



K.I.C.S News

May / July 2016

Ph: (08) 89 710 196
Fax: (08) 89 721 012
Email: kics@bigpond.com
PO Box 1601
KATHERINE NT 0851
Office 9 Third St.
www.kics.org.au

Program Coordinator:
Amanda Tootell Hours:
Hours: Mon. Tues. Wed. 9- 2pm

Field Team 1
Playgroup Leader
Kate Corney
Playgroup Support Assistant
Chelsea Bailey

Administration
Royelene Hill
Hours: Tues. Wed. Thurs. 8 - 2pm

Field Team 2
Playgroup Leader
Liz O'Brien
Playgroup Support Assistant
Jamie O'Brien

[Find us on Facebook](#)



Wave Hill



Kalala



Pigeon Hole



Beswick



Bulla



Barunga



Mountain Valley



Education through
play is Fun!



Dagaragu



Lajamanu 2003



Scott Creek 2004



Kiana 2006

Katherine Isolated Children's Service
2016 - Contact Details

Staff

Program Coordinator

Mandy Tootell

Ph: 89 710 196

Fax: 89 721 012

Email: coordinator@kics.org.au

Admin Assistant

Roylene Hill

Ph: 89 710 196

Fax: 89 721 012

Email: kics@bigpond.com

Field Team One

Kate Corney & Chelsea Bailey

Email: fieldteam1@kics.org.au

Field Team Two

Liz & Jamie O'Brien

Email: fieldteam2@kics.org.au

Board Members

Chairperson

Renee Rippon (Matt) Pigeon Hole Stn.

Ph: 89 750 786

Fax: 89 750 814

Email: rippons@reachnet.com.au

Vice Chairperson

Amanda Murphy (Tossa) Kalala Stn.

Ph: 89 759 941

Fax: 89 759 977

Email: tossa.amanda@bigpond.com

Secretary

Jade Andrews (Jak) Newcastle Waters Stn.

Ph: 89 644 527

Fax: 89 644 533

Email: Jade.Andrews@pastoral.com

Treasurer

Lulu Heeb (Cameron)

Douglas Daly Research Farm

Ph: 0467 976 885

Fax:

Email: lulu.nilsson@live.com

Katherine School of the Air Rep.

Debra Wolhuter

Ph: 89 721 833

Fax: 89 723 651

Email: debra.wolhuter@ntschoools.net

ICPA Representative

Julie Richter (Russell/Rusty) VRD Stn.

Ph: 89 750 795

Fax: 89 750 567

Email: rjayshorses@gmail.com

Indigenous Representative

Patsy Barrett (Steve) Limmen Bight

Ph: 89 759 844

Fax: 89 759 844

Email: limmenriver@gmail.com

Public-Officer

Linda Blackwood (Adam) Toyden

Ph: 89 721 770

Fax: 89 721 771

Email: Abinda1@bigpond.com

Parent Representatives

Emma Miller (Neil) Margaret Downs Stn.

Ph: 89 750 723

Fax: 89 750 686

Email: emmamiller2011@gmail.com

Cecily Bethel (Stephen) Kalala Stn.

Ph: 89 759 990

Fax: 89 759 977

Email: kalala.murphy@bigpond.com

Megan Burke (Tim) Broadmere Station

Ph: 89 759 610

Fax: 89 759 681

Email: kandoopartners@gmail.com

Courtney Liebeck (Luke McPartland)

Larrizona Stn.

Ph: 89 750 579

Email: Courtney.liebeck@hotmail.com

Hello Everyone

Mid May as I write this, the weather has been so unpredictable with rain clouds one day and clear skies the next! With a very unusual 'wet' season behind us 'dry' season weather is moving in as dust rises over cattle yards with mustering underway and optimism riding high. As we fast approach the mid year break, education is well and truly being rolled out in home class rooms, community schools and wherever and whenever a child's questioning curiosity is at play. KICS is also in the mix as they travel many roads to numerous venues bringing the joy and fun of education through play into a child's day. It certainly would be a dull and boring world without the little people! They certainly keep a smile on your face. 😊

Scholastic Book Fair on wheels is coming your way! Please check out the notices page! It is an opportunity for our families to purchase quality books and for KICS to achieve some bonus points towards purchasing resources and books to enhance our library. Win, win for all!

