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"Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars" Les Brown

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STAVERTON KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER SK news

TERM THREE AUGUST 2020

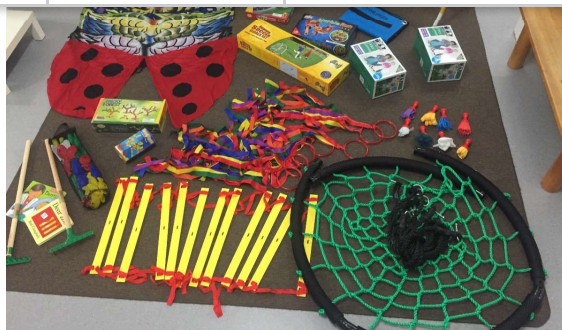
keeping you up-to-date with everything kindy!



Thank you all for our new equipment!

This term, our children have enjoyed using some of the new resources that have been purchased using funds from the Wish List Appeal at the end of term 2. We would like to express our gratitude to all the families who embraced this appeal. Your donations were extremely generous and are yet another example of what a caring and community-minded group of families we have at Staverton.

Thank you so much!

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Dates for your Diary

Farm excursion: Term 4

Provided Queensland continues on its path and we don't have to increase restrictions we look forward to taking the children on an excursion to Trevena Glen Farm next term in week 2.

A caregiver (at own cost) will be welcome to meet us at the Farm and enjoy the morning with the children and staff as we meet the farm animals.



End of Year Disco

Don't forget to put into your calendars the end of year disco!

Friday the 27th of November. 5-6:30pm.

We really hope that this event will be able to go ahead.

A message from the President

The Ekka winds arrived right on queue this year...even though there's no Ekka! This, for me, has been one of the many signs that life goes on – pandemic or not.

Term three is upon us at kindy and while many things are different this year, kindy life for our children remains a comforting constant. Kindy days are filled with fun, engaging, challenging play, class-lead exploration of all kinds of topics from modes of transport to the savannah, solar system to shadows, castles and colours and not to mention the nature play, music and song!

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Staverton Social

I know many parents would have been looking forward to the upcoming Staverton Social in September, so it is with disappointment that we announced this week that the Social has been cancelled. The fundraising team had worked very hard to try to organise an event that met the requirements of the COVID-safe plan however with restrictions changing week to week and increased concern about a 'second wave' of infections, they have decided that now is not the time to move forward with holding such an event. I would like to thank the fundraising team for all their efforts – this is another facet of kindy life which has been significantly affected this year and despite the setbacks, the team has been enthusiastic and is always discussing the “next idea”.

Thank you to them for their dedication and optimism! We can all eagerly look forward to the family disco in term four which we hope will go ahead as planned and the fundraising team tell me to stay tuned as they hope to organise a parent's social for the end of the year as well. My fingers are crossed!

Could you be the next Staverton Committee President?

A sizeable side-project for me this year has been re-writing the Staverton Kindergarten Management Manual. My experience volunteering on the kindy committee for the last couple of years has been extremely insightful and rewarding and I thought it might be a great time to harness the knowledge that I (and others) have learned and update the manual to make committee handover from year to year easier. With that knowledge under your belt, maybe your child is returning to Staverton in 2021 and you'd consider volunteering as our Kindergarten Committee President for next year? The role is perfect for someone who enjoys communicating and coordinating and above all, sees the value our

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just have a few questions about the role, I'd love to have a coffee and chat with you – feel free to email me president@staverton.com.au

AGM and New Parents Evening

Please mark your calendars for Staverton's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday November 11. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our AGM as 2021 committee roles will be elected at the end of the meeting. Following the AGM, our kindergarten teachers host the New Parents Evening to give incoming families an overview of life at Staverton kindergarten. If there are any changes to the current format due to COVID-safe policy still in effect, we will let the community know as soon as possible.

Have a great term three everyone!

Jean Ling, President

Staverton Series

Maree Hass

Deputy Principal
Graceville State School

Gam Seife

Speech Pathologist
ChatBox Speech
Pathology

When: Thursday 10

September 2020,

6:30-7:45pm

Where: Staverton

Kindergarten or join

via Zoom!

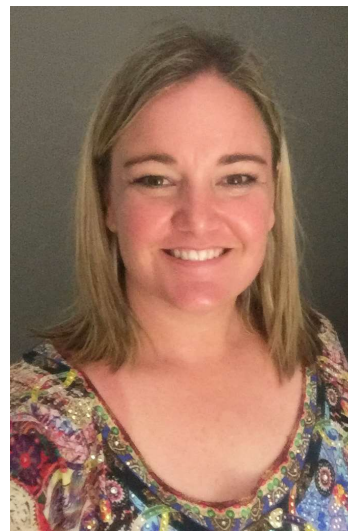
Cost: Free!



