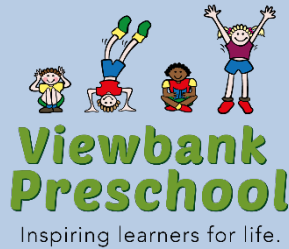


# Newsletter TERM 1 – 2021



Corner Lyon Road and Duff Parade, Viewbank, VIC 3084  
**Phone:** 03 9459 2627 **Email:** [enquiry@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:enquiry@viewbankpreschool.com.au)  
**Website:** <http://www.viewbankpreschool.com>

## WELCOME TO TERM 1!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter for 2021. It is hard to believe that we've already started March! The teachers have been excited and enthusiastic in welcoming our new and returning members to the Preschool. We have completed Open Day whereby we have been able to show our School to more families and we hope they will join us in 2022. Several Grants have been applied for, to support and enhance our teaching facility in the future. Last year, was a year of unknown but everyone worked together which has no doubt given us a fantastic platform for 2021. I hope you enjoy reading about what's been happening throughout the kinder community and what's to come.

Warm Regards,  
Paul Moon



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### RED GROUP

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> March – The Wild Action Australian Animal Show

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Kinder Photo Session

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March – Lapathon

### BLUE GROUP

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> March – No kinder session (Labour Day Public Holiday)

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> March – Wild Action Australian Animal Show

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> March – Kinder Photo Session

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March – Lapathon

### GREEN GROUP

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> March – Green Dress-up Day

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Kinder Photo Session

Tues 30<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Morning Tea (10am-11am)

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Apr – Last session for Term 1

## Red Group



Welcome to all our Red group families. Red group have had a great start to the year. If you would like to keep up to date with what is happening in the program, please read our weekly reflections on our website using your parent password to get into the portal.

Red group has 11 boys and 11 girls this year. We have been averaging 19 a session as families are keeping children away with colds. Thank you to families for keeping children away during these COVID times.

Thank-you also to families for coming in to do parent duty. We still need help in some of our sessions before the term is out. Parent help is so important in enriching what we can offer in our kinder environment. Parents also gain an insight into how your child is going at kinder. Grandparents and any family members are welcome to help out during the sessions if mums and dads are busy.

The children each have a portfolio in the room. These are filling up already with the very busy work we have been doing. We invite you to contribute to the portfolio if you like. Portfolios need to stay at the kinder so please come in any time to have a look along with your child. Families will be taking portfolios home over the mid-year holidays.

Red group have settled into our routines very well now. We have had a few quite anxious children, but we are relaxing quickly after parents leave. Everyone is enjoying their time during the session once settled. Please be assured we will always call you if your child continues to be distressed. No news from us is good news regarding unsettled children.

We have been enjoying the indoor and outdoor spaces using our imaginations and making lovely social connections with our kinder friends.

### The Program and what has been happening:

- "Getting to know you" activities including Songs and About Me Sheets which we are sharing with the group.
- Learning kinder rules
- Recognising/reading our name on a flashcard
- Learning to follow an instruction at the start of a transition
- Drawing self-portraits and portraits of our families
- Discussions about going to the beach and stories relating to summertime and families
- We have shown a real interest in turtles and sting rays and we have extended this to our drawing table. We made a turtle pool for a group project to extend this interest too.
- Red group are learning about healthy eating through books, posters and discussions. We have been drawing foods and the Healthy eating pyramid.
- On Wednesday 3rd March - "The Litter Sisters" show entertained and taught the children about healthy eating and nude food through a musical performance. Red group were a great audience and were focused and interactive during the experience.
- Group times have been full of action songs. We went on an imaginary bush walk and a jungle walk. The children have enjoyed the colour song, Clap your hands and Twist, Shake, Wiggle. We have had lots of meaningful discussions during our story times. I post pictures of the books we have been reading at kinder in our reflections.



## Red Group

### Our intentional teaching for the remainder of the term includes:

- Autumn – Changes in the environment
- Families
- Composting / recycling / worm farming
- Australian Indigenous animals
- Easter
- Body Awareness
- Exercising – Lapathon event to end term

### Coming Up:

- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March - We are very excited to have the Wild Action Australian Animal Show visit us on Week 7 (10:45-11:45 am).
- Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Kinder photos are booked for our Tuesday session of week 9 (Tues, 23<sup>rd</sup> March).
- Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March - Lapathon

### Our Plans for term 2:

Red group will be having a weekly yoga program next term at kinder. Calm4kids will be visiting us on a Friday 1-2pm. The children will do a half hour yoga session with a group of 11 children. We will be doing some relaxation and mindfulness with the other half of the group at this time.

