

KINDER CAPERS

MARCH 2024



WELCOME

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first edition of this year's Kinder Capers!

I'm Arek Rainczuk, stepping up as your new committee president, and honestly, I couldn't be more excited for what's ahead. Massive thanks to Ellen for her fantastic work and leadership – she's set a high bar, but I'm ready to jump right in.

Last year, I joined the Len Jeffrey family as Mayan's dad, and felt the warmth of this community firsthand, both in the Stars & now Rainbows groups. This year, I'm looking forward to maintaining what we love about our community kinder, and try to make it just a little bit better for the current children and those to come.

Big shout out to our amazing team of parent volunteers on the committee – your dedication is what makes our kinder such a special place. And a warm welcome to the new folks joining us this year; your fresh perspectives are invaluable.



Hats off to our kinder staff for kicking off the year with such energy and enthusiasm, especially with the wild weather we had at the beginning of the term. It's clear our kids are in the best of hands, and the excitement in the air is palpable.

Now, down to business. We have some thrilling plans in the pipeline—upgrading outdoor spaces for our little adventurers, and updating the technology to make the staff's work easier. We're also doubling down on making our kinder community even tighter and more engaged, as this is where the biggest value may be.

Event dates – Parent's tequila mixer, our working bee is coming up, we've got plenty of fun and fundraising lined up with the Stax-a-fun Fete and our Bunnings BBQ. Keep an eye on StoryPark for all the latest dates to put in your calendars.



A special nod to everyone behind the scenes – you're the unsung heroes keeping our kinder vibrant and running like clockwork. Thanks for all you do, it really makes a difference.

Here's to a year of friendship, growth and community. Can't wait to roll up my sleeves and get stuck in with all of you. Wishing you all a fantastic 2024.

Cheers,

Arek Rainczuk - President,

Len Jeffrey Memorial Preschool





What a great start to the year 2024 has been! Welcome to all of our new families and children to our LJMP family.



This year we have extended our 3 year old program to not only 12 hours per week, but we have introduced a 4 day rotational model to the kindergarten. This has allowed us to welcome an extra 8 children and families into the kindergarten program for 2024. We have welcomed Abbey into the 3 year old kindergarten program for term 1 & 2 of this year and educator Sue to join the team! Many of you may have met Sue from last year in the 4 year old rainbows. We're incredibly fortunate to have such a fantastic teaching team at Len Jeffrey Memorial Preschool!

This year our teaching team are diving in deep to a range of professional developments, in which will support the children, families and educators within our service. Focusing on relational trauma, behaviour support and guidance, emotional regulation and the introduction to a whole kindergarten lending library. Throughout term 2 & 3 we have an occupational therapist that will be working alongside the teachers and engaging in 6 sessions within the kindergarten program.



Keep your eyes peeled, in term 2 we will be inviting families to participate in engagement feedback survey. This supports the teaching team throughout their program and future opportunities within the kindergarten.



Our enrolments for 2025 and 2026 are coming in faster than ever. Please ensure you complete an application form. These can be found on our website or available at the kindergarten. Please ensure if any of your child's enrolment details change that you inform the kindergarten so we can make these changes accordingly.

Thanks,

Leah



RAINBOWS



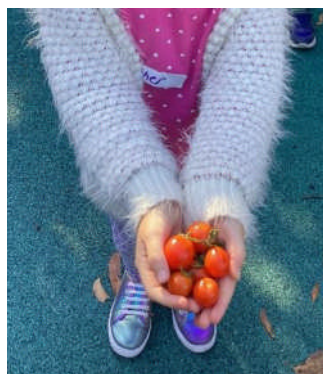
Hello and welcome to term one of 2024 in the Rainbow Group.

Term one has kept us on our toes with an extreme weather event, and multiple total fire ban days. We thank our kindergarten community for their support, understanding, and patience during these times.

After one of our amazing green thumbbed kindergarten families planted out our vegetable patches last year, we were amazed at the return of broad beans, rainbow silver beat, and bountiful ripe cherry tomatoes. This provided a really beautiful experience for the children to come together and harvest the crop. They used observation skills



numeracy skills as they sorted and counted produce.



to compare size and colour and demonstrated

We launched into the year exploring the ocean environment and learning about its inhabitants. The group took pleasure in immersing themselves in a variety of activities to support this learning. Some examples relate to; an ocean inspired sensory tub which invited dramatic play as the children imagined what it may be like to be an animal living in the ocean, creative art experiences and viewing short documentary clips to learn about ocean pollution and current strategies to reduce it. We enjoyed stories about the ocean, and engaged in an interactive story telling which incorporated each child in the class. We explored the concept of buoyancy and experimented with a sink and float tank.

We were particularly excited to Welcome 'Seaweed Sally' in to present an incursion in which the children were able to gain hands on experience with a variety of different sea stars, sea slugs, sea anemones and many items such as shells, bones, shark eggs, a shark's jaws and teeth, and sea sponges at the touch table. We capped off all this learning by enjoying a 'Beach Day' together at kinder which included some yummy icy poles.



This year's group are particularly drawn to games and not a day goes by that we don't gather together to play a group game. This inspires collaboration, memory recall, consideration of fairness and inclusion, coordination and lots of laughter.