Speaking of resources, the office was a blaze of colour this week as new items were unpacked from many boxes. A variety of toys, including outdoor pieces, new chairs and art and craft materials will be put to productive use over the coming months and hopefully for years to come. Many of you would be aware that funding for our wonderful service and services alike across Australia is being reassessed. We are hopeful that we meet with the new criteria that is required for us to receive further funding beyond 2018. Watch this space!

Over the past few months we have farewelled and welcomed many families. Some coming, some going but there will always be a thriving bush community that embrace the opportunity for educational activity for their children. Keep the bush telegraph buzzing and let us know of new families in your area. We would hate them to miss out on what KICS has to offer!

Cheers from us all... Royelene



Walhollow



Marlinja



Manyallaluk



Mataranka



Pigeon Hole Community



Jilkmिंगgan

A word from Mandy...

We are almost half way through the year with many exciting playgroups happening and some concerns for our organisation as well. As many of you may be aware, our BBF (Budget Based Funding) was due to change over to the Child Care Scheme as of June 2017. Due to the impending election this date has been extended to June 2018 which gives KICS some breathing space to sort out if and how we can fit into the new funding scheme. The difficulty is that KICS is a mobile playgroup service that doesn't provide child care - but we do provide a very important early childhood, educational experience for the remote and isolated children that we visit in our very large part of the Northern Territory!

I was delighted to attend the NT Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) conference and thankful that these funding issues for remote services were considered by the ICPA. I have been busy recruiting stakeholders into writing support letters for the Katherine Isolated Children's Service - these go a long way in showing community support for the KICS program and we would be very grateful to have letters from parents of children who use the service as well. We keep demographic data of the children who attend KICS playgroups, but written feedback is extremely helpful!

In other exciting news we have some new toys and resources, including more craft supplies which I hear both Liz and Kate get very excited about! KICS has had many requests for Campdraft and Ladies Day visits on top of our usual playgroups which provide an opportunity for a larger group of kids to catch up and play! I look forward to getting to more playgroups this year with my boys also!

As many of our families would know, Mrs Hill is busy every month ensuring the KICS kids get their birthday book; these are purchased with the credits that we earn through the ongoing Scholastic Book Club fundraising. Unfortunately, some of the KICS kids miss out on getting a book, so KICS is very excited to announce a book project partnership with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation! We have boxes of books to distribute in Term 3 so that every child receives a special book of their own.

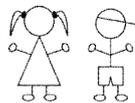
Look forward to catching up with you at a KICS playgroup soon!

Mandy Tootell
KICS Coordinator

L to R : With son Liam Tootell , Mandy's husband Matches joins in the fun at a Mataranka KICS Playgroup.



Liam enjoying a pony ride!



Flynn Tootell and playmates erecting a challenging GEO construction at the playgroup.





Field Teams reporting...

Team 1 Kate & Chelsea

Term Two is almost at an end and what a term it has been! It's been filled with a late wet season and having to drop off a few playgroups, a whole bunch of kids, many messy moments, lots of laughs and a few weird and wonderful animal visitors.

The roof top tent has already showed its value this year. Without it, we would have been some wet and wild campers! Lots of kilometres have been put up on the Troopy, especially that time we got a little lost in the Tanami desert. The 4wd has also saved us time, when we thought we were mad keen off-roaders and that the road wasn't 'that wet, we'll be fine!' Kate is thoroughly enjoying her second year back and has only missed a 'turn off' once or twice! Chelsea is enjoying her first year, although she's slowly finding out that her theory on mosquitoes not liking her is untrue!

We were lucky enough to have Alice and Rosie come up from Armidale to do their Uni prac with us: it really put into perspective what an awesome opportunity we have with KICS. The girls have been greatly missed already, especially when it comes to pack up time.

Once again this year we have been greeted by big smiles, joy and fantastic hospitality. Thanks to everyone for having us, putting us up, feeding us and taking pity on us. We look forward to getting out and seeing everyone again in term Three, hopefully with some cooler weather.

Chelsea, Kate, play dough and lots of smiles at Manyallaluk.



KICS Playgroup at the Katherine School of the Air camp held at Batchelor.



Alice, Rosie, and playmates at the KSA Batchelor camp.

Team 2 Liz & Jamie

This term we have visited communities and stations from as far as Numbulwar to the WA Border taking in the beautiful country sites. All the children are very excited when they see the KICS van and want to participate in all activities. A couple of the activities for the children to participate in are: cricket, play dough, bubbles, kicking the ball, magnets, dress ups, decorating crowns with sparkling glitter: which most of the little girls love to pretend is rouge and have it all over their little faces!

