

# KINDER CAPERS

MARCH 2021



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to our Len Jeffrey families, new and returning, to the first Kinder Capers of 2021. After an inconsistent year last year, we have had an almost glitch free start to the year. All of the children have started in their new classes and have hardly missing a beat, thanks to our amazing staff team. This year we have had some major changes to our staff and I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our two new teaching staff members, Leah and Sam.



Leah is our wonderful new Leading Teacher, she is heading our 3 year old class along with fantastic support from Sylvie. She is filling the large space left by the retirement of Shar after 18 years of teaching at Len Jeffrey. Leah's enthusiasm and experience have meant her positive contributions have already been felt throughout the kinder. Our 4 year old room is now under the watchful eye of our second new teacher Sam and the lovely Jo. Although Sam is only here on a short term contract, covering the long service leave of Belinda, she is doing a tremendous job and succeeding in making the position her own. Together our amazing staff team are creating a vibrant and rejuvenated culture of learning, inclusion and adventure at Len Jeffrey Memorial.



With a new year we have also welcomed a new committee of parents. I was honoured to be nominated as president, with Skye returning as vice president for a third year in a row and her 5<sup>th</sup> year on committee. Sal and Rachelle are back as secretary and treasurer, Yvonne is responsible for enrolments again and with Sharnee new to payroll, our executive committee is complete.

Alice along with Georgina and Sharnee are behind the fundraising ideas and implementation and have very exciting, musical things in the pipes for the next few years. Brooke has volunteered to organise our bookclub orders. Dean is again the man responsible for the maintenance of the kinder grounds with back up from Seb, Paul, Mark and Dave on the maintenance sub-committee. Ellen has taken up the role of accounts manager. Lisa is doing a wonderful job designing and organising our new uniforms. Erin has taken on the essential role as grants co-ordinator, and this year has already dedicating many hours orchestrating a very promising application for a minor works grant from the Victorian government. Barbara is responsible for policies and procedures, and Vicki is keeping everyone informed as communication officer.



All of these parents have volunteered for these roles and so generously give their time and enthusiasm to not only keeping our kinder running but constantly looking to improve and grow. I cannot thank them enough or stress how appreciated they are.





We have hit the ground running this year, having already had our first major fundraising event with our Bunnings BBQ held at Fountain Gate Bunnings. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to come and support the kinder on that dreary Sunday in March and an especially huge thank you to Alice who organised the whole event and was there, start to finish, to ensure it was a success.

We also held our first working bee of the year. We had an enormous turn out and were able to have the kinder looking amazing. Our working bees are essential for the maintenance of the kinder grounds and ensure the environment is safe and fun for our children. They are a great opportunity for parents to meet other parents and help build the amazing community we have here in the hills. Thank you everyone who attended, and to Alice who again stepped up and put on a great BBQ for everyone who helped. We aim to have a working bee every term and everyone is encouraged to contribute some time. Bring along the children for a play, and catch up with the other kinder families while maintaining and improving our kinder environment. Attended working bees will contribute to refund of your maintenance levy.



Lastly, I'd like to say a special thank you to Sylvie who goes above and beyond in her commitment to our kinder managing and editing this wonderful newsletter as well as our website.

That is all from me. I hope everyone had a Happy Easter and are having a fantastic break with your families and friends, I look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Kindest Regards

Steph Krivohlavy

Parents Committee President





We extend a very warm welcome to all kindergarten children and their families, especially to those families new to the Len Jeffery Memorial Community.



Kindergarten is one of the most important years in a child's life. It is where the foundations of social skills and learning are developed and we look forward to sharing an exciting and rewarding year of learning with you and your child.

A big thank you to Sylvie, Jo and Sam for making me feel so welcome in my new role in the Stars room and as Educational Leader. It has been so lovely getting to know all of the children, families and community. I've learnt very quickly that Len Jeffery isn't a kindergarten, it's one big family.



We are indeed privileged here in Melbourne that the COVID pandemic is under control and that learning, working and playing have fully resumed. As we engage in all of these aspects of our lives, I hope that what we return to is not just exactly as it was before, but indeed to something better. I hope that we will all be proactively engaged in building a healthy environment and healthy, caring communities.



Special thanks to those who attended the working bee. The kinder looks fantastic and your efforts are appreciated.



As we move into term 2 we will be introducing our Parent Helpers. Here, family members have the opportunity to come along to kindergarten and help out to support the teachers and the children within the program. This is a valuable part of our early childhood program here at Len Jeffery Memorial Kindergarten, where we believe in developing a partnership with families in order to create the best possible outcomes for your children. Please keep an eye out for the roster near the sign in book and feel free to place your name on the date that suits you. If you have any skills that you would like to share with the kinder group, let us know and we will happily include you in our program. Please ensure you e-mail through or bring in to copy your current working with children check.



