



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2019

WELCOME

WELCOME TO 2019 YEAR AT BEACONSFIELD KINDER

On behalf of all the teachers, staff and committee a big welcome to all families for our 2019 year. First term has kicked off smoothly and we are so pleased to see how all the children are settling into their rooms, making new friends and enjoying their time at kinder. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

FAMILY PICNIC NIGHTS - MARCH

Bring along some dinner, a picnic blanket or chairs, and come and have a play in our kinder playground. This will be a great chance to meet some of the other families and children in your child's group!

Diamond: Monday 4 March, 6-7pm

Aquamarine: Tuesday 5 March, 6-7pm

Jade & Opal: Wednesday 6 March, 5:30-6:30pm

Emerald: Thursday 7 March, 6-7pm

Sapphire: Wednesday 13 March, 6-7pm



OPEN DAY – SPREAD THE WORD!

Beaconsfield Kinder will be holding an OPEN DAY on Saturday 11 May from 11:00am-1:00pm



WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 2ND MARCH

A massive **thank you** to all the families who contributed to the working bee at the O'Neil Road and Wood Street locations over the weekend.

A lot got done including, weeding, window washing, unblocking drains, cleaning and sanding.

We appreciate your ongoing support.



KINDER READINESS GROUP

Our Kinder Readiness Program still has vacancies for 2019.

This program:

- fills the 'gap' for children who may be too mature for a three-year-old program but aren't quite ready for four-year-old kinder (children who turn four between 1st January and 30th April)
- provides opportunities to develop social skills and engage with peers of a similar age in two 2.5-hour sessions per week
- helps children to develop a sense of connectedness and belonging in a large group setting
- is run by a Bachelor-qualified teacher and Diploma-qualified co-educator.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our next meeting for 2019 will be held on **Monday 18th March** at 7pm at our **Woods St campus**. Everyone is welcome.

Schedule of committee meetings for 2019:

Monday 29 April

Monday 13 May

Monday 17 June

Monday 22 July

Monday 19 August

Monday 9 September

Monday 14 October

Monday 1 November

AGM to be confirmed





PROGRAM AND EDUCATOR UPDATES

ORIENTATION PROGRAM

We are very pleased to report that our children and families are settling happily and positively into our groups across both campuses and we have had a great start to our year.

Our Family Orientation sessions were very well attended and are an extremely important time for educators to spend with children and their families. During this time, educators were able to ensure all enrolment and immunisation requirements was finalised, and gather specific information on all children, such as medical information, asthma & allergy management plans, risk minimisation plans as well as information related to learning and development. Parents were also able to discuss any concerns they had about their child beginning kindergarten, such as separation and independence.

Families have expressed positive comments about the orientation program implemented over the first 2 weeks of term. They felt the gradual increase in time and group size allowed their child to get to know their peers and educators in a more relaxed and comfortable environment. The children were able to learn important daily routines and procedures, such as our meal time routines, how to use the playground equipment safely, to feel comfortable using the bathroom independently, etc with plenty of support from staff.

We thank families for their cooperation during this time.

STORYPARK PROFILES

During these early weeks of term, staff have begun to establish the children's individual Storypark profiles. Your child's profile will include documentation of your child's learning & development throughout the year and measure their progress against the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.

These profiles will:

- Reflect children's engagement and involvement in our educational program.
- Record each child's strengths, interests and learning goals (developed from original ILP forms returned during the holidays).
- Inform and underpin the learning program throughout the year.
- Include observations and learning outcomes.
- Contain images of work samples and photos of your child's achievements.

As Storypark is an interactive documentation tool, we encourage families to share stories and special events with us at kinder by uploading your own stories and photos that are meaningful to your child.

All families should have received an invitation to join Storypark. If you have any concerns or queries regarding Storypark please speak with the teachers in your child's group.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

As part of the ongoing improvements to early education, our service is required to complete a Quality Improvement Plan each year (QIP). The QIP is designed to encourage all centres to reflect, evaluate and make improvements to their service on a regular basis. Our team completed the first QIP in 2012 and since then we have achieved many great improvements for our centre across all 7 quality standards.

In 2014 (at both campuses) and 2018 (at Woods St) our services were rated & assessed against the 7 quality areas & we are extremely proud of the "Exceeding the National Standard" rating we achieved at both times. This achievement was the result of hard work and collaboration between staff, children, parents, local community networks and our very supportive Committee of Management. The QIP forms an integral part of the rating and assessment process, and so we welcome any comments/ideas you have in regards to changes you think would improve our service. O'Neil Rd expects their next assessment process during 2019.