We are planning a dentist and librarian visit in term 2 so I will keep you posted on these dates once they are confirmed.

### Other Intentional Teaching Planned For Term 2:

- Library borrowing program – weekly on Tuesdays
- Animals that come from eggs – What are they - birds, reptiles, frogs, caterpillars – investigating habitats, life-cycles and behaviour.
- Pets – domestic animals – What are they, needs, sharing our pet stories
- Dental Care – Dentist visit
- Emotions and Feelings – Bucket filling program, Elmer elephant story and art.
- Staying Safe - Dangers around home and community.
- Autumn and the environmental changes to Winter – Art work to reflect what we are seeing in our environment.
- Winter Soltice – 21<sup>st</sup> June
- Maps – Treasure maps, World map, Australia and Viewbank maps.
- Flags – Our cultural back-grounds, Australian and Aboriginal flags.
- Mother's Day – Gifts, cards, yoga session with the mums

If you have any concerns regarding something happening at kinder please feel free to email us – [redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au)

*Ann-Marie, Merryn & Mia*

## Blue Group



Blue Group has had a great start to the year. We have a full group with 15 girls and 7 boys.

We have spent the last few weeks getting to know each other and becoming familiar with the kindergarten routines. We have discussed our kindergarten rules and how they help keep us safe.

On Mondays, we have introduced a short relaxation time after lunch - the children are enjoying listening to some short stories while we give our minds and bodies a moment to recharge.

We have completed some self-portraits and pictures of our families. We have been taking it in turns to share our About Me sheets at group time.

The discovery of a snail in the garden prompted lots of questions about snails...do they have eyes? How many? Where is their mouth? We used some salt dough to make our own snails that we cooked in the oven and then painted.

Outside, we have enjoyed washing babies, basketball, water painting, hide and seek, drawing with chalk on the concrete and collecting herbs from our garden to make 'salad' and 'cakes'.

During group time, we have been singing 5 fat sausages, Hi my name is Joe, 3 jellyfish, 5 currant buns, 5 little ducks, heads and shoulders and the colour song.

Blue Group LOVES stories...we have been reading books about summer, the beach, families, and we have almost finished the Hairy Maclary series.

On Wednesday we had our first incursion for the year from 'The Litter Sisters'. We learnt about healthy food choices, nude food and avoiding glad wrap and excess packaging. Blue Group did a fantastic job at listening and joining in with the songs and actions.

### Coming Up:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March - NO KINDER SESSION (LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Wild Action Australian Animal Show.
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Kindergarten photos.
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Lapathon
- In Term 2, we will enjoy a weekly yoga session with our Calm4Kids Yoga Program. We also hope to engage a dental visit and a story time session with our local Librarian.

### Other Intentional Teaching Planned for Term 2:

- Library borrowing program – Every Thursday
- Animals that come from eggs – What are they - birds, reptiles, frogs, caterpillars – investigating habitats, life-cycles and behaviour.
- Pets – domestic animals – What are they, needs, sharing our pet stories
- Dental Care – Dentist visit
- Emotions and Feelings – Bucket filling program, Elmer elephant story and art.
- Staying Safe - Dangers around home and community.

## Blue Group

- Autumn and the environmental changes to Winter – Art work to reflect what we are seeing in our environment.
- Winter Solstice – 21st June
- Maps – Treasure maps, World map, Australia and Viewbank maps.
- Flags – Our cultural backgrounds, Australian and Aboriginal flags.
- Mother's Day – Gifts, cards, yoga session with the mums
- Please feel free to contact us with any queries – [bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au)

*Barb, Anna & Mia*





## Green Group

The children in Green Group have had a wonderful start to the year. We have been learning new routines, meeting new friends and developing skills for separating confidently from our loved ones. It has been wonderful to see how already the children have become more confident when entering the room, and how they are taking ownership of the space.

Over the past weeks we have enjoyed planting sunflowers, exploring sea creatures and the idea of 'what makes a good friend' using the Rainbow Fish story as inspiration.

