



LONG DAY CARE NEWSLETTER

Yarra Junction

Volume 2, Issue 5

About our new Director - Emily McDerby

To all of our families and extended community, we hope you and your loved ones are keeping warm as we enter this cold period of the year.

We would like to say a BIG thankyou to all who contributed to or earn and learn sticker collection. We managed to collect 10,597 stickers, these stickers will go towards gaining new valuable resources for the children of the service.

Thank you to those that have been bringing their spare bread tags in from home and contributing them to our collections box, all bread tags go towards supplying wheelchairs for children in need.

As most of you may have noticed our Playground Works have been underway this month, the workers have been extremely busy and we are very pleased to say that we are hopeful that everything will be completed by the first week of July. The children have been eagerly watching the men at work through the windows and fences and are very excited to get out and explore their new yard.

Just a reminder we also have ink cartridge recycle, mobile phone and battery recycle collecting stations at our service. If you have any of these objects lying around at home, you are more than welcome to bring them in and contribute to making our planet a more eco-friendly space for current and future generations.



Up coming dates and events

Sunday 7th to Sunday 14th July
NAIDOC Week

Friday 26th July
Tree planting day

Room News Nursery



Winter has definitely set in now, bringing plenty of cold, wet weather with it.

We have been getting outside as much as possible, utilising our covered space, which the children seem to really enjoy. With all of the work happening in the Kinder playground, the older children have been coming over to share our play space. Our babies have loved having their older siblings join them, and it has been beautiful to watch all of the interactions between the older and younger children.

When the weather does not permit outdoor play, we have continued bringing the outdoors in. A recent hail storm provided an awesome learning opportunity, and after being startled by the loud noise on the roof, the children really enjoyed investigating the hailstones more closely when we brought some inside. What began as a sensory experience became a science lesson as well, when the ice began to melt and leave puddles on the tabletop!

This past month, we have started embedding more elements of Indigenous culture and perspectives into our daily routine. You may have noticed our display of some Wurundjeri words and symbols on the wall, at the children's level. The children have been fascinated by this display, and love to pull the different cards off the wall! This provides opportunities to speak to them about what each symbol represents, and allows them to become familiar with some aspects of Indigenous culture from a very early age, which is so important.

We have also begun doing an Acknowledgment of Country each morning, and encouraging the children to join in with hand movements.

It has been lovely to see the children all sitting together as a group, engaged in this important part of our daily routine.



Toddlers



Despite the cold and rainy weather we have had through our month of June, this hasn't stopped the children's natural curiosity and wonder of their natural environments. The children share enthusiasm about getting into their red rain suits and engaging in the rain.

Fostering the children's sense of agency has been a focus of educators this month, the children are becoming confident learners as they are able to self-serve themselves during meal times, including washing their hands. Painting in the afternoon has been a wonderful and calming experience as we put on happy music and the children let their creativity go wild.

As our kinder playground has been getting a renovation we have been lucky enough to get front seat viewing of the diggers in action. This has sparked the children interests of diggers as they continue extending their interests with energy, enthusiasm and concentration diggers in the sand pit and in our own sand box inside. We have been learning about turn taking especially on the slide. The children are learning about "waiting" and the hand movement and talking about whose turn it is in

a positive way.

Next month we hope to begin our “Mini Sports” program which will be on Wednesday’s at our Yarra Junction Outside of School hour’s campus located at the end of the driveway.

This program is fostering the children’s physical and mental wellbeing through balls games, yoga and much more. We are super excited and encourage any families who would like to join us to speak with Taylor.

We have welcomed some new faces which have been wonderful watching the children create new friendships with each other; we will also have some children beginning their orientation to our 2-3 year old room too which is super exciting.

Remember it is still cold, so gumboots and warm jackets are a good option as we do encourage outdoor play each day!



Pre-Kinder



This month we welcomed Matilda and Taylor into our room and they have settled in nicely.

We also welcomed Kellan, Layla and Scarlett who have transitioned from the toddler's room and all are really enjoying exploring their new environment. We would like to congratulate the Brown family on the birth of their new son Alfie, a brother for Jude. We have recently changed our room around, moving our art area down the back of the room, which has been working really well as the non-sleeping children can enjoy working on their art projects while the younger children sleep.

