

Wattle Hill Kindergarten



The Newsletter of the Wattle Hill Kindergarten Parent Committee

Issue 1, 10 March 2009

Welcome to our Wattle Hill Kindergarten community

Hi my friends,

Our term is progressing well and we are continuing to develop relationships and understandings of the children. The children seem to be settling well in the kindergarten environment. We work towards making the kindergarten a happy and welcoming environment where the children can have a positive place in which they can play and learn.

We value having had the opportunity to begin the year with the sessions for the Introductory Days which

have enabled the children the opportunity to become familiar or reappointment themselves with the kindergarten environment, staff and other children. This also has been a great opportunity to spend quality time with the children in small groups and establish positive relationships early, ensuring the kindergarten year begins smoothly and comfortably for everyone.

The children are settling well in both groups. We look forward to our continued journey as we progress

and enjoy adventures together.

From your friends,
Sofi Galanis & Connie Mills
Teachers

Read more on Sofi's Inspirational Award on Page 3.



Ready for 2009, Sofi Galanis, Directress of Wattle Hill Kindergarten (WHK)

Kinder Calendar

March

Monday 9—Labour Day—NO KINDER
Monday 23—Parent Information Night
Friday 28— Welcome BBQ

April

Friday 3 April - Last kinder day of term 1
Saturday 18 April - Working Bee No 2
Monday 20 April - First kinder day of term 2

May

TBC - Working Bee No 3
Saturday 23 May—WHK Open Day

June

Monday 8 June - Queens B'day- NO KINDER

A friendly note to all parents ...

- To celebrate your child's birthday, you are welcome to bring in a cake, cupcakes or other treats. Please provide a list of the ingredients and adhere to the "no nuts" policy.
- When at the kinder or on kinder duty, please note only Sofi or Connie are authorized to unlock the external door to let parents or visitors in. If anyone arrives at the external door, please let Sofi and Connie know, and they will attend to the parent or visitor. This is to ensure everyone's safety at all times.
- Keep up to date and informed by checking your pigeon holes and emails regularly.
- Please adhere to our Sunsmart Policy. Please ensure your child has sunscreen at home, you will find a bottle of sunscreen near the sign in books.
- If due to sickness or other reasons, your child cannot attend kinder, please call Sofi and Connie and let them know. Whilst it's not a policy of the kinder, it is a nice courtesy for all.
- Please place all cash payments and slips into the payment box on the right, next to the parent communication pigeon holes.

A hello from Jo

Hello and welcome to the Wattle Hill community for 2009.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jo Holland and I am President of the parent's committee for WHK. I have a daughter Chloe, 4yo group and a son Peter, 3yo group.

I work part time as an Ambulance Paramedic in Richmond and moved into the local area about 18 months ago. I look forward to meeting everyone over the year at pick up or drop off, or perhaps at one of our working bees. If you have questions, ideas, problems, suggestions, please find me to have a

chat. The kindergarten experience was all new to me last year and it was the conversations with the other families that helped make me feel welcome.

Wattle Hill is a unique place and one which I came to appreciate more and more. The kindergarten is only able to run due to the work and

commitment of Sofi and Connie and all the families who contribute to it.

As one of our families who make this kindergarten possible, I just want to say thank you and I hope you and your children enjoy the time spent at Wattle Hill.

Jo Holland
President



President of WHK, Jo Holland

First Working Bee

Our first working bee on 7 February turned out to be the hottest day on record in Melbourne. A sweltering 46.2 degrees and unfortunately the day is now known as Black Saturday.

Aside all of us, a big thank you to all the parents and children who struggled though the heat tirelessly with great ease. A record amount of work was completed!

In one working bee, 5 metres of soft fall and 2.5 metres of Lilydale topping was distributed using wheel barrows to the grounds. Amazingly, all the jobs on the list were completed except for one. (see right). This was a fantastic start to the kinder year. Well done everyone.

Children are welcome to the working bees so feel free to bring them along. We would especially like to thank the many children who attended our first working bee. They were all very enthusiastic and really keen to be involved in activities. When the heat set in, they all enjoyed a delicious picnic that kept them entertained for the duration of the working bee and no tears!

Parents who kindly attend these working bee's play a vital role to prepare the outdoor setting ready for children to enjoy each term. See you at our next working bee on Saturday 18 April.

Lisa N
Garden Co-ordinator



Got a spare hour?

