



Somerville Kindergarten Incorporated

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June 2023

Term 2



Dates to Remember

Friday 23rd June
Last Day of Term 2
Ladybugs
Butterflies

Thursday 22nd June
Last Day of Term 2
Honeybees

Bunnings BBQ
Saturday June 24th
(Hastings)

Term 3
Monday 10th July
First Day of Term 3
Honeybees

Tuesday 11th July
First Day of Term 3
Ladybugs
Butterflies

Committee Meeting
Tuesday 11th July 7pm

That's a wrap for Term 2

We can hardly believe it is halfway through the year already. We hope all the children are settled in and enjoying all that our Kindergarten program has to offer.

Just a reminder that The lovely Mrs Hardy will not be back until week 2 of Term 3 as she is on placement for her studies. We wish her all the best!

Committee News

It has been a busy Term 2 for the Committee of Management with the confirming of the timetable for 2024. This can be viewed on the website and Facebook page.

We also held our Open Day on 24th May, it was a lovely Autumn Day and we welcomed potential families to view the facilities, chat to the teachers and let the children explore and play.



We still need a Maintenance officer and Fundraising team, if you would like to join

please reach out to the teachers or a member of the committee.

Nude Food

In Term 3 we are introducing NUDE FOOD DAY to encourage and teach the children to be more sustainable and reduce our waste at the kindergarten.

Keeping in line with our school readiness program, this is important to prepare your child for school and also give them the life skill of looking after their belongings and packing their bags.

Nude food means that the children do not bring any foods that are in packaging, only food scraps, for example banana peels and apple cores that can go into our compost bin.

Please keep in mind that we're a nut free kindergarten, this includes muesli bars that contain nuts and sandwich spreads like peanut butter and Nutella.

If your child is bringing their food in separate containers can you please ensure you teach your child how to open and shut their container, and also please remember to clearly name them.

The Honeybees nude food day will be Thursday (starting Thursday 13th July 2023) and the Ladybugs and Butterflies will be Fridays (starting Friday 14th July 2023) and this will begin the first week of term 3.

Fundraising News

This Term we held our Mothers Day raffle which raised \$300. Massive thanks to all the families who donated items and sold tickets.

Picture Plate drawings are underway in the classroom so that orders can be processed start of Term 3. We can't wait to see all the beautiful drawings the children come up with.



Upcoming Fundraising:

- Bunnings BBQ at Hastings June 24th 2023 8am-4pm
- Cookie Dough (Term 3)
- Fathers Day raffle (Term 3)

Honeybees Report (4 year old)

Our honeybees children have enjoyed another fun, exciting and busy time at kinder in Term 2. We started off the term welcoming our mums, grandmas, nan's and even some dads along to kinder to enjoy a Mother's Day celebration. Our honeybees worked thoughtfully to plan a fun afternoon and create gifts for their special people! We loved having everyone here!



We had a special visit from Dr Bethany's Tooth Tales incursion, and enjoyed singing songs, dancing and learning all the different ways we can look after our teeth! Some of our honeybees had their teeth counted and checked by Dr Bethany who is also a qualified dentist!

We also had a visit from Helen from the Somerville Library who joined us at kinder to share songs and books and talk about all the fun things the library has to offer! This coincided with the introduction of our kinder lending library!

Last week we were very lucky to go on our first kinder excursion! We visited Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association in Hastings. We learnt about the different mobs and language groups across Victoria and Australia, we looked at a Possum skin cloak and learnt about the stories that are drawn/burnt onto the inside (some of us even got to try it on and feel how cosy and warm it is!!), we learnt about Bunjil the Eagle and Waan the Crow and Bunjil's Law (to always look after the land, the animals, the people and each other), we danced like kangaroos and emus to the sound of the clapsticks and were invited to participate in our own smoking ceremony if we wished. It was a busy and fun morning extending on our honeybees learning of our First Nations people and furthering their understanding of different ways of being and doing.

This term we have explored concepts of friendships, kindness and self regulation. We have looked at Green vs Red choices as a way of understanding and regulating our own behavior and we have introduced the topic of “Bucket Filling”. We are looking at ways that we can contribute to other people’s bucket being full, and ways to avoid dipping into someone’s buckets; this is all about becoming aware of how our actions and interactions with other people fills or empties their buckets. We will continue to explore this as the year progresses and work towards filling our own kinder community bucket with positive actions throughout our days!

Many of our honeybees children have shown a strong interest in letters and learning to write their own name and other words. We are exploring letters and name recognition further in lots of fun and interesting ways including name matching, magnetic letters and blocks, letter exploration with playdough, letter cars and tracks, letter cars and name matching, name recognition at transition times, etc. We have also been enjoying lots of fine motor activities to build the strength in our fingers and hands to prepare for writing.

Our program book is full of lots of photos and information about all of our adventures this term and we invite our Honeybees families to have a look through next time they are here!

Jess

Reconciliation Week

This week at Somerville Kindergarten we celebrated National Reconciliation week.
The theme this year was “ Be a voice for generations”.