This month we celebrated Reconciliation Week and the children celebrated Indigenous culture and history. They get really excited when the yarning mat comes out and help set up our yarning circle for group time, eager to sit down in a circle and get their clap sticks ready. They listen quietly to our Acknowledgment of Country, sing the Indigenous lullaby (Inanay) confidently with big voices and are clapping their sticks in time to the music. The children have learnt about didgeridoos by watching videos of Aboriginal people playing, and have been fascinated by the sounds they make, they have learnt why only men can play them, and have had the opportunity to play them themselves. They have been learning words in Woiwurrung which is an Indigenous language of the Kulin Nation people, they understand the meaning of eight Aboriginal symbols, which most children understand and can identify, and have enjoyed stories about the Australian bush and some of the dreaming stories.

We have also introduced visual cue cards in our room, showing pictures of actions for the children to follow and also to identify emotions they may be feeling. These have been very effective as many children are visual learners and all children can benefit from them. Children need to understand appropriate behaviour and showing children a picture for example of how to sit on the mat or how to use their walking feet gives children a clear



understanding of what is expected in the room.

During the renovations of our playground, the children have been spending a lot of time on the deck watching the diggers and excavators working. The children's leaning has extended from this with the sandbox on the deck set up with mini excavators and diggers, with children copying the sounds and motions and creating their own playground renovation.

The veranda has been opened up between the kinder and pre-kinder room which has been really successful, allowing the children to share all the experiences together and giving the younger children the opportunity to scaffold their learning by watching the older children. We have set up some of our new resources on the deck such as the trampoline and the sensory pads, where the children have been happily engaging in play together, learning the importance of fair play and taking turns.

Some of our older children have begun their orientation into the Kinder room and are really enjoying their new environment. Some have returned with big smiles on their faces, telling us how much fun they had. The new playground is opening soon so please make sure you pack warm coats and gumboots for your children to explore this exciting new space during the colder months.

Thank you from Karen, Laura, Toula and Pat.

Kinder 4



We welcome new children, Kayci and Hudson to room four.

We have enjoyed having Hailey in our group for work experience. Holly is also in our room for a few days as part of her ongoing education as an early childhood educator.

We had a lot of fun over several days visiting the bush block. The children worked alone and in teams to move logs, branches and rocks to create pretend fires and cubbies. We looked at the wattle as a source of bush tucker. Back in the classroom we made wattle seed pancakes to eat with Lilly Pilly jam.

Maria visited from the Yarra Junction library for a story time focused on Indigenous Australians and Autumn. The children all had pictures to place on the felt board as the story was read. We have learnt a lot about leaves changing colours and explored them through art. We also learnt about the possum skin cloaks that the Wurundjeri made to keep warm and for ceremonies.

We are taking the older children who will be going to school next year down the hill to the after school care playground as part of our transition to school experiences. Yes, it's time to start choosing a school for next year if you haven't already. We have lists of transition events and open days from some of the local schools and you can contact them directly.

In term 3 we will begin "Letter of the week" and ask that you bring show and tell related to that letter any day during the week. A separate email has been sent out with dates for each letter until the end of the year. "A" starts on the 15th July. The font we will use is the Victorian Cursive used in all Victorian primary schools. A list of dates is on the wall near the lockers.

Each child in our group now has a file on top of the lockers, names are in alphabetical order. You are encouraged to check out the journals of your child's learning at kinder and leave

them in the file, you receive them on your last day at the Centre. Loose artwork can also be found in the file and is for taking home. If you would like a meeting to discuss your child's progress at any time speak with Julie or Amanda.

In term three we will also begin visiting the ESTIA aged care facility in Yarra Junction every second Monday.

The BIG news is that the playground is being redeveloped and will be opening for use shortly. The other BIG news is that we have added \$1000s of dollars' worth of new equipment to the room and more is still arriving. We plan to do a wall display soon near the lockers.

We have been playing a game on the mat where the children are lady bugs and move their bodies across the grid as directed by an arrow. This is a lead up to the Gladysdale Primary school visit with robotic ladybugs doing basic computer coding.

