

Kinma

Kinma Newsletter T3 Week 5, Friday 21st August, 2015

Term 3 Learning Forum 07/09/15

Making my child as strong as I can

Building my children's resilience

Encouraging the wholeness of our children ... their wellbeing

Staff and families are invited to a learning forum which will consider a host of variables which grow our wellbeing:

The food and movement with which we power our bodies
The images, ideas and texts that power our minds
The experiences that power our hands

Bring your ideas. If you have short (2-5 minutes max) clips that you think would be worthwhile to include, send them though to julig@kinma.nsw.edu.au and (depending on the number sent) we will aim to include a broad range of input.

WHAT'S ON

23.08.15	Frenchs Forest Market
25.08.15	Education Committee Meeting, 1.30pm
28.08.15	Warriewood Beaches Market
02.09.15	Preschool parent information session 3:15
03.09.15	School Tour - 9.30am
07.09.15	Learning Forum (6.30-8.30pm)
15.09.15	Tinkering Day
15.09.15	Education Committee Meeting, 1.30pm
15.09.15	Board Meeting, 7pm
18.09.15	Last day Term 3
07.10.15	First day Term 4
24.10.15	Trivia Fundraising Night
16.12.15	Last day Term 4



Kinma Board

Nick Georges, Chairperson

T: 0412 106 633

E: nick.georges@gmail.com

Ginny Neighbour,

Governance (Community Rep.)

T: 9880 2492

E: ginny.neighbour@gmail.com

Steve Dixon, Fundraising

T: 0412 949 441

E: stevengarrydixon@me.com

Lisa Graaug

T: 0409 924 630

E: lisa@yogainstitute.com.au

Bea Pierce, Marketing

T: 0405 346 018

E: ninianlif@gmail.com

Stephen Cole, Treasurer

T: 0432 032 343

E: stephen.cole1910@gmail.com

Jonathan Kelt,

Education Committee

T: 0425 225 174

E: jonathankelt@mac.com

Pam Webster,

Director Emeritus

E: pamwebs@gmail.com

Administration

Working Bee

Do you need a job post working bee? Come see Claire and Julie as we have many to offer. Billing for non attendance will occur after next week so email or drop in for a job.

Fees

Fees are overdue lovely folk – can I ask that you have a look for your account and deposit the money into the account. If you cannot place your hands on it shoot us an email.

Chiffon type material needed?

Does anyone have lying around in their back cupboard some of those beautiful coloured curtains with the tabs that you can buy every- where (a little hippy). They are sheer and usually bright colours, fading fast once put up against the window and sun. If you do, (and can part with them) can they make their way to the office for a project we are looking at doing.

Recycling

We are in week 5 and doing well with our recycling and taking home our packaging in primary BUT ... It would appear that some coffee drinkers are adding their cups and lids into the paper recycling at school. They are plastic coated and can go into co mingle not paper bins.

The next phase of the recycling is to reduce the number of paper bins and supporting each group to monitor their use of paper and recycling. So please keep coffee cups etc out of the bins. Role modelling is one of the greatest learning tools that adults can offer to young children.

You can find co mingle for snack attack jars and cans outside the office near the staff carpark and shed.

Questions, comments and feedback

Please everyone new and not so new if you have some ideas on marketing, fundraising, environment and finance please drop an email to the Board members (except environment – send to Julie C). we are looking ahead to 2016 and identifying what things we have achieved so far this year and where we need to head. If you have a thought please share it !

Bus bus bus bus bus

Does anyone belong to a social club or some other group that has a bus that we may be able to lend or hire for the group 3 excursion in term 4? We are costing buses at the moment and they are a little expensive. Please let Claire or Julie know.

Claire, Julie and Carin

Education Co-ordinator

The World's Most Courageous Teacher

Dear Kinma Families

A wonderful human, a friend and perhaps most importantly to all of you, a foundational contributor to alternative education and through it, the creation of Kinma, John Gatto, needs a little help.