### ***Committee Meeting***

This will be occurring on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**, at 12:30pm (approx) at the Kindergarten, in the three year old room – All are welcome to attend. The Kindergarten cannot operate without the input of parents in a volunteer capacity and we really appreciate your support. Come along and hear about the achievements in 2021 already and the goals and vision for Len Jeffery. Please speak to a staff member if you have any questions.

What a great term 1,  
Happy holidays,  
Leah



# RAINBOWS



Who can believe that we are at the end of first term already?! It has been such a wonderful experience to share these last 10 weeks with you and your children, we have certainly enjoyed the 4-year-old kinder journey so far.

Some wonderful highlights from the term include our Wildlife Xposure incursion with Caitlyn sharing her knowledge about sea creatures from Port Phillip and Western Port Bays. Being able to give the children the opportunity to be involved in this incursion was fantastic, the children all enjoyed holding and observing the sea creatures.



We were also lucky to have Chris from Belgrave Library come and speak to us at kinder. Many of the children were familiar with the visiting the library, but we all enjoyed the fun stories and songs that Chris shared with us. It was a great opportunity for the children to learn more about the community in which they live.



Recently the Rainbow Group participated in their first 'Walk to Kinder' day. This not only provided the children with the chance to walk to kinder with all their friends, but gave Sam and Jo the opportunity to have important discussions such as road safety and being responsible when out in the community. The children showed a great deal of maturity throughout their walk, displaying the safety awareness we had thoroughly discussed and practiced. We are looking forward to leaving the kinder on another walking excursion soon.



Whilst the walk gave us a taste of independence in leaving the kinder, it also encouraged the children to be responsible for their own belongings, an attribute which we encourage from the onset of the year. Being able to manage kinder bags independently is a skill which will set the children up for primary school, as they will eventually have to pack and repack their lunchboxes and school paraphernalia without help from their parents.



We thank you for encouraging your pre-schooler to carry their own bag in and out of kinder.

The children were also excited to walk past the CFA, whose siren and fire trucks we hear from time to time. Being a member of the Belgrave South community, means that all the children are aware and respectful of this essential establishment. We are looking forward to learning more about the CFA this year, so watch this space!



Whilst the excursion, incursion and visits to kinder have been visual highlights of the first term of kinder, there have been so many unseen achievements the children have been a pivotal part of. Last year was such a unique year for everyone, no less for the youngest members of our families whose lives were changed so dramatically. The children have all embraced kinder with an enthusiasm which is truly commendable, it is such a pleasure to see both old and new connections forming and the children making the most of their opportunities to participate within the kinder setting.



The whole group has embraced the responsibilities Sam and Jo have introduced and are continuing to work towards the goals which are individually set to further extend their development. We have been exploring our emotions through analogies from "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" and will continue to use these skills to help regulate emotions and resolve certain social situations through the encouragement of positive behaviour.



Kinder duty is starting up next term which will give you the perfect chance to have a look at the children's memory books. Please remember to apply for a Working with Children Check if you haven't as yet, this is a legal requirement to assist with kinder duty. Once you have received the card in the mail, please bring it in to kinder for us to photocopy and keep on our records.



Kinder duty is such a great way of observing your child at play, identifying these new friends whose names you may not recognise and having the chance to spend some special time with them during their last year before school. There will be a roster available for families to nominate times next term, with duty starting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April.



Thank you to all our families for helping us keep safe during this term by keeping your unwell pre-schooler home when they were ill. It makes a huge difference when unwell children do not attend preschool, therefore minimising the spread to other children and educators, along with their respective families.



Please remember that we are always here to speak to you if you have any questions or queries. Please ring, pre arrange or email us to organise a time to meet up, our door is always open.

We hope you all had a safe, happy and chocolate filled Easter spent with loved ones, we are looking forward to an action-packed term 2.

Thank you  
Sam and Jo



# BLUE STARS

Hello everyone,

Welcome to 2021. What a busy start the new year brings. We have had a great start to the year with all children working hard to separate happily from loved ones and settle each session. This is a major beginning to a young child's life and as we all know, with any new achievement, it comes at an individual rate. So don't be alarmed if your child is still finding this a challenge at times. We would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome all families to 3 year old kinder. It has been wonderful getting to know you over the past weeks and Sylvie and I look forward to doing so further throughout the year.

WELCOME



The past term has been very busy at kinder for your children as they work hard to settle into their new environment, learning new routines and developing new relationships. We are so pleased with how quickly the children have settled in to kinder life and have accepted us as their friends as well as their teachers.



At this early stage of the year, there is a lot for the children to learn in terms of routine and discovering their new learning environment. Along with exploring their new kinder environment, the children have also been learning how to behave at kinder, using walking feet and quiet voices inside, sitting cross legged with hands in laps whenever we are on the mat together, gathering together to come inside and go outside, getting hats for outside play, packing up our kinder environment both inside and out and washing our hands.



We have been learning our welcome song at group gathering time along with lots of other fun songs with plenty of movement. At the end of the session, after packing our bags, we say goodbye as a group. We are pleased to see the children carrying their own bags into kinder and trying their hardest to unpack their snack and then repack it again at the end of the session – not that easy to work some of those tricky backpack zippers!



