



Deep Creek Preschool

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October 2020

Deep Creek Preschool are Fundraising with Tea Towels!

Again, this year, we will be fundraising by creating a commemorative tea towel for families to purchase as a keepsake of your time here at Deep Creek Preschool.

The Tea Towels are made up of artwork and handprints of all our Deep Creek children.

A sample tea towel will be up on display at the front door for you to see. Order forms have been emailed to families.



THANK YOU!!

We would like to again say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Terry (our "silent staff member" & Trudy's partner) for making these amazing trees and huts for the children to enjoy through small world play. To purchase these through an educational supplier would cost from \$40 each, so we are truly grateful for the amazing work that he does for our kinder.



Deep Creek Preschool Recipe Book - Fundraising

We have received many wonderful recipes for our Deep Creek Preschool recipe book and as the first person to see the collection, I can't wait to start cooking!!

Recipe books will be printed to order and sold at \$10 each.

We will soon print and display a recipe book. Once this is done, we will email our families an order form or you can collect one from kinder to complete and order your books.

This is your last chance to send through a recipe if you haven't done so already.

Absolute deadline is.....**Friday 6th November.**

Kinder Photos – SchoolPix Preschool Photography Update

Even though "Photographers" have now been allowed to photograph outdoors, we will continue with our decision, that I will be taking the photos. Our decision was also confirmed as SchoolPix unfortunately have limited dates and can't fit us in.

We have trialled and printed a few photos and we are happy with the result.

We have also decided to gift these photos to our families as a special memory for the year.

If you would like a copy of the photos, you will need to supply a USB.

If you have any questions at all, please come and see me or give me a call.

Student Placement

From Wednesday 4th November to Friday 4th December we will be hosting a student placement from Deakin University.

Her name is YUETING QIU (Joyce) and she is undertaking her Bachelor of Education.

She will be working with the 3 & 4 year old children for 4 days in the week.

We look forward to welcoming her to Deep Creek Preschool.

SunSmart

As the weather is starting to warm up please remember to apply sunscreen to your child **before you arrive** at kinder each day for the remainder of this term.

Sunscreen is available at kinder if you have forgotten, but we do ask that you apply hand sanitiser before you use the sunscreen.

We check the SunSmart App everyday to ensure we know when we need to wear our hats and sun protection.



Have you changed your address, phone number or email lately??

Please email us if any of your personal details have changed so that we have the most current contact information.

Current Health advice and Covid Safe Framework for the Early Childhood Service

Now that metropolitan Melbourne has moved to the Third Step of the Victorian Government's roadmap for reopening, there are a few changes to work places.

It is vitally important that we maintain a healthy environment for all our children, families and staff. First and foremost, **stay home if you or your child are unwell.**

Given the current levels of community transmission in Victoria, mandatory temperature testing of all children on arrival to services will not be routinely required in Term 4, however should community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria increase significantly once more, it may again be recommended for all services to implement.

Therefore, as of new week, **Wednesday 4th November, we will no longer be taking the children's temperatures before they enter the kinder.**

We will continue to scan temperatures of any adults entering the service as well as taking a record of details.

We will continue with our hand hygiene for all that enter the service with good hand washing and use of hand sanitiser.

Maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres in an early childhood service setting will not always be practical but is most important between adults.

Therefore, we encourage parents/carers to continue to practice social distancing while waiting outside.

Adults entering the service are required to wear a face mask at all times.

Our New Philosophy

Together with our family's feedback on our Annual survey, Committee of Management and staff we have developed our new Deep Creek Preschool Philosophy. The Philosophy reflects the beliefs and values of our preschool.

Deep Creek Preschool's Philosophy

At Deep Creek Preschool we understand the early years of development is a special time in a child's life; it is essential this time is supported by positive behaviours and role modelling, happiness, and care.

At Deep Creek Preschool, our highly trained and dedicated team of educators, in collaboration with our families and the Manningham community, are all committed to providing an engaging play-based program. Our program is guided by the National Quality Standards (NQS), Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), and the Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics.

We Believe...

