Garden Team meeting- November 9th 2011- Staff Room

Present: Lyn Pearce, Michelle Rayner, Kellie O Connor, Mark Dykstra, Dave Sands, Abby Morrison, Kate Page and Rosemary Kennedy.

Apologies: Nicola Ryan, Kees Van deHulst.

Correspondence: Letters of thanks gone out to Monbulk Fruit Bowl Robert and Leah Harrison, Green Hills propagation, Letters still outstanding- Willem Oudijk, Tracey Roberts and Stax, Steve Page, Samantha Dunn, Monbulk Pizza, Gwen De Lacy, CFA Chief for their ongoing support of community events. Action Rosie to finish

Garden Festival Review
  Great feedback from all who came and we were blessed with good weather.
  Total tally not yet complete but approx $1300
  Acknowledgment and thanks to all those parents and children who helped- without the help of so many it would not have had such a community atmosphere.
  A Pizza night in the garden to say thank you to all those involved on December 10th at 1730 onwards

  Discussion around staying with Dandenong SpringFest Committee- if we do we have to give them 5% of the takings so it was decided not to for next year as we have a lot of advertising avenues that we use independently.

  Discussion about how to combine the garden festival with the larger festival- fair of previous years. Lyn told us about the preliminary meeting of parents interested in helping with this event. Saturday October 15th next year. Everyone happy to have any ideas on how to work together to make it a success.

  Opening gardens for 2012- Michelle will investigate this possibility although not much in bloom at that time- summer vegetables- thus the need for the irrigation system.

  Improvements for next festival
  Everyone felt the activity trail was good and focused the kids in the garden

  MC for the day
  ? walkie talkies for set up.

  Better signage around local roundabouts
Scarecrow competition - more materials needed and thanks to Sharon Noble who is willing to take the coordination of this fun activity

Produce stall to be bigger and better

Cake decorating competition

Body Art - help needed to run this successfully

Thanks to Molly Horne who took on that at last minute this year.

Abby to ask Erica re possibility of her brother the weather man getting info on weather station for garden.

Short Discussion on what the team see as the future directions and priorities for the garden in the future. Ideas were a follows:

Wetland cleanup and perhaps further development of that area,

Weed management issue of the school boundary.

Water drip feed irrigation system seen by all as a priority.

Composting toilet,

Wheelchair access

Curriculum driven initiatives for the childrens ongoing learning about the environment.

Community links to be forged - ? organising a day out for Fernlea or nursing home residence to come for a visit

Chickens for sale - school community

December 1st awards ceremony in Botanic Garden - all welcome to go.

Michelle told us about Dr Jodys final research.

Grade 3 garden Activity

Monday 29th November Mill Park Kids coming help needed from Grade 3 parents for pizza making activity. Action: Kate And ROSIE WILL HELP on the day and TRY to get more parent helpers i.

Promotional Activities and Growing our team.

Michelle talking about our school garden - Emerald Garden Club Thursday 11th.
Discussion about making our story of the garden more formal and documenting our story in an everlasting way. Need someone to take on the publicity for the garden. ? Jane Gilbert or Helen Woodlock or Di Gadsen. More discussion needed about what this would entail and how to promote garden to other communities.

Need to put minutes on the website and promote our garden

Action Michelle will find out how to upload onto the website

Action Michelle to put in spiel to local paper about judging and festival. And on the school website.

A few people have expressed interest in coming on committee. Nicola Ryan- was unable to come tonight but will next year. Kim and Dion also interested. Action Can someone get Kim’s details please for Rosie

Rosie handing over the role of secretary to Kate- Thank you Kate. Rosie will not be active on the team in the first 6 months next year.

School Holiday Roster
Garden feeding and watering roster- Rosie will put it together for everyone. Michelle will take the frogs home!!

First Meeting for next year - Tuesday 15th February 2011
730 pm.