

KINDER CAPERS

DECEMBER 2020



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SO this report marks the end to a year like never before, 2020 has definitely challenged us all in many different ways but we have survived to see the end of term 4.



We have recently had a very successful AGM via ZOOM and have been able to fill all committee positions for 2021 with generous and enthusiastic parents. I am honoured to be nominated as president for next year. I will be supported by Skye again as Vice president, Sally as secretary, Rachelle will continue in her role as treasurer as well as purchasing officer, Sharnee will join us as payroll officer and Yvonne will again manage our enrolments, all in our executive committee.

Our general committee welcomes Barbara and Ellen to Policies and procedures officer and as Accounts Officer respectively. Dean will return in his role as Maintenance Co-Ordinator for a 4th consecutive year, Alice and Georgina have volunteered for fundraising. Vicki will again be in her same role as communications coordinator and Lisa will continue her wonderful work as uniforms coordinator. Seb will continue in his same role again supporting Dean with kinder maintenance. Brooke will take up her role again as book club coordinator, and Erin will join us as grants coordinator. I am very excited for a wonderful year next year and look forward to working with you all.

Next year will also be our first year in 19 that we will not have Shar teaching our children. Shar has been a dedicated, passionate, and valued member of our kinder community from the moment she started here. I have been lucky enough to have 2 of my children taught by her and both attest to her being a fantastic, fun loving, bubbly teacher. As announced during our AGM, it is with much excitement and pleasure that we will be renaming the 3 year old room Shar's room at an official event later in the year to acknowledge her contribution to the children of our kinder and our kinder culture as a whole.



WELCOME



I am very happy to announce that we have found a wonderful teacher for the 3 year old group next year. Leah Cunningham is a very dedicated, bachelor qualified teacher with 12 years experience. She was very impressive during the interview process and I am excited for her to meet everyone at the upcoming information sessions.

We managed to organise a working bee last Saturday, only the second for the year. A great big thank you to everyone who was there generously giving their time and huge efforts. We got a lot done including finishing the turf surrounding the basketball ring. In the past week there has been a few notices regarding fundraising opportunities organised by Ayla. As we have not been able to do any fundraising so far this year I encourage everyone to get involved. I believe you can never have too many cherries, or too much wine and cake for at Christmas time.



Thank you for all your support and amazing resilience this year, we should be enormously proud of our community.
Steph Krivohlavy
Committee President



It has been another fantastic year with a great team, but it has been a year with many challenges.

Although our groups have had restricted attendance we have had just as much fun, laughter, play and learning taking place whenever possible.

To the fantastic team I am privileged to work with. Thank you.



Genevieve, thank you for all your great ideas and your patience with the children. It has been great working with you again this year.

Jo, thank you for putting up with both of us. It's not easy working with two different teachers. You are our rock that keeps everything together and ticking along. We could not do it without you.

Thank you, Sylvie, for being such a wonderful support to Shar and for your patience and guidance with our beautiful three-year olds. Shar you are a great friend and support. Thank you for always being there to lend an ear when needed and a hug when required. Thank you for all the support you give to the children and families in your care.

This year has been a challenging time for staff. Behind the scenes during Covid Genevieve, Jo and I have continued to teach daily and along with Shar and Sylvie support children through videos, activity packs and ideas sheets.



This has been a lot of extra work for staff so thank you guys for your dedication.

We as a team also have a new normal whereby everything the children play with is disinfected daily. This is a huge task but it is what we do to keep everyone safe and at kinder. So again, thank you to my team.



There are many people that I need to thank for all their hard work. To the outgoing committee thank you for giving your time so freely to keep the kindergarten running. Without a committee there is no kindergarten. Some members have been on committee for a few years and we really do appreciate it. So, to the outgoing committee thank you and good luck in 2021. I'm sure Covid wasn't what you signed up for as committee but you have survived it all so you can achieve anything.



To the new committee good luck also and thank you for giving a little of your time to keep this kinder running.

Now for some sad goodbyes. Shar is retiring and it is very sad to see her leave. Shar and I began working together in 2003 when she was my assistant. She then bravely returned to study and became part of our teaching team in 2008. We hope Shar enjoys a well earned rest and some extra family time.



Genevieve is taking a year off to pursue full time teaching at another service. Genevieve began here in 2002. Good luck Genevieve. Our loss is their gain but hopefully we will see you back in 2022.

I too am having some time off. Long service leave is calling and I will be on leave for terms one and two. No real plans other than some rest time and coffee and lunch with Shar whenever we want to!



I would like to welcome Leah Cunningham to the team. Leah will be teaching the three year olds and taking on the role of Educational Leader and teacher in charge during my absence. I'm sure she will do an amazing job. A new four year old teacher is yet to be appointed.



I wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas



Belinda Niezen

I am taking 12 months off next year. Thanks to everyone for all your support. I will miss everyone but look forward to coming back in 2022.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Genevieve Brown



RAINBOWS



Here we are in the final stages of yet another kinder year and what a year. This year we have had a rotational group of 4 sub-groups with a total of 29 children. The children once again attended for three 5 hour sessions. Again, this year, Genevieve and I team taught the whole group with us each teaching two days a week. It has been great for both the children and teachers to have Jo as the co-educator each day.

Some very close friendships have formed throughout what has been a challenging year and I am sure these will remain strong regardless of which school the children attend in 2021. Another year of fun, excitement, development, changes, new friends and growth has almost come to an end. It is always sad saying good bye but everything and everyone reaches a time when they need to move on. For these young people that time has come.



This is where I normally remind everyone of all the fun events that have happened throughout the year but sadly this is not the case for 2020. Most children have really only had two terms of attendance. Throughout

term two and three whilst most children remained at home, the Rainbow group staff were busy teaching face to face as normal and then supporting those children at home with activity ideas, activity packs and videos.

This certainly proved to be a challenging time for everyone.

The children have returned to term four as if nothing has happened. Children are certainly resilient. There was no settling in issues and we have certainly been in full COVID swing whilst still having fun. They have grown and developed beautifully despite Covid and all its challenges.



This year parents will again receive a full two-year record of their child's development. The children's Memory folders will become part of your child's developmental record and as such something to be treasured.

They require a lot of extra work by the teachers however the benefits are enormous. It is amazing how much more you notice when documenting in this way. Memory folders will be given to parents to keep at the end of the year. This is however not the only documentation we do throughout the year. Each child is assessed throughout the year, teachers then reflect on this assessment and the observations taken to complete the assessment. From this information we plan our program to meet the individual needs and interests of each child. As you can imagine this can be very time consuming but very beneficial for the children and staff as it allows us to build a complete picture of each child. Despite Covid this has still been taking place.



Transition statements have been written for all children attending school in 2021. The feedback after past years statements has been very positive and I would like to thank the parents and committee for their support in this area.

With kinder photos cancelled due to Covid, a huge thank you to Sarah Jackson for saving the day and taking our kinder photos - we really appreciate it.



We are now in the final stages of preparation for a fun end to the year. Graduation will soon be here however we are unsure at this stage as to what form it will take.



We thank every family for allowing us the honour of teaching your child this year. We hope that everyone takes away many great memories from a great year of kinder and we are sure that whatever lays ahead these great children will all succeed in 2021.



Thank you
Belinda Niezen, Genevieve Brown &
Jo Kennedy



BLUE STARS

Hi Everyone,

What a strange and challenging year for everyone, but here we are, through it all, at the end of another year.

We started the year well and the children were settled and began to gain confidence in the kinder environment and wanted to explore the different aspects of kinder. When we came back in term 2 things began to change and everyone became unsure of what was



happening around us. The term ended early and term 3 began late due to covid

19. Throughout term 2 we had smaller numbers attending and we tried to keep things as normal as possible encouraging and working with the children we had so kinder remained full of activities and learning experiences.

Term 3 began again with smaller numbers and two and half weeks into term we were locked down.

During lockdown we as educators needed to find different ways to stay connected with you all and while making videos was all a bit daunting in the beginning, we got used to it, then with your support and encouraging words it became a bit easier and gave us the confidence to do different things. So, thank you.



Boy was it good to be back and see all your gorgeous faces. The way we do things has changed but I think we have all adapted really well to these changes. As you know pick up and drop off has changed. The children definitely



know the routine and it makes me smile when they remind you to sanitise your hands when entering the building.

The way we program has changed due to covid as there is so much extra cleaning that needs to be done. We've modified our program to make it easier for us to achieve all the necessary requirements of making sure our environment is virus-free.



Term 4 - here we are full steam ahead with all children back which is just fantastic. I'd like to say that all our families have done such an



amazing job during lockdown and the children have come back with confidence, ready and glad to be back at kinder.

The children have a very good understanding about the virus and why we need to do the things we do and that is thanks to all you amazing parents.

Considering all that the children have been through they have developed and blossomed and shown such resilience ready to face the challenges ahead.

Even though we still have our covid guidelines, we are embracing term 4 and trying to fit in as much fun as we can. We are busy creating our Christmas presents for our families and will start lots of Christmas activities in December. I hope we never have to face another year like this one so enjoy Christmas with your families, stay safe and onward and upward for 2021.



Thanks heaps
Shar & Sylvie

Merry Christmas

Special Thanks

As this year comes to an end it is time to remember all those who have helped this year run smoothly even through these challenging times. As always, the ever-reliable Belinda has done a great job coordinating everyone and making sure that everyone knew what was happening and when. Thank you, Belinda, for keeping everyone informed and coordinated so that everything happened when it should. I

would personally like to thank you Belinda for all your support and your constant belief in me and answering my constant questions. Our debriefs are much looked forward to and the laughs are always a plenty and for your amazing friendship.

