

Somerville Kindergarten Incorporated

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March 2024

Term 1



That's a wrap for Term 1 We hope all the children had a wonderful first term at Kindergarten!

Committee News

Somerville Kindergarten is a non-profit community run kindergarten. We rely on parent volunteers elected at the AGM each November for the following year to run the day to day operations and support the staff and families. Our committee members for 2024 are:

Dates to

President: Nikki Gilham

Vice President: Carly Melville

Secretary: Ali Ritchie

Treasurer/Fees Officer:Brittany Joyce

Enrolment Officer: Samantha McDonald

Maintenance Officer:Brayden Wilson

Scholastic CoOrdinator: Sara Foster-Chellingsworth

PR Officer: Tamara Higgs

Uniform Officer: Samantha McDonald

Fundraising Coordinator: Kerri Macleod

Fundraising Committee:

Jennifer McLeod

Mercia Van den Ham

Jade Wilson

Vallencia Howard

Remember Thursday 28th

March Last Day Term 1 Ladybugs **Butterflies**

Wednesday 27th March Last Day Term 1 **Honeybees**

Open Day Friday 3rd May

Monday 15th April First Day Term 2 **Honeybees**

Tuesday 16th

April First Day Term 2 Ladybugs Butterflies

General Committee:

Caitlyn Kap

Sani Chamings

Jessica Blake

Jannah Potter-Reid

Jessie Wilson

Clare Petrovic

Georgia Dickinson

Carol Wright

The committee has been busy discussing timetables for next year and planning events such as the working bee and the Open Day coming up in May.

Fundraising News

Fundraising would like to send out a big thank you to everybody who helped make our term one fundraisers a success.

We started off with the picture plate products which our children loved creating and I'm sure they are looking forward to seeing their work once it's been transformed.

Our picture plate products should hopefully be back with us sometime in term two however in the past they have been known to take up to 12 weeks!

We then moved onto our Easter raffle and "guess how many eggs" jar, which was an amazing fundraiser. We were gifted so many lovely items and managed to sell lots of tickets and this fundraiser ended up making \$472!!



So far for 2024 some of our fundraising money has gone towards buying a new

Defibrillator and upgrading the teacher's computers.

We sent out a "you tell us" form, so we could hear from our families about what fundraisers you would like to see our kinder run this year and the results from this showed that majority of families want to see raffles for all our special occasions, Cadbury chocolate boxes, picture plates, tea towels, drink bottles and a Bunnings BBQ..

From fundraising, thank you and have a happy Easter.



HONEYBEES GROUP

Term 1 Newsletter

Our honeybees have had a fabulous start to the kinder year. The majority of our group returning to kinder in 2024 from our various 2023 groups, we have also welcomed some new children and families. We are now well and truly in the swing of things with the children following new kinder routines and transitions as well as getting to know each other and our educators.

This term we have been focusing on building a sense of belonging and ensuring all children and families feel valued members of our kinder community.

"Experiencing belonging - knowing where and with whom you belong - is integral to human existence. Children belong to diverse families, neighbourhoods, local and global communities. Belonging acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities." - Belonging, being and becoming, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

To promote a sense of belonging we have have invited our honeybees to try a range of different activities including 'I am a honeybee' self portraits, creating our body, finishing 1/2 portraits and our children's sign in station, as well as lots of get to know you songs, games and group discussions. Our children have also enjoyed looking through our Honeybees 'all about me' book.

As we get to know each other and begin to build connections with others our interest and skills in engaging in collaborative play are increasing! There is a lot of teamwork happening around the kinder!



This term we have also been very busy following our interests in dinosaurs, sea creatures, music making, numbers, colour mixing and our own names! We have also loved challenging our bodies and our balance with lots of different obstacle courses, jumping cushions, hoopla hoops and stilts!





Road Safety Incursion

On Friday 1st March we welcomed Jenny from STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK to teach us all about road safety. Jenny, along with her puppet friend Maddy, talked to us about crossing the road, crossing with a familiar adult and how we have to STOP before we cross the road, LOOK both ways, LISTEN to hear if there is any danger or cars coming, and THINK about when it is safe to cross. Our interactive session involved songs, games and activities to help extend our learning. We even took a journey around the kindergarten yard practising looking at and responding to different road signs and signals. During our session we also learnt about bike/scooter safety and why and how we wear helmets as well as travelling safely in the car!