- In providing nurturing, respectful and meaningful relationships with each child in a safe and secure environment.
- In forming a close partnership with families to foster the positive development of a child's sense of identity and self-esteem.
- In creating a child led play-based program, reflecting on the planning cycle for each individual child, that is inclusive of each child's interests, abilities and culture.
- In actively involving the child in their own play-based learning to build understanding and confidence to develop their sense of belonging and well-being.
- In child safety and a commitment to zero-tolerance to child risk or neglect. We empower the child to discuss and learn about different ways to stay safe.
- In embracing diversity, inclusion and equal opportunities for all our families.
- In positive and caring attitudes to both built and natural environments, with an understanding of how the child will be responsible and respectful of their surroundings.

We Value...

- The voice of each child as an integral contributor to their own learning environment and experiences.
- Our warm and welcoming learning environment that offers support, happiness and enjoyment for all who attend our Preschool.
- The importance of showing acceptance of our multicultural communities and learning about diverse cultural practices through the celebration of customs including Aboriginal & Torres Straight Island cultures.
- Initiatives that support natural play experiences, and the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials within the program and the wider community.
- Experiences that are intentionally created to motivate children to move, explore, construct, experiment, and be social.
- The promotion and support of hygiene, healthy eating and physical activity within the program.
- The importance of ongoing professional development for our educators to enable growth, improvement and continual professional practice.
- The positive working relationship between our educators and families alongside the Committee of Management to ensure continuous improvement and to maintain a respectful Preschool culture.

Upcoming Dates & Events

Term 4 – Calendar Dates –

This calendar is updated monthly. Please check for regular additions, amendments and notifications.

Term 3 Holidays 19th September – 4th October 2020

Monday	2nd November	Student Free Day – No kinder sessions
Tuesday	3rd November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – Kinder is closed
Wednesday - Friday	4th – 6th November	Orientation Week for 4 & 3 year old 2021 Please note: There will be no 3 year old sessions due to orientation week
Tuesday	24th November	Deep Creek Preschool – Annual General Meeting
Monday - Friday	7th-11th December	End of year Concerts – more information to follow
Tuesday	15th December	Children's end of year party Final session for Echidna Group A Final session for Joeys Group A
Wednesday	16th December	Children's end of year party Final session for Echidna Group B, Wombat Group C & D Final session for Joeys Group B & C
Wednesday 16th December 2020 - Last day of Term 4		

Wombat & Echidna News...

It was so lovely to open the doors this term and see so many faces we haven't seen for some time. The children were very excited to be back at Kinder and this showed through their expressions and emotions. Many children commented on how much they have missed Kinder and seeing their friends. We are all looking forward to a wonderful term ahead.

This term we also welcomed a new Echidna friend, Harper. Harper has settled well into her new Kinder environment and has made many new friends in such a short time.

What have we been doing this term so far?

During the first week back at Kinder the children spent time reconnecting with their friends. They talked a lot about what they had been doing at home with their family during the holidays and together as a group we looked through our Reflection book.

In this Reflection book we compiled all the photos that parents had sent through to us of their children engaging in activities from their Take home packs. They really loved looking at everyone's photos.

Then it was time to share their scrap books. The children showed their friends and teachers all the different learning activities they had been engaging in from their Take Home packs. The children talked about what they had made and what activities were their favourite. They were very proud of all the work in these books. This was a great sharing opportunity.

Observing our Tadpoles

At the start of term 4 the children returned to Kinder to find a tank with 2 little tadpoles inside. These little tadpoles will be here to stay with us this term and we are looking forward to watching and observing them as they change from tadpoles to frogs.

With our tadpoles at Kinder we thought it would be a great opportunity to learn about the 'Life cycle of a frog'. Using a large life cycle poster and some educational books we talked about:

- How long tadpoles stay inside their eggs before hatching?
- What a tadpole egg looks like?
- What bodily parts on a tadpole grows first?
- What happens to a tadpole's tail?
- How do frogs breathe?
- How do frogs catch their prey?

The exciting part came when we watched the life cycle of frog together as a group on the laptop. The wonder in the children's faces as they saw the process unfold was amazing. What we had been discussing over several days could now be seen in action.

