



ALBANY CREEK KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC

16 ERNIE STREET
ALBANY CREEK, Q 4035

admin@albanycreekkindy.com.au

PHONE: 07 3264 1838 fax: 07 33252222

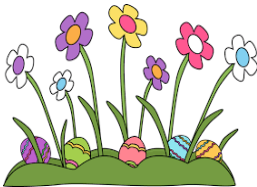
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ALBANY CREEK KINDERGARTEN – COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Events

- Term 2 commences - 18th April
- ANZAC Day 25th April



ADMIN OFFICE HOURS

Contact: Deonne Ehlerth

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Thursday
Phone 3264 1838
E: admin@albanycreekkindy.com.au



Keep up to date and share our wonderful kindy with our local community. Find us on Facebook at: Albany Creek Kindergarten



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Hi everyone, my name is Carly Slade and I am the President of the Albany Creek Kindergarten Committee for 2017. My history with this kindergarten is long. I grew up in Oscar Crescent and attended the centre as a Kindergartener in 1988 and 1989. I am thrilled that my children get to experience the same safe and thriving environment that I recall from all those years ago.

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the committee, I welcome all families, new and returning. I'm sure all returning families will agree that this kindergarten provides a wonderful start to our children's lifelong learning journey.

Our year kicked off with the AGM which was well attended, and all committee positions have now been filled. Positions are voluntary, so a very warm and sincere welcome and thank you to all members who offered themselves and their time so generously.

The first 2017 Committee Meeting will be held on 21 March and I look forward to providing an update following that meeting.

Above all else, the committee strives to ensure their decisions and actions are taken in the best interests and welfare of the children attending the centre. We encourage ideas and input from all parents. If you wish to chat with a committee member, please see Deonne in the front office who can pass on the relevant contact information.

Here's to another successful year at our kindergarten, one that no doubt will go too fast!

Carly Slade

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Throughout 2016, also saw our major stakeholders (Children, Families and Staff) being involved in the following:

Children:

The children participated in a variety of experiences throughout the year. Each class explored many varied interests at different times including , but not limited to; Aboriginal culture, colour mixing, other cultures, dinosaurs, outer space, sea creatures, pets, cooking, gardening and much more. The children also created an art display to become the "Artist of the Month" at the Albany Creek Library.

All children had the opportunity to explore items borrowed from the Queensland Museum throughout the year. They enjoyed the incursions of Dr Joe's science show, Goombuckar Cultural performers, Beats Bus North Pole show, the Albany Creek Librarians, and local police and forensic teams.

We also had many specials day and charity opportunities including a Mini olympics as part of Under 8's week which included our families as the cheer squad and raised funds which went towards kindergarten resources; donations to the pyjama foundation and foodbank and donations to the local library for their Smith Family book appeal.

All groups participated in the Premier's Readers Challenge and tallied over 200 shared literacy experience across the week at home and at Kindergarten. All children received certificates of participation with two groups being presented their certificates by Mr Tim Mander.

The 4 year old Kindergarten children headed off to Prep with their Portfolio documenting their journey throughout the year and a "transition statement" to share with their future Prep teacher.

Families:

Our families were involved in many ways throughout the Kindergarten in 2016. Many families participated in our program by sharing their interests and occupations, contributing to portfolios and feedback opportunities, spending a day on roster, assisting in working bees and maintenance, becoming part of our Bush Care Group or joining our Management Committee. Families also enjoyed a social gathering at our Trivia Night.

2016 saw families enjoy opportunities for class information sessions, Mother's Day mornings, Father's/ Open nights or mornings, Grandparents celebrations for Grandparents day and Children's week; End of year celebrations, Parenting talks about language development from a local speech pathologist and a Transition to Prep talk from an Occupational Therapist.

Our Families play a major role in the running and maintenance of our centre and 2016 was no different. Our Management Committee made huge contributions to the decision making and organisation of events at the centre. Support in our garden and maintenance assisted in gaining another first prize in the Albany Creek Garden Association's Garden Competition for the third consecutive year.

Staff:

The Staff at Albany Creek Kindergarten are very dedicated and we pride ourselves on keeping up to date with the latest developments in curriculum and early childhood research and initiatives. Professional development opportunities go a long way in achieving this. During 2016 staff attended educational technology workshops, additional needs support sessions, C and K policy webinars, compliance training, ECTA conferences, first aid recertification and Nature Pedagogy workshops.

Staff were also involved in networking forums with support services and networking with our local primary school staff and executive teams.

Staff continue to work with the Kindergartens' "Quality Improvement Plan" (QIP) with input from parent surveys, Management committee members and staff self-evaluations. We will seek the input of our 2017 families to update and continue this process. 2016 saw the creation of two new goals relating to reflective practice and continuous improvement and strengthening children's emotional development (based on the results of the 2016 AECA data).

