

KINDER CAPERS

MARCH 2023



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to all our families, what a wonderful start we have had to the year. For those who are new to the kinder, I'm Ellen and this is my second year as president. My son, Lennon, is in the 4 year old Rainbows group and my daughter is at Belgrave South Primary School.

I am excited to be working with an energetic committee this year, who have hit the ground running.

This year, we welcome Tayler as Vice President, Alice as Secretary, Mary as Treasurer, Arek who is looking after Enrolments & Promotion, Rhonda & Shau who are our Maintenance team, Steph who is taking care of Uniforms and Mandy is our Book Club coordinator. Our Fundraising team are Jess B, Lou, Jess C, George, Shae & Alice and the Grants team are Rhonda, Adele, Sally, Tim & George.



Thank you to our maintenance team for organizing a very successful working bee for term 1. Keep your eyes peeled as there will be 1 each term.



The fundraising crew have already held a wonderful evening at the Cameo Cinema in Belgrave & are currently busy organizing many upcoming events for the year, such as a Bunnings BBQ, Bingo night, raffles and a stall at the BSPS Stax-a-fun fete.

The Grant we received last year is in progress, both rooms have been painted inside & the next stages are external paint, new signage and the internal & external sound systems are well under way.

We have monthly committee meetings, which any member of the kinder community is always welcome to attend.

Keep an eye on StoryPark for more details but our proposed dates this year for meetings are:

Tues 4th April 7:30pm

Thurs 4th May 1:45pm

Wed 7th June 7:30pm

Tues 11th July 1:45pm

Thurs 10th August 7:30pm

Thurs 7th Sept 1:45pm

Wed 18th Oct 7:30pm

Tues 14th Nov 1:45

AGM TBC

Handover Meeting TBC

Welcome back to our wonderful teachers & educators, Leah & Sylvie in the 3 year old Stars room, and Kate, Jo & Kylie in the 4 year old Rainbows room.

Congratulations to Leah on the news of her pregnancy, it is very exciting, even if we will miss her very much in Semester 2.



A big thank you to IGA Belgrave South for their amazing sponsorship & support of the kindergarten this year, we are looking forward to working together.

Have a wonderful Easter with family and friends, and we look forward to a great Term 2.

Ellen Holland





What a wonderful start to kindergarten we have all had! We have welcomed many new families to Len Jeffrey, as well as welcoming back many familiar faces. A big welcome to our new committee members for 2023. Our kindergarten is lucky enough to work in collaborative partnership with parents and carers of the

WELCOME



children. This year we have welcomed Mary back to the kindergarten who has kindly taken on the role ongoing as the kindergarten treasurer. Her knowledge and care will have the kindergarten in safe and caring hands. We have many fun and exciting events planned for 2023 that have been made possible by our teachers and committee. Thank you for going above and beyond. It's our little people who will benefit with a year full of experiences resulting from us all working together.



Our enrolments for 2024 and even 2025 are coming in faster than ever. If you have a child that will be beginning kindergarten in 2024 or 2025, please ensure you complete the application form. These are available at the kindergarten or on our website. Applications will close on August 30th.

This year we have introduced an extra 2 hours per week into our 3 year old stars kindergarten program. This extra time has supported the children in their engagement, social development and learning opportunities. Days for 2024 will be confirmed in September this year.

Storypark has become a wonderful form of communication for our kindergarten. Please take the time to check any new notifications that come through. This is a great way to keep updated on your child's time at kindergarten, important kindergarten communications, events and of course sharing any videos or photos with your family. If you would like any assistance on navigating the app, please reach out to the teaching team.



Please ensure that if any of your child's enrolment details change, you inform the kindergarten so that we can make these changes accordingly.

Thank you,

Leah



RAINBOWS



Welcome to term one in the Rainbow Classroom.

We are off to such a great start. The children have settled in beautifully and it's been such a delight getting to know each class member.

It wouldn't be Melbourne without crazy weather! With this in mind we would hugely appreciate each child having a bag stocked with (named) both warm and cold weather clothing. We do our best to spend a reasonable amount of time in our awesome outdoor area each day.

Ensuring every child is able to be comfortably clothed means they are able to focus on the important job of having loads of fun learning, practising new skills, and making new friends.

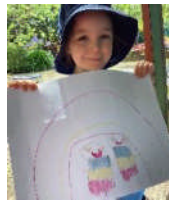


Another important part of our day is staying energised with lots of healthy food. Whilst we appreciate treat foods can be yummy, it would be great to keep chocolates and lollies for home. We have



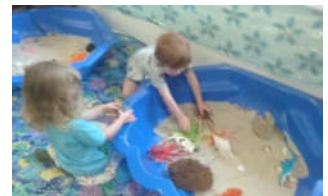
provided a list of snack ideas in the capers extra. Now to the fun stuff! Here are some examples of what has been keeping us busy in our classroom...

