

# KINDER CAPERS

AUGUST 2021



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

So with the end of term 2, we are half way through another challenging year, yet we have achieved so much!



We have completed our Department accreditation and we have been awarded **EXCEEDING overall.**

This is a great reflection of the amazing program and kinder community we are all part of. I need to say a huge thank you to Leah, Sam, Sylvie and Jo for all their hard work and long hours preparing for the assessments. There was also a huge amount of work behind the scenes by our wonderful parent committee. Thank you to everyone who put in extra yards to ensure our kinder was looking great.



A special thank you to Sharnee who is putting the final touches on some new kinder documents including our new constitution which will be ratified at our next AGM.



With further COVID lockdowns, our community support and support for each other is more important than ever. Please look after yourselves, your friends and families, stay strong and stay safe.

If anyone needs anything at all, please reach out, we are here to support you in any way we can.

Kind Regards

Steph





I cannot contain my excitement and share proudly the wonderful news - Undertaking our assessment and rating in July, we have finally received the news, we are EXCEEDING.



The amount of hours, days and sleepless nights, I absolutely can confirm our teachers have endured, has been a true reflection of our amazing result. Assessment and rating is conducted as required, however the last time our kindergarten was assessed was in 2015. Since then our kindergarten has sustained the wonderful practices, grown and flourished. With Belinda on long service leave and farewelling such an amazing teacher as Shar last year, Sam and I knew what strong shoes we not only needed to fill, but needed to keep walking forward in.



I can whole heartedly express this journey as new teachers at LJMP has had the upmost support from Jo and Sylvie, they have filled our practices with history, knowledge and community. A big thank you to Steph for her incredible interview on assessment day, she was able to share our committee's partnership and leaderships within our kindergarten, this is such a big role to undertake and fulfil. I'm so proud and incredibly thankful for all of the support in our assessment.



Covid has continued to impact our kindergarten participation by parent helpers. I know how special it is for parents to spend time within the kindergarten program. When able we will invite families to continue parent helping, as advised from the department.



As difficult as Covid times are, we recognise how resilient the kindergarten children are, they too are riding the uncertain waves with us. We hope that our kindergarten setting continues to create a special place of 'normal' and belonging to them and the families.



We have some special events this year still to come! Staying connected with one another is important. Our private Facebook group (Len Jeffrey Memorial Preschool 2021) allows us to share updates and events & our Facebook group page (Len Jeffrey Memorial Preschool) will be having a revamp – keep your eyes peeled.

Take care of yourselves and each other through these difficult times and please remember that our door is always open to offer any support and assistance we can.

Leah



# RAINBOWS



Welcome to the second half of the year. We are all so thankful that kinder is allowed to continue and have made the most of as many wonderful opportunities as we can. Term 2 was jam packed full of fun, some of the highlights included a visit from Leonie and Bonnie from the Responsible Pet Program. This wonderful government funded program helps educate young children how to approach leashed dogs that they meet in the community and how to act if an unleashed dog approaches them. The Rainbow Group learnt how to ask a dog owner if they can pat their dog, before holding their hand in a safe way for the dog to sniff. Each child had the chance to ask Leonie if they could pat Bonnie, her Cairn Terrier. Learning these important skills have been beneficial for the children to understand prior to our excursions within the community, we are never sure what we will meet on our adventures, but we are all sure that the children will respect any dogs that we do come across.



Before going up to a dog ask permission from its owner.



When meeting a dog let it sniff the back of your hand.

We also celebrated the special people in our lives and had a Mother's Day afternoon tea celebration with both the Stars and Rainbows. The children all had the opportunity to show their special visitor what they have been doing at kinder by looking through their memory books together, participating in some activities and getting to spend some time together.



Thankfully the weather was beautiful for our annual autumn walk to the Belgrave Heights Convention Centre back in May. The Rainbow children enjoyed collecting a variety of autumn leaves and stuffing them into bags, which were carted back to kinder to play with later. We all loved joining in on an autumn leaf fight where we threw handfuls of leaves at each other - who would have thought getting a face full of leaves could be so much fun!



