Dear parents and friends,

The committee and staff have been working hard this year on a number of projects, including the annual review of policies, implementing the change over of our banking system, the development of a new logo and signage for the kinder, and streamlining the delivery of the newsletter.

Our first working bee for the year was held on 28th April, and was a great success. I would like to thank all of those families who attended, and a big thank you to Helen Cumming, our maintenance officer, who organised the day.

Our fundraising committee have also been working hard, organising and running the juice stall at the Grassroots market, as well as planning the Trivia night and Shopping Tour, both to be held a bit later in the year. Look out for those, as they promise to be a lot of fun!

The KPV Raffle is up and running and tickets will be available until the end of May. Tickets are $2, with $1 from the purchase of each ticket going directly to the kinder. The prizes are great, first prize being a $10,000 shopping spree at Myer. I will be out on the deck during May selling tickets, so make sure you grab one to be in the running.

Congratulations to the winners of the Mother’s Day raffle, and I hope everyone enjoyed their Mother’s day.

Bryonie Hills
2012 Committee President

Trivia Night
FUNDRAISING
SAVE THE DATE!!
TECOMA PRESCHOOL SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!
TRIVIA NIGHT
SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST, 7PM
IN TECOMA PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
TICKETS COMING SOON!

Expenditure
UPDATE
THE KINDER WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE OF THE FOLLOWING PURCHASES IN TERM 2:
LOUNGE $299

New Banking Details for DIRECT DEPOSITS
Account Name: Tecoma Preschool Inc
BSB: 633 000
Account Number: 145578456
4-Year Old Report

My how the year is flying by!! Both the Geckos and Goannas have been enjoying Term 2, with many more exciting things to look forward to. Here are a few points updating you on what we have been up to and what’s to come…..

• Thank-you to all those parents who attended their parent/teacher interview. We hope that you were able to learn something new about your child and raise any concerns you had. Lauren, Jo and Noeleen are always keen to find out what information the children take home to their families about their kinder days.

• Areas of learning this term have been exploring our feelings, hospitals and human bodies, lego, insect drawing and painting and farm animals. We look forward to what transpires over the remainder of term and what interest are exposed and discussed.

• Tecoma Primary School Library Visits have begun for the Geckos and the Goannas are lucky enough to have Chris the Librarian come and visit them at kinder with her library books. Everyone is enjoying the aspect of reading new books and taking one special book home to share with their family.

• Tecoma Primary School “Buddies” will be starting this term. Lauren and Miss Holt from Tecoma Primary School will be working together to help both the Geckos and Goannas get to know the Grade 4 children. By creating a friendship with the Grade 4’s, the children will have the comfort of knowing and seeing this “friend” in the yard for 2 years. Children that are not attending Tecoma Primary are also included in this process and enjoy the socialisation with the older children. We are hoping to also visit the Grade 4’s over at the school in weeks to come.

• Mother’s Day presents were created and the Geckos and Goannas really enjoyed hiding them from their mum’s as they came to pick them up. We hope that all mum’s had a great day on Mother’s Day (Sunday 13th May) and got spoilt rotten!!!!!

• Dingah and Targoot (our Australian Aboriginal Dolls) have begun their home visits. All children are being very patient waiting for their turn. These dolls were developed to encourage children to be more aware of the culture and background of others – in this instance Indigenous Australian. The children really enjoy taking a photo or drawing a picture for the folder and absolutely love getting a turn to show their peers what they have done at home with the doll. This in turn developing their ability and confidence to speak in front of a group.

Kinder Raffles

TERM 1 & 2

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY THIS FIRST HALF OF YEAR.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO WON ONE OF OUR 6 EASTER BASKETS AND TO THE 5 MUMS THAT WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO WIN A MYSTERY BOX IN THE MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE. FROM THE 2 RAFFLES WE HAVE RAISED $214.00.

