



Welcome to the Puckapunyal Kindergarten Newsletter

This year is certainly flying by! The weather is beginning to get cooler, the rain is beginning to fall and our Kindergarteners are truly settled in. It is amazing to see the progress they have made since the beginning of the year.

CCR Rebate

We are registered for Centrelink's Child Care Rebate. Parents with children in 4-year-old Kinder may be eligible for the CCR rebate (however, you must meet Centrelink's work or study test). Please see Janine if you believe you may be eligible and would like a formal receipt. Janine can prepare the receipt for you to lodge with Centrelink.

Upcoming Events

Term 3: Trivia Night— Saturday 6th September
AGM—Monday 8th September

Term 4: Kinder Concert—Late November

Committee Members Needed

The Kinder is run by the volunteer committee of management and without it we would not have the Kinder we currently have. Please take the time to consider whether you are interested in joining the Committee. There are 4 Executive Positions and multiple general committee positions. Please look through the information attached to the newsletter and speak to Janine if you are interested. If you have any further questions, please feel free to talk to an existing committee member. Being on the Committee is a very rewarding experience and gives you the opportunity to be involved in your child's education.

Next Meetings: Monday 16 June @ RAAC Sgt Mess. Starting at 7:30pm
Monday 21 July @ RAAC Sgt Mess. Starting at 7:30pm
Monday 18 August @ RAAC Sgt Mess. Starting at 7:30pm





President's Update

Hello everyone,

At the start of this term the 4 Year Old program extended to Fridays. Thank you to all families for co-operating with us to ensure this was a smooth change for many of our children. Thank you to Kerry Gill for adding the extra day to her working week and we welcome Carly Postill into the position of Assistant on Fridays.

Also, in the first week of this term we welcomed several new children into our 3 Yr Old and 4 Yr Old programs – welcome to Puckapunyal Kindergarten to those families.

Our Kinder Disco on Wed 7 May was a fabulous social event! It was a great fundraiser for the kinder and a fun chance for the children to dress-up and dance with their friends. Thanks to Vonnie and Mel, our fundraising co-ordinators, and Janine, our Centre Manager, for all their hard work planning and running that event. Also, thank you to Di and Rusty Lawson for allowing us to use the excellent facilities at the Donovan's Joynt. In this newsletter you will see the details of our next fundraiser – The Kinder Trivia Night. Please spread the word around your friends as that event is open to everyone and it was a sensational night last year!

As this term draws to a close, the teachers will be busy writing reports that will be distributed to families early in Term 3. Parents/Guardians will then be offered the opportunity for an interview with the teachers to discuss their child/ren's progress.

Our committee meetings are generally held on the evening of the third Monday of each month at the RAAC Sgt's Mess. If you are interested in joining our committee at our [**AGM to be held on Monday 8 Sept**](#) you may like to attend our scheduled meetings on 16 June, 21 July and 18 August to attain an understanding of the matters discussed in that forum.

Kind regards,
Tamara Pennycook





What can I put in my child's lunchbox?

If you supply your child's snacks and meals for the early childhood setting, there are a number of healthy and attractive choices. These include a sandwich, pita wrap or bread roll with fillings such as:

- shredded chicken with cheese and lettuce
- tuna, corn and lettuce
- turkey breast with cucumber and lettuce
- ham, chutney and alfalfa sprouts
- cold roast meat, chutney, lettuce and tomato
- vegemite and cheese
- cream cheese, grated carrot and sultanas
- avocado, tomato and lettuce
- mashed banana.

Other choices include:

- low-fat savoury biscuits or rice cakes with cheese
- a cold slice of frittata
- a homemade savoury muffin – try zucchini or corn and cheese
- homemade pita pizza.