We also had the opportunity in one community to experience the men's cooking class on the evening of their Men's Business gathering. Surf and Turf and yummy chocolate cake made by the men themselves was on the menu that evening. The children should be congratulated on their beautiful manners, caring and sharing and their enthusiasm in helping when packing up at the end of our playgroup session. We look forward to the rest of the year revisiting old friends and meeting new ones.



Crowns, dress ups, magnets and toys, something for everyone at Mataranka!



Even Superman and Ironman at Urapunga can blow bubbles!



At Numbulwar, parents love getting involved too!

The Very Special Birthday List...

May

02/05/2009 Mikala Craig
 03/05/2007 Mitchell Doherty
 05/05/2005 Jessica Schilling
 05/05/2009 Sam Brown
 06/05/2010 Lachlan Rippon
 07/05/2008 Caleb Lanzarin
 07/05/2014 Nixon Craig
 08/05/2013 Matilda Cook
 13/05/2012 Adam Bracey
 16/05/2012 Riley Gatty
 17/05/2004 Iman Evans
 17/05/2011 Ruby Ackerley
 20/05/2015 Jack O'Connor
 22/05/2009 Penny Doherty
 24/05/2014 Cambel Elliott
 25/05/2005 Hayden Doherty
 25/05/2009 Lyndsey Mayfield
 31/05/2006 Annabelle Towne
 31/05/2008 Marih Tapp



July

01/07/2008 Christina Underwood
 03/07/2004 Clancy Gatty
 03/07/2013 Violet Hill
 09/07/2014 Jed Inglis
 15/07/2008 Maggie Murphy
 18/07/2011 Beau Angel
 19/07/2007 Riley Williamson
 19/07/2012 Tia Craig
 21/07/2009 Anton Lanzarin
 22/07/2003 Cody Richards
 26/07/2011 Harry Burke
 27/07/2009 Harry Kanyilmaz
 27/07/2009 Jack Kanyilmaz
 29/07/2004 Sophia Kanyilmaz
 30/07/2012 Bo Brock
 30/07/2012 Mac Harries
 31/07/2007 William Brown

June

06/06/2013 Faolan Mackay
 07/06/2015 Magill Jansen
 09/06/2009 Felicity Brown
 09/06/2008 Rhianna Andrews
 17/06/2013 Flynn Tootell
 17/06/2009 Waynesha Timms
 21/06/2010 Colt Scott
 21/06/2011 William Cook
 21/06/2011 Amber Watts
 22/06/2008 Alex Dyer
 23/06/2011 Georgie Murphy
 23/06/2012 Matthias Armstrong
 26/06/2013 Benji Bethel
 28/06/2011 Luke Dyer
 29/06/2011 Annabelle Rachor
 30/06/2007 Clayton Bogucki



K.I.C.S is funded through Budget Based Funding (BBF) from the Commonwealth Department of Education and through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) by the Prime Minister & Cabinet (PMC).

I've learned ... that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
By Andy Rooney

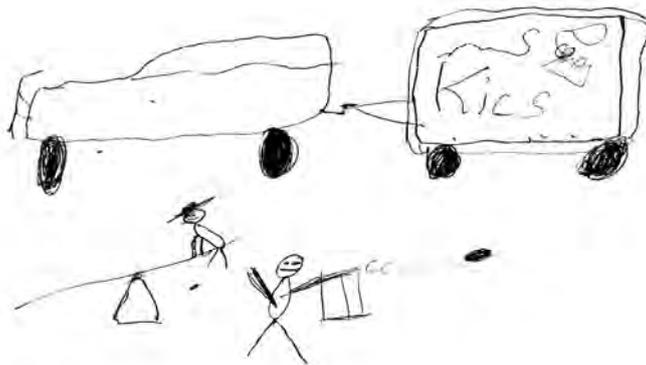
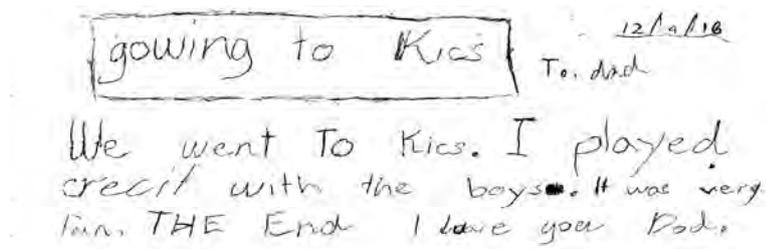
From KICS Families who have moved interstate:

