



Isabel Henderson Newsletter

Term 1, Summer 2014

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Welcome families to our first newsletter for the year. This is one of the many ways in which we communicate to families throughout the year. The purpose of this newsletter is to discuss professional updates within Early Years Education and overall kindergarten news. This is an opportunity for the community to showcase what is happening across the kindergarten in each of their portfolio's.

From a team perspective, the year begun with an intensive professional development session across two days, which focused on our sustainable approach throughout the kindergarten. Moving forward we have set some professional goals to extend our sustainable approach environmentally, socially and financially. The team will be working on reviewing our documentation and planning process throughout the year (Quality Area 1 Educational Program and Practice. We invited Natashja Treveton from EC Inspired www.inspiredec.com, who supports the philosophy that children have the right to a childhood that is full of imagination and natural experiences, the team at EC Inspired work closely with Claire Warden www.claire-warden.com, one of the first educators to develop forest kindergarten in Scotland, where children spend up to 90% of their kindergarten day outside.

The presentation was designed to challenge and review our current practices, and form a platform for the team to develop new ideas about how we can approach things in a different way.

Professional development is key for our team as we are embarking on a very unique model, offering long day kindergarten programs that are team taught for 3 and 4 year olds, so we feel we need to redevelop our program and documentation approach to support our new way of working, it's a very exciting time for our team.

Team teaching is an approach in education designed to create innovative programs through positive collaboration and ongoing support.

The quality and consistency of our kindergarten programs from 8.00 – 6.00 is essential to enrich children's learning opportunities. Our decision to provide degree qualified teachers throughout the entire day for 3-5 year olds is something that is rare within the early years field, however IHK is driving change in this area as we apply research (that supports the ability for children to learn in a kindergarten environment all day) about how children learn within high quality kindergarten programs from 3 onwards if they supported within a consistent quality programs all day not just in the morning or for 15 hours. Co-Teachers are also another very important addition to our teaching team. We have two degree qualified teachers working across the kindergarten to extend children's learning and provide the resource to explore interest based learning and enable children to continue their learning in small groups.

Please make sure you take time to build relationships with all the teachers and educators in your program, it is important for your child's program and development and part of the community experience.

Nicole Messer, Director





Orientation Process

As outlined in my email last week we are seeking feedback about our orientation program that spans from the orientation evening in December to the first week of kindergarten. If you have any positive feedback for the team that would be fantastic as would areas of improvement that we can incorporate next year.

Educational Leadership

IHK continues to support our decision to have an Educational Leadership team led by myself. The key leadership roles focus on children programs, connection with community and families, program mentoring, and policy & regulations. The team is not about introducing a new level of hierarchy, it is there to provide support and role model reflective practice with the team to ensure consistency across the kindergarten in key areas outlined within the National Quality Standards, including Educational Program and Practice, relationships with children, connection with family and community.

Rating and Assessment Review

The team at IHK are currently undertaking our ratings and assessment review, a process that all early years services undergo to support their practices and identify areas of improvement using the National Early years quality standards as our benchmark.

Our assessment date is planned for the 27 February; we will have two assessors here working with the team from 8.00-6.00. When you drop off and pick up you may see two ladies taking a lot of notes and observing the teachers, this is a normal part of the process and their names are Nicola Thorpe and Ann Smith.

Our Quality Improvement Plan, long-term strategy and road map for this year, are available for review in the foyer, please feel free to review them as well as our kindergarten policies and emergency management procedures.

In relation to other community-based information we have an abundance of pamphlets and brochures available in my office that cover everything from local GP's, dentists, nutrition, sustainability, and inclusion practices. We have an excellent relationship with the local maternal health nurse, speech pathologist and other family services, and if you require any information please ask the team or myself who are here to support you and your family.

Community kindergarten

We are excited to welcome a lot of new families to Isabel Henderson this year, families experiencing kindergarten for the first time. Community kindergartens are unique establishments and accommodate a diverse number of families from different cultural and economic backgrounds. We are a true reflection of how diverse Fitzroy North can be. Being a family in a community kindergarten I ask that you embrace the opportunity to meet new families and support each other. Diversity and inclusion within a community are important to extend your children's social learning; it also provides a safety net for some families and children who may have been isolated or at risk up until now.

Every year we ask for social representative in each program. If you would be interested in this role please let me know, this is an important role and ensures that you get to know each other and establish support networks (for you and your children). Please remember some families face significant challenges in their life economically and socially, at IHK we are strong advocates for all children to have a quality early years education.