REMINDERS

SUN SMART FOR SUMMER

Remember in line with our Sun Smart policy, all children need to wear a bucket or broad brimmed hat to provide sun protection to ears, neck and face when playing outside. **Don't forget to name your child's hat!**

Please apply sunscreen **before** you leave your child at kindergarten. We will be re-applying sunscreen during our longer sessions, so please ensure you inform staff if your child requires their own sunscreen. This should be labelled and handed to staff to avoid children sharing, as some children have allergies to particular sunscreens.



WOODS ST - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING:

When crossing the road at **Woods Street**, please ensure you support our whole centre approach to safety by using the **pedestrian crossing**, rather than crossing the road/car park area.

NUDE FOOD

We encourage families to send along **"nude food"**, to reduce the amount of packaging that is being sent to kinder.



PIGEON HOLES

Please remember to check your pigeon holes regularly for mail and invoices.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES FOR BIRTHDAYS

Our centre is proudly part of the Achievement Program, which supports healthy lifestyles for all in our kinder community. As such, we ask that parents bring in "non-food" treats if you wish to share something special for your child's birthday.



SIGN IN BOOK

Please remember to sign your child in and out each session. All details in the sign in book must be accurate. Please also sign yourself and your toddler into the Visitor's Book when staying to help at kinder. Parents are asked to wear a visitor's lanyard and to keep their *Working With Children Check* with them whilst helping

At Woods St: Just a reminder to keep parking spaces free for staff. We have spare parking permits you can use in your own car if needed while you are on duty. You can record your comments about our program and your involvement in our "Community Connections" book at the conclusion of your time helping us.

DOORS AND GATES

Please be vigilant about closing the door/gate behind you and ensure that no door/gate is left open. Please do not let any child other than your own through the door/gates at any time.

ASTHMA AUSTRALIA

Click on this link to read Asthma Australia's first newsletter for 2019 with great tips on starting 2019 in a healthy way and looking after your child's asthma needs!!

<https://afnsw.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9MjAxMDQyOCZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9NTA4NDAYMzE3>

PACKING BAGS

We would like to encourage families to support their children in packing and carrying their own bags into kinder. During the session the children are practicing putting their lunch boxes and drink bottles into their own bags to support their growing self-help skills. It would be fantastic if families are also able to encourage the children to put their lunch boxes and drink bottles into their bags at home. When arriving at kinder, please encourage children to put their own lunch box and drink bottle onto the trolley in the foyer.



FUNDRAISING

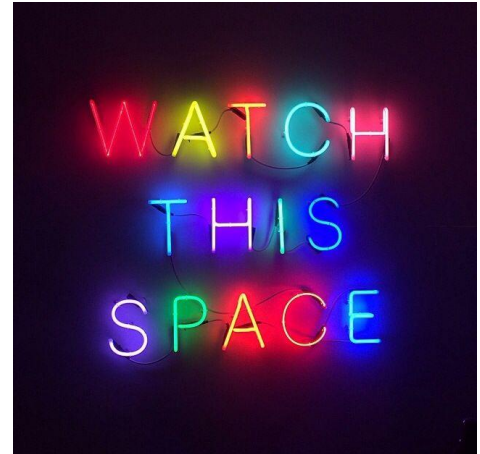
VISION PORTRAIT FUNDRAISER – SATURDAY 16 MARCH

Our always-popular Vision Portrait fundraiser will be held on Saturday 16 March at our O'Neil Rd campus. For just \$16 you can get a family photo shoot and one 10"x13" framed photo of your choice (further photos are available to purchase).

There are still some limited places available. Please click on the link below to book and additional information is available through Storypark. Thank you to those families who have already signed up. We appreciate your support.

<https://www.visionportraits.com.au/family>

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISERS



HARMONY DAY

Recognising and respecting diversity is embedded in our educational programs, practice and policies at Beaconsfield Kindergarten. The curriculum frameworks which underpin our programming focus on the richness of our society, respect for diversity, learning about similarities and differences, interdependence and how we can all learn to live together.

Thursday 21 March, is Harmony Day a nationwide celebration of cultural diversity and respect for everyone who calls Australia home, from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from many other countries around the world. The Teaching Teams at Beaconsfield Kindergarten view this as an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the richness and diversity of culture within our local and wider communities, and to promote greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being.

Ours will be a Harmony Week celebration from *Monday 18 March to Friday 23 March* during which children and families will be invited to participate in a range of experiences which reflect and celebrate cultural diversity in a meaningful way.

Join us at the Harmony Day Festival Saturday 23 March - Beaconsfield

Beaconsfield Kindergarten will be supporting the Harmony Day Festival being held at the O'Neil Rd Community Centre by the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre (BNC). Staff and educators will provide a range of experience to support and promote Harmony Day. We look forward to a rewarding Harmony Week in March.