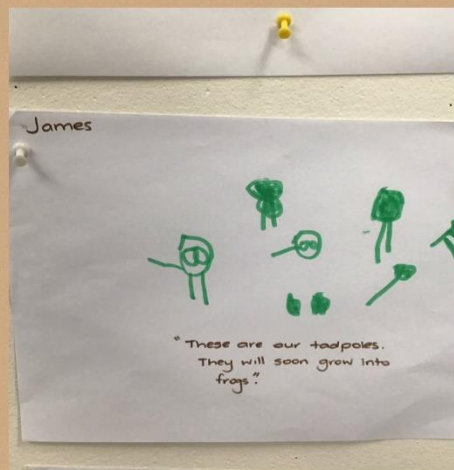
After learning about the life cycle at group time the children then took part in some art and craft experiences relating to this topic. The children made a frog puppet using paper plates, created a picture of 'Tiddalick the frog' using different collage materials, painted their own still life pictures of frogs and put together their own poster showing the life cycle of a frog. This required lots of thought. The children had to place in a sequence the steps involved from hatching from an egg to growing into an adult frog. The children were fantastic in working through this process.



Exploring our Tadpoles



PIC•COLLAGE



Our Tadpole drawings



PIC•COLLAGE

Our Space topic

Currently the children are learning about 'Space'. Together as a group we have learnt about the planets and what makes them different from one another. They have learnt that:

- Mercury is the smallest planet and is closest to the sun.
- Venus is the hottest planet.
- Earth is the 3rd planet closest to the sun and is the only planet with life on it.
- Mars is made up of rock and is known as the red planet.
- Saturn has the most rings. These are made of ice.
- Jupiter is the largest planet.
- Neptune is the coldest planet.
- Uranus is the only planet to spin on its side.

Last week we watched a short youtube clip on the laptop of a rocket launching into space. We saw the 6 astronauts all dressed in their Spacesuits ready to board the space shuttle and then over their radio we counted down with them from 10-0. As the rocket made its way into sky the children cheered with excitement.

This week the children also viewed the first landing on the moon.



Space
Craft



PIC • COLLAGE

Over the last fortnight the children have also taken part in many 'Space' craft activities. These have included:

- Space drawings using water paints and textas
- Painting some space pictures at the easel.
- Making some moon rocks using large river rocks, black paint and glitter.
- Creating rockets using plastic cups and collage materials.
- Making their own astronauts using a template and a photo of themselves.
- Creating a galaxy using squeeze bottles, glue and glitter.
- Marble painting on planets.



Our Space area



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One of our most enjoyed experiences has been role playing in our 'SPACE' area. The Space area is currently set up with moon boots, space backpacks, space helmets, walkie talkies, binoculars, moon rocks, a space station and writing/drawing table.

The children have used their imagination while engaging in this area. We have seen many children visiting the different planets, others have gone searching for aliens and several have landed on the moon to find more moon rocks for our space area.

It has been wonderful to see the children being so imaginative and collaborative with one another. Great work Kinder Friends!

Monitors

Our 'Monitor' program started at the end of Term 3 and has been a huge success. Each day 2 children are selected to be the 'Monitors' for the session and together they are in charge of many tasks indoors/outdoors. The children have taken on this role with pride and they all know exactly what needs to be done. It has been great observing the children as they have worked together cooperatively in pairs. All tasks have been carried out with such enthusiasm.

Everyone has now had a turn at being a monitor and they are now all looking forward to having another turn.



Our helpful Monitors



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Music and movement



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Music and movement

Over the past few weeks, the children have been engaging in several music and movement experiences. Some of the songs we have been learning are – 'I like the flowers', 'I am a fine musician' and 'Moon Walk'. Over the coming weeks we will be learning many more so stay tuned!

Our 'Buddy' Program

This term we introduced our 'Buddy' program. The purpose of implementing a Buddy system is to increase social interactions between children. This program gives the children the opportunity to play with children they may not necessarily spend time with.

How it works? – Prior to the children arriving, educators place the children's names in pairs on the felt board. Usually around 9am (once all children have arrived) the children are grouped on the mat and the names on the felt board are revealed. The children's names are read out in pairs and then for the next 15-20mins the rule is they 'Stay', 'Play' and 'Talk' to their buddy until the timer rings. Together with their partner they decide on where they are going to play.

Not only does this program help children to interact and socialise with different friends it can also help to build new friendships with children they may be going to school with the next year. The children have really embraced this program and it has been wonderful to watch them as they have interacted together, negotiate on where to play, asked one another questions and spent time at activities they may not necessarily take part in.