- * *Thanks for doing such a great thing for the kids (and us grown ups!) it's very sad to be leaving such a lovely community.*
- * *The boys loved being a part of KICS while we were in the Territory. It is a wonderful thing that you all do.*

A new Family joining KICS:

- * *We are looking forward to joining the playgroup fun and meeting new friends!*
- * Here is an example of priceless feedback from an eight year old boy in the form of a letter to his Dad. He left the letter on his Dad's pillow, a sure place for Dad to find it as many bush Dads leave before daylight and return home after dark when the little people are in bed.

Very special!



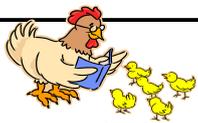
We need to update our Client Data Base!

Any new additions to your family or new contact information will need to be added.

Could you please find some spare time to complete the Client Information form (page 12 of this Newsletter) and return at your earliest convenience. If you have **recently** completed these forms and they are up to date, then of course you are excluded from this request.

Thank You





The Joy of Books

- *Books can be children's friends and can be a pleasure to them all their lives.*
- *Stories can help children cope with problems and fear.*
- *Reading and telling stories to children are wonderful opportunities to contribute to their education.*
- *Make story time a special time in your child's life, every day if possible.*
- *Try to show your child that you enjoy reading and that you think it is important. Have books around the house.*
- *If you don't enjoy reading, try making up stories for your child, telling stories about when you were young or using the pictures in a book to make up stories.*
- *Encourage grandparents to tell stories about when they were young.*
- *Story time builds good relationships and should not be withdrawn as a punishment.*
- *Stories told and stories from a book can be part of a special time for you and your children that they will remember for the rest of their lives.*
- *A love of books is one of the best and most lasting gifts that you can give to your children.*

The Middle Wife by an Anonymous 2nd grade teacher

I've been teaching now for about fifteen years. I have two kids myself, but the best birth story I know is the one I saw in my own second-grade classroom a few years back. When I was a kid, I loved show-and-tell. So I always have a few sessions with my students. It helps them get over shyness and usually, show-and-tell is pretty tame. Kids bring in pet turtles, model airplanes, pictures of fish they catch, stuff like that. And I never, ever place any boundaries or limitations on them. If they want to lug it in to school and talk about it, they're welcome.

Well, one day this little girl, Erica, a very bright, very outgoing kid, takes her turn and waddles up to the front of the class with a pillow stuffed under her sweater.

She holds up a snapshot of an infant. "This is Luke, my baby brother, and I'm going to tell you about his birthday. First, Mom and Dad made him as a symbol of their love, and then Dad put a seed in my Mom's stomach, and Luke grew in there. He ate for nine months through an umbrella cord."

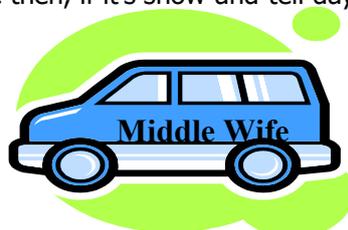
She's standing there with her hands on the pillow, and I'm trying not to laugh and wishing I had my camcorder with me. The kids are watching her in amazement. "Then, about two Saturdays ago, my Mom starts saying and going, 'Oh, oh, oh, oh!' Erica puts a hand behind her back and groans. "She walked around the house for, like an hour, 'Oh, oh, oh!' Now Erica is doing a hysterical duck walk and groaning.

"My Dad called the middle wife. She delivers babies, but she doesn't have a sign on the car like the Domino's man. They got my Mum to lie down in bed like this." Then Erica lies down with her back against the wall. "And then, pop! My Mom had this bag of water she kept in there in case he got thirsty, and it just blew up and spilled all over the bed, like "psshheew!" Erica has her legs spread and her little hands are miming water flowing away. It was too much!

"Then the middle wife starts saying 'push, push', and 'breathe, breathe.' They started counting, but never even got past ten. Then, all of a sudden, out comes my brother. He was covered in yucky stuff, they all said it was from Mom's play-centre, so there must be a lot of stuff inside there."