Due to COVID-19 restrictions it is essential that you RSVP to this event. We have limited in-person places available at the Kindergarten. Please advise your preference for in-person or Zoom attendance when you RSVP.

RSVP: speaker@staverton.com.au

This year has felt different in many ways but the same in some of the most important. We continue to see the beautiful growth of the kindy children through connections with their peers and teachers and social, emotional and physical development through their play. The children have shown such wonderful flexibility and resilience over the last months as we navigated the changes that have had to happen to keep everyone safe and healthy as possible. We have also seen the sense of community that Staverton is so proud of as we support one another in a very challenging pandemic.



Program

All groups have been busy engaging with their class interests. We have transport vehicles being created, Australian animals explored, castles created, mirrors and shadows discovered, how to play a board game and complete a puzzle as a team, learning to be a good friend and many individual interests explored. All classes will learn more about how to care for the garden and composting over the next fortnight.



Come to Kindy morning

All classes plan to hold a "Come to Kindy morning" in week 9 where the children can share their outdoor space with a special guest. We are very aware that the restrictions have made it tricky for families to come in to kindy but we're hopeful that we will be able to offer this special time. Each child will only be able to bring in one guest (no siblings) and we will ask adults to be always mindful of physical distancing while they are

here and to only attend if they are feeling 100%.

The morning will run from 8:30-9:30am: Kabarla Tuesday 8th September, Gungun 9th September, Gwala 10th September, Walan 11th September. We look forward to having you enjoy a morning in the playground.

Transition Statements

The transition statements for the children going to school will be available to parents in early term 4. Your child's class teacher prepares these statements. The transition statements summarises your child's interests, skills and abilities and provide individual approaches and teaching strategies that will assist a positive transition to school. The transition statements also have a section for families to complete. Your teacher will ask for your comments to go with the statement. Permission forms asking whether you give

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can help schools when working out which class to place your child into. All classes continue to support the AEDC findings about the children's social and emotional learning and work to help support the children build this. Should you like anymore information on this please let myself or your classroom teacher know.

Staff & Nature Play

It has been a huge year for all families and staff. This term we are having a focus on staff wellbeing. Each Wednesday is called "Wellness Wednesday". We look at different ways the team can look after their own wellbeing. We will also share lots of PD on caring for ourselves so that we can give the best care to the children in our care. We will continue to share information with families on how they too can look after their own wellbeing.

Professional development is an ongoing priority for the team and we have enjoyed the new and different opportunities for virtual professional development that have been offered this year.

As a team lead by Kristy Coombs we have spent time reflecting on our practices throughout COVID restrictions and on the new approaches to teaching we have learnt any new ways of approaching teaching and learning.

We are working on becoming a Nature Play Friendly Kindy. The staff have spent time looking into what is involved and after talking with Nature Play consultant, the committee and children we feel this is something that we should pursue. If you have any ideas on how we can enhance our nature play experiences for the children please let your class teacher know. I am sure you are all aware they are an extraordinary team that have shown their professionalism to navigate changes and always work extremely hard to provide a high quality program for your children. I thank them for all their dedication.

Sustainability

We continue to work hard to reach our Sustainability Management Plan goals and we continue to encourage you to offer input of ideas on how we can be



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is more frequent. We also continue to encourage and celebrate litter-free lunchboxes. We thank you for helping us to care for our environment. Thank you to the Tyley family and EBI Solutions Financial Advisers for funding the work needed to connect up our water tank for the children to have easy access to rain water to water the gardens near the vege patch.

Illness

Over the year we have seen the tremendous job that you as a parent body are doing at keeping unwell children at home. This has been evident with a huge reduction in the spread of illness throughout the kindy. Thank you so much for doing all that you can to look after the health and wellbeing of our Staverton Community. Remember if your child is showing any signs of coronavirus please see your doctor for advice on their attendance at kindy.

Grievance

Please be aware that if you have a grievance with the kindy that we have a policy in place. It can be accessed in the office or you are more than welcome to make a time to see your teacher or myself. Communication is always the key to solving issues.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

We continue to utilise our Reconciliation Action Plan to help us embed indigenous perspectives into our program.

