

Newsletter TERM 1 - 2022



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Welcome

Dear parents, families and caregivers,

On behalf of our wonderful teachers and management committee, I would like to officially welcome you to the start of the term, and the first edition of the Viewbank Preschool newsletter for 2022.

It's been a busy start to the term as we welcome new children to the kinder, as well as seeing last year's Green Group children return as they move up into the 4-year-old groups.

I'm sure you're hearing many wonderful stories about what your children have been learning during their sessions, and new friendships being formed. Our teachers provide an overview of the types of activities we are facilitating for the Red, Blue and Green Groups further along in this newsletter, which we trust you'll enjoy reading – and we encourage you to continue these conversations with your children in the home environment.

We recently held our Open Day, where we saw so many families come and explore what we have to offer. It was humbling to see how many families are now returning to enrol the younger siblings, and for our teachers to re-connect with children they've previously taught and their parents.

On the radar for this year, we plan to have a strong fundraising focus, along with pursuing available grants opportunities that will enable us to continually improve and nurture the kinder environment and facilities – we will keep you posted on the specifics as they arise.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and engage in your child's development. We look forward to a smooth, and learning-filled year to come and hope to cherish the memories as we watch our children grow.

Warm regards,
Andrea Anderson – President

SPECIAL EVENTS

WELCOME PICNIC

Friday, 18th March at Price Park

RED GROUP

Kinder Photos

11th May

BLUE GROUP

Labour Day Public Holiday-NO
KINDER SESSION.

14th March

Drama Toolbox 'Body
Investigators' Incursion
22nd March

Lapathon (Last Day of Term 1)
7th April

Kinder Photos
10th May

Dental Visit from Little Chompers
Dental
2nd June

GREEN GROUP

Kindergarten Registrations for
2023 open - via Banyule Council
1st March

Green Dress-up Day
15th March

Treasure Days
29th & 31 March

Last session for term 1 & Parent
Morning Tea
7th April

Red Group



Welcome to all our Red group families. Red group have had a positive 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 pass-word to get into the portal.

Red group has 13 boys and 9 girls this year. We have been averaging 21 a session.

The Red group teaching team this year is Ann-Marie and Merryn on both Wednesdays and Fridays. We have Anna supporting us on Wednesdays for part of our session and Mia with us on a Friday delivering the language program.



Bella is a child in red group who has an anaphalactic reaction to nuts. Can all families avoid sending nut products in lunch boxes please.

We will need parent duty at the start of term 2. The Parent duty roster will be available on the sign in pedestal later in the term if you would like to put your name down. 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. Grand-parents and any family members are welcome to help out during the sessions if mum's and dad's 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 portfolio's home over the mid-year holidays.

Red group are slowly settling into their big day at kinder. Some are quite tired in the afternoons. We have been reflecting and adapting our routines to find what works best for this group of children. This involves looking at the dynamics of the group as well as energy levels and trying to meet the individual needs of all children. 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.

Red Group

What have we been experiencing in the program

- "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 flash-card.
- Learning to follow an instruction at the start of a transition.
- Drawing self portraits and pictures of our families.

We have had discussions about going to the beach and stories relating to Summer time and families.

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.

Our intentional teaching for the remainder of the term includes -

- Summer - Beach safety and Sunsmart safety.
- Families
- Sustainability -Composting / recycling / worm farming
- Body Awareness- Body Investigators show
- Healthy eating - Books, posters and discussions. We will learn the Healthy eating pyramid.
- Exercising - Lapathon event to end term.



Red Group

Our Plans for term 2

Our Kinder photo day will be Wednesday 11th May during our kinder session.

Red group will be having a weekly yoga program next term at kinder. Calm4kids will be visiting us on a Wednesday. The children will do a half hour yoga session with a group of 11 children.



- **Library borrowing program** – weekly on Wednesdays
- **Butterfly Adventures Program** - w1-w4
- **Domestic Pets** – What are they, needs, sharing our pet stories
- **The Responsible Pet Ownership Program** – Date to be confirmed
- **Dental Care** – Dentist visit Wednesday 1st June.
- **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.
- **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 me – redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Ann-Marie, Merryn, Mia and Anna

Blue Group



Hello Blue Group families! We look forward to getting to know you all and sharing many kindergarten experiences and learning opportunities throughout the year. Blue Group have had a great start to the year. 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 quiet/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 been getting to know each other through group songs and games. We have completed some self-portraits and pictures of our families. We have each filled in a page for our About Me book which we are presenting to the rest of the group. When we have all had a turn, everyone will have a chance to take home and share it with their family.