Then Erica stood up, took a big theatrical bow and returned to her seat.

I'm sure I applauded the loudest. Ever since then, if it's show-and-tell day, I bring my camcorder, just in case another Erica comes along.



The Little Boy

Once a little boy went to school. He was a quiet little boy and it was quite a big school but the little boy found that he could go to his room by walking right in from the door outside. He was happy and school did not seem quite so big anymore. One morning, when the little boy had been in school a while, the teacher said, "Today we are going to draw a picture."

"Good," thought the little boy. He could draw all sorts of things—lions and tigers, chickens and cows, trains and boats. He took out his box of crayons and began to draw.

But the teacher said, "Wait, it is not time to begin." She waited until everyone looked ready. "Now we are going to make flowers," she said.

"Good," thought the little boy. He liked to make flowers. He began to make beautiful ones with his pink and orange and blue crayons.

But the teacher said, "Wait, and I will show you how." It was red with a green stem. The little boy looked at the teacher's flower. He liked his better but he did not say this. He just turned his paper over and made a flower like the teacher's. It was red with a green stem.

On another day, when the little boy had opened the door from the outside all by himself, the teacher said, "Today we're going to make something with clay."

"Good," thought the little boy. He liked clay. He could make all kinds of things with clay—snakes and snowmen, elephants and mice, cars and trucks. He began to pull and pinch his ball of clay.

But the teacher said, "Wait, it's not time to begin." She waited until everyone looked ready. "Now, we are going to make a dish." The little boy thought how much he liked to make dishes and began to make some that were all shapes and sizes. But the teacher said, "Wait, and I will show you how." She showed everyone how to make one deep dish. "There," she said, "You may begin." The little boy looked at the teacher's dish. Then he looked at his own. He liked his better but he did not say so, he just rolled his clay into a big ball to start again and make a dish like the teacher's. It was a deep dish.

And quite soon the little boy learned to wait and to watch and to make things just like his teacher. And quite soon, he didn't make anything of his own anymore. Then it happened. The little boy and his family moved to another house in another place and the little boy had to go to another school. This school was even bigger than the other and there was no door from the outside into his room. He had to go up some big steps and walk down a long hall to get to his room.

On the very first day he was there, the teacher said, "Today we are going to make a picture."

"Good," thought the little boy and he waited for the teacher to tell him what to do. But the teacher didn't do anything. She just walked around the room. When she came to the little boy she stopped.

"Don't you want to make a picture?" she asked.

"Yes," he replied. "What are we going to make?"

"I don't know until you make it," she said.

"How shall I make it and what colours will I use?"

"Why, make it anyway you like and choose your favourite colours. If everyone made the same picture and used the same colours, how would I know who made what and which was which?"

The small boy looked very confused, "I don't know," he said. He began to draw. He drew a red flower with a green stem.

(A Story from Helen Buckley)





Fuel Donations

It's been a while since we reminded everyone that along with popping money into our donation tin we are also very happy to accept fuel donations. You would be well aware of the high cost of fuel which is one of our major expenses. The donation of fuel equates to an enormous cost saver for K.I.C.S. Often a mere 20 litres of diesel will get us to the next venue without having to purchase more fuel. So next time a K.I.C.S team visits your place, consider showing your appreciation in the form of fuel.

Thank You !

Bring out the old clothes...!

It would be advisable to dress your children in old clothes when attending K.I.C.S Playgroups. K.I.C.S use non - toxic paint for art activities but cannot guarantee that paint stains will wash out. We have been advised that to work on these stains you need to use warm water without detergent.

Or, K.I.C.S colourful, cotton T-Shirts @ \$15 each! The K.I.C.S Teams do carry a supply of these T -shirts with them.

Sizes 0 to 12

Check them out!



Scholastic Book Fair



Our diligent Playgroup Field Teams will be packing / fitting the Book Fair into their trailers and bringing you this opportunity to purchase quality books for all ages. KICS will receive credit points on sales which will benefit our service and your children in the way of books and resources. The Fair is offering a large range of early childhood board books which are very popular and hard to find in book stores these days. We are also planning on setting up the Fair in our office during KSA In School Week on Tuesday 28th June for KICS Board Members (prior to the Board Meeting) and to KICS Families and the general public on Wednesday 29th from 9 to 1:30 pm.