We continue our close affiliation with C and K in 2016 as our CGB (Central Governing Body), we received on-going support from the organisation and valued the input of our Early Childhood Advisors, Nicole Kaponay and Shannon Crosby. Staff had opportunities to attend Professional Network Meetings throughout the year and we also participated in the C and K open week in September and our own open day in April with close to 80 families attending these.

We sustained full enrolments throughout the year in all four Kindergarten groups and our Young Kindy class.

Purchases

During 2016 purchases were kept to a minimum due to the large expense the Centre has incurred over the last few years on improving the facilities of the centre. Most of our purchases were made through funds gained from fund raisers and Grant opportunities.

Purchases included:

- Extending our construction toys, new games, scissors and craft materials from the 2015 Toy Catalogue fundraiser.
- Children's resources and mats from Scholastic Book Club reward points.
- New chairs and furniture from a Telstra Grant
- New outdoor shading from a Cancer Council Grant
- The extension of our Unit 2 verandah in the aim to create equal learning spaces across the Centre and an upcoming revamp of our entry. This was possible through our successful grant application to the State Government's Gambling Commission Grant
- Internal painting throughout the Kindergarten through the contributions of many past families to our Building Fund.

Future Plans

1. Continue to provide quality early childhood programs.
2. Maintain full enrolments and the operational viability of the Centre.

The following, via grants:

3. Bathroom upgrades for both units
4. External painting of Centre.
5. Playground upgrade
6. Non-slip surfaces on concrete patios for ease of cleaning and visual appeal.

The Centre encourages the 2017 families to contribute to the Building Fund Levy (which is Tax Deductable) to boost the Centre's funds.

In Conclusion

While we have a captive audience please consider assisting us in our quest to create a learning environment beyond our Kindergarten and a place where the Community to gain greater connection with the Natural environment. Our Bush Care group known as "Wolter Park Bush Care" meets on the first Sunday of the month between 8-10am with the support of Moreton Bay Council. Our first gathering will be on Sunday March 5 and coincides with Clean Up Australia Day.

We would like to once again thank the Committee and Staff for working together so well to achieve so much.

We look forward to 2017, to see what new challenges await us. Thank you for your attendance here tonight.

Tracey Wilson and Janelle Bull
Co-Directors for 2017
Albany Creek Kindergarten

LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2017

FIRST MEETING TUESDAY 21st MARCH 7PM

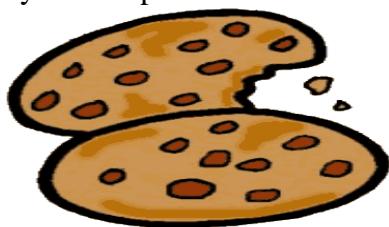
Management Committee	NAME
<i>President</i>	Carly Slade
<i>Vice President</i>	Nick Whitlock
<i>Secretary</i>	Nicole Conte
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sally Fasano

Sub Committee	
<i>Workplace Health & Safety Officer</i>	Kerry O'Donnell Kristin Murray
<i>Newsletter</i>	Natalie Allen
<i>Maintenance/ working Bee Coordinator</i>	Kate Pahor
<i>Fundraising Coordinator/ Special Events</i>	Tara Bartlett
<i>Fundraising Treasurer/ Special Events Sub committee</i>	Catherine DeMaria Hayley Sacco
<i>Marketing Coordinator</i>	Christine Dixon
<i>Book Club Convener</i>	Tammie Christie

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Billy G's Cookies

Our 1st fundraising event has kicked off! We hope all of your neighbours, friends and families were able to place orders. All funds raised will go towards the kindy and will benefit the children! ***We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help sort orders on Wednesday 29th March*** – please let us know if you can spare an hour.



Picture Plates Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for other fundraising events planned for this year – including the melamine picture plates designed by your children!

Please remember to “LIKE” the Kindy’s Facebook page (Albany Creek Kindergarten) – we will be posting reminders and promoting our fundraising events on the page so we can keep you updated!

Mothers Day Raffle

Our next fundraiser will be....MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE (drawn in time for Mother’s Day – Sunday 14th May). Stay tuned for more details about selling tickets and the prizes available. How can you help? We are currently seeking donations for prizes from local businesses – if you are interested in donating a prize, or work for a business who may be interested in donating a prize, please get in touch as we would love to hear from you!



READING WITH THE AGED

My name is Donna and I am the Lifestyle Co-ordinator at Estia Health Nursing Home at Albany Creek. We are currently trying to start a program with our elderly residents - Reading with the aged. This is a program which we would like to start which would involve young children coming to our facility and bringing a book of their choice to read with one of our residents. This is a project aimed at keeping our residents in touch with the community and in turn helping young children with reading and having an understanding of the elderly people in their community. We would supply a healthy morning tea for the children and the adults accompanying them. We do hope that you would be interested in this project.

Regards
Donna Davern.

If you wish to be involved please contact me at:
Lifestyle Albany Creek

*Estia Health Albany Creek
55 Faheys Road West
Albany Creek QLD 4035
T 07 3264 4850
E LifestyleAlbanyCreek@estiahealth.com.au*

estiahealth.com.au

