

KINDER CAPERS

JUNE 2020



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello again to all our wonderful Len Jeffrey's families,

So the world has changed in ways we never thought would be possible. In an instant we were all locked away from our communities, schools, friends and families in an effort to stop the spread of a terrible virus. This has affected people's employment, family's income, and the mental health of many in our community. As we come out the other side it is important to acknowledge just how significant the experience has been in our lives. Right now many of us are just happy to return to normal but in time we will realise normal has changed, and for many it will never be the same again.

This term at kinder was a very short one for many families. Although we were not able to offer any incursions or excursions at kinder, the children still had plenty of fun catching up with their friends. The short term also meant lots of family time at home, entertaining, cleaning, working from home, teaching, reassuring and cleaning again. Our amazing staff did a tremendous job emailing activities to do at home and posting videos to help keep our children involved with the kinder community, and my children enjoyed seeing their faces and hearing their voices.



I would like to say a very special thank you to our parent committee members, who on top of everything else in their own lives, generously and without complaint dedicated even more time than normal to managing the kinder. From online meetings, phone calls, and more emails than I can count, they helped ensure the kinder could remain open for the other side of this pandemic. A special shout out to Mary who volunteers her time to do our payroll, despite her youngest child being in grade 1, who put in a huge amount of work to ensure our staff got paid and to Julia our accountant who fielded my many, many questions regarding JobKeeper and the ATO.



This term has been a challenging one for everyone in many different ways but together we have supported each other, and we will continue to support each other to stay safe and healthy.

Thank you to everyone in our amazing kinder community for your efforts and kindness.

Steph Krivohlavy

Committee President





This term has certainly been a challenging term for everyone, adults and children alike. I know many families have had the added stress of guiding their children through remote learning whilst trying to work from home themselves. For some of our staff we have faced the challenge of a full days teaching whilst also preparing videos for those children remaining at home. This has proved difficult for all staff as we are unable to upload videos at kinder due to poor internet. Thus, all those amazing videos your children have enjoyed have been created at home or at kinder very early in the morning and then uploaded at the end of the day when we arrived home. A huge thank you to the amazing team I am very proud to be part of.



Although many families kept their preschool children at home, four year old kinder was operating throughout the lock down with reduced numbers attending. This has gradually increased as school children return to the classroom.



Now that the children are back at kinder and winter has arrived it is important that each child has a warm coat every day. Our kinder room is warm but we spend approximately 90 minutes outside each day so a warm coat is vital. They are also welcome to leave a warm hat in their hat box.

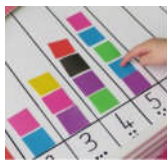


Over the last few weeks I have been spending time with each four year old child individually to complete a few tasks. One of those tasks has been completing a puzzle. Most adults will say either they love puzzles or they don't like them because they struggle to do them. Did you know that puzzles help to develop more important skills that assist children when learning to read?

Puzzles help children to differentiate size, shapes, lines and directions to read. So many of the words in the English language have the same letters but in different order. If children do not learn at an early age how to differentiate these they will struggle with reading. For example, who & how have the same letters in different order. To some children they will look like the same word as they have not developed the ability to differentiate.



Another valuable skill is known as one to one correspondence. This is where a child can count a row of objects accurately by pointing or touching each one as they say the correct number. In other words, counting. I know many of you will say my child can count to 20. Rote counting from memory is not counting as they have no understanding of the concept of each of those numbers. You may watch your child count objects and the further along they go they either miss items or say more than one number per item. Thus, by the time they get to the end they are up to 15 when there are only 10 items. This skill comes with practise, so the more they count things the better they will get. Ask them to count the pegs when you put the washing on the line or count the forks when setting the table. The possibilities for counting at home are endless.



These skills can be developed from the age of two with simple inset boards that require matching shapes to the cut-out and then moving up to more challenging puzzles. It's never too early to have the children helping at home and thus counting. The earlier these skills are developed the easier reading, writing and maths will be.

Thank you
Belinda Niezen
Educational Leader.

RAINBOWS



Wow! What a different term this has been for us all at kinder. The coronavirus has certainly had a big impact on all of us. With primary and secondary schools all doing remote learning, that meant for a big part of this term we have had low numbers in attendance. Even though there were low numbers it was still business as usual for us in the rainbows group.



Staff have been busy with face to face and on line teaching. To ensure we maintained our strong connections with the children who were not attending we posted various



videos of us reading stories, singing songs, making crafts, dancing, playing games and so on. We loved seeing your posts too and seeing what the children were doing at home. A big thank you to all parents who sent us pictures or videos to let us know what was happening at home.



thank
you!

With school going back last week it was great to see so many of our children back at kinder. The room all of a sudden felt busier with nearly everyone back. It's great seeing all the children back now and having so much fun with their friends.



At present, Belinda and I are busy completing term 2 summaries of all the children. You will all receive 2 copies – 1 will be in your child's pocket at the front of kinder and another will go into your child's memory book. If you would like to have a chat about your child's progress or the report you are welcome to make a time. These will be held in term 3.