Discussions about summer holidays at the beach prompted some sea life creations. We read the story of *The Rainbow Fish* and made a group collage of the sea filled with our own rainbow fish.

We have been looking at shape and colour. We used fingerpaint to discover new colours. We have mixed blue and yellow and red and blue. We will continue experimenting with colour over the next few sessions. Some children were delighted to spread, squelch and squeeze the fingerpaint with their whole hand, others were more reserved and used only one or two fingers!

Outdoors we have sailed to Funfields and Treasure Island in our boat. Our ice-cream shop and doll washing role play has been popular, as have the sandpit and construction area.

What's coming up?

For the remainder of the term we will be investigating worms and our worm farm and look at how we recycle and compost at kinder. We will also look at bodies, exercise and healthy eating. Finishing the term with our annual Lapathon.



Blue Group



Dates to remember:

- Monday 14th March-Labour Day Public Holiday-NO KINDER SESSION.
- Tuesday 22nd March-Drama Toolbox 'Body Investigators' Incursion.
- Thursday 7th April-Lapathon (Last Day of Term 1)

Looking ahead to Term 2.....

Term 2 Intentional Teaching

- We will enjoy a weekly yoga session with our Calm4Kids Yoga Program.
- Kindergarten Photo Day-Tuesday 10th May
- Dental Visit from Little Chompers Dental Program-Thursday 2nd June
- Butterfly Program
- Library borrowing Program
- Animals that come from eggs – what are they - birds, reptiles, frogs,
- Pets – domestic animals – what are they, needs, sharing our pet stories
- 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 – artwork to reflect what we are seeing in our environment.
- 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

Weekly Reflections - Have you been looking at our weekly reflections? On Thursday evenings we post a blog and some photos about our week at kindergarten. Make sure you take a look. Go to our website, click on blue group and use the blue group password to access these.

Birthday Box - Thank you to those families that have contributed to our birthday box. We have already celebrated several birthday's in Blue Group. If you haven't yet made a donation please bring a \$5 gift (stickers, gel pens, game, puzzle, toy) to me or Anna in the next week or so.

Please feel free to contact us with any queries –
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. Thankyou to all our families for your energy and positivity, it makes the world of difference in how the children settle into a new environment.

Over the past weeks we have enjoyed planting sunflowers, exploring sea creatures and the learning about different emotions. There has been lots of play in the Chinese restaurant, making roads with blocks on the mat, enjoying free choice of materials at the craft table, and sharing stories in our library corner. This is always a great space for our parent helpers to relax and share some story-time with the children. Outside has been just as busy, with easel painting, finger painting, and waterplay satisfying the sensory needs of the children. In the boat we have taken trips into the ocean, fishing for prawns and crabs, and the sand pit has been a construction zone where diggers and trucks move sand from one place to another.

We were excited to share our first three birthdays at kinder – Happy Birthday to Gemma, Marley and Merryyn!

During group times our focus is on following instruction, learning our friends' names, answering simple questions, using eye contact, learning new songs and rhymes, and being brave enough to have a go. These are all skills that will be developed over the children's early years, right on into primary school. We have noticed more and more children beginning to join in with now familiar songs and rhythms, particularly the "Cinnamon Ship" song. We have begun each group time with an acknowledgement of country and then follow with a 'Hello' song, to create a sense of belonging within the group. Together we came up with some safe play rules and we talked about the importance of including others and caring for others.

Green Group



Soon we will invite the children to bring a treasure to kinder to share with the group (see dates for your diary). The children have 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. We look forward to seeing some treasures in late March.

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.

Dates to remember:

- Tuesday 1st March – Kindergarten Registrations for 2023 open through Banyule council.
- Tuesday 15th March – Green Dress-up Day. (Children wear something green to kinder)
- Tuesday 29th & Thursday 31st March – Treasure Days – look out on the notice board for your child's date.
- Thursday 7th April – Last session for term 1 and Parent Morning Tea 11:30am-12:30pm, restrictions pending. Look out for an invitation in your notice pocket!

