From The President

After what seemed like an endless summer, it is difficult to believe that the 2014 kinder year has started and we are straight back into routine. The teachers were busy over the summer preparing the rooms and programs in preparation for an exciting year ahead.

We have welcomed back familiar faces as well as many, many new ones. It has been rewarding to hear how settled all the groups are and to see so many parents chatting at the kindergarten gate. We have four groups running this year and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Emily (Red Group leader), Nicole and Elli (co-educators) to our kindergarten family.

Our philosophy at JJ’s is to create a curriculum that evolves around your child’s environment and their experiences within it. Your involvement in their kindergarten ‘world’ helps them to feel secure and provides them with a sense of community and their place within it. With this in mind, we rely heavily on parental involvement.

Whether this be helping in your child’s class, attending social events, manning a BBQ, helping to clean up at a working bee or washing smocks... every little bit helps and we simply can’t run without it. We have quite a few events occurring over the next few months that I encourage you to become involved in. These include a Working Bee and Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (see our calendar for dates). By participating in these events, it will be credited against your working bee levy. More details will follow.

We are also in need of a maintenance officer – maybe if you have skills in carpentry this could be a great job for you!
There are many skills that are useful within the kindergarten such as sewing, carpentry, plumbing, gardening, electrical and IT. If you have any of these, or would like to help us to create a functioning, clean, safe and enjoyable kindergarten, please feel free to contact me at president@jjmcmahon.org.au

I look forward to working with our wonderful staff, committee and wider kindergarten parent community to build a learning environment that will be of critical importance to the ongoing personal development of our children.

Nicki Nagy

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**Blue Group news**
Catherine, Jo, Libby and Sharon

Making friends and having fun!

Experimenting with ice, salt and water colour.

Mr Yellow at our rockpool incursion.

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**Working bees**
Saturday 15 March
9.30-11.30 am.

Come and help maintain the beautiful surrounds of our kindergarten. Everyone is welcome and will be rewarded with a sausage and a credit against your working bee levy.

Please bring any gardening equipment you can eg: rakes, leaf blowers, drills, gardening gloves.

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**Committee Vacancies**

Be a part of your kinder community!

We need a Maintenance officer to help keep our kinder in tip-top shape. If you're handy with a hammer or deft with a drill (or even just willing and able to give a hand!) please contact Nicki at president@jjmcmahon.org.au.

We also have vacancies for a class rep in Yellow and Green groups. This is a great, easy way to get to know other families at the kinder and be part of your child's educational experience! Please contact Emma at social@jjmcmahon.org.au if you can help out.
SAUSAGE SIZZLE FUNDRAISER
Saturday 22nd March 2014
Enjoy a good BBQ? We’ve got the day for you!

We’re hosting a Bunnings Fundraiser BBQ at the Hawthorn store on Saturday the 22nd March. This is one of our biggest annual fundraising events.

We need your help...

Our success depends on our community of parents to manage operations. We need volunteers to cook, prepare and sell sausages and drinks.

So save the date and there will be a sign up sheet available at kinder as well as distributed shortly. Please help us make the day a sizzling success!

Your participation will be credited against the annual working bee levy.

3-Y-O Vacancies
We have a few places available in Yellow Group this year. If you know of anyone seeking a kinder place for their child, please ask them to contact KPSA at KPSA3101@gmail.com.

Don't forget to enrol for next year! 2015 enrolments now open.

Just a reminder that enrolments for 2015 opened on 1 February! If you or anyone you know has a child who will be ready for kinder next year, please make sure that you get their name down asap.

Also, please remember that if you are currently in 3-Y-O kinder at JJ McMahon, you MUST RE-ENROL FOR 4-Y-O kinder next year! Re-enrolment is not automatic, so please make sure you get your application in and don’t miss out! Contact KPSA at KPSA3101@gmail.com or on 0434 810 669 (messaging service).

Red Group news
Emily, Nicole and Elli

During the recent lovely, sunny, wintery days at kindergarten, Red Group has enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities:

The children have enjoyed making castles with moats in the sandpit and watching the water rush around them.

We have been constructing roads with the blocks.