John is known as the world's most courageous teacher; working, playing and learning with students in ways that honour each of them and simultaneously challenging them and the system of which they are part. There are many of you who have read Gatto's work and been amazed by his sharp intellect, his clear thinking and his ability to convey his ideas on learning and education with insight. He twice won teacher of the year in New York City and the New York Times gave him front page coverage of his then (and now) radical views. One of his best known essays, <http://www.cantrip.org/gatto.html>, is available for you to read. His website, in which you can access other works is <https://www.johntaylorgatto.com/>.

We have his writings in our library but I believe they are presently all borrowed (if you have borrowed any of our books and are done with them, please be so kind as to return).

Both he and his wife have suffered strokes and are bound up inside their New York flat. They have increasing medical and living costs and no source of income. If you are able to make a little contribution, you can either do so through me or you can go online to [aero http://www.educationrevolution.org/store/product/donation/](http://www.educationrevolution.org/store/product/donation/) and contribute there. If you are contributing directly, you will need to send a separate email to Jerry Mintz, JerryAERO@aol.com to make it clear that your donation is to John Gatto. He has set up this possibility for us as we are unable to send local cheques which is the way those in USA are contributing.

I had the great pleasure of a learning session with John back in 2003 and I count it as one of those special life opportunities after which one emerges cognizant of being touched by an extraordinary energy and heart. Thank you for any contributions in advance.

jg

Preschool

We are always working towards a healthy parent and staff partnership where information and ideas are shared, and common goals are clear. We do this in many ways like the floor book, newsletter, parent and teacher discussions, daily verbal communication, information sessions, emails, social events and more. We also want the parents, other family members and the wider community to be involved with the curriculum so that we are providing rich and meaningful experiences for the children. We aim to provide situations where the children are learning from not only their own family members and teachers, but other families and parts of the community as well. We want all families to feel as though they have opportunities to join in the activities and are able to add their ideas because we value all input from families. We want to know the whole of your child! A great way to add any ideas is through the floor book, just add a note about what sort of things your child may want to do or is interested in and we will incorporate it. A child's family is the most important part of their life, so feel free to share what is happening in your family.

One of social events where parents were invited to come along and share a cup of tea and cake together was last week at the Preschool Morning tea. There were lots of dads milling around and chatting together as well as with the children. They joined in different activities, had a cuppa, chatted and were part of the morning. It had a lovely simple vibe of sharing and catching up. We have one of these morning teas each term so we look forward to the next one as well.



We were very fortunate to have sewing time with Sue, Mia's grandma. This is a great way for family to share some time, knowledge



and experiences with us. Sewing is a timely activity which requires at least one adult to be involved at all times. It teaches the children about choice, design and creativity, writing (they write their name on the waiting list), cutting, different fabrics, how to join fabrics together, the mechanics of making the sewing machine work and go, how to bring their ideas to fruition, turn taking, waiting and working with other adults. They will remember sewing experiences later in life and wonder why the sewing machine seems so familiar!



Deco is sewing with Sue.



Yuka designed a little bag to sew.



Chris made his shoulder bag.



Josh is working out his layout for his bag.

We enjoy utilising other parts of community in our curriculum like visiting primary school. On a weekly basis we go for basketball with Jerome at the basketball courts. We go along and join in and watch the other groups sometimes. Owen from group 3 comes and helps the pre-schoolers join in. We love it when one of the groups is away, like last week when group one was on an excursion, we had an extra long session with Jerome.



We have even used the primary school to help us with our responsibilities when learning about respecting our environment. We visited Group 2 for a tidying up session, admittedly they did a little bit of tidying before we entered, and then they showed some of the pre-schoolers the areas that they are responsible for and what they needed to do take care of it. So our older children are teaching our children valuable lessons, not only for preschool, but also for home and life beyond that! If you were at the Robin Grille talk last week, we talked at length about packing away and tidying up and how to encourage the children to have a sense of wanting to do these activities for the good of all involved. Often it is hard as an adult to teach this to children without nagging, begging, pleading or getting cranky, so having the group two children help with this important life skill was very powerful.