We have our Travel around Australia days and Multicultural days at kinder coming up very soon. Travel around Australia dress up days are on **Tuesday 16 June & Wednesday 17th June** and Multicultural dress up days are on **Thursday 18th June & Friday 19th June**. The children are welcome to dress up on all or some of these days. The coronavirus has meant we have had to change the way we run these special days as we cannot have any parent helpers at the minute. In term 3 we are hoping to extend on our Multicultural heritages and look more closely at all our cultures in our kinder families. We believe that children can learn so much from the cultural customs of their friends and we would like to foster a real interest in diverse cultures. Some of the things that we are looking at are - singing songs from different countries, learn how to say hello and goodbye in different languages, dance and move to different tunes from different countries, look at the world map and see where our kinder families are from, reading books written in different languages, looking at and hopefully cooking some yummy foods from around the world. This is where we would love **your help!** If you have any ideas or resources etc. that we can incorporate into our program please bring them in or please see staff. We are asking all children to please bring in a family photo so that we can put up around our map of the world (so we can see where our families are from)



Thanks

Genevieve, Belinda and Jo



BLUE STARS

Hi Everyone,

Well this is probably the strangest kinder capers report I have ever written. The first thing I would like to do is let you all know what an amazing and great job you have done with the children during the Covid-19 pandemic and isolation. The children generally have a great understanding about the virus and why they needed to stay away from kinder to be safe and also understand the importance of hand washing.



During isolation we as educators needed to find different ways to stay connected with you all. Making videos was all a bit daunting in the beginning but we got used to it and your support and encouraging words made it all a bit easier giving us more confidence to do different things - so thank you. But boy is it good to be back and see all your gorgeous faces.



The way we do things has changed but I think we have all adapted really well to these changes. As you know pick up and drop off has changed, the children definitely know the routine and it makes me smile when the children remind you to sanitise your hands when entering the building.



On a good note only having two parents in the room at a time has helped the children settle more quickly and easily as it allows us to have more time with each one on entry and the children know that you can't stay because others are waiting to come in.



The way we program has changed as well, for the short term only I hope, as there is so much extra cleaning that needs to be done that we have had to modify our program to make it easier for us to achieve all the necessary requirements while at the same time providing a quality program for the children.



Now on to what we have been up to since we have been back. The children absolutely love music time. Their favourite songs at the moment are Singing in the rain and One big dinosaur. We have also introduced our fitness rap (fit and healthy song) which we do every morning after story. These songs have lots of movement and actions and the children particularly love Singing in the rain as some of the actions require us to stick out our bottoms and poke our tongues out - we giggle every time.



The children are very much into drawing and the pasting table at the moment and enjoying construction with the wooden blocks. Outside they are loving the sandpit as always with lots of cooking and building of sandcastles. Swings and the obstacle course have been popular with the children learning how to push themselves on the swings and do challenging climbing over the obstacle course - some of the A frames are tricky but the children are giving them ago.



We are talking a lot about emotions and how what we say and how we act can affect others. We are talking about a different emotion each time we come to kinder and how that emotion makes us feel. We have talked about Happy and Angry so far and I

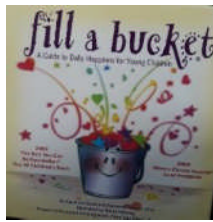


have listed what the children have said about these emotions on our emotion wall along with a photo of the group showing that emotion.



We will continue to talk about different emotions for the rest of the term and into term three. It's important for the children to be able to express themselves and that it's ok to feel all these emotions.

The children may have mentioned to you about having their bucket full or empty. We have read a story called Fill a bucket which tells us we all have an invisible bucket and when it's full we are happy and when we are sad it empties out. We all want to have full buckets and if we do nice things for each other this



helps keep our bucket full along with the people around us. It's a great story and I highly recommend it.

Our last cooking adventure was banana, fruit and oat muesli bars which the children enjoyed making. The recipe is provided below for those of you wanting to make them at home.



Just a reminder - could you please make sure your child has a coat on the cold days as we try to go outside every session.



Holidays are fast approaching so continue to stay safe and looking forward to seeing you all again next term.

Thanks heaps

Shar & Sylvie



QUESTION 1 OF SURVEY

It's been a while since we placed our first question next to the signing in books.

The question was: do you know where your child's memory book is located?

Although most answered yes there were a few people who were unsure.

Memory books are located in the book corner of each room. They are folders that contain information and examples of your child's artwork and learning that takes place at kinder. They are started when your child begins at our kinder and given to you when your child leaves our kinder. For some this may be one year but for others it could be two or more years.

They are designed to be a treasured keep sake of the child's kinder years.

SUPER-HEALTHY BANANA, FRUIT & OAT BARS

Makes 20 small bars

INGREDIENTS

- 3 large ripe bananas
- 3 cups traditional rolled oats
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup dried fruit medley (chopped / diced dried fruits)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract
- honey or maple syrup to taste

METHOD

Step 1 - preheat oven to 180 degrees C

Line a 16cm x 25.5 cm slice pan with baking paper,
extending paper 2cm above edges of the pan.

Step 2 - Mash bananas until smooth.

Add all other ingredients.

Stir until well combined.

Press evenly into the pan

(if using your hands it helps to wet them to stop sticking).

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes.

Cool completely.

Cut into small bars.

Serve.



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