WITH THIS AMOUNT WE HAVE PURCHASED A NEW (SAFER) LADDER FOR THE STAFF, AND PURCHASED SOIL AND HAY TO TOP UP OUR VEGIE BEDS.

WE HAD A GREAT RESPONSE TO OUR BULB FUNDRAISER WITH TESSELAARS, WE RAISED $263.00.

THIS AMOUNT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR FUTURE PURCHASES RELATED TO OUR FRONT VEGIE GARDEN. WE HAVE PURCHASED 2 MORE RAISED GARDEN BEDS, AND COME SPRING WE WILL BE ABLE TO PLANT MANY, MANY SEEDLINGS.

ANY ADVICE AND EXPERIENCE PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS HAVE IN WITH VEGIES GARDENS IS MOST WELCOME.
**From little things, big things grow!!!!** In the last few weeks we have enjoyed visiting the front yard and are quite excited to see what seeds will grow first. Currently we have planted snow peas and some beans. We are now keen to continue adding more to our front garden.

If you are a green thumb and have some suggestions as to what we can successfully grow in our garden at this time of year, please speak to Lauren, Jo or Noeleen.

**Other things to look forward to in Term 2**

- More Library visits
- Buddy Catch Ups
- Dress up as a book character day
- Grandparents Day
- Variety of cooking experiences

Please remember that the program revolves closely around the interest of both individuals and groups of children. We always welcome new discussions and if you have been someone special or have celebrated a special event in your family, please feel free to share. The development of the child as a confident and secure individual is of high priority and can be done through sharing their experiences or achievements in front of their peers.

If you have any further questions please approach Lauren, Jo or Noeleen

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**Please don’t forget to add your name to the “stay & play” roster on the decking. We could use the extra hands and it gives you an opportunity to see your child in a different environment!**

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**Grassroots Market - March**

**FUNDRAISING**

WITH ST PATRICKS DAY IN MIND A NEW ‘GREEN JUICE’ WITH KIWI FRUIT AND GREEN GRAPES SOLD OUT BY LUNCHTIME!

DESPITE THE POPULARITY OF THE ST PATRICKS DAY JUICE ON THIS OCCASION THE STALL RAN AT A LOSS.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO THE 4 PARENTS WHO HELPED OUT THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE ON THE DAY.

IF ANY PARENTS HAVE A FEW SPARE HOURS FOR FUTURE MARKETS YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED. A SIGN UP SHEET IS LEFT BESIDE THE KINDER SIGN IN AND OUT BOOK AS IT GETS CLOSER TO MARKET DATES.
3-Year Old Report

Bilby News

All the children have settled in really well, with many now waking up every morning wanting to know if today is the day that they have kinder!

The first couple of weeks in the term were spent preparing mother’s day gifts. There was lots of pasting and drawing completed by many busy hands. The children were all very proud of their gifts and couldn’t wait to give them to their mum. Hope their comments about why they love their mum brought a smile to your face as you read your special card!

During this term we have been and will continue to be looking at:

- The changing weather seasons (why the leaves are colored and falling from the trees/and why we can’t go outside when it is cold and raining)
- Jill and Denise will be encouraging children to try a wider variety of activities on offer; it is important that some children move through their comfort zone and begin to develop a wider range of skills.
- Mat time will become more of a focus with the children being able to sit for a longer period of time, with sharing ideas and listening to what others have to say. This involves listening as well as talking.
- New friendships will be encouraged with children actively seeking out their kinder friends to play with.
- Special days including a dress up day and a pyjama/teddy bear day will be planned for the term.

It is important that children bring a complete change of clothes because accidents can still happen and hopefully during the winter months there will be water puddles outside that need to be jumped in to. Even the simple task of washing ones hands can sometimes end up with the child being wet from head to toe. Extra clothing is also needed for those ‘little toileting accidents’ – please remember to make sure that your child has been to the toilet at home before they come to kinder – sometimes the ‘little accident’ occurs soon after the child begins their first kinder activity! Children become so involved in an activity that they forget to leave themselves enough time to get to the bathroom!

