



DSCMK NEWS

April 2023



As we head towards the middle of the year, I would like to remind every family to please be very mindful of any cold / flu symptoms in your children, and if they are unwell to please keep them at home. To keep everyone safe through the winter months, the educators will be vigilant with this, and will not hesitate to contact families and ask for children to be collected if they are unwell at kinder. I hope you all have a restful and rejuvenating break over the holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all again for Term 2 from Monday 24th April.

Kylie Walsh, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

Well... what a wonderful start to 2023! It has been wonderful seeing everyone settling in to kinder this term, and making new friends and connections along the way. It was great to see so many families at our welcome bbq in March, and the working bees too. The support that every family gives the kinder is what makes it such a wonderful community, and such a nourishing place for our children.

Open Day 2023

**Saturday 13 May
10 am - 12 noon**

**Come down and support your
kinder!
Food and fun for everyone.**

FROM THE 4'S

What a wonderful and busy start to the year!

This term our main focus has been forming trusting and strong relationships with children and families. We have really enjoyed getting to know everyone and seeing what each child's strengths and interests are.

We have also been focusing on relationships between peers, and encouraging kind and respectful interactions, sharing, turn-taking and respecting each others ideas in play. We will continue encouraging these positive interactions throughout the year.

Some ways in which we encourage these are to

- Praise positive interactions
- Create interesting and engaging play spaces
- Role model language and positive interactions
- Encourage children to express their feelings and emotions in respectful ways

We have focused on Identity and making sure each child feels respected and part of the group. The children really enjoyed creating their Self-Portraits and we just think they look fabulous! We have begun sharing our family photos and the children are really enjoying sharing these with the group, we love hearing about all the pets too!

It has been an exciting learning journey already with so many different interests- rocket ships, doctors, trains, space, water play, sunflowers, monkey bars, painting, play dough, colour-mixing, police, lots of amazing art and craft, and now Easter! (just to name a few)



As we have begun the Stay and Play (parent/carer helper roster) we encourage you to put your name down and come and join in the fun at kinder!

We can't wait for next term, with the changing of seasons becoming more visual in our local area, we are hoping to start some community outings, and we are excited to see where children's interests take us!

Nina, Sharyn and Olivia

FROM THE 3'S

Our Term 1 goals in the three year old Lorikeets group were centred around the children feeling safe and secure within the kindergarten environment, children building positive relationships with educators and peers and also strengthening children's independence skills. To achieve these goals our program focused heavily on predictable routines which gave children the opportunity to be independent – such as children unpacking their own bags in the morning or placing their photos on our belonging tree each session. At the end of the term the children are showing how confident and capable they are with their independence and self-help skills.



Interests in dinosaurs, gardening and sand-timers have kept us busy as we extend on these learnings further. During our first weeks at kinder the children planted sunflower seeds in their own paper cups, caring for them has become one of the children's favourite tasks as they carefully water them each session. We look forward to putting our green thumbs to good use in our new vegetable patch coming later this year.

We have also found that our Lorikeets love a good storybook, and even more if puppets are involved. We recognised this group interest and invited our local library in for a special Storytime, with Robyn from Nunawading Library visiting us for our very first incursion. She sang songs with us and brought along some pop up books which we absolutely loved.



We all agreed we would like to go visit the library one day and see where all the books are kept.

We look forward to Term 2 and seeing our Lorikeets grow and learn further!

Sara and Olivia

Did you know?

Sara once hiked the Cinque Terre in Italy in her Havanita thongs, as she forgot her 'proper' shoes. She got some very funny looks, but the views and the ice cream at the end made it worth it!

Teacher tips...

DEALING WITH SEPARATION ANXIETY

Firstly, remember that these feelings are totally normal! But here are a few ideas that might help if your child is feeling a little anxious about kinder:

1. Tell them the night before it's a kinder day and talk to them about they're favourite activities.
2. Agree a drop off routine with them for when they arrive. I.e. "When we get to the playroom, I will read you one book then go."
3. Make sure you say goodbye, even if you know it'll upset them. We'll be there to help them settle.
4. Talk to your child's educators. Together we can set up some strategies or tools that will support your child during this time of transition



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

First, talk to the teacher. We are always here to talk. Make a time after a session if you would like to talk about something in more depth or privately. Sometimes we might just need a plan in place in kinder, and other times we might suggest some external support.

Some of the external supports available include:

- school field officer (learning assessments at Kinder)
- Speech Therapist
- Health nurse (3 ½ year old check up)
- Hearing check
- Eye check
- Occupational Therapist
- Possibility of a repeat year at kinder



GET INVOLVED!



Parent 'stay and play'

If you haven't already, put your name down to come along to a kinder session with your child one day. The children LOVE it when their parents are there. They love showing you around the kinder, and introducing you to their friends. And it's a great way to see what happens during the sessions, too. See the sign up form on the noticeboard at kinder, or ask one of the educators.

2023 WORKING BEE DATES!

Sunday 7th May
Sunday 16th July
Saturday 7th October
Friday 1st December

No experience necessary. Just good old willingness to help.
Bring the kids, or fly solo. The children (and committee) will thank you!!

Holiday catch up

Everyone is welcome to join us for a very casual, social catch up in Halliday Park.
(Weather permitting!)

Friday 21st April
10 am - 12noon

MITCHAM THUNDER BASKETBALL



Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club
Is looking for 2-4 girls born in 2014/2015 or earlier to join the Under 9 team for the EDJBA winter season to complete the teams.

CONTACT: Chris Lloyd
clloyd@mitchamthunder.com

Follow us on socials!



@drstanleykinder



Dr Stanley Cochrane Memorial Kindergarten

www.drstanleycochranekinder.org.au | @drstanleykinder