The children really look forward to seeing who their special buddy will be each morning. This program has been a huge success and will continue to run for the rest of the term.

Our Buddy Program



Signing In

Last week the children started signing themselves into Kinder. Instead of placing their photo on the boards when arriving in the mornings the children are now writing their names on the sign in clip boards. The children have been doing a great job at waiting their turn if a clip board is already in use. Once it is their turn, they choose a coloured texta and write their name next to their printed name. This is a fun literacy activity which the children have all responded very well too.



Our Sports Day

On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October we held a special 'Sports Day' at Kinder. The children came dressed in their sports clothes and together they took part in some fun physical games outdoors.

Before heading outdoors, the children all enjoyed a hot dog in bread at snack time. These were delicious!

Once outdoors the children were divided into two teams and took part in several fun games. These were:

- Jump, Hop and Crawl.
- Relay race
- Egg and spoon race
- Tunnel ball
- Musical dance game called 'Freeze'



These sporting games were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and teachers.



Have a great long weekend. See you all next week.
Bron, Dianna and Trudy

Joeys News.....

Welcome back to Term 4!!! It is so thrilled to see the joeys becoming a little bit taller and even more mature. The children were delighted to be amongst their friends on return to kinder and we continue to encourage them to form connections and extend friendships with peers around. Sharing, caring, listening, turn-taking and cooperating is observed as they show confidence and growing independence in choosing what to do on daily basis. Here are some highlights in this month's learning journey I would like to share,

Emotions

During the home learning in August and September, the joeys used the resources from the home packs to explore emotions in some playful ways. This month, a couple of extension experiences involved recognizing emotions through facial expressions and using language to express emotions were offered to continue helping build on their emotional regulation skills.



The "Emotion Chart-How do you feel today?" was introduced and had become a part of our daily routines to encourage everyone to practise emotion vocabulary and talk about their feelings. As educators, nothing could make us happier to hear some children saying "I feel excited because I come back to kinder!", "I am happy to play with my friends!" when our onsite learning resumes and children reengage with each other.



The children also took part in some other activities, such as, "Face Making" to create different "feeling" faces with their increasing observational skills and understanding while manipulating a variety of loose parts/craft materials, guessing game "Mystery Bag" to learn to identify feelings in others by taking turns to pick an emotion and act it out, making a fun class book "Our Many Faces" and using it at group time to discuss how our friends look like when having different feelings. And the highlight through this exploration journey must be some of them amazingly voicing their ideas about what could cause these particular feelings in our life and how to respond to angry or sad feeling in a proper way.

Shapes & Alphabet Letters

The children continued their "shape exploration" while participating in a couple of hands-on experiences that were different from the home pack resources, such as, making "3 Little Pigs" houses (cutting & pasting), tapping out unique "pictures" with wooden shapes and pins on cord boards, tracing shapes with rocks, creating different things by using the shapes that were used in the story "Mouse Shapes" to learn that shapes are everywhere around us and they can be combined to make something new. And the children also enjoyed our group musical movement "Shape Hokey Pokey", where they needed to pick out the correct shape as they heard a certain shape throughout the song by testing their knowledge.





As we connected with our families on an individual basis through a phone call during the lockdown, we knew some of the joeys had been learning alphabet letters at home, especially how to write their names. In order to scaffold the children's learning, the activities "Treasure Hunt" and "My name is..." were offered to encourage alphabet letter identification and familiarize with the letters in their names.

The Adventures of "3 Little Pigs" Story



"Three Little Pigs" storytelling zone was set up to extend the children's interest in puppet play. It was wonderful to see the children initiating their independent play with joy and enthusiasm, where they built on their knowledge and confidence in retelling this classic fairy tale from memory in a shared experience.

Then the adventure was moved on with role play and building challenge. At the "3 Little Pigs' Construction Site", we could see the children creating a new level of impressive learning as they negotiated the roles and busily worked on building "houses" by constructing with different recycled items, like ribbons, cardboard rolls and tissue boxes that represented the corresponding materials (straw, sticks and bricks) used in the story.