Elly and George and others are in the group 2 classroom looking at their wheel where the jobs are decided.

We also visit our wider community for fun things like Tinkering!



Grace, Elly, Luki and others working in the garden with Joe, Tess and Kate's Dad. They were making new garden beds.



Scott, Qiana's dad, was braiding hair with this group.



The children helped to plant seeds with Bea.



Emily, a grandma from primary is working the home made looms where they did some impressive weaving.



Welcome to Jun and his family. Jun has been enjoying the cars, duplo, sand pit, puzzles painting and more.

Thanks to all the people who came along to the Kinma Care day. If you did not come and would like a job to do to save you from the levy, then please see Kay. Thanks for coming and making our preschool beautiful.

Information session is coming up on Wednesday 2 September at 3:15pm.

Lizzie is back on Thursdays and Fridays, yes it has already been a year of maternity leave, a big change in Lizzie's world and we are glad to have her back.

Welcome to Nikki who is doing her practicum in her final year of Early Childhood Teaching at Macquarie University.

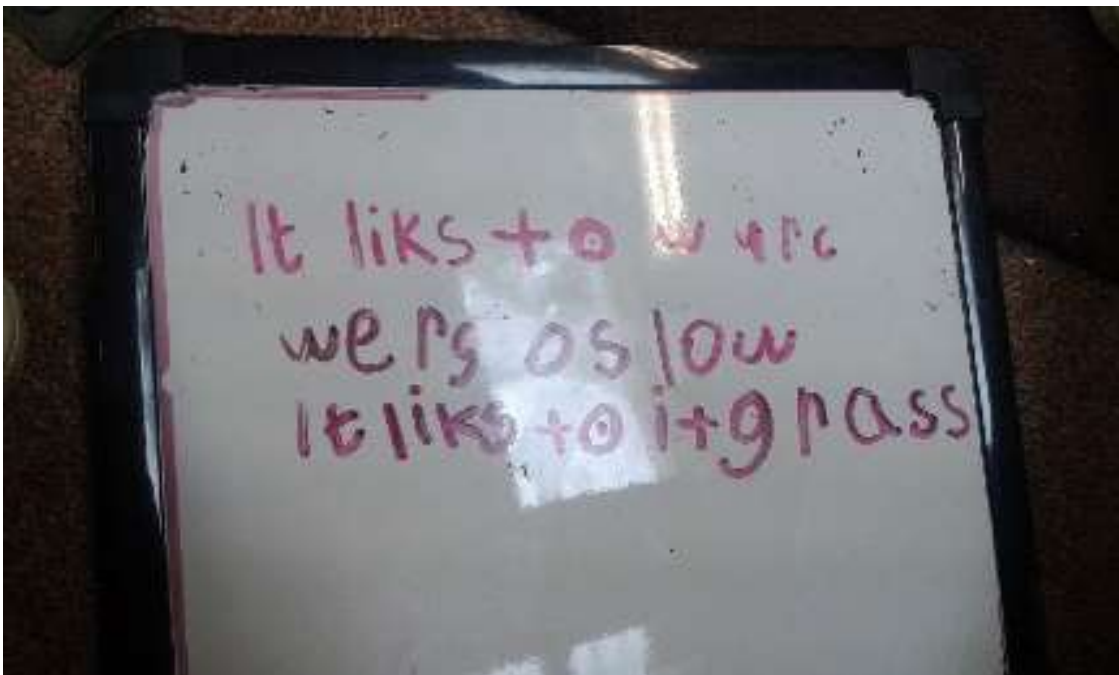
Kay will be back next week full of stories and things to share.

Thanks for reading, we look forward to seeing how you will be involved at Kinma and what else is happening in your family.

From Felicity, Christine, Lizzie Nina, Pat, Rosie

Group 1

Our theme is well under way now and our journey has moved from looking at Africa as a whole continent on maps to zooming into the incredible wildlife across many countries. We began by brainstorming African animals and playing mime games in a circle for the group to guess what animal each child was pretending to be. This led into us designing a 'guess who' game where clues were written on the front and an illustration of the animal was hidden inside the flap. We discussed what clues might be helpful. Heath suggested describing its habitat, Tamzin suggested how the mothers protect their young and Angus thought clues about their diet might help. In Group 1, we are all working on sounding words out to write sentences. We all worked on this together, looking for words and asking each other to help.



