

# KINDER CAPERS

MARCH 2020



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly I'd like to say welcome to all our new families. We are very happy to have you all at our kinder this year and we are all looking forward to a challenging but no less fun year ahead. I am very proud of the community that is associated with our kinder in the Hills and our amazing families that support us. Your support is very important to us, especially in times like these.

WELCOME



The whole world is experiencing something unbelievable, and the feeling of uncertainty is palpable. In times like this we need to remind ourselves of how lucky we are. How lucky we are to have enough for our own families, how lucky we are to be cared for by a world leading health care system and how lucky we are to have a community of people who will be there when you need help. Whether it is support through child minding, an extra meal dropped at a door while maintaining social distancing or a donated roll of toilet paper, we will support each other, and we will get through this challenge. In years to come we will be telling our grandchildren of the 'great toilet paper shortages of 2020'.



Now a little bit about our kinder, it is run by an amazing committee of volunteer parents and a wonderful team of teachers. Together, with all our families, we work together to support the learning, social and physical environment at our kinder. We pride ourselves on providing a warm, caring and supportive environment where children feel happy and safe. Although fundraisers and working bees will be limited this year, there will be plenty of opportunities to for everyone to contribute.

So have a fantastic possibly extended holiday, stay safe, wash your hands, use one square at a time and we will see you when we see you.

Kindest Regards

Steph Krivohlavy

Parents Committee President





This term is certainly moving along very quickly. It is great to see that most children have settled in very well to kinder. We hope that you as parents are making new friends just as your children are.

Coronavirus has impacted everyone in some way. In this issue of kinder capers there is a short social story that you may find useful when talking to your children. We have included the link if you would prefer to look at it from the writer's website. We have



provided hand sanitizer next to each sign in book and we are supporting the children through the hand washing process to ensure they are doing it thoroughly.

We are currently reviewing and updating our Quality Improvement Plan. As part of this process we will be asking families simple questions that require a yes/no answer. These questions will be next to the signing in books over the coming weeks. Please help us to improve and provide you with the information you need by answering the question. Each question will be available to answer for two weeks.

We provided all families with the latest information on child restraints and car seats early this year. Vic Roads update this information regularly so it is always a good idea to check that what you and grandparents are using is still compliant with Australian standards.



Don't forget there is a small parent's library in the brick building. Feel free to have a look anytime or ask staff if you are after information on anything in particular.



Always remember to phone kinder if your child is going to be absent especially if it is due to illness. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

A huge thank you to this year's committee of management who have been very busy already making sure the kindergarten runs smoothly. They do all this as volunteers, so if at any time you are able to help at a fundraiser, working bee, open day or in any other way please let us know. Extra helpers make the job that little bit easier.



A huge thank you to Sylvie who puts kinder capers together for us and also keeps our website up to date. A huge thank you to all the staff who always go above and beyond to offer an amazing program for each and every individual child.



There is so much that goes on behind the scenes, long before kinder begins, long after it has concluded and at home. Preparing activities, planning for children as individuals and as a group, professional development, mentoring pre service teachers and so much more.

Thank you everyone.

We look forward to this being a fantastic year at Len Jeffrey Memorial Preschool.

Thank you  
Belinda Niezen  
Educational Leader.

# RAINBOWS



Welcome to all our returning families and a special welcome to our new families. We hope you are enjoying the kinder experience as much as your children are. It is hard to believe that the term is nearly over already.



Pancake Tuesday saw the children having the fun of making pancakes which they were able to enjoy at lunch time. Cooking provides opportunity to discuss hygiene, chemical reactions as ingredients mix together and change, cause and effect as the heat from the frypan causes the mixture to bubble and change colour and safety around hot items. So much learning from one fun activity.



Dramatic play is always popular and the children have enjoyed home corner, ice cream shop, fishing in a boat and a castle. Play was taken even further when the children were given the opportunity to dramatize and retell a variety of stories at group time. This is a great way to recall the story in sequence whilst enjoying the fun of drama. Retelling stories is an important pre reading skill as it shows understanding of the spoken word, story sequencing and expands language.



The children enjoyed beach day and although the Wednesday was a rather wet beach day the Thursday made up for it with lots of fun had by all. It is a great opportunity to discuss water safety, sea creatures and all things related to the beach and fun. We also had a wonderful incursion presented by Kaitlyn from wildlife exposure who presented an amazing variety of sea creatures to the children. The children were able to touch and hold the creatures which was a wonderful experience.