A truly amazing live show was on when they acted out the scenarios in their own words and enjoyed testing which house was the most windproof! The children also constructed different types of strong houses made out of the magnetic tiles for the little pig figurines by experimenting with different arrangements, trial and error either independently or in a teamwork.



Spring is Here

This month, we have been starting to talk about the seasons, weather and days of the week at our "Calendar Time". The children learned the weather warms up and spring is here now and participated in a few experiences involving sensory discoveries and nature observation. The children created their "Flower Suncatchers" with discs and sequins to welcome spring, which made a beautiful addition to our outdoor environment space. "Scavenger Hunt- Signs of Spring" allowed children to use their senses to explore and find the things on the list in the nature, like, trees, flowers, birds, clouds, butterflies and worms, etc. Through the playdough play, we could see the children using "spring colors" and natural materials to create something spectacular about springtime from their point of view, such as, trees, flower gardens, bird nests, etc.



Sports Day

As the Grand Final Day is approaching, we luckily had our "Sports Day" in the kinder on the 21st and 22nd of October.





The joeys actively took part in four fun and non-competitive activities, "Tunnel Adventure", "Ball Tossing & Running", "Climbing Challenge" and "Egg Delivery", which were mainly focused on jumping, hopping, balancing, climbing and running. Everyone demonstrated their increasing confidence, concentration, motor skills as well as hand-eye coordination along the way. And it was also a pleasure to see the children clapping and cheering as the peers successfully completed the tasks. All the joeys were the winners with certificates and a special treat "Hot Dogs" for their great efforts!

Hop & Bounce Journey

This month, Stavria, Emelia, Elena, Eva, George and Ryder shared their amazing adventures with Hop/Bounce in the kinder. Congratulations on their job well done! And also, a huge thank you to these children's parents for their assistance and hard work! It's great to know that everyone really had tons of fun playing, reading or cooking with Hop/Bounce together!



Just a friendly reminder to the parents that your children's portfolios need to be returned to kinder if you got them last term, so that the educators are able to keep adding more documentation and art pieces into the portfolios. Thanks!

Sonia & Sudesh

[Committee News.....](#)

Hi Families, it has been wonderful to say hello to all your happy faces at drop off / pick up this term!

Enrolments

We have 2 spots x 4yo session & 6 spots x 3yo session available in 2021. If you know of any family in Manningham who would love to join the Deep Creek community, please pass on our details as we would love to have a chat about placements. It's not too late!

Don't forget, next year we introduce **the NEW 4YO - 2.5hr Activity Group on the Monday 1:30-4pm**. This is an exciting new session which has proven to be quite popular with busy working families. Places are still available, and the session costs an additional **\$275 per term**. See Dianna for further details.

Annual General Meeting

It's that time of year again, when we hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) - **Tuesday 24th November**

This year, although a little later in the calendar, we are happy to announce it will be a face to face meeting.

We have the following vacancies for our COM in 2021:

**SECRETARY * TREASURER
IT OFFICER * ENROLMENTS OFFICER**

&

NEWLY CREATED ROLE – MARKETING OFFICER

Please do consider joining our Committee of Management.

What does it take?

Attend a monthly Committee Meeting held on a Tuesday night 7pm-8.30pm.
1-3hrs per week of your time depending on the role.

Additional benefits:

A great way to further your career; build a network with professionals; strengthen your leadership skills; and implement new ideas within our learning community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information regarding these roles.

Deep Creek is run entirely by parents who volunteer their time. We all lead busy lives, so the more people who can volunteer, the more workload we share. Easy!

Deep Creek has created a beautiful, harmonious and warm environment, that has enriched the lives of your first, second and for many third child. Now is the time to give back to the community, to the staff and the COM who devote their valuable time.

Maintaining this association is becoming more and more difficult.

No volunteers = a preschool being run by a cluster management. This drives up fees, causes high turnover in staff and ultimately results in parents losing all control in important decision making at the school.

Please don't let this happen to Deep Creek Preschool! We urge you to join us & continue making Deep Creek great.



SAVE THE DATE
Friday 4th December 5pm – till dusk
TWILIGHT PICNIC in the PARK



Please save the date for a fun picnic in the lovely outdoors (weather permitting).
More info to follow in the next Newsletter so watch this space!

Till next time, Warm Regards

Aglaia Papageorgiou – President 0421 114 279

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