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 introduction of a visual schedule has supported the children in anticipating how their day will unfold. 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.

The beach is such a loved part of Australian culture and provided a beautiful starting topic for our term one learning. The



children engaged in discussions as they shared their own special experiences of the beach and the ocean. We viewed footage of ocean butterflies and conducted science experiments to learn how sharks float. Our 'Beach Day' complimented this learning and involved a pirate treasure hunt, and icy poles which we came together to share with the three year old group.



We have also taken a deep dive into learning about emotions. We've explored a variety of activities such as stories, role play, music and movement, creative arts, solutions necklaces, and lots of discussions



sharing our own understanding of, and experiences with emotions. By gaining emotional understanding we hope to support the children in

developing strategies for managing big emotions aiding self-regulation.

Music and movement is a valued part of our program rich in opportunities for learning.

Music and movement stimulates learning relating to coordination,



observation, numeracy, collaboration, team work, listening skills and memory recall just to name a few. We were privileged to have a brilliant Rhythm Fun Incursion presented by Joe. The children had an absolute ball dancing, exploring instruments from different cultures, learning about some of the materials they are made from and of course playing instruments too.



In the coming weeks we look forward to celebrating Harmony Day, learning about road safety, planting seeds in our vegetable patches, and performing for



families in the Easter Parade. We look forward to telling you more in our next update.

Kate, Jo, and Kylie



BLUE STARS

Hello everyone,

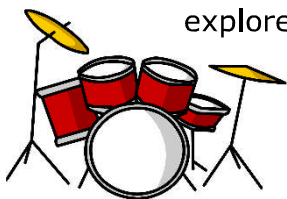
Term 1's focus on supporting children in building relationships with their new peers and teachers, and developing a sense of belonging to their new kindergarten environment. We have supported the children with this throughout the term by a variety of varied experiences that welcome the children in exploring small group and then larger experiences.



The children have settled in to the routines of kinder very well. They have shown fantastic independence by saying good-bye to their parent/carer at the gate and walking up the ramp by themselves. They then unpack their bags, hang their bag up and wash their hands all before they begin to play in the play spaces they've been eyeing off as they walk in. We all pack up together at tidy up time and at the end of the day they pack their own bags again to get ready to go home (those zippers can be super tricky). We are so proud of how co-operative and capable they all are.



We welcomed Joe from Rhythm Fun into the kindergarten, where the children were introduced to all parts of the drum kit and explored tone, pitch, tempo and rhythms by using their bodies, singing, dancing and playing a variety of percussion instruments. All of the children were invited to play on the drum kit and then together created their very own band! I'm sure even the Belgrave South Primary could hear us playing!



Over the past month we have begun discovering 'bucket filling' with the children and have been reading together "Have you filled a bucket today?" book. This has opened the children up to new language when recognising the emotions of their peers and others. The children are beginning to develop their understanding of how their interactions with others makes their peers feel and vice versa.



We have recently begun to hear the children voicing this to one another "you're being a great bucket filler today" or "when you say that, you're dipping into my bucket and making me feel sad."

On the 7th March we invited the children to join us at our local park, where we 'cleaned up our local community park'. The children all worked together, alongside their families. A big thank you for attending, we're passionate about caring not only for our kindergarten environment, but our local community too.



Through Harmony week we created a group project with the 4 year old rainbows, creating a rainbow of unique colourful hands. Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It focuses on inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.



We have so many more exciting moments coming up in our 3 year old room, we can't wait to share with you all.

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.

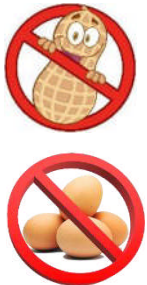
Thanks Leah & Sylvie



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.
- This year we also ask you to not bring any food into the kinder that have sesame seeds in it. This includes multigrain breads with sesame seed as an ingredient and hommus dip.
- 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





RECYCLING AT LEN JEFFREY



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 were originally used to create prosthetic limbs for children via the use of 3-D printing but due to the need for high grade medical products only to be used, this has now ceased. We are still collecting these lids to recycle them and make beautiful furniture like our new kinder outdoor setting. 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 reuse products that would otherwise end up in 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. They must have the recycle symbol with either a **2** or **4** otherwise they are not able to be processed. 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. Bread tags have become more recycle friendly in recent times with many tags being cardboard now. If collecting these please bring in the plastic ones only. The cardboard ones can be put into your recycle bin.

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.

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.




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

CLEAN LIDS ONLY



Soft drink



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