Other healthy snacks to put in your child's lunchbox include:

- fresh fruit – whole fruits such as mandarins, bananas, apricots, pears and plums, or cut-up slices of apple, orange, melon or pineapple
- fruit salad
- stewed fruit
- raisin bread
- dry biscuits with cheese, spreads or dip
- pikelets (grated fruit or vegetables can be included in the mix)
- banana bread
- scones – either plain with spreads, or fruit, pumpkin or cheese
- yoghurt
- vegetable slices or sticks served with dip
- cheese sticks.

Thank you for your support, Committee & Staff





News from 3 Year Old Kinder.

What a great start to term 2 we have had! The children have settled back into (or begun) kinder life amazingly well. The children are engaged in and contributing to shared play experiences, like our doctors surgery we have set up currently. They are beginning to learn negotiation and sharing skills, and learning to express their feelings and ideas in their interactions with others.

We are mainly focused on listening, turn taking and self-help skills this term. We hope to achieve this by playing games, activities and conversations which require those skills and at the same time fulfilling the children's needs and interests.

Parents can assist at home by letting the child pack their own bag for kinder, including zipping the zipper. As parent's ourselves; we know that sometimes it is just easier to "do it myself"! It is very hard not to do it for them, but the more exposure and experience a child has to these things, the more confident and independent they become..... even though it is tough to let your "baby" do these things, it is really important that they learn.

We believe our Mother's Day Pampering session was a great success! Our session started with showing our mum's to their seat, followed by some pampering and make over's done by our highly professional team of beauty technicians. Our mum's were then treated to some iced tea mocktails and homemade biscuits. Once our mum's were looking "gawwgus dahhlink" we made our way over for a group photo. Then onto the mat for a very special mother's day video presentation. We hope you enjoyed the day & thank you for coming.

Our parent stay and play roster will be up soon for term 3, keep an eye out for that and pop your name down for a day & time that suit. More info will follow regarding Parent stay and play.





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Is there anything within the program or your child you would like to know about, discuss or ask? Feel free to chat with us after the session, or alternatively you can email us on Bree@puckapunyalKinder.org.au

Communication with families is very important to us it is also a National Quality Standard in which we are to follow, *Standard 6.1 Respectful and supportive relationships with families are developed and maintained.* Partnerships with families contribute to building a strong, inclusive community within the service (Puckapunyal Kindergarten). Continuous, honest and open two-way communication with educators assists families to feel connected with their children's experience in education and care and helps them develop trust and confidence in the service.

Bree & Tania





News from the 4 Year Old Room

THE PROGRAM

This term we have focused on autumn. We read stories and had group discussions on autumn, participated in autumn activities and watched the leaves change colour on the trees outside in the yard which has been an ongoing activity.

We are now focusing our program on under the sea. So far the children have made their own fish tanks, painted star fish, coloured in a rainbow fish and made jelly fish with more activities to come.

This Term we have introduced name cards. The children's name cards are available for the children to copy and practice writing whilst at the drawing table. They are used at group/mat times and during lunchtime routine. For example 'once the children have washed their hands for lunch, got their lunchbox and drink bottle from their lockers they then walk around the tables looking for their name cards which Sharon has placed at a spot at the lunch tables. Once the children have found their own name card at the table they put their lunchbox and drink bottle down on the table, place their name card in the tray and sit down in their spot to eat. This is part of the children daily lunch routine. Through this the children are developing independence, using their problem solving/thinking skills and recognising their name.

Library is working very well. The children love choosing their library book and putting it into their lockers to take home to read and share with their family. It is very common for children at this age to choose books that they have borrowed before or that they already have at home. The reasons children do this are: to see if the story and pictures are the same and because it is familiar to them.





Wally has been loved and welcomed by all the children at kinder. Wally has been having lots of visits to his friend's houses each weekend. Wally has so far been bike riding, gone to the beach, playground, the air show, and visiting grandparents and has had lots of movie nights.

Communication between home and Kinder is important so please let us know if you have any queries or concerns. Whether it about the program, kinder or concerns about how your child is going please feel free to talk to me anytime or make an appointment after the session.