With the weather a little cooler now, a jacket and beanie will help to keep your child snug and warm while they play outdoors.

Please remember to add your name to the roster – as the saying goes “Many hands make light work”! The children do enjoy having their mum or dad staying and playing at kinder! We would appreciate at least one helper each session (especially on the Monday and Friday).

Introducing

⭐⭐⭐
DENISE WOTHERSPOON

DENISE STARTED AT TECOMA THIS YEAR AS THE 3 YEAR OLD ASSISTANT FOR THE 3 BILBY GROUPS.

PREVIOUSLY DENISE HAS WORKED AT TECOMA AS AN ASSISTANT, WORKING WITH CHILDREN THAT HAVE ADDITIONAL NEEDS. BEFORE THAT DENISE WORKED AT SASSAFRAS PRESCHOOL WITH THE 3 YEAR OLDS AND ARRABRI KINDERGARTEN WITH BOTH 4 YEAR OLD GROUPS.

“CHILDREN HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER. I BELIEVE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO CHILDREN AND I OFTEN THINK I LEARN AS MUCH FROM THEM AS THEY DO FROM ME”.

DENISE STARTED AT TECOMA THIS YEAR AS THE 3 YEAR OLD ASSISTANT FOR THE 3 BILBY GROUPS.

DENISE STARTED AT TECOMA THIS YEAR AS THE 3 YEAR OLD ASSISTANT FOR THE 3 BILBY GROUPS.
Children at Play

Children love to play! They are children for such a short time in their life. They need to be given time to play. The opportunity to play!

Play is the ‘work’ of childhood, valuable in itself and a necessary precursor to more formal learning. Engaging in a range of developmentally geared quality play experiences is more likely to develop a well-rounded child who displays self esteem, curiosity and resilience, independence and good social skills.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child, the program or an activity please don’t hesitate to come and speak to us about it. A time can be made after the session, if need be.

From Jill and Denise.

TECOMA PRESCHOOL GOING ONLINE

Thank you to everyone who has provided us with email contacts.

We have set up a mailing list of over 50 addresses – this is almost 70% of our families.

If you haven’t advised us yet, please give your email address to Lauren or Jill.

We have already sent out 2 emails, plus this newsletter. Hard copies will be available at the sign-in desk and will no longer be popped into the Children’s files.

Thanks for your support in improving our communications.

KPV Caring for Kids RAFFLE

$2 per ticket

1st prize: $10,000 shopping spree at Myer
2nd prize: $2,000 shopping spree at Myer
3rd prize: 2 nights at Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island

See Bry to purchase your ticket

If you can sell a book of 20 tickets, it would be much appreciated!

$1 per ticket goes directly to the kinder

Drawn: 29/6/12
APOLOGY – FEE PAYMENT

As previously mentioned, we are mid-way through transferring all of the preschool’s banking to the Bendigo Bank.

As we currently have accounts operating with both the CBA and the Bendigo Bank, we have limited access to our CBA statements.

We apologise to those families who have received Final Demand Notices in error. We thank you for your prompt, on time payments and apologise for these not being recorded accurately.

The timely and accurate recording of fee payment is an area that has been difficult to manage. This is a job managed by voluntary Committee members, whose time and effort we value greatly.

Our Treasurer, Bookkeeper and Committee are currently making changes to streamline our accounts and payment system. Our aim is to provide all families with accurate and up to date details.

Thank you for your understanding.

April Working Bee

OK I admit I was nervous, I’ve never organised anything more involved than a 3 year old birthday. Let alone a working bee! What if it was a flop? I mean I can change a light bulb, drill a hole and do a bit of general fixing, so I thought I was pretty qualified to take on the kinder maintenance job. But organising people is a little out of my league. So I put out some advertising and pinned up a sign up sheet, crossed my fingers and hoped someone would turn up.