Events Calendar

March 10
Kew Traffic School

Our first event for 2014 was a huge success, with fantastic weather and a great turn out. The kids had a ball racing around the Traffic School, whilst the adults got to have a chat over a sausage sizzle. Here’s looking forward to a fun-filled and social year at the kinder! Particular thanks go to our volunteers; Sarah Dare, George and Ryan McMahon, Anita and Cameron Kang, Tony Taouk, Katharine Bates, Kirstin Smith, Nicki Nagy and Angela Gregory for all their help.

Labour Day
No kinder today.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser
Funding will go to providing our teachers with updated laptops and a camera, making it easier for them to give our kids a great experience and help them to keep in touch with us parents; so get on board and help to make it a huge success!

Wings Over Kew
Kew Community Festival Dance Parade.
Yellow & Green Group news
Angela and Sharon

It was time to provide more interest at the play dough table. Lavender oil in the purple dough, some fresh lavender and some dried provided a lovely sensory experience. Our Green group particularly enjoyed mixing dried lavender into the dough. If anyone has some dried lavender it would be much appreciated.

Dylan enjoyed using the icy pole sticks in the play dough. He enjoyed using them as candles for his lavender cake, then counting them. A wonderful numeracy opportunity.

How lucky we were in Yellow group to have Hazel’s grandmother come and do kinder duty. They had a great time reading stories in our book corner. We appreciate the extra help at our kinder, most importantly though, the children just love it.

There can never be enough blocks in our Yellow group. We’ve been amazed at the ideas the children have. Our favourite was the house for Angela and Sharon to share with the water slide going into the pool. Packing the blocks away though is another story. Let’s just say it’s a work in progress!!

It’s never too early to start
teaching the children about our environment and sustainability. The worm farm is a practical way to do this. The children in both three year old groups are taking the job of feeding the worms very seriously. Lexi checks on them each session. Thanks Lexi for the important work you do!

Our Green group has loved construction type experiences. We had the “road” being fixed for most of our inside time. We added props like witches hats, hard hats and pictures to further this interest. The highlight was when Angela fell down the hole and had to be rescued!!

Sharon and I love working with the two groups. We are also very fortunate to have Libby working in our Green group. They all keep us on our toes but we know we will have a fantastic year learning together.

Wings Over Kew - Dance Parade!

Instead of the traditional street parade, Kew Community Festival is staging an ambitious and engaging Dance Parade entirely within Victoria Park on Saturday, 29 March as part of Kewmunity Day. Everyone in the park will be included in the choreographed mass action, Wings over Kew, based on the easily-learnt moves of Kew’s dancing man, the late Robin Madden. The moves will be taught and led by Kew School of Dance. Costume-wise think colour, feathers and, especially, WINGS! Dress to impress, but flat shoes please. The dance parade will culminate in a pigeon release by representatives of all groups present assisted by Croydon Pigeon Details to come.

Kinder at Work
Come and meet some teachers, observe a group at work and find out more about our lovely kinder! Please book on 9817 3624 or blue@jjmcmahon.org.au

Kinder Trivia Night
Save the date!!

Events Calendar

Enrolments

Gallery

Pancakes

Try this one for fluffy, syrup-
soaking, delicious pancakes! Double the quantity and freeze cooked pancakes (separated by plastic wrap or baking paper) to toast later for a quick after-kinder snack. Serve with fruit, ice-cream, maple or golden syrup, or anything else you can come up with!

1 1/2 cup SR Flour  
1t baking powder  
1T sugar  
40 g butter, melted  
1 c milk  
1 egg

Sift dry ingredients together. Combine wet ingredients in a jug and slowly add to dry, whisking as you go, making sure no lumps of flour are left in the mixture. Allow batter to sit for 5-10 minutes.

Lightly grease a non-stick pan (canola oil spray works well) and pour in batter to make your desired sized pancakes. When bubbles start to pop on top and they are golden underneath, carefully flip them over. If you’re really brave (and have a hungry dog!) try flipping them by tossing them into the air and catching them in the pan. Cook in batches, do your best to keep up with demand!

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**Newsletter changes**

You may notice a few changes to this edition of the newsletter! We’ve moved to Mailchimp, a program that allows us to send newsletters that are more easily viewed in your email program and on mobile devices. Please let us know what you think at communications@jjmcmahon.org.au. We also welcome photos of kinder events, contributions for content, ideas for regular segments and
feedback, whether it be complimentary or constructive!