



WELCOME TO OAK 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

24 Feb – Welcome BBQ, 4–6pm

17 Mar – Working Bee, 10am–1pm

30 Mar – Open Day, 10am–12pm

31 Mar – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

OAK CONTACTS

Committee Email

olympic.ave.committee@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Teachers' Email

olympic.ave.teachers@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Enrolments Email

enrolmentsolympicave@gmail.com

Compliance/Fees Email

officeolympicave@gmail.com

OUR STAFF

Nominated Supervisor: Kathryn McInnes

Educational Leader: Denise Batchelor

Red Group: Kathryn & Liz

Blue Group: Nicole & Shelley

Purple Group: Mary-Ellen & Cynthia

Yellow Group: Jenny & Vanessa

Orange Group: Debbie & Vanessa

Extended Care: Vanessa & Ness



From the President

We would like to warmly welcome everyone to Olympic Avenue Kindergarten. Kinder is such an exciting time in your child's life and whether you are new to the kinder or a returning family, we hope that your time at OAK will be a great experience.

It has been lovely to see the excited faces of all the children as they begin their new adventures. A special thank you to our wonderful teachers for helping the children (and parents!) settle in over the last two weeks.

This year we would also like to welcome four fabulous new teachers to OAK. Debbie Corin is our new Orange Group Educator, Nicole Taylor joins us as the Blue Group Educator, Vanessa Fitzmaurice is Co Educator in the Orange and Yellow Groups, as well as being our very first Extended Care Leader, and Vanessa (Ness) Thornton is our Extended Care Co Educator. We hope you all enjoy your time at OAK.

Come and join the Committee!

As many of you know, OAK is a community run kinder which means it is run by a committee of volunteer parents. We encourage and greatly appreciate any parent participation. Thank you so much to the parents who have already volunteered for committee positions and who are well on the way to making 2019 a successful and enjoyable year for everyone at the kinder.

At this stage the Enrolments Officer position on committee is still vacant. Our wonderful Compliance Officer, Nicole McClure, does much of the enrolments work, but we are in need of a parent to assist. Thanks to Nicole, the role won't require an enormous time commitment, but it is essential to help the enrolment process run smoothly.

We also have some vacancies on our Social and Fundraising Subcommittees. We are lucky enough to have Bronwyn Wilcox (who runs her own events business) as our Fundraising and Social Coordinator and she has an exciting year planned, so don't fear that you'll be left on your own to run an event! The vacancies are as follows:

- Fundraising Subcommittee – Blue Group
- Fundraising Subcommittee – Purple Group
- Fundraising Subcommittee – Red Group
- Fundraising Subcommittee – Yellow group
- Social Subcommittee – Blue Group

The committee are a lovely, hard working and welcoming group of parents and we would love you to join us! We are all juggling work, kids and even study commitments, so understand you may not be able to make a huge commitment, but every bit of assistance will help to make the kinder a better place for all our children. If you are interested please send an email to olympic.ave.committee@kindergarten.vic.gov.au.

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OLYMPIC AVENUE KINDERGARTEN

Welcome Newsletter 2019

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We would also love to hear from any parents who may have some expertise in IT and be willing to lend a few hours over the course of the year to help set up and maintain the kinder's IT system. Much of this work can be done from home and will count towards your PPR. Please send an email to olympic.ave.committee@kindergarten.vic.gov.au if you may be able to help out.

Finally, aside from helping the teachers to ensure the kinder runs smoothly and retains its wonderful reputation, the Committee are also here to help our kinder families and ensure that your experience at OAK is a happy one. Whether it be a suggestion, complaint or any other input, I am happy for you to contact me at presidentolympicave@gmail.com. I am juggling the role with work and two very energetic boys, so I may not always get back to you immediately, but I will endeavour to reply as soon as I can.

We are really looking forward to a great 2019 and to meeting everyone at our welcome BBQ!

Carly Kohler
OAK President
On behalf of the OAK Committee

Kinder vacancies

We do have some limited vacancies in our 3yo Yellow Group, 4yo Blue Group and 4yo Purple Group, so please tell your friends or neighbours about our great Kinder. Anyone who is interested can contact Nicole on enrolmentsolympicave@gmail.com.

