

EARLY LEARNING & KINDER

▶ Mount Evelyn NEWSLETTER



July 2021 edition

From the office

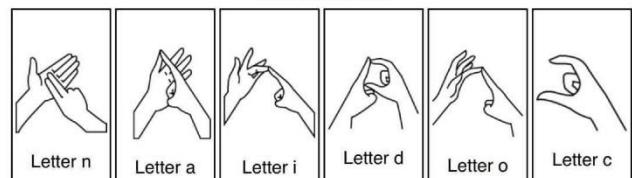
Well half the year has passed and we turn our focus on the rest of the year, which I must say is introducing some exciting plans. I am absolutely ecstatic to inform you of a new program at Cire Mt Evelyn and that is our Kinder-Garden Program, where the Kookaburra children will have a weekly excursion to the Learning Landscape area at the side of the Cire playground. This is a great opportunity for children to Connect to Country and learn to take care of the land, which in turn will guide their ability to take care of themselves and others while learning about plants, seeds and all things gardens. It will also foster and inspire their curiosity and wonder in the world around them. As the year progresses we will also prepare the younger age group for when it is their turn to go on the excursion.

In July we were fortunate to close Cire Services NAIDOC event at the Mt Evelyn Children's Centre with a beautiful Welcome to Country by Aunty Kim Wandin, who is a well-respected Elder of the Wurundjeri People, the Traditional Custodians of the Land that we live, learn and play. Aunty Kim spoke of the importance of Healing Country is for the future but also for the past. It was moving and done with such passion. Following on from that the children preformed an Acknowledgement to Country for our visiting Elders and First Nation visitors, and the families and stakeholders who also attended on this day. Aunty Kim was so touched by the gesture and told me she has never had that before, so well done to our educators and children for making this an important part of the children's daily learning. Didgeridoo performer Ganga Giri from Didgeridoo Australia played the Yadaki for us to close our eyes and feel the vibrations and listen to the land around us, to reflect upon how we can together heal Country.

He then went on to entertain us all with some sound and movement activities. We shared in laughter and joy for the moment and it was a privilege to share this day with all. Closing with a yummy afternoon tea of Lemon Myrtle Scones and fruit platters. Yum



NAIDOC Week



I would also like to extend my gratitude to the families who have been supportive and understanding during the last lockdown, it isn't always easy to understand what is happening, with changes happening with little to no notice from the Dept. so thank you. Hopefully we won't see to many more ahead.

I would also like to thank the Educators and Staff who have worked tirelessly through this confusing and somewhat difficult time.

I will put notices up in the foyer for more information including Cire's Policies and Procedures, let me know if you would like to know more.

Maddie

From the Koala Room

Welcome to the Koala room winter newsletter edition!

Although it's been super stormy and wet it hasn't stopped us from being active and busy. We set up the climbing frame with the balancing beam for the children to use their body coordination and balancing skills to climb. Providing learning environments with appropriate levels of challenge encourages the children to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks in their environment.

This month's artwork also focused on the stormy weather. We talked about the rain falling from the clouds, trees blowing in the wind, how dark the sky can get and the stormy clouds. We also talked about how important it is to wear our hats, shoes and jackets when outside in winter.

The children were provided with blue, black, white paint and paintbrushes. They then experimented and used their hands to create their own interpretation of a winter storm. When the weather did permit, we dressed up in our nice warm winter gear and ventured out to explore all the amazing natural surroundings our outdoor yard has to offer. We are looking forward to displaying all of our beautiful artwork at our art show on the 6th of August, hope to see you all there!

Kind regards,
Koala room



Koala Room

From the Wombat Room



Wombat Room in action

Welcome to the beautiful month of August, the last month of winter.

Last month we have had a strong focus on fine motor skills. We have practiced using tongs, large spoons and navigating bead frames. Improving our fine motor skills will help us achieve our self help tasks like dressing and brushing our teeth with ease. Fine motor skills is also essential for pre writing and writing.

We have been working really hard to create some masterpieces for our upcoming art show which has unfortunately had to be postponed due to another lockdown. We will incorporate our art show into our Open Day, so will give you more details in the coming weeks.