We also had our very special Grandfriends visit us from Emerald Glades aged care. This is a wonderful experience for the visitors and our children. Watching our children interact with such kindness and caring attitude was wonderful. Our Grandfriends enjoyed painting, memory games, puzzles, the making table and construction. We are hoping to continue this program next term.



Outside the children have enjoyed exploring our large tarp slide. This is a large canvas tarp that attaches to the side of the climbing frame. The children loved sliding down the large surface in many different ways. The children also enjoy risky play. Risky play helps children develop an understanding of what is safe in a safe supported environment. At this service the children enjoy climbing our climbing tree and jumping onto a large mat. During first term only a few children will try but by the end of the year most will give it a go. They also enjoy jumping from the large cube onto a mat. This all takes place with staff close by.



Recently we were lucky enough to have a past kinder student conduct two music sessions with the children. It was great to see the children warm to Zoe and have so much fun with the songs and music. Thank you, Zoe.





Friendships are continuing to develop which is wonderful to see. Remember at this age it is vital that children have several friends rather than relying on one person to play with. If that one friend is absent it can make their day at kinder stressful. Encourage your child to play with lots of kinder friends. The children are all very settled and understand and follow the routine with ease.

Chris from Belgrave library has visited us twice this term for story time. This is a great opportunity for the children to hear some great new stories and learn what happens at a library. If you have not checked it out, I highly recommend a visit to the Belgrave Library. Next term the visits will take place on two different days so all colours can experience the fun of story time.



When you are next on kinder duty remember to have a look at your child's memory book. They are very proud of them and love showing them off. **They are located in our book corner.**



Please remember that children still need to wear a hat outside when we return in term two. Hats must be worn 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Remember if you are a keen gardener, we sell Worm Wee which is a great fertiliser for the garden. We simply ask a gold coin donation for the CFA.

Coronavirus has impacted everyone. We have provided hand sanitizer at each sign in book. We are assisting the children in the bathrooms to make sure they are using soap. We have also conducted an experiment to demonstrate to the



children how soap removes germs that you cannot see. We placed water in a bowl and sprinkled cinnamon onto the water. We then put detergent on our fingers and as we placed our finger into the water the cinnamon moved away just as germs go away when we wash our hands. The children all then had a turn so they could see firsthand what happens.

Due to DEECD restrictions we are currently unable to conduct excursions or incursions. We will keep you posted when this changes.

Please also remember that if your child is unwell, they should be at home resting. Also please let us know especially if it is something that can easily spread such as gastro or a cold. We are required to advise all parents if there is an infectious disease about no matter how mild a case.



Just a reminder to keep bottle caps you are collecting at home until we let you know when they can be brought in to kinder again.

Don't forget that we are available for a chat at any time. Just call or email to make an appointment.

Thank you

Belinda, Genevieve and Jo





# BLUE STARS

*Hi Everyone,*

I can't believe we are moving towards the end of the first term. Sylvie and I are so proud of how the children have settled in and how eager they are to see what we are doing at kinder.

I thought I would let you know what skills your child has been learning and developing in term 1 through different activities and play.

- Learning routines has been a very big part of starting kinder as the children need to unpack their bag, put their bag on their hook, wash their hands, get a wipe to wipe their mouth and then come and sit on the mat. If that isn't enough, they wash their hands before and after snack and re-wipe their mouth after snack. They repack their bags and collect their art from their work boxes before they go home. Wow that's a lot to learn but the children have taken it in their stride and have done an amazing job trying to remember all the steps. By learning routines, the children are able to predict what happens next and are able to become independent looking after themselves and their belongings.



Recently we have focused on hand washing and its importance in cleaning away germs. By modelling hand washing technique and performing simple experiments to display the effect of soap on germs, the children have increased their attention to the cleanliness of their hands.

- We have introduced different tools to paint with such as string, marbles and golf balls so the children can explore, create patterns and express ideas through art.



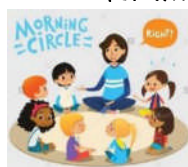
- Our dramatic play area has been many things including home corner, a pirate ship, and an ice cream shop.



These areas allow the children to explore their identity through role play and encourages social interaction using non-verbal and verbal communication.