Welcome BBQ

Our first kinder event will be the Welcome BBQ on **Sunday 24 February from 4-6pm** at the kinder. We hope to see everyone there. We will have some entertainment for the children so the parents can get to know each other! Please take a moment to fill out the sheet in the foyer to let us know you can make it. We are in need of some volunteers to help with set up and pack up for the BBQ. Please email Bronwyn at fundraisingoak@gmail.com if you are able to assist. This will count towards earning your PPR.

Working bees

This year's working bees will be on the following dates:

Sunday 17 March, 10am – 1pm
Sunday 25 August, 10am – 1pm

Sunday 26 May, 10am – 1pm
Sunday 27 October, 10am – 1pm

We will provide more details closer to each date, but please keep these dates in mind and plan to attend one or two (or even all four!) if you can. This year all working bees are open to all groups to hopefully cater for those with other weekend commitments. The working bees are an important way for families to contribute to the upkeep of the kinder buildings and grounds. Aside from helping the kinder enormously, they can also be great fun and another way to meet kinder families. Children are welcome so there is no need to find a babysitter!

Open Day

Our Open Day is on **Saturday 30 March from 10am – 12pm**. We would like to create a fun and welcoming community feel at the kinder on the day and we'd love families to come along and join in the fun. We would also love some parent volunteers to assist welcoming prospective new families. If you are able to help out please email Bronwyn at fundraisingoak@gmail.com. We would really appreciate any help you can offer. This will also count towards your PPR.



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

The Bunnings Sausage Sizzle is one of our major fundraisers for the year. Unfortunately Bunnings has allocated us **Sunday 31 March** this year. We are unable to change the date of the Open Day as this date is set by Bayside Council, so we will have a busy weekend! We will be calling for volunteers closer to the date but please keep the date in your diary. This will count towards PPR.

A word from our Fundraising and Social Coordinator

My name is Bronwyn Wilcox and I am the new Fundraising and Social Coordinator. I am delighted to be involved in the OAK Committee in 2019. My son Oliver went to 4 year old kinder after moving here from Balaclava and my daughter Somer is lucky enough to be starting 3 year old kindy this year. We love the community feel and it's the best move we have ever made. I run my own Events Business called Maze Events and I specialise in events, but more importantly fundraising and prize sourcing and helping charities to make the most out of their events. We are a little short of supporters in the Fundraising Committee with only Orange group providing a member, so if you are in Purple, Blue, Red or Yellow group and are able to help I would really welcome the support. It's going to be a great year with some new ideas and hopefully some major fundraising to make Olympic Avenue Kindergarten even greater than it is now. You can email me at: fundraisingoak@gmail.com.

Parent Participation Rebate (PPR)

The Parent Participation Rebate (PPR) was added to encourage families to participate in the operation of the kinder. As a community run kinder, we are unable to operate without parent participation. The fee will be deducted from Term 4 fees on completion of 2 parent participation activities. The PPR activities set so far for 2019 include:

- Attendance at a working bee for a minimum of 2 hours
- Set up and pack up at the Welcome BBQ
- Volunteering at the Open Day
- Volunteering at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

There will be more activities added throughout the year as further events are organised.

Kinder supplies request

Each year we ask families to provide some very helpful and much used items for our kinder. If you haven't done so already, could each family please provide one of the following:

Yellow and Orange Groups – tissues

Purple Group – paper towel

Red and Blue Group – toilet paper

Reportable Conduct Scheme

From 2019 OAK will form part of the Reportable Conduct Scheme (RCS), a new framework designed by the Commission for Children and Young People, to ensure the safety and well-being of children within our community is never compromised. OAK has a zero tolerance to child abuse or misconduct and is obligated to report any allegations to the Commissioner whether it occurred on or off OAK's premises. It is important to note that this scheme applies to all staff, volunteers and parents attending the kinder beyond drop off and pick-up. What does this mean for you? All of us are obligated to report to OAK should we witness any misconduct to a child. Further information on how this scheme applies to OAK and our community will be provided in an email update in the coming weeks. To understand more, please click the link [here](#).



Helpful information

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 and let us know 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 at our kinder whose health is severely compromised should they become ill so please do not send your child to kinder if they are unwell.

Allergies & anaphylaxis

Just a reminder that we have children attending OAK this year who suffer from severe allergic reaction to tree nuts, cashews, pistachios and coconut, including coconut milk/water/oil. We ask parents not to pack any of these foods in your child's snacks or lunches or bring these foods into the kinder. This includes peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches.

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. We encourage families to:

- 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.