There has been lots of play in the Chinese restaurant, ice-cream shop and café, as well as in the boat outside travelling to the beach. Following the children's interests, we have taken cars and road play outside by drawing our own roads on large paper, are exploring the idea of what will sink and what will float and made dinosaur habitats on our playdough table. Soon, we will share our 'About Me' pages which will provide many more child led experiences.

Recently we brought treasured items to kinder to share with our friends. The children had an opportunity to stand in front of the group and tell us a little something about their item, which helps develop confidence and language skills.

Speaking and listening are important skills we practice at kinder, it may be to ask for assistance, to share information or make a connection with a friend. Asking questions that require more than a yes or no answer is a great way to promote language with your child. "Tell me about..." or "I wonder why you did ..." are a couple of great sentence starters.

Our parent community has been wonderfully supportive, and in particular I would like to thank the Green Group families for working with us through our staggered intake program. Short sessions at the beginning of the year are so valuable to the staff and children and really help us build that secure relationship we need with each child. Also thank you for filling up our duty roster, we hope you are enjoying your time with us in the session.

Some celebrations we have had so far have been Archie's, Marianne's, Merryn's and Bella's birthdays. We look forward to celebrating Oliver and Julia's birthdays before the end of term.

### Special Dates:

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Green Dress-up Day (Children wear something green to kinder)
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Kinder Photo Day
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Morning Tea 10am-11am. (Look out for an invitation in your notice pocket!)
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Last session for term 1.

*Vicki & Merryn*

## Chinese Language Program



Our Chinese language program has started since week 2. Mia was very excited to meet the Red Group and Blue Group children and introduced her special friend Qiaohu (a puppet tiger).

At the beginning of each session, Qiaohu sings 你好 (hello) song and everyone's name. This helps us learn how to greet in Chinese and get to know each other. From Qiaohu's introduction, we get to know about where China is, what streets there look like and what Chinese language is.



We also explored how Chinese people celebrate their biggest festival - Chinese New Year, set up our own Chinese restaurant in the room, made dragon masks and even had a dragon parade in the yard!

We also heard the story of 12 zodiac animals and found out which animal of year we were born. There were lots of discussion around the story.

A Chinese nursery rhyme 'Little Mouse Climbing to the Lamp' was introduced to the children. We learnt this song through role-play, making a little story book and performing it.



Numbers will be introduced in the following weeks.

The language program is part of the kindergarten program, so your child will continue to be encouraged to learn through exploration, problem solving and play in Chinese. Children will be exposed to Chinese language and culture through play, art, music and stories, all while increasing their vocabularies along the way.

One way you might like to support your child is to learn some key words and phrases in Chinese yourself. Here is a free app/website to help:

- iLanguages
- Languages Remote
- Duolingo
- Memrise
- Digital Dialects



For more information about our language program, you are always welcome to have a chat with me (Blue Group on Monday/ Red Group on Friday) or email me: [eclanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:eclanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au).



*Mia*

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising 2021!

Every year the fundraising committee puts together fun and memorable ways to help raise funds for our Preschool and give our kids and even bigger and better learning experience.

To date fundraising events have enabled us to purchase a large crash mat and two tumbling mats, a set of bamboo building blocks, the pedestal sign in table, the boat, outdoor mud kitchen setting, new home corner furniture, recycled tree trunk benches, tables and chairs, a great selection of up-to-date fiction and non-fiction books, large floor puzzles, outdoor sand diggers and much more.

This year the wish list includes picnic tables, garden accessories-trellis, tripod plant trainer, outdoor cubbyhouse, new painting drying rack ,water wall, wooden magnetic blocks Lego-people, bricks and base boards and construction hats. The initiatives in 2021 are not only a great way to raise much-needed funds they are great opportunity to be part of the community and provide fabulous keepsakes for years to come.

Some of the fundraising efforts this year will include the Sports Day Lapathon, Mothers & Father's Day stalls, Scholastic book club, Bunnings BBQ, picture plates, personalised kids' artwork tea towels and more. Before each event, information will be placed on the noticeboard and inside your child's pockets.

We will be starting off with the Sports Day Lapathon held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March for both Red & Blue Groups and the opportunity to sponsor and support our little athletes!! Sponsorship booklets coming soon.....