The indoor program has provided the children with a variety of experiences. Some of the more popular areas include home corner, play dough, puzzles, creative drawing, painting at the easel and the varied self-select floor experiences. A lot of these areas are designed to be open-ended, whereby the children control the outcomes of the play. Here the children are able to work on developing their sense of identity and become confident and involved learner, as well as working on emerging language skills required for all life situations.

Some of our indoor experiences have included pirate adventures, enjoying cups of tea and delicious 'meals' both inside at home corner and outside from our bush kitchen, going camping and roasting marshmallows on a very lifelike fire and imaginative dinosaur play in many forms – even dinosaur stomping with paint. While the children are enjoying all of these experiences, they are also learning to share, wait their turn, respect other children, contribute fairly to the environment and just being nice.



The outdoor program has been just as important in developing a healthy sense of identity, wellbeing, community and communication. Here the children also become confident and involved learners as they use their curiosity, creativity, enthusiasm and imagination to engage in the experiences. The sand



pit has been a popular part of the outdoor program as it again provides the children with an open-ended venue to explore and create how they wish. The children have also spent lots

of time exploring and experimenting with the climbing equipment, working on their balance, co-ordination and planning and problem-solving skills. The swings have been immensely popular and it has been great to see the children beginning to develop their awareness in how to swing their bodies forwards and backwards.



Throughout term 2 our group focus learning opportunity will be how to identify emotions and feelings, strategies for self-regulation and dealing with big emotions (as part of developing social and emotional competencies) will be an ongoing focus next term. Much of this is done as teachers facilitate and scaffold children during interactions/play; as well as group time stories, activities and small and large group games.

We're looking forward to another great term and are especially excited to have parent helpers join us. It is such a special time for the children to share their kinder experience with a beloved family member. Helper list is located next to the sign-in book.

Happy holidays,

Leah & Sylvie



# EXTRA INFORMATION

## SNACKS & LUNCHES

- We appreciate your efforts at providing the children with healthy snacks and lunches. A list of snack ideas is provided below.
- We are a nut free and egg free kindergarten so please remember not to pack any food that contains these products.  
The exception is that homemade biscuits and muffins made with a small amount of egg are ok but quiches or zucchini slices where the main ingredient is egg are not permitted.  
No nut muesli bars please.
- While no other drinks have been offered to date, we just wanted to reiterate that we prefer only water in the children's water bottles.
- Staff members are not able to heat up the children's food so please use containers that will maintain the temperature that you would like your child to eat their food at.



## KINDER SNACK IDEAS

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



### KEEP IT FRESH

To prevent cut apples turning brown, hold together slices with a rubber band.







# Cap it for Prosthetics & Bread tags for Wheelchairs



We have been collecting plastic bottle tops and bread tags for the last few years and this recycle project has been expanded to our local community as well with great enthusiasm.

The bottle tops are used to create prosthetic limbs for children via the use of 3-D printing and the bread tags are used to make plant trays that are then sold to create funds to purchase wheel chairs for those less fortunate.

We are so pleased to be able to contribute to the positive rewards this collection brings in helping disadvantaged children receive aid that may not be otherwise available to them and also keep products out of landfill.

We are asking you to collect hard plastic caps from fizzy drinks, fruit juices, milk and other similar products and bring them into the kindergarten. They need to be no bigger than the milk bottle or fruit juice tops. Please ensure they have any white liner inserts removed, are **washed** with soapy water, dried and sorted by colour if you have enough. We can only accept clean lids. The volunteers who collect these lids do a tireless job and are grateful if we can make their lives easier.

We work with an organisation called Lids4kids if you have a personal interest in getting more information. The Facebook group for lids is - Lids4kids - Eastern Victoria and the group for bread tags is - Aussie bread tags for wheel chairs - Melbourne.

Below is information that may help. Take note that while recycle code 2 & 4 is required, if the lid has no recycle symbol but is the right size, it is OK. The exception being any lids that have rubber stuck to the inside or are multiple colours.

We appreciate all the support we receive from our beautiful kinder community.

**LIDS**  
4 KIDS

## WHAT LIDS CAN WE COLLECT?

**✓ YES**

MILK      WATER      SOFT DRINK

Check for recycle codes 2 and 4 under the lid.  
We cannot accept numbers 1, 3, 5 or 7.  
If there is NO number, still collect it.

**LIDS**  
4 KIDS

## WHAT LIDS CAN'T WE COLLECT?

**✗ NO**

COFFEE LIDS OR PODS      WINE      POP TOPS

SPREADS      SAUCE

Please only collect plastic lids with recycle code 2 or 4.  
All lids must also be the same size as a milk lid or smaller so that they fit into the shredding machines.

## WHAT LIDS CAN WE USE?

Milk bottle

UHT Milk

Water

Soft drink

**CLEAN LIDS ONLY**