Don't be concerned if your child doesn't participate in all of the activities available. Some children produce lots of 'work' to take home, others are keen to play with play dough, build, or role play in home corner. Often young children benefit most from actually 'doing' something, whether it's painting, or building. While they may be proud of the result, it's the 'doing' which is important, value their efforts more than the product.

There will be lots of opportunities for the children to learn and practice their skills, whilst doing what they do best, **playing!**

THINGS WE NEED

- * We are collecting assorted boxes for our collage table. Please remember no toilet rolls or medicated boxes. We love any donations of any kind.
- * As winter is coming and the running noses are starting we are getting low on our tissue supply. Tissue donations would be greatly appreciated.

Thank-you

Kerry, Sharon, Carly and Children





THANK-YOU

Thank-you to all the mum's who attended our special Mother's Day afternoon which was a great success. The children were very excited in making their Mums their presents, making them a special necklace and sharing in activities.

REMINDERS

As we are coming into the cold and wet weather could you please ensure that your child brings a warm hat and jacket to kinder everyday as the children will still be going outside as outdoor play is an important part of children's play. We strongly recommend that children do not wear gumboots, as they are not practical and safe for running and climbing at kinder.

Don't forget to keep checking our weekly facebook page which lets you know what we did for the week. This is posted every Friday afternoon.

UNWELL CHILDREN

If your child is unwell and not up to participating in the program then the best place for them is at home

PICK UP TIMES

Please be prompt or phone if an emergency has you daybed

Kindergarten is not like a long day care service where we can offer flexibility in drop off or pick up times. Our duty of care for children in our care is very strict, and session times are not flexible. 3yo times are 9.30am—12.30pm and 4yo times are 9.15am—2.15pm. If you are delayed due to an emergency or unforeseen circumstances, please call the Kinder (5735 7699) so we can assist and let your child know you have been unexpected delayed (they tend to worry if everyone else's Mum or Dad or Carer have been and gone!). Our fees policy does prescribe a "late collection charge" .





Kinder Disco

The Kinder Disco was held on Wednesday 7th May at DJ's. The evening ran smoothly and the kids appeared to be enjoying themselves.

The disco made a profit of \$516.90.

Social Event

We are looking at organising a social event to say good-bye to Sydney and her family as she heads back to the US at the end of the month. We will let everyone know on a date and time ASAP.

Trivia Night

Mums and Dads get your thinking caps on for a great night out with our kinder community in term 3. After the huge success of last years event we are ready to do it all again, a night filled with great prizes and good laughs, one not to be missed.

With this fast approaching, we are after sponsors' tables, so anyone out there with a small business (eg Avon, Tupperware, etc) please let us know if you are interested.

Please keep Saturday 6 September Free





Puckapunyal Kindergarten Association Inc Joining the Committee of Management

The following information will hopefully answer some of the questions you may have about joining the Puckapunyal Kindergarten Committee.

The Committee is a group of volunteer parents who have made the decision to be actively involved in this decision making body that manages the business and affairs of the Puckapunyal Kindergarten Association Inc.

Although members of the committee have different roles, each role is a vital and valued part of the committee and it is supportive team work that enables the committee to successfully meet its objectives. We work together in accordance with the Kindergarten Constitution and other regulations such as the Education and Care Services National Regulations. We also have the support of Early Learning Association of Australia (ELAA) who are always available to us.

“The achievements of an organisation are the result of the combined effort of each individual.” (source unknown)

What will I need to do?

To join the committee all you will need to do is fill out a nomination form (ask Janine in the office) and attend the next Association meeting or AGM. You can nominate yourself or a friend that you know is interested. (see over for specific role descriptions)

How much time will it take up?