Quality Improvement Plan

Thank you so much to those that have offered ideas and thoughts into our Quality Improvement Plan over the year. We always have a reflection question incorporated into our committee meetings and we appreciate the ideas shared with the wider kindy too. We love working with you to continue to improve our practice. Remember that our QIP is summarised on both verandahs and the full document is in the office for you to peruse and add to at any time.

Useful Links

Supporting families through Beyond Blue

<https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/>

Information about child protection can be found here;

<https://www.napcan.org.au/about-us/>

Children's brains are built over time and the early years provide important foundations for future learning. We all sometimes need support to help build the strongest possible foundations.

The Raising Children website has some really great resources for parents

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Below is a link to the Staying Healthy website for tips and ideas about healthy eating choices.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/diet-nutrition/nutrition>



raisingchildren.net.au

Thank you

Thank you teachers for conducting Open Afternoons for prospective parents and Jean and Kiran assisting me to make a virtual tour and video possible. Thank you class reps for your organising of plates, tea towels, keep cups and (hopefully) a movie in the holidays. Thank you also for working hard to find ways for families to connect so far this year. Thank you fundraising team for continuing to explore all possible avenues to enable the Staverton Community to connect as a parent body and as a whole community - you have all kept on trying and we appreciate it. Thank you families for continuing to bring in updated immunisations, permissions to collect and change of details and offering your time to support our community kindly.

Enjoy the rest of term 3!

Kate Beutel, Director/Nominated Supervisor/Teacher

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

GOOD HYGIENE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to prevent passing on germs. Dry your hands.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.

For more information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** visit health.gov.au



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Stronger, healthier children



Body, mind and soul, playing outside is good for our whole self



Kristy Coombs
Educational Leader

Engaging with nature is good for everyone's health. Going for a walk, spending time with plants and trees or just noticing the land in which we live help to connect ourselves to each other and our environment.

Being outside is especially important for our children. It builds stronger, healthier children as we develop our motor skills. It enhances our cognitive development, especially when play is unstructured. It enhances our social skills through communication and co-operation. Fresh air and free play reduce stress levels and improves our sensory skills, especially vision. There is research to suggest that children who play in nature regularly have a lower incidence of short-sightedness*.

Playing outside helps extend our attention spans and develop our ability to direct our own play. We are more curious and confident to explore. Light from the outdoors stimulates the pineal gland. "This part of the brain is vital to keeping our immune system strong and making us feel happier".

But how do we help our children spend time outside? It can sometimes be a real challenge to help provide them with these experiences.

Some ideas to help encourage outdoor play include;

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- Encourage children to help with outside jobs daily
- Talk to your child about the plants and trees you see together. How are they similar and different? What do you like about them? How do they feel/smell?
- Take some of your child's inside toys outside to vary play experiences
- Set up some dedicated outdoor spaces such as a sand pit or mud play area. They don't have to be permanent or large. Be led by your child about how they want to use and change the space. Their play may lead to a makeshift kitchen with old kitchenware, it might become a racetrack or construction zone, dinosaur excavation site or a giant forest with leaves, sticks and twigs.
- Try not to discourage mess, the more mess we make, the more fun we are having!!



References;

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/nov/06/children-urged-play-outdoors-cut-risk-shortsightedness>

<https://news.sanfordhealth.org/childrens/play-outside/>

After Kindy Hours Care



I take this opportunity to shamelessly give 'After Kindy Hours Care' some well-deserved publicity. Why choose 'After Kindy Hours Care'? Does AKHC solely exist as a solution to the 'work-life collision' that so many parents experience? not at all. AKHC is run by two educators who view each child as unique and are responsive to each child's individual interests and needs. The focus of the AKHC program is

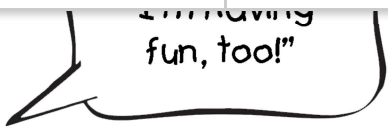
guiding each child's emotional and social development. The children are provided with the opportunity to engage in unstructured, child-led play. The program provides the children with the opportunity to develop their ability to accurately read the emotional cues of others and generate

"This is definitely not boring"

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relationships with peers. Likewise,

AKHC encourages children to test their physical limits by engaging in activities which develop their love of physical movement. We invite your child to share moments of joy with us here at AKHC.



We look forwards to meeting you, Gen and

Karen.



Introducing...

**...a new member to the Staverton family!
Please make Jill feel welcome if you see her around the kindergarten.**

Hello, my name is Jill Danen. I have been working in the Early Childhood profession for 6 years. I believe in providing play experiences that give children the opportunity to grow and learn to their full potential. I look forward to working with the children and families in my new role at Staverton Kindy.



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