New Website

IHK has developed a communication strategy that supports families need within a long day setting. Often information available in the foyer of a kindergarten does not meet the needs of busy working families, therefore we would like to make kindergarten information available 24/7 so you can access it when you need to and you can provide feedback in real time. We are in the process of working with web designers to help us redesign our current website. If you have a talent for websites we would love to hear from you as it is a key project for IHK this year so we can improve our level of transparency and information access. Please contact Nicole if this is a project you would be interested in supporting us.





A message from our Chair...

Happy new year and welcome back to all our existing families and staff and a special welcome to our new families and teachers

As I am sure you are aware Isabel Henderson Kindergarten celebrated its 100th birthday in 2013 which is an amazing milestone for a kindergarten and testament to our kinder and broader community's generous nature and hard work in making this such a special place. If you are wondering if there is a way you too can contribute to the kinder "yes" there area number of ways, one of them being to join the committee of management. As a community run kindergarten, the kinder is overseen by a committee of management made up of volunteers from the kinder community. The committee typically meet one evening a month for a couple of hours and depending on your role additional time will need to be required over the year. We always love to hear from people who are interested in joining the committee and this year we would particularly love to hear from you if you are interested in taking over these roles:

Chair - co-ordinates the committee of management & liaises with the director on the management of the kinder. Ensures the kinder is meeting its legal moral and constitutional requirements.

Fund Raising - for the past 3 years we have had a single fund raiser comedy night featuring comedian and past parent Dave O'Neil and prior to that a silent auction. These nights have been great fun and fabulous for getting to know the other families and staff and funds raised go towards a special project (last year our foyer upgrade). Typically a fund raising subcommittee is formed to assist in organisation of the event.

Grants Applications - last year we used Grants from the City of Yarra to assist in funding a number of special projects including our centenary book, centenary celebration and both the community garden and 'in the wild' garden area. This position would especially suit someone who has prior experience in grant writing alternately someone with a way with words.

We are also creating a couple of new roles this year: **Social / Family Events Organiser** - we like to have a number of family get-togethers over the year and are keen to have someone to take on the role of organising these.

Vice Chair - this person would assist the Chair with the view to this person taking on the role of chair in the future.

Compliance - to assist the committee with checking all policies and registers are kept current. If you have an eye for detail this would suit you.

General Member - this position would be great for someone who is keen to join committee and happy to help out where needed.

If you want to find out more about what is involved please either come and see myself or Nicole in the office. If you have already expressed interest please also come and see us to pick up a copy of the Committee nomination form. We would also look forward to hearing from you if you are interested in helping out on the fund raising sub-committee.

The kinders' annual general meeting will be held at the end of March where we will elect and welcome our new committee members. We invite everyone to come and join us.

Georgina Ednie, Chair

Isabel Henderson AGM 2014 Monday, March 24 at IHK, 7pm

Monday 24 March at 7.00 is our AGM, and this is an opportunity to be involved in an annual review of the kindergarten.

Every year to compliment our AGM, we also invite a guest speaker. We are very excited to present Jo Lange to come and speak to our parent group. Jo Lange is a well-respected Early Years professional who has over 30 years of experience in working across many age groups in the areas of human development, psychology, interpersonal communication and behaviour management.

She will present on the importance of building children's resilience, and the characteristics of negative and optimistic thinking. She will also explore how we are able to help children develop resilience through everyday communication, play and problem solving experiences. Through this, children develop a sense of confidence and capability, to tackle the bumpy road of life.





Kingfisher Gallery

KINGFISHERS



playing music



Lots of digging....



Pelican Gallery
PELICANS



Yoga



*Fruit is a good time
to get to know each other*



Learning about compost



Clay work with Annur





Budgie Gallery

B U D G I E S



Budgies Singing songs



Budgies playing dinosaurs in the wild



Budgies having lunch together



Important Dates - Term 1 & 2

Date	Event
Mon March 10	Public Hholiday - Labour Day
Mon March 24	Jo Lange presentation and AGM at kindergarten, 7pm onwards.
Fri April 4	KINDER LAST DAY OF TERM 1 IHK - holiday program runs during holidays
Tues April 22	First day of Term 2
Fri April 25	Public Holiday - Anzac Day
Saturday May 3	Working Bee 1
Friday May 31	KINDER CLOSED - staff professional development day (only 2 per year - other day is Monday November 4)
Mon June 9	Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday
Fri June 27	KINDER LAST DAY OF TERM 2 - holiday program runs during holidays

Look out for our Holiday Program!

IHK operates a small holiday program throughout the school holidays. The program has a maximum capacity of up to 16 children across all groups.