We looked at a globe of the world and found Australia on the map. We had a discussion about how Australia is made up of people that have come from all over the world and how the Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for thousands of years and how they are Australia's FIRST PEOPLE. They owned the land and spoke many different languages.



We looked at the story “Welcome to Country” by Aunty Joy Murphy and talked about how the Aboriginal people have lived and looked after the land for thousands of years. We learnt that on the Mornington Peninsula we are on Boon Wurung/Bunurung land and talked about how we can all look after the land by caring for the plants, the animals and the people. We looked at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and talked about the symbols and the colours of the flags.

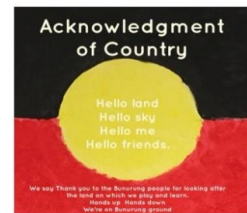
ABORIGINAL FLAG.

Red is for the desert,
yellow is for the sun
black is for the people.



TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG

The green is for the land,
the blue is for the water
the white is for peace.



We learnt an “Acknowledgement of Country and the word “Wominjeka” which means welcome.

We now say Wominjeka and incorporate our Acknowledgement into our routine each day.

END OF TERM 2 in the BUTTERFLIES 🦋 AND LADYBUGS 🐞

Three year old kindergarten

Well it's so hard to believe that we are already nearly half way through our year and it is the end of Term 2 already!!!

The children in the Butterflies and Ladybugs groups have had another busy term learning, having fun and making friendships at kinder, as they grow in confidence and enjoy exploring lots of new activities and experiences. 😊

We commenced the term preparing some special gifts and celebrating our Mums with a special Mother's Day morning at kinder.



We noticed lots of changes to the trees in our playground and talked about



the changes in the weather, plants and what we wear during the cooler colourful season of Autumn. We used Autumn colours in our art and craft and enjoyed making many colourful pictures.



Some areas of interest and learning include exploring space, experimenting with light and magnets and identifying and naming shapes in our environment. The children have enjoyed playing with the duplo farm and the doll's house and continue to explore and create together in the block area and using a variety of open-ended construction sets.

We are continuing to foster the children's agency and independence as we encourage them to be self-directed to a variety of different experiences, independently unpack and pack their own kinder belongings, and be confident and capable in transitions and routines.

As the children are developing confidence and feel a sense of belonging in their kindergarten environment, they are learning to join others at play, invite others to join in and are making little friendship groups within our kinder family.



The children have enjoyed participating in imaginative play as we have transformed our environment into outer space, an ice cream shop and a fruit and veggie shop where they took turns to be customers and serve us all delicious food.



We have been offering lots of activities which develop our fine motor skills in the 3 year-old groups. Activities like stretching elastic bands, balancing marbles, turning nuts and bolts using pincer grip and rolling, coiling and shaping play dough all help to strengthen our finger muscles and develop our hand and finger muscles for better coordination and dexterity.



As part of NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK we joined the Primary School in making a "Sea of Hearts". We looked at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and the children in the Ladybugs and Butterflies all chose colours that are represented in the flags, and used their fingers to tear strips of paper and decorate a heart to add to our Sea of Hearts display.

We have looked at Aboriginal stories and introduced a simple Acknowledgement of Country as we say Wominjeka (which means "welcome" in Bunarong language) at the start of each session.



LENDING LIBRARY:

We have introduced our Lending library on Tuesdays (Ladybugs) and Fridays (Butterflies). The children are enjoying taking home a book each week and choosing a different one each week to take home and read with their families.

Just a reminder that kinder will be closed for Term 2 holidays after Friday 23rd June and **will resume for Term 3 for the Ladybugs and Butterflies on Tuesday 11th July.**

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday break.
We'll see you all next Term.

Rose and Leanne (Butterflies) 🦋

Teana and Lauren (Ladybugs) 🐛

We look forward to seeing you all back in Term 3! Have safe and happy holidays.

2024 Kindergarten Offer Processing Timeline



2024 Kindergarten registrations

open on

WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2023

and will close on

SUNDAY, 16 JULY 2023

(‘late’ registrations will continue to be accepted after this date)

2024 OFFER PROCESSING TIMELINE

THREE and FOUR YEAR OLD changes of preference can be submitted via email (kindergarten@mornpen.vic.gov.au) until Sunday, 16 July 2023

Changes requested after this date will be deemed ‘late’ and processed after on-time registrations.

Week beginning Monday, 31 July 2023	4YO initial offers to be emailed to resident/ratepayer families
Week beginning Monday, 7 August 2023	3YO initial offers to be emailed to resident/ratepayer families
Wednesday, 9 August 2023	Final day for 4YO families to accept or decline their initial offer
Wednesday, 16 August 2023	Final day for 3YO families to accept or decline their initial offer
Beginning Wednesday, 23 August 2023	Subsequent 3YO and 4YO offers to resident/ratepayer families
Beginning Wednesday, 11 October 2023	Offers to ‘late’ resident/ratepayer 3YO and 4YO registrations

Registrations from families who are not residents or ratepayers of the Mornington Peninsula Shire will be assessed on an individual basis. Offers may be issued once MPS residents/ratepayers have been placed.