

# KINDER CAPERS

MARCH 2022



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our first Kinder Capers for 2022.

My name is Ellen, and I am excited to be taking on the role of committee president this year.

I have big shoes to fill after 3 amazing years of the committee being led by Steph. Thank you, Steph, for all your hard work through some very challenging & unpredictable years.

I arrived at Len Jeffrey last year with my 2 children and was welcomed with open arms into both the Stars & Rainbows, as well as into the committee as accounts manager.

This year my daughter has started Prep at BSPS, and my son, Lennon is in the Stars group.

I am thrilled to be working with a wonderful & dedicated committee again this year, a big thank you to all the amazing parents who are generously volunteering their time to help. Steph is continuing her involvement this year as vice president, as well as overseeing the exciting grant works we are undertaking in the outdoor space, including the vibrant new soft fall surface.

We welcome Lauren as secretary, Brooke as our treasurer, Natalie is looking after enrolments, Alice is heading the fundraising team, Ashleigh is looking after uniform, Sam has taken on the maintenance role, Adele is busy applying for grants, Georgina is organizing bookclub orders & Tayler is looking after policies & procedures.



The children have had a great start to the year and are adapting to the 'new normal' well. This is thanks to our wonderful staff we have this year.

We welcome back Leah & Sylvie in the 3 year old room. They were ready to hit the ground running at the start of term & welcome in their new group of Stars.

Joining Jo this year in the 4 year old room, we welcome Kate as our new 4 year old teacher. She has brought vast experience & oodles of passion into her role already.

We are also fortunate to welcome Kylie to the team this term, who is assisting as an extra support for the children throughout the kinder.



We have many exciting things planned already- our first working bee will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Easter hot cross buns are open for ordering and our Easter raffle is awaiting donations which will be drawn at the Easter picnic on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. The Bunnings BBQ is booked in for Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Keep your eyes peeled on StoryPark for updates and more information on all events.



Thank you to Sylvie for doing a magnificent job at maintaining our kinder website and facebook page as well as editing this newsletter.

Have a wonderful Easter with friends & families and we look forward to a great Term 2.

Ellen Holland





WELCOME



A big welcome and welcome back to our Len Jeffrey families for 2022. What a wonderful beginning it has been to the kindergarten year. For some of our families this year is the very first time into an Early Childhood setting. It's exciting and a very special time for you and your child and we're so grateful to be part of their learning journey.

I would also like to welcome our new parent committee. Being part of a parent committee is volunteering your time and we know time is difficult to find when we're all juggling work and families. Being part of the committee is a wonderful insight into our kindergarten and a fantastic opportunity to build relationships with other families.



We would like to welcome our new 4 year old kindergarten teacher Kate to the Len Jeffrey family. She has brought a wealth of knowledge to the kindergarten and we're excited for the year ahead with her. This term we're also lucky enough to welcome Kylie, who is the additional assistant in the 4 year old room. Having Kylie's experience in the kindergarten has supported the children in their transition to kindergarten, extending their learning opportunities and an extended support to the teaching team.

We are pleased to share that Kylie will be continuing her role for the remained of the year.



3 year old funded kindergarten has begun at Len Jeffrey this year offering 6 hours across two days, that is partially funded by the government. Recently we welcomed families to participate in a survey that collected an insight into the needs, desires and future ideas for our 3 year old funded program. Collating the data in collaboration with our teaching team we would like to announce the increasing hours in 2023 to 8 hours and for 2024 12 hours of funded 3 year old kindergarten. We have been blown away with the amount of enrolment applications we have received for 2023.

Thank you,  
Leah



# RAINBOWS



A warm hello to our kindergarten community! We have kicked off 2022 with a fantastic start to term one. We are excited to watch the playground works unfold and the children are eager to explore the new and improved space upon its completion.

With Autumn here we are experiencing some chilly mornings so please ensure your child has a warm jumper, and change of clothes in their bag.



Here is a snapshot of some of the things that have been keeping us busy.

We value each child's wellbeing, so gaining familiarity with class routines, and forming connections with one another is an important part of developing confidence in the classroom environment. The teaching team work hard to spend time with each child during one on one, small, and large group activities. The children often seek out teachers for a quiet story together in the book corner, to share a game, or even just a chat. It's lovely to get to know one another.