The children begin to feel part of a group and begin to engage and contribute to the play space.

- At mat time we have played games to learn each other's names and learnt new songs with actions and movement. We have group discussion so the children feel part of a group and feel recognised and respected for who they are. Every morning in talking



circle, the talking stick is passed to each child giving them the opportunity to tell us anything they like. This gives every child the

opportunity to speak to the group and develop confidence doing so. After this we do acknowledgement of country. We thank the Wurundjeri people for sharing their land and promise to look after it along with the animals and people too.

- Outside the children are developing their gross motor skills and risk taking as they climb, balance and ride using a variety of equipment.
- Our beach and pirate days were lots of fun and the children enjoyed dressing up and doing different activities related to the theme.
- Chris from library has visited us twice this term and the children have really enjoyed the interactive stories and pop-up books. Thanks Chris.



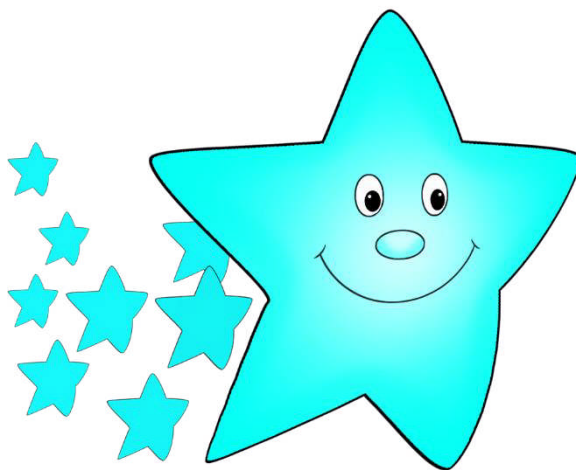
- We have had a visit from the Emerald Glades retirement village and it was lovely to see the children interacting and doing a variety of activities with our guests. Our guests love coming and playing with the children.







- Your child's memory folder is beginning to fill up now with art work and different activities that we do at kinder. Make sure you stop and have a look at it - located on a shelf in our library just inside the front door.

So, as you can see the children are already learning many skills through routines and play. Our program is ever changing to meet the needs of the children. The children, Sylvie and I are having a wonderful time exploring, learning, investigating but most of all having fun at kinder.



## Just a few little reminders for you.

- All children need to wear a hat when outside at kinder. As per our policy caps are no longer allowed. Sun screen will be applied before we go outside when required. 
- Please make sure all your child's belongings are named as lots of children have a kinder hat and some have lunch boxes and drink bottles the same. Also, if your child's belongings are named it helps them begin to recognise letters and their own name.
- Sylvie and I have noticed that some children's lunch boxes are overloaded with food. Please just put in a couple of things as they are only here for a short amount of time and we like to only have snack for 10-15 minutes.

- We need your help - Can you please encourage your child to carry their own bag in and out of kinder as it is a good way for the children to become independent and responsible for their own belongings. 

- Keep collecting plastic bottle tops and bread tags as they go to a really good cause to assist in making prosthetics and wheel chairs. Due to the Coronavirus Lids4Kids are not accepting them at the moment but are asking you to please save them and keep them at home. We will let you know when you can bring them in to kinder again.



Anytime you wish to speak to me or Sylvie the best time to catch us is after session. Our door is always open.

Thanks heaps  
Love Shar & Sylvie



# CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19

Explaining Coronavirus - COVID-19 to small children might seem like a difficult task. Below is a story that might be helpful. We have provided a condensed version but if you would like to access the original larger PDF you can find it at <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>



The educators at Len Jeffrey have all done COVID-19 infection control training. If you are interested in doing it also, this is the site :- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>



## ONLINE SAFETY

Information about online safety is available to parents in the form of a booklet which can be found at the site below. This can be downloaded if desired.

We also have a copy in the 4's room.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/children-under-5/online-safety-under-5s-booklet>



## KINDER SNACK IDEAS

- Fresh fruit
- Dried fruit
- Raw vegetables
- Yoghurt
- Cheese and dry biscuits
- Dips with vegie sticks
- Sandwich (no egg or peanut butter)
- Wraps
- English muffin
- Raisin bread
- Rice crackers
- Savoury muffin
- Popcorn
- Muesli bar (no nut)
- Vege chips
- Homemade biscuit or small muffin without icing



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