Can your family complete the last job on our working bee list? We need the bird observation deck re-stained. This job counts towards 1 working bee session on your garden contact. Please contact Lisa on xxxx xxxx if you can help.



Is your children's artwork taking over your home?

Do you find it hard to throw out your children's art work?

Manage all those wonderful art drawings you can't part with. Frame the best, store the 'must keep' in a special folder and for the best and the rest, take a photograph.

Storing the artwork of your children at the same age of your child alongside the photographs, keeps it in perspective.

Left - This was the artwork by the 4yo group in 2007.



An Inspiration to Teachers, Parents and Children

Our kindergarten Directress, Sofi Galanis won the Inspirational Teacher Award at the National Excellence in Teaching Awards. Sofi is one of only 10 Teachers from Victoria to receive an award, and one of only two early childhood educators to be recognized.

Our Sofi was also an initiator of the Whitehorse Kindergarten Group, which encourages and supports continuing professional development for early childhood educators. Of her award, Sofi said it was "very humbling" and appreciated.

As written by Sonia Prasel of the Burwood Bulletin, "Speak to Sofi Galanis and at some stage, no doubt, you will hear her use the phrases 'journey together' and 'learning together'. If you let Sofi expand on either of these phrases, you will

become a part of a very interesting conversation. You see, Sofi says that everything in life is a journey which should be embraced. Good experiences and 'not so good' experiences are all part of that journey. As human beings, we learn every day and if you are surrounded by children, you are incredibly lucky. Children have so much to teach us if we



let them.

It is this approach which won Sofi the Inspirational Teacher Award in the National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA) in October 2008. Obviously Sofi has a passion for children... otherwise she may have chosen another career. Luckily for Wattle Hill Kindergarten in Livingstone Close, Burwood, Sofi did choose a career as a preschool teacher. For the past 9 years Sofi has run the kindergarten and been admired by the parents and children who have passed through. Her superb attitude to life, her gentle nurturing nature with the children and her input to the community were all recognised as part of this award.

Thank you to Burwood Bulletin for allowing us to reprint part of their article.

To all the friends of the Wattle Hill Kindergarten, we welcome you if you are new or are returning again for the 4yo year. Our Teachers, Sofi Galanis and Connie Mills have been a great team since 2002. Those of us who have experienced the magic, creativity and developmental opportunities they provide, know our children will leave with long lasting special memories.

I have the wonderful role of creating this newsletter for our Wattle Hill Kindergarten community. We hope to keep you informed and up to date with the news of WHK. Two newsletters per term will be distributed by email (or hard copy for those who require it in paper form). Suggestions welcome of local community news, a great tip to share, something to sell, recipes or surprise me! It's your newsletter to help shape. If you have any queries or would like to contribute to our news, please contact me on xxxx xxx xxx or on email:

XXXXXX

I've already been amazed at our wonderful Parent Committee who volunteer their personal time to manage a kinder. Though partly funded by the government, kindergartens rely heavily on the time and efforts of parents like you and me. The administration of kinders is run by parents in collaboration with the Teachers. Teachers look after the wonderful education of our children whilst parents manage the business administration. Kindergartens couldn't run without parent involvement, so if you can, please get involved in your community kinder.

In the newsletter, we'll be featuring the different roles of the Parent Committee throughout the year, to give you some insight of the roles available. At the end of each year, usually in November or December, there is the Annual General Meeting where all the roles of the Parent Committee of Management are elected for the following year.

Being a part of the Parent Committee of Management is a great way to meet other like minded parents in an informal setting, develop new skills, share your expertise, and learn more about your kinder and community. If you can help when volunteers are needed, it can transform a big job into manageable and achievable smaller jobs.

I'm the mother of E in the 3yo group. Her sister G, attended WHK in 2006 and 2007. She has beautiful memories of her time here and sometimes still wishes she was a kinder kid! I wish you a great year at this kindergarten.

Linda McColm
Newsletter Co-ordinator



Feel the Community Spirit come alive at Y

They say it takes a village to raise a child – we have discovered that the same can be said for installing a water tank!

In August 2007, the incumbent Parent Committee of Management discussed measures to maintain our beautiful garden in the face of the ongoing drought and water restrictions. It was decided at that time to try and gain assistance from the community to fund the installation of a water tank. After attempts to secure funding through community service agencies were unsuccessful, we were delighted to be offered a water tank free of charge to the kinder from a new parent in 2008 – Dean H (father of A in 4yo group in 2008). Dean managed to secure the 7,000 litre tank for the kindergarten through his company, First Division Productions.