We held our own 'Mini Olympics' by setting up a variety of equipment outside which created opportunities for the children to practise gross motor skills relating to balancing, coordination, cause and effect, problem solving and perseverance. We also enjoyed Olympic craft by decorating Olympic rings, and making our very own gold medals.



This experience supported the children to broaden their understanding of the Olympics, and share happiness and satisfaction as they celebrated their own achievements and the achievements of others.

To build upon our acknowledgement and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we have been enjoying exploring tempo and rhythm using timber claves to tap the beat of 'Taba Naba', a song originating in the Torres Strait Islands, and 'Inanay' which is sung in 'Yorta Yorta', the language of an Aboriginal community.



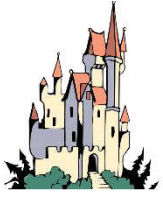
At the Wildlife Xposure Sea life incursion the four year old Rainbow group children got to hold the Sea Biscuit, learnt that a sea star has his bottom in the centre of his body, saw a squirting sea cucumber and enjoyed hands on experiences.



Music and movement experiences are rich in opportunities for learning relating to; building understanding of different cultures, numeracy concepts, coordination, listening and observation skills, and communication.



Our dramatic play spaces are incredibly special areas for our class to explore. So far the children have enjoyed a 'home corner', a beach space, a pirate ship, an ice cream shop, a rain forest, and a castle. These spaces create opportunities for children to get swept away with their imagination and connect with one another as they experience roles and identities other than their own.



We look forward to continuing the enjoyment of positive learning experiences together!

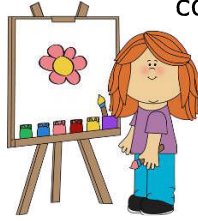
Thanks  
Kate, Jo and Kylie





# BLUE STARS

The indoor program has provided the children with a variety of experiences. Some of the more popular areas include home corner/dramatic play, play dough, puzzles, creative drawing, painting at the easel and the varied self-select floor experiences. Our 3 year old stars this year, sure have a big interest and love for creative art. 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 learners, as well as working on emerging language skills required for all life situations. We observed that as the term has developed, the changes in play have begun to flourish from solitary and parallel play, to cooperative small group play. Developing and exploring the skills of dramatic/fantasy play and engaging in games that have rules.

Hello everyone,

Our 3 year old stars have had a very special time this term settling into their new learning environment. There has been so many 'new' experiences for them – new surroundings – new teachers & new peers.



Changes can be incredibly overwhelming at times, particularly extending off a challenging 2021 of COVID. We can't begin to truly put into words how much the children have developed a strong sense of belonging to Len Jeffrey, formed trusting relationships with their peers and teachers and have been open and excited to explore their kindergarten.

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 lots of songs with plenty of movement at group gathering time. 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!



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, imaginative jungle animals themed small world play and the magical wooden tree house complete with elves and fairies. The past fortnight the children have been engrossed in our home corner doctors theme,

where we observed the children really coming together in conversations with one another. While the children are enjoying all of these experiences, they are also learning to share, wait their turn, respect other children and contribute fairly to the environment.

We had our very special incursion with wildlife Xposure where we were introduced to marine creatures and learnt about them and their environment. It was a wonderful hands on experience for the children.



We have loved observing the changes in our outdoor environment as the new softfall was complete. 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 been welcomed to the outdoor self select shed, where they have



displayed such a respect for the tools. At the end of our outdoor play, they work individually or together in a small group to reset the shed and outdoor spaces for the 4 year olds then to use. We can't truly express how proud we are that they have developed this skill so quickly as a collective. 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. We have loved observing the changes in our outdoor environment as the new softfall was being completed. It gave the children forced time to explore other areas of the outdoor environment before completion. 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 and how to ensure the children waiting get a fair turn.



We're looking forward to a wonderful end of term Easter Parade with you on Thursday. The children have been working so hard on their Easter hats, we're sure they will be treasured at home over the holiday period. Next term we're eager to explore social and emotional skills and strategies through play. Also a topic we will be introducing to the children will be emergency services within our community and planning our first outing to visit our local fire brigade.

A big thank you to our 3 year old families, your support this term has been a wonderful foundation for us to create a supportive and happy learning environment for the children.



Thanks,  
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