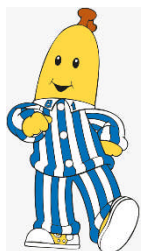
We were lucky enough to visit Belgrave South Primary School and attend a session in the library. The children all walked up to the school, for some this is a new event as they are the eldest child in the family, though many of the children are very familiar with the school yard. Being able to visit the primary school is a wonderful way to help the children prepare for a smooth transition into primary school in 2022. The children were all entertained by a selection of stories, were able to admire the library and caught a glimpse of the school grounds. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our second visit to BPS due to lockdown, but we are hopeful that we will get to attend a computer lab session before the end of the year.



In the last week of term 2, we had another visit from Wildlife Xposure, this time they brought in a variety of native animals for the children to touch, observe and learn about. The children all had lots of stories and information they shared with their friends about different Australian animals, and all enjoyed being able to interact in some way with them.



Earlier in term 3, the Rainbow Group started their day with breakfast at kinder whilst dressed in their pyjamas! What a way to spend the day, in our warm pjs with our tummies filled with delicious toast and cereals. I can proudly announce that the Star and Rainbow Groups raised \$50 to aid foster children through the charity 'The Pyjama Foundation'. Thank you for your generosity.



At the start of term 3, many of the children showed an interest in writing letters and 'posting' them, therefore the dramatic post office area was developed. Dramatic play is an important element of learning that helps the children understand the world in which they live and enables them to teach their peers what knowledge they have gained. The post office area evolved over the weeks with many letters being written to friends, family members and even pets! The idea to write to our grandparents was met with lots of



enthusiasm and the plan to post the letters in the post box during our walk to kinder was established. We are looking forward to hearing if any grandparents reply. This experience has provided the children with an exciting opportunity to incorporate both their families and the wider community.

This term, the Rainbows group has been exploring sustainability and ways in which to reduce rubbish within our kinder. We have been collecting the soft plastic rubbish that is in the children's lunch boxes and discussing ways to substitute for a more non rubbish alternative. The children are keen to have a "nude food" day where we all bring lunches with no rubbish at all. We have talked about small plastic



containers which can be washed and reused, reusable squishy yoghurt pouches and segmented lunch boxes which hold our food in sections to avoid touching, minus glad wrap. Please keep an eye out for the date. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate the youngest generation about recycling, reusing and reducing.

With the weather continuing to be chilly, please remember to pack a jacket and or beanie for your busy pre-schooler. Our digging patch has been hit, with much enthusiasm many shovels full of dirt are being transferred from one patch to another, the results include lots of dirty shoe soles. Please provide a pair of gumboots along with your child's runners. It is



important for children to be able to run and climb with a sensible pair of shoes to aid their gross motor skills and ensure their safety is paramount.

It is easy to change into a pair of gummies to dig and then switch back to runners for outside and indoor play. One way these can be stored at kinder is in a named bag, hung over their hook; making it accessible for your pre-schooler to be independent.

Thank you for being so considerate and keeping your child at home if they are unwell. During these crazy COVID times, it is important to follow department regulations. We appreciate your phone calls and emails to let us know if your child is unable to attend, and gives us the opportunity to warn the kinder community if there is an outbreak of common childhood sicknesses.



Parent/teacher interviews have been completed, but if you missed out and would like the opportunity to speak to Sam about your child's first half at preschool and impending start to school, please let her know. Our door is always open if you have any questions or wish to make a time for a formal discussion; email, call or ask at drop off.



- Science week experiments have been occurring at mat time all this week.
- Book week is next week – 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August – Choose 1 day, 2 days or all 3 or just bring your favourite book to share.
- Photos with Schoolpix have been cancelled due to covid restrictions but our lovely parent Sarah (Matilda J's mum) has offered to do these for us on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Multicultural dress-up day – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Sep
- Nude food day – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Father's & Special person's day is not possible due to covid restrictions. The raffle will still go ahead so bring in your raffle tickets and any gifts you might like to contribute to the hamper.
- Sports week – 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September
- Jumpathon on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September when all children will aim to jump as many times as they can on a small trampoline to raise money for the kinder
- Little Woodworkers incursion – date to be confirmed

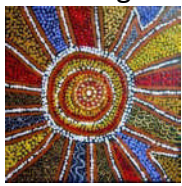
Thank you  
Sam & Jo



# BLUE STARS

Hello everyone,

A big focus within the past few months has been embedding indigenous culture within our practice continuously. Introducing 'acknowledgement of country' as we begin our session each morning, the knowledge and awareness the children have developed is incredible. Our acknowledgement is a simple verse – Hello land (touch the ground), Hello sky (reach for the sky), Hello me (hug yourself), Hello friends (wave to your friends). The children share that we are thanking the Wurundjeri people for sharing their land and promise to look after it as well as all the animals and people. Throughout NAIDOC week's 'care for country' theme, we continued to explore caring for our natural environment with the children. Planting new herbs and fruits within our outdoor environment and also caring for our individual seedlings.