Helen and Kate have put together an exciting program supported by another team member. We are working on ways we can best meet the children's needs during this 'down time'. and will keep you updated with more information about the program in the next two weeks.

Hours of operation are 9-5 and you can choose to come for whole or half days. The fee is \$80 per day or \$40 for half a day and does attract CCB and CCR. Cancellations must be made 48 hours prior to the day or normal fee will apply. This time enables us to provide the place to a family who may require the extra day.



Working Bees!

We ask all families to participate in at least one working bee throughout the year. Help from parents is so important to our kinder, as we do not receive any financial assistance from local council and are fully responsible for the cost of maintenance. Our working bee dates will be confirmed as soon as our new working bee representative is elected in our March AGM. Pelase look out for dates.

Working Bee dates

Working Bee 1: Saturday May 3

Working Bee 2: Saturday July 19

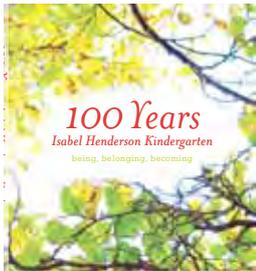
Working Bee 3: Saturday October 25





Isabel Henderson 100 Year celebration!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



In November last year Isabel Henderson Kindergarten (IHK) celebrated its 100 year anniversary. To celebrate families from 2013 joined forces to produce a publication that chronicles the IHK history. The book was launched on the 17th of November during a day of celebration that brought families and staff, past and present, long-time supporters and local dignitaries, together to give thanks to all who had helped shape this amazing learning institution.

It was a wonderful day that really encapsulated our strong sense of community and served to highlight how important our family's support has been to IHK over the many years of its existence.

Throughout last year the children took part in wonderfully rich conversations about what it would be like to be 100 years old;

They had roofs that were made of straw and the rest of the house was made of wood "

Connor 2013 Kingfishers

'They got around on horses and donkeys'

Max 2013 Pelicans

'Children used to work in the olden days'

Leo 2013 Kingfishers

'I think they got their milk from cows'

James 2013 Kingfishers

Children also participated in some very special art projects that will be able to be enjoyed by future IHK families and staff, for a hundred years to come.

Like the Centenary Tree – the terracotta tree which we pass each morning as we walk into IHK was created by the children over many months and is a lovely tribute to the importance that our garden plays in the IHK learning programs. IHK has for many years been at the fore front in developing sustainable nature based programs.



The Centenary Tree was created by the children over many months and is a lovely tribute to the importance that our garden plays in the IHK learning



Isabel Henderson 100 Year celebration!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



In the front yard our resident artist, Veronica Passmore, worked with the children to create the 100 Year Pebble Art Walking Stones, and is a tangible representation of the children's creative experience and ideas around the garden, the kindergarten and the centenary.





Isabel Henderson 100 Year celebration!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



The day would not have been so successful if it was not for the help of some of our local friends;

- The countless number of parent volunteers who helped leading up to and throughout the day on stalls, setting up, packing up and washing dishes
- Horn Please for their beautiful curries
- Toscano's for donating some lovely fruit
- The children of many IHK generations for the lemonade stand
- Dave O'Neil for his MC brilliance
- Rose, Michael, Annabel and Caroline for their passion and patience in producing the 100 year history of IHK
- The Clyde Ladies association for their continued support and enthusiasm for what IHK represent
- All the families who baked for our wonderfully successful cake stall
- Dreamer Puppets who entertained children throughout the day and who continue to entertain children at IHK
- Anita and her band of merry sewers for hand sewing 100 metres of bunting
- Scott McAslan for his patience and dedication in getting all of the yard ready for Monday
- Butcher Warialda Belted Galloways for the homemade sausages
- Lee St Primary for their BBQ
- David Mackintosh who supplied plenty of wine, beer and cider on the day
- Melissa De Rango for her corn and sunflower seeds
- Growers Coffee for the coffee machine
- Baker's Delight , Clifton Hill for bread for our BBQ.
- City of Yarra for assisting the day by providing Grants that contributed to producing the book and funding the celebration.
- The All Day Fritz band.
- Marcel Acur for taking some memorable photos of the day
- All the team at IHK and the committee for the many hours they put into the afternoon, and especially Nikki Honey who saved us by putting her hand up for a job that was extremely time consuming but she did it with a lot of love and passion
- Ash for his signage, movie making and printing brilliance.



Isabel Henderson Kindergarten

Isabel Henderson 100 Year celebration!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



Isabel Henderson Kindergarten
259 Rae Street, Fitzroy North, 3068

Phone 9481 6152 www.ihk.org.au
isabel.henderson.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au