Jane O'Reilly  
Fundraising Convenor

**2021  
Lapathon!**

Viewbank Preschool  
Red & Blue Groups

March  
**31st**

Support the kinder stars as they run laps and complete a range of fun circuit activities like rope climbing, balancing and much more!!

*Sponsor your child and raise funds for the kinder*

Illustrations of sports equipment: soccer ball, tennis ball, baseball, basketball, hockey puck, and a hockey stick.

Greetings ISLAND



# General News



## **COVID-19-safe Update**

Car park gate - this gate will now remain closed. We have supplied hand sanitiser at the gate for families to use.

Masks - Government guidelines suggest masks should be worn inside the kindergarten when distances of 1.5 metres are unable to be maintained.

All parents/visitors need to sign in using our QR code if staying for longer than 15 minutes.

## **Parent Duty**

We are so pleased to welcome parents /grandparents back to join us for kindergarten sessions. Please ensure you sign yourself in and out in our visitors' book (located at the sign in stand). This is a separate requirement from the COVID-19 QR code.

Check the roster to see what date suits you or speak to your child's teacher. Having a parent on duty helps us tremendously but also gives you an opportunity to see what happens at kinder and how your child interacts with peers and participates in the program.

## **Sun-smart policy**

Please ensure you apply sunscreen to your child before every session. Even in the cooler weather UV ratings are often still extreme. Sunscreen is available in the foyer for you to apply if you forget to do it at home. Please speak to the teachers if your child requires their own sunscreen - don't leave sunscreen in children's bags as it is difficult for us to monitor who touches it. A wide brimmed or legionnaires hat is also required every day.

## **Spare clothing**

All children require a full change of clothes every session. Providing a wet pack/waterproof bag is also handy to put wet/soiled clothes in.

## **Food at Kindergarten**

Please ensure you have read our food and nutrition policy, as well as, the current communications regarding children with serious food allergies. We ask that sweet treats (chocolate, lollies, cakes) and foods containing nuts are kept for home. Water is preferred for kindergarten. Please keep milk drinks, juice and yakult for your child to have at home.

## **What to wear at Kindergarten?**

We are busy at kinder. We get dirty, we run, climb, get wet, paint, and dig in the garden. Please dress your child in comfortable clothes that can get dirty. Shorts, elastic waisted pants, leggings, trackpants, t-shirts, jumpers/hoodies are comfortable and easy for children to manage. Runners and sandals are the best footwear. Thongs and crocs are very slippery when climbing. Please keep these items for home - singlet tops/sleeveless dresses, long dresses, precious tutus and skirts, crocs, and thongs.

## **Worm farm**

Can you help? Our worm farm needs refurbishment. If you could spare an hour or so to help us get it up and running again, please speak to a staff member.

## **Illness**

If your child is unwell please give them time at home to recover. With the cooler weather coming we may find more colds and sniffles about, remind your child to wash their hands after blowing their nose and to cough/sneeze into their elbow. The recommendation from the state government remains that no matter how mild symptoms are all adults and children should obtain a COVID -19 test and remain home until they receive a negative result and no longer have any symptoms. Symptoms include fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, vomiting or diarrhoea, and loss or change in sense of smell or taste. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. Please email your child's teacher or call if your child will be absent.

## **Banyule Auskick 2021**

- **Registrations Now Open!**
- Starts Sat, 24 Apr 2021
- Sat 9am – 10am at Banyule Auskick Centre
- To be eligible, children need to be turning 5 by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021.
- For more information, go to <https://play.afl/auskick>.
- Contact Kate Cullen for any enquiries - 0404 044 675 [banyulefcauskick@gmail.com](mailto:banyulefcauskick@gmail.com)

## **Get Active Kids Voucher Program**

- The Get Active Voucher Program helps eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and recreation activities by reimbursing the cost of membership and registration fees, uniforms and equipment.
- Eligible children may be able to receive up to \$200 each.
- To be eligible, kids must be between 4-18 y/o & named on current Health Care Card/Pensioners Card
- **Applications Now Open!** (Round 1 application closes 11 April 2021)
- 100,000 vouchers available over duration of program (1 Mar 2021 – 17 Apr 2022)
- For more information, visit <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>
- Email queries to [getactivekids@sport.vic.gov.au](mailto:getactivekids@sport.vic.gov.au)