We also explored 'more than words' throughout NAIDOC week by creating an artwork of footsteps together. We are excited to see and hear the children embedding indigenous cultural awareness and respect into our sessions daily.



At the end of term 2 we were fortunate enough to have Wildlife Xposure share with us their Australian native animals. Together we discovered animals' life cycles, habitats, threatened species, behaviours, diets, and predators & prey. We were able to touch and hold the native animals, all in the comfort of our kindergarten. The children voiced their knowledge on the animals and made so many wonderful new discoveries.



With the uncertain times of COVID Sylvie and I have created a warm and familiar place within our community kindergarten that the children feel safe and excited to enjoy and explore. Within the program we share our ideas and listen to one another which is how our experiences and extended learning opportunities are shaped. Our 'talking stick' has evolved over the term, we have created modifications around how the children are invited to this experience. The children are welcomed to share within the group thoughts, ideas and experiences. We often hear patterns of ideas, a child's story sparks another experience and also they begin to discover what others like.



Our group time sessions are evolving each week, but within the past two months the children's focus and developed ability to concentrate through story time and discussion is evident - their participation in recalling moments of the story, understanding the storyline, sharing ideas and becoming confident to join in the story with sounds and repeating words/sentences.



The children have been enjoying learning new songs and revisiting old favourites at group time. They are very enthusiastic with their movement and dancing finding pleasure and confidence in the freedom of it. Music is an important part of our group time as it encourages children to listen and respond to music or the instruction given using movement, musical instruments and learning the words of songs.



Through our snack time conversations, children are always vocal in highlighting what has been provided in their lunch box. This has been a great teaching tool for discussing healthy food options and how foods support our body. Reflecting on sometimes food and how we can support our bodies at

kindergarten with fruits and vegetables. This extended on to the children creating their very own 'lunch box' with visual created materials that they pasted into a lunch box. They also enjoyed preparing fruit platters at the playdough table.

Cooking has been enjoyed by all children. We measure ingredients, follow a recipe, take turns with each task, make sure our hands are clean and stay clean during the process. A recipe for oat bars we made recently is provided below for you to make and enjoy at home.



## IMPORTANT DATES

- Book week is next week – 24<sup>th</sup> and/or 26<sup>th</sup> August  
Choose 1 day or both or just bring your favourite book to share.
- Photos with Schoolpix have been cancelled due to covid restrictions but our lovely 4 year old parent Sarah (Matilda J's mum) has offered to do these for us on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Father's & Special person's day is not possible due to covid restrictions.  
The raffle will still go ahead so bring in your raffle tickets and any gifts you might like to contribute to the hamper.
- Jumpathon on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September when all children will aim to jump as many times as they can on a small trampoline to raise money for the kindergarten
- Little Woodworkers incursion – date to be confirmed

Thanks,

Leah & Sylvie



## 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.





# RECYCLE UPDATE

## Can Collection

The kindergarten is currently undertaking an initiative to raise much needed funds through the collection of cans. Any aluminium cans can be collected, emptied and crushed. There are bins outside the Stars & Rainbow rooms for the collection purpose.



The drive is council approved and comes at a time when sustainability and recycling within Australia is an environmental issue. Well done to all the children who are collecting and please keep them coming. All proceeds will be returned to improving the grounds and learning opportunities for the children.



## Cap it for Prosthetics & Bread tags for Wheelchairs



Our collection of plastic bottle caps and bread tags continues on with enthusiasm.

Just a reminder to make sure all lids are washed thoroughly before bringing them to kinder and any white liner inserts have been popped out. The picture below shows the type of lids acceptable. 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.

