



December 2007

Hurstbridge Pre-school

Learning together

Presidents Report

Dear Parents,

I know that every one is saying it but it is really hard to believe that it's nearly Christmas and the kinder year is coming to an end.

I hope that you and your children have really enjoyed their kinder year. I know that Chloe has had an amazing time. I would really like to thank Jenice, Carole, Deb, Carlene and Dini for all their hard work this year and for the wonderful programs that they run. The value of their programs is very much evident in our children.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to this year's committee for all of their hard work and enthusiasm. A kinder cannot operate without the support of its parents so thank you to every one for a really fantastic year.

Congratulations to the Fundraising team who have raised over \$8000 this year. It's an outstanding effort and the children of future years will very much enjoy their new playground.

Thank you also to every one who came to the AGM, it was really great to have your support, especially to those who have nominated themselves for committee next year. We understand how valuable your time is.

I have a year off kinder next year and Kendra Whiteman has very kindly offered to fulfill the position of president next year. I would like to say a huge huge thank you to Kendra for publishing this newsletter every month, it's been a big task (especially

chasing wayward committee members for reports!!), but it's been an invaluable communication tool for parents.

I wish next year's committee the very best and wish you and your families a very magical and peaceful Christmas.

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays,

Yasmin.

Need a children's size table and chairs for Christmas, look no further! At the Annual Christmas night (7th Dec) all old kinder chairs and tables will be auctioned off.



New table and chairs for the children coming soon!

Directors Report

- The program for the past few weeks has been focussed on Spring, 'Under the Sea', and Christmas. The children have been enjoying watching the caterpillars and tadpoles grow and develop leading to discussions on lifecycles, etc.



- We had an incursion from Seaweed Sally last week - she bought with her many different sea animals including sea stars, sea squirts, sea sponges, elephant snails, sea snails, etc. We also saw sharks teeth, sea horses, turtle shells, sharks eggs, etc.
- We are now very busy preparing and practicing our Christmas concert, and the remainder of the year will continue to focus on Christmas, school preparation and the children's favourite activities.
- Last week we had an unexpected visitor to our kinder - a brown snake made it way into our playground! Fortunately Jenice had spotted the snake during her morning yard check, and children were never in danger. Council are now currently planning to fix up our fences to limit opportunities for snakes to enter, and our gardener is working on making our garden less 'snake-friendly', and making visibility better. All groups have had discussions and reminders about

snake safety, and what to do if you see one (walk, don't run, to an adult to get help). Now might be a good time to reinforce snake-safety in your garden.

- We also had our annual inspection from Dept of Human Services (DHS) last week. We were very pleased to receive some lovely feedback from the DHS staff regarding our program, environment, staff and behaviour of the children. Their only advice was to include surnames on the sign in/out books, and to have a 'snake-bite' kit handy (just in case!).
- Playground structure will be erected over Christmas break and new moveable playground equipment will be purchased soon

We hope you all have a great Christmas, and thank you all for a really lovely year with you and your children.

Jenice, Carole and Deb.

Gumnut Report

- As with the 4 year old group the 3 year old group has been focusing on lifecycles and the children have enjoyed watching the tadpoles & chickens grow. Two families have taken some chickens home and from all reports all doing well.



- Christmas presents have kept the children busy over the last couple of weeks. Prompting discussions on Christmas and the festive season.
- It has been a wonderful year and Dini and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching and encouraging the children's growth and development. Thank you to all Gumnut children and their families for a great year. Safe and happy holidays to all.

Social/Fundraising Report

Annual Christmas Party featuring BOP TILL YOU DROP (see attachment)

Date: Friday 7th December

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Place: Hurstbridge Pre-School

Cost: \$10 per family (includes Bop Till You Drop Kids Disco & BBQ for all the family)

What to Bring

- BYO Adult Drinks
- BYO kids cup (we will provide the drink to put in it!)
- \$10 entrance fee (1 price includes all members of your family)
- Spare change to purchase Christmas Raffle tickets

Help Required If you are able to help us out in a small way by offering to set up, clean up, cook on the BBQ, cut up onions or make up some coleslaw pre-evening, please indicate you can help by signing up on the roster list next to the sign in book.

Christmas Raffle

If you haven't already donated to the Christmas Raffle, it's not too late! All donations can be left in the box in the parent's room! Thank you to all those families who have already donated. There are some lovely donations coming in!

Hurstbridge Kindy Tea-Towels

Orders Closed

Thank you to everyone who ordered. We will advise when the t-towels have arrived!

Mangoes

Thank you once again to everyone who ordered mangoes! Mangoes will be arriving mid next week.

2nd Hand Childrens Clothing - Trial

The trial is continuing and has not been popular thus far, however, that is probably because there is not a great variety of clothing on the rack - yet! If you have any kids clothing cluttering up your wardrobes bring one or two garments down (or more of course!) and place them on the rack. Another member of the pre-school is sure to appreciate them and we will earn more \$\$\$\$\$ for the pre-school.

If you wish to declutter your childrens wardrobes and make money for the pre-school, then all you need to do is bring your unwanted clothing, and hang it on the rack outside the pre-school.

If you wish to purchase any of the clothing on the rack all you need to do is 'Take What You Want' and put a \$2 donation into the money box attached to the rack. Simple!

Christmas Catalogues

Thank you to all those who ordered from the Christmas Catalogues. 3 companies have delivered the items. If you ordered, you will find your order in the parent's room.

Business Advertising - "*Please support the businesses that support Hurstbridge Pre-School*"

If you have a business venture you wish to advertise please contact Rebecca rebecca@mrchocolate.com.au, 0439351587 OR take an advertising form from the fundraising board, place in the fundraising box and Rebecca will contact you. For only \$10 per month you can advertise your business to the pre-school and wider community.

Uniforms

Needing to order uniforms for next year?

As always, uniform order forms are on the notice board. Please place all uniform orders with payment receipt in the Fundraising box and we will complete orders ASAP.

Bakers Delight (Diamond Creek)

As always, mention "*Hurstbridge Pre-School*" every time you purchase a block loaf from Bakers Delight, Diamond Creek and the cashier will scan our very own "Hurstbridge Pre-School" swipe card kept in the draw under the till. For every block loaf we will receive 10 cents cash back.

Ritchies cards

Keep on presenting your Ritchies cards / keyrings when you shop. For the year to date we have received ~\$150 through simply presenting our Ritchies cards when we shop!!

Dates to Remember

- **Friday 7th December - Annual Christmas Party.** Featuring "Bop Till You Drop" - 6pm - 8pm.
- **Tuesday 11th December** - Hand over meeting and Christmas break-up dinner for 2007 & 2008 Committees @ Panton Hill Pub at 7pm.
- **Tuesday 18th December** - last day for Wattle group children.
- **Wednesday 19th December 2pm finish** - All Waratah group children finish session at 2.00pm.
- **Thursday & Friday 20th and 21st December** - Clean-up Kinder day, all welcome to come and lend a hand.