butter and nutella sandwiches. **In Addition for Red Group** – no tahini/sesame seeds/raw coconut

### Partnerships with families

Collaboration between teachers and families is highly valued at OAK. When families and teachers work well together it helps to create a positive sense of community, which supports children's mental health and wellbeing. Research has shown that when families and staff within early childhood services work together it helps to improve outcomes for young children. For example, studies have shown that greater family involvement can have a positive impact in areas such as children's early learning skills and behaviour.

Family involvement shows children that Kindergarten is highly valued, a safe place to be and promotes feelings of belonging and connectedness. Both families and staff have valuable information about the child and sharing this information helps to make sure children's needs are met effectively.

### Keep in touch

- Make time to talk regularly with teachers and ask questions about your child's day.
- Share ideas and information that could help teachers to plan appropriately for your child and help connect your child to kinder.
- Talk to your child's teachers about events and celebrations and share information about your family values and culture.



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