Harmony Day

On Harmony Day on 21st March we talked about some of the things that make us different from each other, some of our similarities and how we all belong at kinder together. Just like, how in Australia, we might be different to each other but we are all Australian and we all belong together. We invited our honeybees to participate in an experiment together where we compared our own skin colour and we found out that our skin is all different! We also explored some activities which gave us an opportunity to chat about Harmony Day and what it means to us!





Parent contributions

This term we have updated our program planning documents and have included a section on our plan for *Parent Contributions*. We would love to invite our honeybees families to contribute their ideas / suggestions or child interests to our plan so that we can incorporate these into our program.

Easter celebrations

We are finishing up the term on Thursday 28th we a fun Easter Dress Up Day!

We hope all of our Somerville Kindergarten families have a safe and happy Easter and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Term 2!

Miss Jess and Mrs Matthews 😊





What a great start to the year for our Ladybugs! We have been super busy making new friends, learning our new routine and navigating the 2x7.5hr day program. So far it has been AMAZING! We are getting in so much learning and so many experiences. We have 22 children with only 3 new faces to our kindergarten so this helped as the children have been very settled from the beginning.

Throughout this term we have covered a range of topics from getting to know each other, creating a sense of belonging, the differences between us and our families, colour mixing, cooking, road safety, harmony day, ocean animals, name recognition, Easter crafts and learning letter sounds of the alphabet through our phonics book and song.

We can't wait for term 2 and to see all the fun that we will get up to. Enjoy your Easter holidays and we will see you on April 15th. Mrs Teana and Mrs Hardy

BUTTERFLIES GROUP. TERM 1 Newsletter

Our Butterflies group have had a very busy Term 1 at kinder, settling into the routines, becoming confident and self directed in the kinder surrounds. We will have 21 children in our group as we welcome Aria and Xylan who will join us after the holiday break.

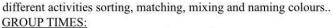
Term 1 saw us becoming familiar with all the kinder routines and transitions, and getting to know our teachers and each other as we came together as a group. Many children are already establishing some little friendship groups, and are starting to join others and invite other children to join in their play. The children have enjoyed a range of different learning activities-

painting, drawing, collage, block building and construction, as well as sensory activities such as fingerpainting, sand play, water play and play dough.





We have done lots of



Mat times are a valuable time to learn to sit in our own space, listen to group instructions or to what others might have to say, share stories or news with our friends at kinder and take turns to speak or join in group games. Mat times have been wonderful in the Butterflies group with all the children enthusiastically joining in singing and movement songs, playing group games and coming together for a story before we sing our "goodbye song". The children are SO eager to join in and take turns - to choose a friend or be the helper for the day, and it is a delight to see their faces when we sing a song together or when they are engrossed in a story

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC:

Thank you to all our family members who joined us last week for our Teddy Bears Picnic. The weather was kind to us last Tuesday and we were able to invite our families to join us for our morning tea picnic. It was a great opportunity for parents to see what we do at kinder, and meet some of the kinder friends and other Mums, Dads and Grandparents in the group. It was great to see so many people were able to join us on the day.

HARMONY DAY:

On Thursday 21st March we celebrated Harmony Day in the Butterflies Group. We talked about how we are all different- we look different and we all like different things- like dinosaurs, fairies, building, painting, etc. We talked about how some of us like the same things and even though we are not all the same, EVERYONE BELONGS.



The children each drew themselves and we made a display on the wall showing all of us joined together holding hands and belonging to the BUTTERFLIES GROUP.

EASTER: We will finish up the term this week doing some Easter activities and having an Easter egg hunt on the last day of Term (Thursday 28th March).

NEXT TERM IN THE BUTERFLIES GROUP: 💓

Some children have siblings who attend Somerville Primary and there has been lots of talk about big brothers and sisters as they are chatting at the fence and during discussions at snack time. We will extend this interest in our families after the holidays- talking about who is in our family, drawing pictures and looking at the family photos in our "All About Me" book.

When we return we will invite the children to share with the group any news, activities or interests that happened over the holidays- so please share any photos or news that your child would like to share when we return on Tuesday 16th April.

TERM 2 commences on Tuesday 16th April for the Butterflies Group. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday break. 😂