Vicki & Merryn

Language program



Nihao! Our Chinese language program has started in 4-year-old groups. I was very excited to meet Red Group and Blue Group children and introduced my special friend Qiaohu (a puppet tiger).

In the beginning of each session, children sing Nihao (hello) song with Qiaohu. This helps children learn how to greet in Chinese and get ready to be immersed in a different language.



From Qiaohu's introduction, children learnt about where China was, how far it was from Australia and etc. Children and I also explored how people celebrate 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 listened to the story of 12 zodiac animals and found out which animal of year we were born. There were lots of discussion around the story.



In the room, there is a Chinese corner for children to continue to explore the culture and the language even when they are not having the language session.

The program is fully incorporated in the 4-year-old kinder curriculum and will continue to be delivered through songs, games, stories, art activities etc. throughout the year.

Home learning tips:

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:

- [iLanaguges](#)
- [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.

Mia

Fundraising

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

We've scheduled a Sausage Sizzle fundraising day at Eltham Bunnings on Sunday, 10th April and would greatly appreciate help from parent volunteers.

More information to come soon!

Thanks,

Laura

fundraising@vieebankpreschool.com.au



Special news & events

Viewbank Preschool Welcome Picnic

Friday 18th March

4pm-6pm at Price Park (meet near playground)

BYO Picnic

Come along and meet the other families in the Viewbank Preschool Community.

Volunteers needed for Banyule Auskick 2022:

Auskick is a great introduction to fun footy skills, drills and games for boys and girls 5-12 years old. It runs during footy season from April – August (exact dates for the 2022 season yet to be determined). Banyule Auskick sessions are on Saturday mornings from 9am. Banyule Auskick is looking for 1-2 new co-ordinator/s (role can be shared) to get the 2022 season running.

Auskick is run by volunteers and is a great way to get involved with your kids activities and local community. Further information can be found on the Auskick website: play.afl/auskick/coordinators

If you can help with this please contact Kate Cullen (out-going Co-ordinator for 2021):

banyulefcauskick@gmail.com or 0404 044 675. I'll be happy to discuss the role further, provide all the information and support needed to continue the role into next season.

Coaches are also needed so please help if you can!

Thanks to Trees R Us

A huge thanks to Trees R Us' for volunteering their tree services for our preschool last year. For anyone needing specialised tree services in the area we'd recommend getting in touch with the crew at Trees R' Us.

Website: treesrus.com.au

Email: info@treesrus.com.au

Phone: (03) 9458 5356

General news

Parent Duty

Red and Blue Group have decided to wait until 2nd Term to reintroduce parent helpers. Rosters for parent helpers will be available towards the end of the term. Green Group will continue having parent helpers as they have been.

Please ensure you sign yourself in and out in our visitors' book (located at the sign in stand).

Please note: all visitors and volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination status upon entering our building. After February 25, this will also include proof of third dose vaccination. Please show Vicki or Merryn on arrival of your duty session so they can record it's been sighted.

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.

Food at Kindergarten

Please ensure you have read our food and nutrition policy.

Some children have a life-threatening allergy to nuts

therefore children are not permitted to bring nut products at any time. As most chocolate may include traces of nuts this extends to chocolate products. This means NO peanut butter, nutella, muesli bars, chocolates, hazelnut products, smarties, etc.

We ask that sweet treats (chocolate, lollies, cakes) and are kept for home. Water is preferred for kindergarten. Please keep milk drinks, juice and yakult for your child to have at home.

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.

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.

Illness

If your child is unwell please give them time at home to recover. The recommendation from the state government remains that no matter how mild symptoms are all adults and children should perform a RAT test and remain home until they no longer have any symptoms. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. Please email your child's teacher or phone the Kindergarten if your child will be absent.

RAT tests are being provided for preschool children. These will be distributed to families as we receive them.

Absences

Please email your child's teacher or phone the Kindergarten if your child will be absent because of illness, holiday or just a day at home.

Barb - bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Ann-Marie - redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Vicki - green@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Donations

- Recycle Station-take a look at our recycle station in the foyer. We collect plastic bottle tops, bread tags, etc.
- Drawing paper-If you have any scrap A4 paper (Blank on one side is fine) we can use for drawing, it would be much appreciated.
- Egg Cartons
- Small offcuts of wood