Lisa N (mum of P now in 4yo group) then went through an exhaustive process both liaising with council and completing the relevant planning permits to submit to council for the approval to install the water tank.

Mark P (father of P now in 4yo group), Tim D (father of A now in 3yo group), Lisa N and Stephen H (father of E now in 4yo group) then worked to remove the garden shed and also the old swing to make room for the tank and the new swing. Finally, Tim D Plumbing connected up the tank and Mike N (father of P in 4yo group) ensured all hoses were connected and new drip hoses installed, to ensure all areas of our beautiful can benefit from the tank water.

On behalf of the parent communities both from 2008 and 2009, a big THANK YOU is extended to all of those parents for their generosity of time and skills. The rest of us now can play our part by singing/dancing/praying for rain – whatever takes your fancy!!

Anne D
Garden Co-ordinator

Wattle Hill Kindergarten



Every year the 4yo group leave an artistic legacy for future children to feel the community spirit of children whose footprints have been there before them.

The beautiful blue water tank with its paintings by the children, is one to make us smile and all feel good.

Other past artistic legacies include mosaic tiles on the fence, mosaic works on the totem poles in the fairy garden, pebble tiles in the dinosaur digging garden and stone pebbles in the Bird Observatory Deck.

Easy ways to support your kinder

Support the chemist that supports your kinder

Purchase products (excludes prescriptions) from our local Wattle Park Amcal Pharmacy in Wattle Park (across from tram stop) and the pharmacy donates a portion of the sale to Wattle Hill Kindergarten.

This facility is in place for the whole year and is great way to support the kindergarten. Simply post your receipt in their box at the pharmacy.

TIP: For your next pharmacy purchase, head down to Amcal Pharmacy Wattle Park on your way to kinder pickup!

Quality clothing for kinder kids

We are currently taking orders for WHK t-shirts and sweatshirts. It's a great addition to the kinder wardrobe and a memorable item once they leave. To place an order, fill in the forms provided with your child's name, order details [T-Shirt, Sweatshirt or both], colours, size and qty.

Place your order and payment in an envelope in the payments box. Orders due by Wednesday 11th Mar.

Join us at our welcome BBQ

A wonderful opportunity to get together, chit chat and have some fun at Wattle Hill Kindergarten.

When: **FRIDAY 27th MARCH**

Where: Wattle Hill Kindergarten

Time: 5:45pm onwards

Cost: \$10 per family

Provided: sausage sizzle, drinks and ice-blocks for the kids

Bring Along: Drinks, any other food you would like and maybe something sweet to share (ie, cake).

Place **RSVP** details and payment in the payments box by Tuesday 24th March

We would love to see you all there.

Sheena P
**Fundraising
Co-ordinator**



Fundraising is more than just the \$\$\$'s

Fundraising is an integral part of all kindergartens. Governments provide funds to contribute towards the running costs of kinder and the gap is filled by fund raising activities by the kinder. Without the funds raised from fund raising activities and the volunteer contributions of parents, kindergartens wouldn't exist. Fundraising is important for your kindergarten providing:

1. Families and the wider community the opportunity to show that they really value the education of children.
2. An opportunity for the kindergarten to market itself, and to raise the profile of early childhood education.
3. A chance for kindergarten families to become friends.
4. The prospect to raise money.

This information has been supplied by the Kindergarten Parents Victoria website:
<http://www.kpv.org.au/page/view/faqs-42/#m>

Fundraising bridges the gap between government funding and grants for kindergartens to operate.

Ashburton Festival

On Sunday February 22 we excitedly participated in the Ashburton Festival. It was a very successful day with lots of children and families visiting our stand. We ran an activity where children could fill glass bottles with coloured sand and it was an absolute hit! However, we may need to work on making our area stand out a little more next time in order for the kinder to receive a little more exposure. i.e. big banner or branded aprons. All in all, a good day.

A huge thank you to Sofi Galanis, Jo Holland, Anne W and Larissa K - my saviours of the day! Hoping to receive more parent support for the next publicity event if you can help out, so that more can feel our community spirit.