This is a difficult question to answer as it depends on how involved you would like to be. If you are a general member the minimum is two hours per month attending the committee meeting. As a general member you can determine how many hours you wish to commit according to what you are interested in being actively involved with. This year we have had general members choose to work on sub-committees dealing with a specific issue or tasks such as fundraising or occupational health and safety. You can also choose to just be a member of a sub-committee such as fundraising or take on a role such as producing the monthly newsletter without joining the general committee. If you are an executive member you will have more meetings and tasks to complete with other members depending on the business of the month. This will change from week to week and month to month.

What benefit is it to me?

Joining a committee has many benefits for each individual. One of these is meeting and getting to know new people outside your usual social circle. For many, close and lifelong friendships are formed. Everyone comes to the committee with a range of skills, knowledge, professions and life experiences. Together we learn new skills from each other in a supportive environment. These include computer skills, public speaking skills, report writing, writing submissions for grants, writing briefs and budgeting to name a few. All these skills may enhance your own CV. It is also very rewarding to be involved more closely and have a say in your child's kinder education. The other benefit to you may be just the satisfaction that you have contributed to your own community.

What does each role actually involve?

The office bearers of the committee are called the “executive” and include the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. General members make up the remainder of the committee. The table overleaf lists the main responsibilities of each role.

It is hoped that this information will be of interest to you and that perhaps the committee is something that you would like to be involved with in some capacity. Most members are on the committee for 6 or 12 months depending on when your child has enrolled in the Kinder and the receipt of your next posting order. Without the Committee of Management, the Kinder will cease to operate so please think about joining.

We think that most committee members, past and present, would agree that it is a great opportunity and the benefits to yourself and the Kinder can be significant

<p>President</p> <p>The President chairs meetings Oversees the running of the Kindergarten Ensures all actions are carried out from meetings Attends functions / meetings on behalf of the Kindergarten Signs appropriate mail Produces the meeting agenda in conjunction with the secretary Oversees and is responsible for funding applications Communicates with various organisations Gives assistance to staff, committee members and parents when required Attends monthly meetings Writes a monthly Presidents report Assists in all matters relating to the AGM and works closely with the Vice President dividing the work load when necessary Manages staff and employment / agreement contracts.</p>	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Works closely with the Centre Manger in relation to all financial matters The Treasurer submits financial reports to each committee meeting, with the assistance of the Centre Manager. Oversees the collection, receipt and banking of all monies via the Centre Manager Oversees payroll via the Centre Manager (Payroll is paid automatically) Prepares budgets in conjunction with the Executive Committee and Centre Manager Assists with preparing funding applications with President and Centre Manager Ensures yearend audit takes place and submits yearend financial reports to AGM Communicates with various organisations Gives assistance to staff, committee members and parents when required Attends monthly meetings</p>
<p>Vice President</p> <p>The Vice President attends monthly meetings Assists the President and Committee when required Assists in all matters relating to the AGM Performs duties of the President in their absence Is responsible for workplace WH&S and chairs the WH&S meetings Prepares monthly WH&S report. Communicates with various organisations Gives assistance to staff, committee members and parents when required Attends monthly meetings</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>The Secretary takes, produces, copies and distributes minutes of both Executive and General Committee meetings Produces the agenda in conjunction with the Executive Committee. Assists in all matters relating to AGM Assists in producing letters and other written material as required Produces quarterly newsletters and updates Facebook page and Website Communicates with various organisations Gives assistance to staff, committee members and parents when required Attends monthly meetings</p>
<p>Fundraising Co-ordinator</p> <p>The Fundraising Coordinator is in charge of all fundraising Submits a fundraising report at each committee meeting Receives and dispatches all items involved in any given fundraiser Collects all relevant monies and passes on to Treasurer and Centre Manager Liaises with staff, committee members and association members with regards to fundraising activities Delegates tasks to General Members</p>	<p>General Member</p> <p>The general member performs miscellaneous duties and is vital to the effective operation of the committee Assist all committee members in their duties when required Attends committee meetings Raises issues on behalf of association members and assist the fundraising coordinator</p>