



### **Rainbows Report 2017**

Here we are in the final stages of yet another kinder year and what a year. This year we have had one rotational group of 29 children. The children once again attended for three 5 hour sessions however they were split into 4 groups and on each day different groups attended. This year Genevieve and I team taught the whole group with us each teaching two days a week. It has been great for both the children and teachers to have Jo as the assistant each day. This will be the same again in 2018. We have also been very lucky to have Jess working with our group three days a week.

Some very close friendships have formed throughout the year and I am sure these will remain strong regardless as to what schools the children attend in 2018. Another year of fun, excitement, development, changes, new friends and growth has almost come to an end. It is always sad saying good bye but everything and everyone reaches a time when they need to move on. For these young people that time has come.

There are so many great memories from this year that it is hard to know where to begin. During the year we have looked at explored, experimented, discovered and learnt many new things. Some of the areas that have interested the children have been, summer and sea creatures, my family, autumn, transport, outer space, Multicultural Australia, our community, jungle animals, spring and insects, pirates, princesses and dinosaurs.

Within these topics we try to incorporate many different areas of the curriculum as possible. We develop our artwork, discussions, dramatic play, table games, puzzles, singing, dancing, science activities, pre number activities and pre reading activities all around the topic of discussion and the interests of the children. Often what we plan takes a completely different direction as that is what the children want to do.

Our indoor outdoor program has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn in the environment they enjoy most. This year the Rainbow children have spent two mornings a week playing outside with the younger children. This has been a great opportunity for the children to learn tolerance, patience & understanding in relation to others. I feel that this type of program has allowed the children to develop a greater sense of belonging to their community. This program will continue in 2018.

Gardening has become an area of great interest as each term we plant seeds in biodegradable pots that the children care for and then take home to plant in their

own gardens. Continuing the interest in sustainable practices the children keenly help check on the worms, feeding them and using the worm wee for our garden.

During the year we have many different incursions to enhance our programs, extend the children's knowledge and existing experiences and to add new and different dimensions to the way the children learn. Some of these incursions have been Wild Life Exposure who brought small sea creatures for the children to touch and learn about. Also, we have had a Museum dinosaur incursion, Thingle Toogle road safety program and Kings Swim School water safety program. We have also had a visit from the Responsible Pet Program, which teaches children how to be safe around dogs.

While looking at our community we were very lucky to be able to call upon the resources of some fantastic community members. Sacha, a past parent, visited to explain what happens when you go in an ambulance to hospital and to show the children inside an ambulance. We have also had a few local excursions during the year. We visited the conference centre to collect leaves while learning about autumn. We also had a community walk during which we looked at all the local shops. We also visited the Belgrave South/Heights fire station to learn about fire safety. We have also held several walk to kinder days.

Some of the other highlights of the year have been Special Visitors Day; Father's Night and Pirate Day where the children went on a treasure hunt & walked the plank, Bike Day & Beach Day.

This year parents will again receive a full two year record of their child's development. The children's portfolios will become part of your Childs developmental record and as such something to be treasured. They require a lot of extra work by the teachers however the benefits are enormous. It is amazing how much more you notice when documenting in this way. Portfolios will be given to parents to keep at the end of the year.

Transition statements have been written for all children attending school in 2018. The feed back after past years statements has been very positive and I would like to thank the parents and committee for their support in this area.

We are now in the final stages of preparation for a fun end to the year. Graduation night will soon be here. This will be a fun relaxing evening for all the family.

We hope that everyone takes away many great memories from a great year of kinder and we are sure that whatever lays ahead these great children will all succeed in 2018.

Thank you  
Belinda Niezen & Genevieve Brown

## Thank You's

To the fantastic team I am privileged to work with. Thank you.

Genevieve thank you for filling in when needed, for all your great ideas and your patience with the children. It has been great working with you again this year.

Jo; thank you for putting up with us. It's not easy working with two different teachers. You are our rock that keeps everything together and ticking along. We could not do it without you.

Kelly, thank you for patience and guidance with our beautiful three-year-old stars.

Shar you are a great friend and support. Thank you for always being there to lend an ear when needed and a hug when required. Thank you for all the support you give to the children and families in your care.

Jess, you have a very special gift. You are an amazing support to all children but especially to those with extra needs. It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Jess as she will be working full time at Belgrave South Primary in 2018. We will truly miss you Jess.

To all the parents have helped out on walks, kinder duty or washing. Thank you. Your help is always greatly appreciated and your children have loved having you at kinder.

There are many people that I need to thank for all their hard work. To the outgoing committee thank you for giving your time so freely to keep the kindergarten running. Without a committee there is no kindergarten. Some members have been on committee for many years and we really do appreciate it. So, to the outgoing committee thank you and good luck in 2018.

To the new committee good luck also and thank you for giving a little of your time to keep this kinder running.

I wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas

Belinda Niezen