



**LEN
JEFFREY
MEMORIAL
PRESCHOOL**



102 Colby Drive Belgrave South VIC 3160
t (03) 9754 5965
e len.jeffrey.memorial.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
www.lenjeffreymemorialpreschool.vic.edu.au

Rainbows

Here we are in the final stages of yet another kinder year and what a year. This year we have had one straight group of 14 children. The children once again attended for three 5 hour sessions. Again, this year Genevieve and I team taught the whole group with each of us teaching one day a week and alternating one day. It has been great for both the children and teachers to have Jo as the assistant each day.

Some very close friendships have formed throughout the year and I am sure these will remain strong regardless of which schools the children attend in 2020. 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, fairies, autumn, transport, outer space, Multicultural Australia, our community, spring and insects, pirates & princesses & dinosaurs.

Within these topics we try to incorporate as 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 the children extend and develop the theme.

Our outdoor program has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn in the environment they enjoy. As part of our outdoor program we incorporate indoor activities such as home corner, the making table, construction toys and painting. For those children that are not comfortable climbing this allows them to be outdoors while enjoying experiences that they like and are comfortable with.

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. As a follow on from this we invited Bunnings to visit our centre and this provided the children with another gardening experience.

During the year we have 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 a Museum dinosaur incursion and a music time with Heather. We have also had a visit from the Responsible Pet Program, which teaches children how to be safe around dogs and Kings Swim school who taught the children some great ways to stay safe around the water.

Whilst 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 also had Dave and Seb visit kinder with a police car and talk to the children about their job as a police officer. Lisa talked to us about her job as a vet nurse and Damon gave the children a demonstration showing how a 3-D printer turns filament (from plastic bottle tops) into solid usable objects. Damon, Lisa, Dave and Seb are current kinder parents and we appreciate them giving up their free time to visit.

We have also had a few local excursions during the year. We visited the conference center to collect leaves while learning about autumn. We had a community walk during which we looked at all the local shops. We 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, Mother's day, Father's Night where the children spent an evening at kinder with Dad enjoying the fun of kinder activities followed by dinner before the children gave their Dads a special gift, Pirate Day where the children went on a treasure hunt & walked the plank, Bike Day, Beach Day, Travel around Australia day and Multicultural day.

As part of our healthy lifestyle program the children received free dental checks. We continuously discuss healthy eating and life styles with the children throughout the year on a daily basis.

This year parents will again receive a full two-year record of their child's development. The children's reflection folders 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. Reflection folders will be given to parents to keep at the end of the year. This is however not the only documentation we do throughout the year. Each child is assessed throughout the year, teachers then reflect on this assessment and the observations taken to complete the assessment. From this information we plan our program to meet the individual needs and interests of each child. As you can imagine this can be very time consuming but very beneficial for the children and staff as it allows us to build a complete picture of each child.

Transition statements have been written for all children attending school in 2020. The feedback 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 thank every family for allowing us the honour of teaching your child this year. 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 2020.

Thank you
Belinda Niezen & Genevieve Brown