Julie B
Publicity Officer

WE NEED YOU

We need more people to help out in our fundraising team. Fundraising is lots of fun. The team meets informally on a monthly basis to organise any fundraising activities. With more people, the work and fun can be shared. It's a great way to meet other mum's and make friends for you and your children in your community. Call Sheena P our Fundraising Co-ordinator on xxxx xxx xxx.

Community Board

Welcome to our Community Board. A space for us to share tips, recipes or any items you want to sell. Please email me with your copy and/or pictures. My email address is xxx or simply print or write on a piece of paper and pop it in Emily M pigeon hole.

Are you Fire Savvy?

To report a fire call 000.

For emergency radio reports on fires tune into ABC 774AM.

For updates on fires, www.cfa.vic.gov.au. Click on fires and incidents.

Find out about road closures www.vicroads.vic.gov.au. Click on "road closures."

For your State Emergency Service (SMS) call 132500.

Do you know smoke removes oxygen from the air making it hard to breathe?

NEED A BREAK?

Holbury Children's Centre offers Occasional Care for children aged 1 to 5yo. They currently have vacancies on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am to 2.30pm, cost is \$40 per session. Fabulous, caring staff and great play area outside. High staff ratio, located in Raleigh St, Blackburn Sth. Call 9878 3656. Highly recommended.

H O M E T I P

Save money and reduce your energy consumption. Simply, turn off your microwave at the power point (if accessible) when not using it. Leaving the microwave on standby costs money, burns unnecessary electricity and omits green house gasses. How often do you use your microwave ie, seconds here, minutes there? Why have it burning power unnecessarily? Try turning off other appliances on standby for a couple of months to see the difference in your electricity bill. Feel good too that you're helping the environment.

FOR SALE

Advertise here to sell your items to like minded mums and dads and carers just like you!

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no kinder on Monday 2 November, 2009 as this day will be a professional day for education for Sofi and Connie.

This may give your family the potential to have a long weekend coinciding with the Melbourne Cup weekend. So start planning something fun!

WANTED

Tasty Vegetarian recipes to publish in this newsletter. Or if you have a great cupcake recipe ... Let me know.

What's on

Support your local school fetes and have fun. Laburnum Primary School fete is on **Saturday 14 March** from 12pm to 6pm. They advertise there is something for everyone!

Available from **Wednesday 18 March** is the Box Hill Community Arts Centre listing of all their courses for the holidays. Discover art with your child through pottery, drawing, craft, jewellery and so much more. Visit them at www.bhcacc.com.au or ring them on 9895 8888.

Sofi Galanis has organised a very special evening on **Monday 23 March** from 6.45pm to 9.30pm. At the Parent Information Night, find out more about your child's educational journey and be enlightened by Kinesiologist, Brendan O'Hara. All parents welcome.

Come and join the fun at our welcome BBQ **Friday 27 March**, 5.45pm onwards in the grounds of Wattle Hill Kindergarten. Come and meet other parents. See you there!

2009 Working Bee Dates

To secure your gardening refund, you need to attend 3 working bee's for the year. The dates (all Saturdays) are:

Working Bee One - 7 February, 2009 (done)

Working Bee Two - 18 April, 2009

Working Bee Three - To be confirmed (May)

Working Bee Four - 18 July, 2009

Working Bee Five - 10 October, 2009

Term Dates

Term One 28 January to 3 April, 2009

Term Two 20 April to 26 June, 2009

Term Three 13 July to 18 September, 2009

Term Four 5 October to 19 December, 2009

2009 Parent Committee of Management

| POSITION | PARENT | CHILD | GROUP |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| President | Jo Holland | C and P | 3yo or 4yo |
| Vice President | Natalie C | I | 4 |
| Treasurer | Jo G | S | 4 |
| Secretary | Iain C | L | 4 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Wilda K | E | 4 |
| Payroll Officer | Angus M | R | 3 |
| Enrolment Officer | Sofi Galanis | n/a | n/a |
| Fundraising Co-ordinator | Sheena P | Z | 3 |
| Newsletter Co-ordinator | Linda M | E | 3 |
| Garden Co-ordinators | Lisa N | P | 4 |
| | Anne D | A | 3 |
| WPSA Representative | Sofi Galanis | T | 4 |
| Publicity Co-ordinator | Julie B | L | 4 |
| Librarians | Karen P | P | 3 |
| | Emma P | B | 3 |
| Correspondence Secretary | Joanne D | B | 3 |