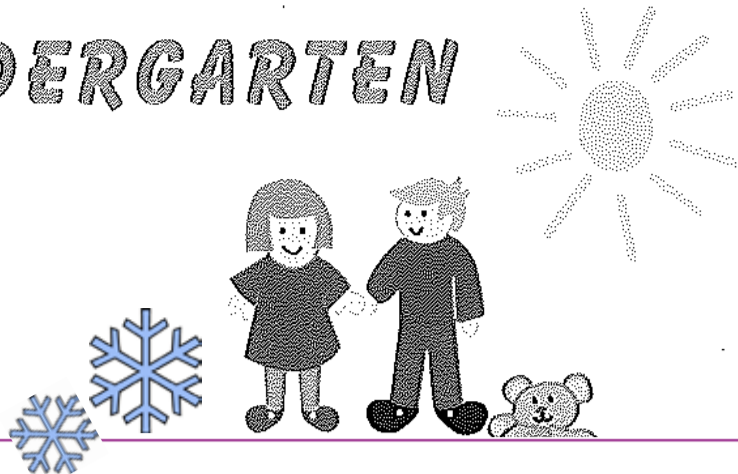


BRIGHT & DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

5 Elm Court
Bright Vic 3741
Tel/Fax: (03) 5755 1042
Email: bright.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Winter Parent's Newsletter 2011



Parent teacher interviews:

Marlene Thanks parents for their patience in terms of scheduling times for interviews. If you have not yet been able to meet with her, just see her individually and together a convenient time can be arranged. Marlene is able to now make times later in the day if needed. Not only do these interviews serve to enable conversations about your child's development and learning, but it is also an opportunity to discuss our practices with the children and for parents to have an input into the program and to offer suggestions to help develop skills at home.

Examples: Several families reported it is hard to get information from their children about their Kindergarten day and how much they would like to know about what has happened in the day making this a starting point for discussion at home. Parents were understanding that this information is already available, but maybe not as user friendly to families as it could be. So we now have the "Today at Kinder" welcoming board and a short report on what did happen.

Writing and holding the pencil correctly: Offering suggestion to help your child self correct pencil grip: Place the paper on a lever arch file, giving the work area a slant.

Practices:

As part of the desire to provide a play and learning environment, considerate of all children's needs and strengths, the Educators are constantly reviewing their practices with children. As part of Marlene's excellence in teaching finalist selection she has been involved in a Leadership program and has implemented some of her learning with the children in terms of Y chart discussions, where the children can have input into the routine practices at Kindergarten and have their say!

News from the Bright & District Kindergarten

3 year old program:

Welcome to the 2nd term of Kindergarten for 2011.

Over the last couple of months the children in the Magpies group have been playing pirates and made their very own pirate which has been placed in their learning journal. After arriving back from the two weeks break the children have been interested in building in the block area creating some fantastic houses, towers and even a zoo. The dinosaurs have been very popular and the children have been making homes for the dinosaurs and making lots of dinosaur food for them to eat.



News from the children for May, June & July:

Where to start! The children have been very instrumental in leading the educators to scaffold their interests. Now that the children have established attachments with the Educators and families are more familiar with the setting and the program, the development of interests and ideas have begun to evolve. Some of our explorations have been maintained for 6 weeks or in fact for the whole year!

Examples of these are...

The digging pit near the sand pit.

Originally the children discovered some roots and started to dig these out, saying "they are coming from the big tree outside of Kinder and one day it will fall if we keep digging out the roots!" This led to a lot of discussion about what roots do for the trees and the decision that it would be okay to dig out a few roots because it was a big tree and it would stay standing up after all! While digging, clay was discovered and lots of discussion about the difference between clay and the soil ensued. We then had clay in play. The children discovered there were "dinosaur skeletons" in the digging pit (miniature plastic ones) and this led to a very in depth exploration of dinosaurs through all facets of the program. Then the wheelbarrows and the larger workmen's shovels were added, enabling the children to start some serious excavation! Roads, pits and channels were made and water added! On mud day the children made "cement" using the cement mixers. The project grows each session with the children adding, changing and learning from others. Throughout, the children are showing respect for the contributions of others and are working together. We now have channels a waterhole and buried pipes as well as a bridge for the wheelbarrows to cross over the channel. Recently the children learnt how to syphon water from the water bin to the work area. There has also been a lot of discussion about saving water and that the water we use in play is water caught from the rain and that we cannot drink, so it is okay to use it for play.



The investigation of magnets:

Exploring how magnets work and how magnetic strength can sometimes be maintained through lots of pieces of metal joined together. The children also learnt that when magnets stick together they attract and when they do not stick together they repel.



Space: Investigating what we know about space, the planets and space travel. The children showed a great deal of knowledge, learnt about the

planets from our song, "planet rock", and made their own space rockets, ships and aliens!