This month we will be taking a closer look at birds the Olympics and practicing our verbal communication skills by introducing new songs into our group times.

Please don't forget to pack your child's drink bottle and plenty of spare clothes.

From the Kookaburra Room.



What a busy time we have had in the Kookaburra room, with Lauren starting as the new Kindergarten teacher and Holly moving from the Wombat room. Connections have been formed already as children have adapted to the new team in their room. With the second half of the year now here we are focusing on school readiness and what that means for our children not just going off to school next year, but also the children on the verge of starting their final year before school. Children have been learning to look after their own belongings, honing their conflict resolution skills as well as challenging themselves to advance their early literacy and numeracy skills.

Children have been exploring different art concepts recently, in support of the upcoming Art Show. Children have had the chance to explore materials we typically think of when we think of artwork, such as paint, glue and collage, as well as natural resources, clay and art through building. It has been wonderful to see children expressing their ideas through creative arts. We are excited to show off all that has been created.

The Kinder children have been asking questions about animals around the world as well as being concerned for their natural habitats and thus began our Endangered Animals project, children will be learning about animals as well as their habitats and how we can reduce our footprint to

ensure these beautiful creatures are around for a long time to come.

From the Kitchen

Hello Families...

Mealtimes at CIRE Mount Evelyn is one of the highlights of the day as the children enjoy the delicious and nutritious, hot midday meal we cook fresh each day for lunch. As the cook it also gives me great pleasure to sit with the children and eat alongside them. I love getting their feedback and fortunately, most of the time it is a unanimous "Yum". As parents and carers, you can be confident that your child is eating a wide variety of healthy food each day as our menu follows the guidelines of Nutrition Australia. In addition, we are so fortunate to have our learning landscape garden situated right next door. Farmer Jill our dedicated horticulturalist brings us an armful of fresh produce each Tuesday.

Children's Book Week is coming up soon, and I look forward to the adventurous meals we can possibly serve on this week.



[Here are a few photos from last year's Book week 'Dr Seuss book theme'.](#)

From Deb.

From the Foyer.

Wominjeka

The month of July saw us acknowledging NAIDOC.

The theme this year was – Heal Country- which calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections of our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage.

We displayed in our entrance a welcoming acknowledgement to what it means to us to Heal Country, and sharing books written by Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy who is also an Elder of the Wurundjeri People.

Anna bought in a canvas print from a Yorta Yorta women Holly McLennan-Brown, titled New Beginnings inspired by the Cummeragunja Walk Off in 1939.

While we proudly displayed the Flags.

We used this time to reflect on the contribution that First Nations play in the successes of Australia, through sport, art, music and cooking to mention a few, but also to share our commitment to provide a safe and secure Learning environment for our Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and families.



Contacting the Centre.

I just wanted to let you know that the Mobile phone is not always manned, its main intention is for emergency and evacuations. I am aware that at times you may receive messages or calls from the phone, but it is mostly kept in an accessible place in the event that we need to evacuate or use in an emergency. Please refrain from using this as a means to contact service or Educators. I don't always get messages or voicemail/missed calls. Please call: 9735 1918



4th August 2021 – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day

6th August 2021 – Jeans for Genes Day

16th – 20th August 2021 – National Science Week

23rd – 27th August 2021 – Book Week

SEPTEMBER

3rd September 2021 – Father’s Day Celebration

20th September 2021 – International Talk Like a Pirate Day

23rd September 2021 – Footy Colours Day – Football Grand Final Celebration

24th September 2021 – ***Centre Closed***

Book Week

Book week is coming up this month, oh the things we will see and read. During book week we will focus on a different story a day and include a learning experience for this, it could be a drawing, painting, clay or even creating pictures story book staring our own children of course. Book week also is a chance to discuss with your child what is their favourite story or story character and come dressed up as that!! We have seen green sheep, thing 1 and thing 2, old Mac Donald even made an appearance last year! Can’t wait to see what you come up with and to educate children about all the wonderful authors we have in our world.

Parent Committee / Parent Advisory Group

This term we will do our meeting via TEAMS on the **25th August at 5.30pm**, all parents are welcome and if you have any suggestions or topics you would like to cover – please email me or drop a note.