We have recently begun to refocus our learning intention on emotions and how they feel within us, and may present in others. Managing emotions is a skill that we are not born with, and must be learnt. To support this, the children have been exploring breath work, yoga, and have made 'solutions necklaces' which are pictures of different strategies for dealing with emotions which are threaded onto ribbon.



Shortly preparations for our Easter festivities will be under way. We look forward to inviting families in to sing them some songs, and parade our Easter hats.

We look forward to sharing more of our learning with you in the next kinder capers edition.

Kate and Kylie





Hello everyone,

WELCOME



Welcome to 2024. 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 all. With 3 educators and a rotational group we have a busy year ahead of us.

We welcome Abbey & Sue to the 3 year old room with Sylvie being a familiar face to families with older children. Abbey will be with us for term 1 & 2 after which Leah will be returning from maternity leave and resuming her teaching role.

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 kinder, the children have also been learning how to behave at kinder, using walking

feet and quiet voices inside, sitting cross legged whenever we are on the mat, gathering together in a line 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 up the ramp independently on arrival and trying their hardest to unpack their lunch boxes and then pack their bags 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, collage, 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 learners, as well as working on emerging language skills required for all life situations.

Some of our indoor experiences have included enjoying cups of tea and delicious 'meals' both inside at home corner and outside from our outdoor kitchen, shopping at 'IGA', driving the trains around our safari animals, science experiments and other activities that encourage fine motor, creativity and interactive play. 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.



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



Chris from the library also came and read us some fun stories and sang some equally fun songs.

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. Our new deck and kitchen area

provide lots of fun cooking and role play time. 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. We will also focus on emotional literacy – asking to share, using gentle hands, asking to join in play. 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 excited to have parent helpers join us next term. It is such a special time for the children to share their kinder experience with a beloved family member. Helper list will be located next to the sign-in book.

We're looking forward to a wonderful end of term Easter Parade with you on Wednesday. The children have been working hard on their Easter hats, we're sure they will be treasured at home over the holiday period.



Thank-you for your patience over this time of wild weather, total fire bans and electricity black-outs. While frustrating to miss kinder days, the safety of our community is our priority and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Have a great break,

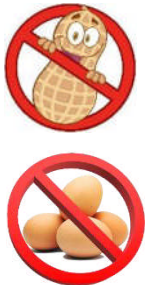
Abbey, Sylvie & Sue



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.
- Sometimes foods are best left for eating at home.
We prefer the children eat healthy food at kinder and will generally ask them to leave any lollies etc in their snack boxes until they go home.
Easier for everyone if they are not included for their day at kinder.



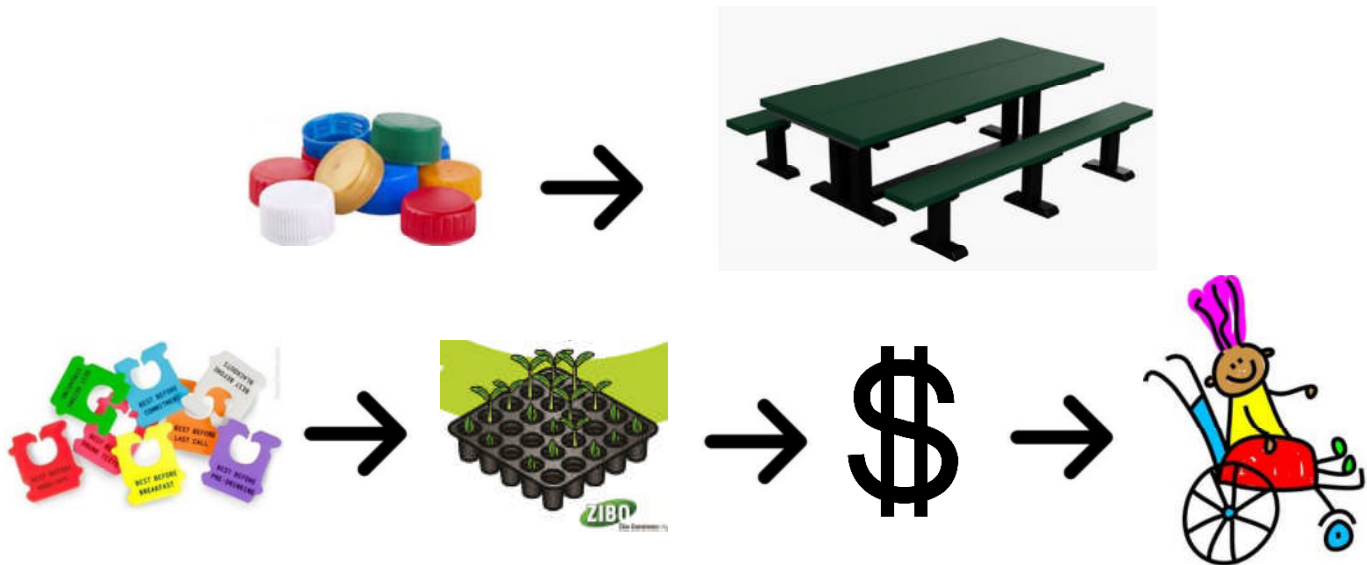
KINDER SNACK IDEAS

- 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 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 - 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.






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