The day arrived bright and sunny, perfect for working outdoors. I arrived at the kinder nice an early, tools in hand and a list of jobs and waited for some volunteers. And they came!! Willing workers, full of energy, motivation and enthusiasm.

5 cubic metres of tanbark was spread around the playground making it safe and soft for our little adventurers. Bushes were pruned, branches cut back, paths cleared and the vegie patches re-vitalised and weeded clean. Importantly the tunnel was moved from its unsafe position into a much more appropriate place. In fact everyone worked so hard that everything was done in 2 ½ hours. We ended up having to turn away the entire afternoon shift. For all those that missed out, there will be another working bee in late term 3 or early term 4 so make sure you get in early!

So a huge thank you to everyone who came and worked so hard, it was a brilliant success and the kinder is a safer, more beautiful place because of your efforts. Phew now I can relax for another 6 months.

Helen Cumming (Maintenance Officer)
Asthma, Coughs and Colds: Information for Parents and Carers

The common cold, caused by an upper respiratory tract infection, is one of the most common illnesses for children and adults in Australia. Colds are more common in winter months as people spend more time indoors, in close contact, and can be more likely to pass on viruses that cause the common cold.

Colds can be a trigger for asthma, and asthma management can become more difficult for children and teenagers attending school if they have a cough or a cold. Ensure your child reduces the risk of passing on coughs and colds by avoiding coughing or sneezing on, or near other people and that they wash their hands appropriately after blowing their nose or handling used tissues. Coughing or sneezing onto the inside of their elbow instead of their hands can also prevent the transmission of infections. If your child is unwell, it is recommended that they stay home and rest to reduce the chance of spreading infections and to give them a better chance to recover quickly.

While there is no known cure for the common cold, symptoms such as headache, cough and runny nose can be managed, and children with asthma are advised to see their doctor before using any medication, or herbal and natural remedies, as these may react with their asthma medications. Many cold and flu medications available over the counter are not suitable for children and teenagers, and some medications may also trigger asthma symptoms, it is best to avoid these unless recommended by your doctor.

People with asthma should avoid the following medications if possible:

- Aspirin
- Ibuprofen/Naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications)
- Beta blockers tablets and eye drops (used for high blood pressure and glaucoma)
- ACE inhibitors (used to control blood pressure)

Saline drops and nasal sprays may help relieve blocked sinuses, and gargling with salty water may help relieve a sore throat.

If cold symptoms become more severe, parents and carers are encouraged to consult their doctor as soon as possible for advice. Nasal sprays should not be shared between people as this may transmit infections and viruses.

It is also highly recommended that in the lead-up to winter, people with asthma ask make use of influenza (flu shot) vaccinations.

For more information on the common cold, medications and references used in this article please see the Better Health Channel (State Government of Victoria) - [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) and the NPS website - [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au).

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email [schools@asthma.org.au](mailto:schools@asthma.org.au).

Asthma and School Holidays – Tips for Travel

When travelling it is important to be aware that different locations and environments may harbour triggers for asthma, particularly new triggers that you or your child may not have come into contact with before.

- Even if asthma is mild or has not occurred for some time, travel to a new destination can often bring about asthma symptoms
- People with asthma should always carry reliever medication and a spacer with them when they travel to ensure they can treat asthma symptoms quickly if they occur
- It is important that people with asthma take enough medication to last for the trip, and have repeat prescriptions with them if they expect to run out during the trip
- People with asthma should have a review with their doctor and update their Asthma Action Plan prior to the trip, so that a clear guide is available on what to do if asthma symptoms or an asthma attack occurs while on holiday
- Ensure that travel insurance adequately covers medical costs and needs while on holiday. Some policies may not cover for asthma treatment if a recent asthma emergency has occurred. Be sure to read the fine print or ask the insurance provider about their asthma coverage