Archie's clues were: It likes to walk very slowly. It likes to eat grass. Any ideas?!

Shala asked if this game could be for Andy to cheer him up and stop him getting bored in hospital. Group 1 all agreed that this was a great idea and when asked how we could put it together, Seb suggested making a huge map and putting the animals in the correct country where they are found.

So...Our next challenge was to make a giant map!

How do you make a giant map I hear you ask...

We went old school! Using a projector, pens and a bed sheet, each child added part of the continent and then slowly added paint to highlight the different countries.



Our maths has been linked to Africa too. We have mixed up number skill sessions called 'toolbox sessions' and problem solving activities using think boards in pairs.

Here Zadie and Amos and Callum and Amelie use drawings and objects to solve the park wardens question- if there were 26 legs in the park last night, what combinations could there have been?



We carried out some research on our chosen animal and then we received a letter asking us to help draw up plans for a new National Park. There were guidelines though- we had to have at least 7 animals and each animal had to have 3 things to help them survive. Each National Park was unique!

Sylvie added giraffes, elephants and monkeys (they all had a central jungle area to share), Amelie's had a huge water hole that every animal could reach, Kayden and Shala connected their parks and had a track for their truck all the way around and Ella's finger can be seen pointing to her animal areas as she explained her plan.



When some children had finished their plan, they were given the challenge of measuring the perimeter of a feature. Harley used string and found that his track was over 3 meters long!

Freddie used paddle pop sticks. It took 10 sticks to go around the edge. Freddie measured one stick which was 10cm; "10 lots of 10=100- that's a meter!"



We have been having lots of discussions along the way and it would seem that many are very interested in finding out more about the how pyramids were made and if they have booby traps! Watch this space!

Very Wonderful Violins !

We are so pleased to have a very wonderful violin program at Kinma. A program which is loved by the children. We are also lucky to have Holly teaching it with a special program designed for Kinma.

The beginnings

The violin program at Kinma began as a trial in Term 4 of 2014. The children in their second year of Group 1 were the first ones to step into it. All of them loved it! We were thrilled with their joy and growing skills so decided to continue the program. Many moved into group 2 at the start of this year and were joined in the program by the rest of group 2. Some families may already be aware that transition happens at different times for different children so there are still children in group 1 who started violin in 2014 and hence continue now. All of these children will be in group 2 from 2016 and the program will, from then officially move into a group 2 program for Kinma.

The program in 2015

Children in group 2 have two sessions with Holly a week. They are held on Mondays and Thursdays. Bea and Tristan build their program to support the small groups of 4-6 children who play violin with Holly from day's start through till lunchtime.

It is really important that your child arrives at 9am so that they are aware of the flow of their day..

Can I watch a lesson?

There will be an open lesson day, early on in term 4. Holly will hold her normal group lessons and families will be invited to sit in and watch. The date is Monday of week 3, 19th October. If you are unable to make any time between 9 and 12.30, please let Juli G know as she will construct a timetable to accommodate as many families as possible. Consider sending a grandparent or other family/ friend if you cannot make it.

Why group 2?

Around the age of 7 or 8 is a marvelous time to start learning an instrument. This fits nicely into the Group 2 dynamic so all Kinma children in group 2 will be introduced to violin. If they choose to continue once they are in group 3 from 2016, this will be an option.

If you have questions about how to support your children, Holly has put together a FAQ sheet to help ...

Should I buy a violin for my child?

There is no need to buy a violin for your child as Kinma has invested in five violins that the children can use for lessons and for practice at school any time outside structured lesson time. If your child really wants to practise violin at home, then by all means buy them a violin. I would suggest letting them nag you for at least a term to make sure they really are keen. If you need any information on what size/brand/price violin to buy, just ask me.