To Jo who is always willing to help and do extra things to make our lives a little easier, thanks for the laughs and friendship throughout the year.

To Genevieve it's been fun being able to spend some time with you this year, thanks for the laughs and support.

To Sylvie my partner in crime, well what an amazing lady and educator, we have lots of fun and we have had a ball with the children this year. Thanks so much for the support, ideas, staying back and helping with the program and all the extra things you do to help the room run smoothly. Thanks for the friendship and support.

What an amazing bunch of people I work with; they make it a pleasure to come to work.

No kinder can run smoothly without a dedicated team of committee members and this centre certainly has that. Thank you to all the committee for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. It has been a pleasure working with such a professional group of people. Thank you for your constant support.



I'm sure that as many of you leave the committee this year that the new-found skills you now have will be very useful in the years to come. You have all done a fantastic job.

Last but not least thank you to all the parents that have helped in so many ways. Without your constant support and assistance, we could not

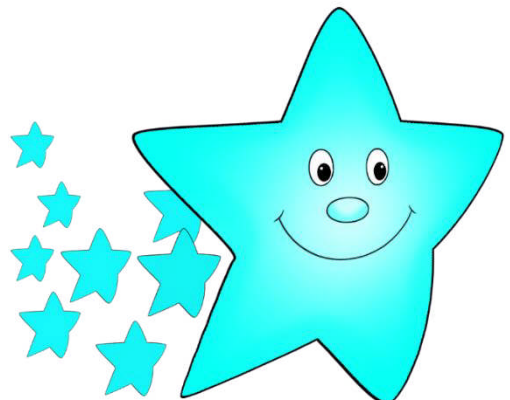


run our program. Most importantly thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's education, it is a great honor. Your children are what make it an absolute pleasure for me to come to work and be a part of their lives in a small way. I know I have certainly made some great new friends who I look forward to keeping in touch with in the future.

On a personal note it's time for me to say goodbye to this wonderful community and kinder that I have been privileged to be a part of for such a long time. I have met so many wonderful people and well the children make my heart sing. I will miss you all very much. I'm not quite sure what I will do with my time yet or what the future holds but I know that this kinder will always have a special place in my heart. Thanks for all the wonderful memories I have to take with me.



Shar Henderson

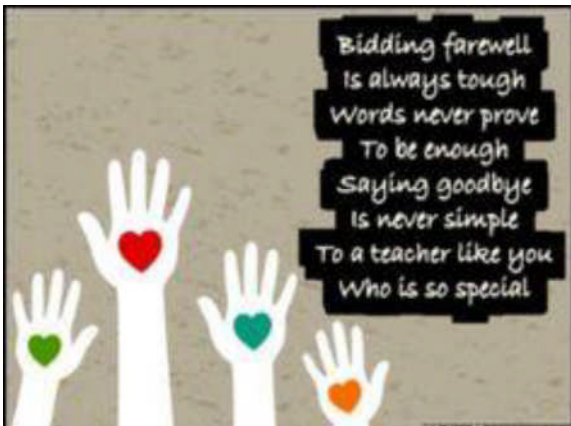


Extra Special Thanks

I am a relative new comer to Len Jeffrey having only worked here for 3 years but over that time I have just loved working with Shar. I have worked with quite a few teachers over the years, especially doing relief work and I have to say that no-one holds a candle to Shar



and her competence, patience, care and sheer joy of teaching 3 year olds. She is super fun for the children and us grown-ups as well and much loved by everyone she comes into contact with - she will be sorely missed. She is such a big part of the Belgrave South community and I have no doubt everyone is sad to see her go but life moves on and we all hope she enjoys her retirement. Thanks for all the fun and laughs my friend and no doubt we will be hearing from you and about your adventures in the future.



Belinda is off on her long service leave and we'll miss her organising us all and teaching our 4 year olds. She seems like the glue that holds us all together.

Leah who is taking on the 3 year olds and also Belinda's educational leader role seems like a lovely, competent, caring person and I'm sure she'll do well in these two roles. In fact, before her interview I met her in the 3 year old room to show her around and she just felt right - like she belongs at our kinder, so while one door closes another one opens and new possibilities emerge.

Genevieve is taking next year off to do full time work at another centre. It will be full on for her with full days of teaching. While we'll miss her smiling face and the care that she shows our 4 year olds, we wish her all the best for the challenges that lay ahead.

Shar, Belinda, Genevieve and Jo have worked together at the kinder for not only years but decades. It is a very close bond and friendship that they share after so many years together so next year will be very different indeed.



Change can be positive though with new teachers injecting new ideas and ways of doing things into our existing practices.

Regardless of who is employed as 4 year old teacher, you can rest assured that with Jo being the excellent co-educator that she is the 4 year old group will flourish next year.

We look forward to 2021 as a year of diversity and change. It will certainly be an improvement on our current year and its covid challenges.

Merry Christmas to everyone and see you in the New Year!

Sylvie