Making colours:

This stemmed from an interest shown by a child when we added coloured paint to the white fluff (lux flakes and water). There was a lot of discussion about making different colours when I explained to the children that we only had red, blue and yellow. "How can we make green?" one child asked. Several colour mixing activities were presented to the children involving opportunities for group and individual discovery, culminating in the fantastic paintings from colours that your children made themselves!

Other things we have learnt!

Insects have six legs, spiders have 8 legs and are called arachnids and spiders do not eat lady bugs (they do not like the taste!), Neptune is the eighth planet and it has eight moons, Jupiter is not a planet anymore!

Skill development and intentional teaching:

Retelling stories

Literacy and in particular the presentation of a story related to the children's interests or focus also encompasses many experiences. The story of the Kookaburra laughed enabled the children not only to embrace the story through listening but through retelling, by singing the song, acting out the story (drama) retelling with props and by making the characters into a magnetic story, to be able to retell the story at home. This also was developed with the story of Jake baked the cake, where we actually made a cake too! The children have had a lot of "box stories" where they can retell the story alone or with friends in play. This is a great pre-reading skill to master.

Gross motor skills:

Balancing on the beams, rocking boards, stilts and "skis" and challenging the children with more difficult climbing tasks including upper body strength, pulling up on the boards and climbing up the fireman's pole and jumping high off the board onto the mattress!

Promoting logical thought processes:

Puzzles and games:

The children have shown great interest in the puzzles and games presented, asking for "harder ones" and being pleased to help others on tasks. Encouraging the children to look for colours, patterns & shapes when completing puzzles has helped children to find success. Giving the children some tools to find success such as: look at the picture before you tip out the pieces, turn all the pieces over first, try turning the piece around, can you find a piece that is red etc & ask for help from a friend or the teachers. Several matching games have also been introduced to further enhance and develop skills of perception.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday Aug 29th

Barry Peters of fairies like flowers and Puffing Billy fame will be at Kindergarten at 11.00am and 1.00pm. Barry discusses caring for our environment in his performance.

Parents and siblings are welcome, but please be reminded the experience is for the Kindergarten children and in order to gain the most form these sorts of educational performers, please be mindful of your toddlers participation and the possible distraction to the children.

Friday Sept 2nd

2.30pm to 4.30pm

Kindergarten Open afternoon for 2012 enrolled children and families. If you have not yet enrolled your child or know of someone else who has not done so, please do so as soon as possible to assist with organising group times and staff.

Monday Oct 24th

"Pete the plumber": (of Bong Bong hat band fame!) Performer discusses the water cycle and the impact on the environment

Partnerships with parents:

It has been great to have many parents come along to share their time, skills and interests with the children. Any time that you have to come along and share time with your child and the other children serves to enrich our play and learning program. If you can stay to read a book on arrival or join in play, prepare the fruit, share an interest or help out in our gardening project we are most appreciative, (the children have wanted to make a scarecrow work in progress!) just talk with any of our educators. Our Kindergarten was part of the pilot program



for the National Quality Assurance program to be introduced to all children's services in 2012. As part of the process we need to formulate a Quality Improvement Plan. Marlene has worked on this as part of the pilot, and already as the beginnings of a plan, but is now seeking parents to come together to work on this project. It is envisaged the group would meet twice prior to the start of the Kindergarten year in 2012. If you are interested in assisting or would like further information, see Marlene.



Spring out of Winter

"Hey guys & dolls,
Don't miss an
Amazing Night Out"

SEPTEMBER 2ND



**WITH
THE NEW SEASON'S FASHION, ART,
FOOD & WINE**

Showing a **FASHION PARADE**,
Spring Carnival entertainment and our **FAMOUS PICK A BOXES**.

BRIGHT ART GALLERY: Mountbatten Ave, Bright
7.30pm: **FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER**

This **FUNDRAISING** inspired event for **GUYS AND DOLLS** includes complimentary drink on arrival, light supper and a **FABULOUS NIGHT OUT**. \$25 Tickets are available from B.A.N.G Ireland St. Bright and Bright Kindergarten (PH 57551042)

BE QUICK: NO DOOR SALES

**PROUDLY PRESENTED
BY
BRIGHT AND
DISTRICT
KINDERGARTEN**

Family & friends section:

On Saturday 30th July families of the Bright & District Kindergarten joined together for a morning gardening working bee to establish the foundations of a children vegetable and herb garden.

All participants were kept busy, replanting bulbs, preparing garden beds, setting up a mini hot house and creating a lovely path surrounding the new area. The children had a wonderful time playing and helping with their parents and friends. Delicious home-made soups were made from kinder mums and enjoyed by all the hardworking families. The new space is now ready for the children and educators to use and incorporate into their learning program. If you would like to help, please contact Marlene.