What can I do to help my child learn?

Encourage your child by asking them to show you their violin folder after their lessons on a Monday and a Thursday and ask questions about what they have learnt. Showing an interest in your child's music is the best way to inspire them, even if you know absolutely nothing about music!

If your child has their own violin, set up a quiet, supported space for them a couple of times a week for 10 minutes (or as long as they are interested and willing). You will need to sit with them to encourage them, even if you don't have any musical knowledge (independent practice doesn't often happen until a child is much older, say 11 or 12).

If your child doesn't have their own violin, encourage them to get together with their friends in a spare 5 minutes at school now and again to play together, the violins at school are available for their use. At home, sit with them for a few minutes (maybe at bedtime) and ask them to show you their violin folder and explain what they are learning.

What if my child doesn't want to practice?

Don't worry! We are lucky enough to have 2 sessions a week on the violin at school so even if the children don't play at all outside lessons, they are still being exposed to it regularly. Practice will make the violin easier to play and it will be quicker to learn new things, but at this stage it is not something to feel stressed over – it's all about keeping it a fun and positive experience.

Should I take my child to violin lessons outside school? If there are other children taking lessons outside school, will my child be left behind if he or she only learns at Kinma?

There is no need to pay for outside violin lessons. At Kinma, we are purposefully keeping violin class sizes small, reflecting the school's philosophy. This way, each child has personal help with their learning.

Your child is already having 2 lessons a week at school and I've been amazed at the fast progress the children have been making. The small size of the groups means that everyone is effectively having private lessons - no one is being left behind.

Hope this helps
Warmest wishes
Holly

**Snack Attack:**

Main Course	\$3.00
Dessert	\$1.50
Drink	50¢ (usually juice)

Snack Attack has been a part of Kinma for a very long time...and how wonderful for the children to have their parents come in and fill the air with a good home-cooked meal. There have been some amazing foods and traditional goodies that parents have become loved and famous for.

There are 68 children in the Primary and 19 in Preschool on Wednesdays.

We have 17 gluten-free, 10 dairy-free children, and 3 vegetarians. If your child is any or all of these 3, please let me know.

Usually we have 2-3 parents that come in on a Wednesday and one makes the Main and the other Dessert and drinks ...or you do it all together on the day. It is a great way to meet and get to know the parents of Kinma and spend the day with the children.

Like everything at Kinma it is a very relaxed easy day. There are not many rules, all we ask is for it not to be too junky and offer vegetarian, dairy-free and gluten-free options.

The kids really enjoy Snack attack, and it's great when we can make Snack Attack happen every week. Below are the dates for Term 1 Snack Attack.

SNACK ATTACK TERM 3, 2015

July 22	no SNACK ATTACK
July 29	Lisa G & Sally A & Gemma
Aug 5	NO SNACK ATTACK
Aug 12	Gemma Keane & Nic & Liz
Aug 19	Helena, Joe & Tania
Aug 26	Rachelle Joice
Sep 2	Amanda & Rachel Pines & Karen Saint
Sep 9	Preschool: Amy and co
Sep 18	Renee B & Katerina & Sam F

Some examples of successful meals have included Chicken wings/ drumsticks and salad, tacos, nachos, pasta dishes, pizza, sushi, quiche, fruit and yoghurt, baked apples with cream/yoghurt, natural ice blocks... and much more.

All expenses for ingredients are reimbursable.

If you have any questions or want to contribute please email me at hayleyjl@tpg.com.au or call 0435 145 486.

Thanks,
Hayley Lewis (Turiee's mum)

Extras



BUSKERS WANTED

SEEKING MUSICIANS / SINGERS TO ENTERTAIN AT MONA VALE MARKET DAY

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER, 10AM TO 4PM

- Can you play for a one or two hour timeslot?
- Can you provide your own equipment (no power)
- Do you want to earn some cash?

INTERESTED? REGISTER NOW!

ONLINE

Complete an application at www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/markets

PHONE

Call Nikki Griffith - 9970 1165

WWW.PITTWATER.NSW.GOV.AU