To bring you the Fair means we need to keep the books clean. Quite a challenge considering we set up outdoors at playgroups with little people on site. I guess it will be a team effort for all.



If you are into FBing then do a search for K.I.C.S. and like our page.

Vegetable dye

powder in the primary colours, Red - Blue - Yellow for the home classroom can be expensive. We have packaged smaller amounts of the 3 colours to accompany our Kids Recipes / Activity Card.

At \$5, this handy little kit will be an asset when preparing daily, fun activities for the little people.

A win, win situation, as you will be supporting our fund raising effort as well!



Due to the wholesaler price increase, KICS has no option but to raise the cost of our mats to \$110.



Easy to clean!



K.I.C.S.

Great for campdrafts - camping- school rooms - playgroups.

Indoor / Outdoor Waterproof Mats. Made from 100% recycled plastic.

Road tested at K.I.C.S Playgroups.

1.8 x 3 m \$110 each

Also comes in green. Reversible, Foldable

Contact K.I.C.S - 08 8971 0196 kics@bigpond.com



In case you want to purchase one of these versatile mats at playgroups our Field Teams carry some with them .

Alternatively, you can contact the KICS office or call in when you are in town.

Scholastic Book Club

By the time you read this, Book Club Issue 4 will be out and about! The new look catalogue instead of 6 brochures has made it easier for everyone: from selecting to ordering. There will be 8 issues (catalogues) sent throughout the year. If you do not wish to receive Book Club please let us know. As a non profit service it will help with unnecessary postal costs.

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go to another room and read a book!

Groucho Marx.

K.I.C.S Cluster Groups

Could you please look over the Cluster grouping below and decide if you would like to be placed in other clusters. In many cases some families are in travel distance of more than one cluster area, giving the opportunity to attend extra playgroups. Please fill out this form and return ASAP.
If you are unsure of your cluster areas, please contact us.

Name:ô -

Station / Community:ô -

Preferred Cluster / Clusters:ô --



Clusters

Barkly
New Castle Waters
Elliot
Kiana

Daly Waters
Gorrie Loop

Limmen

Kalkarindji
Lajamanu
Riveren

WA Border
Timber Creek

Mataranka
Roper

Ngukurr

Numbulwar

Top Springs
VRD

The K.I.C.S Web Site can be found at www.kics.org.au

Check it out!



Thanks to Mick Elligett from www.tropics.net.au for designing this fabulous site for us.

We have a vast collection of photos from the K.I.C.S. Playgroup albums and would like to give you the opportunity to browse through them by including them on our web site. This would make the photos available for public viewing. We need your permission to place your child's photo on our web site and face book. The photos will not disclose personal details (names etc.) other than the Playgroup venue and date.

There would also be occasions when K.I.C.S need visual material for broader publication to promote the Service to a wider community eg. media articles and presentations at Conferences.

Before K.I.C.S can go ahead with this we need you as parents or guardians to complete the following form and return to us ASAP. If you have already completed a permission form you would only need to do so again if you have new children to add.

Many thanks.

PERMISSION FOR USE OF VISUAL MATERIAL

I give approval for visual materials containing my children/family to be used for the purpose of promoting K.I.C.S. to the wider community through our web site, face book, media articles and children's services conference presentations.

Parent/s/Guardian Name: _____

Child/Children's Name: _____

Station/Community _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

K.I.C.S is a non profit organisation.

To enhance our funds and to enable us to purchase resources we fundraise throughout the year.

The *Scholastic Book Club* is our ongoing fundraiser, raising credit coupons to purchase books for our ever growing library.

We also sell Indoor/Outdoor waterproof mats, *K.I.C.S Kid's T-shirts, adult polo and chambray shirts* and *Kid's Fun Stuff recipe cards/with vegetable dye.*

We have tried different fund raising ideas over the years which have been well received.

Our end of the year *Toy Catalogue Fundraiser* gives families the opportunity to shop for quality toys and educational resources. K.I.C.S receive 20% on all orders placed allowing us to purchase resources with the money earned.

In order to keep mailing costs at a minimum we need to ascertain who is interested in receiving *fundraising information* throughout the year.

Could you please take a moment and fill in the form below and return at your earliest convenience.

Thank You.

I do I don't wish to receive: Book Club

I do I don't wish to receive: Toy Catalogues

I do I don't wish to receive: information on other fund raising ventures as they arise.

Name: _____