

# Newsletter TERM 2 - 2022



**Viewbank  
Preschool**

Inspiring learners for life.

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

Dear parents, families and caregivers,

Welcome to the second edition of the Viewbank Preschool newsletter. Our little people have been super busy this term, from pampering us mums for Mother's Day, to becoming gurus of yoga, and even learning to speak (and sing!) Chinese.

Thank you to all the parents who donated their time to help with the infamous Bunnings sausage sizzle, the kinder Lapathon and Mother's Day stall - your efforts have brought in just under \$4,000 which have allowed us to purchase much needed items. It doesn't stop there however - we are again asking for volunteers to help tidy up the kinder at our upcoming Working Bee. It is your help that enables us to provide the great environment we do for our children. More details are included further along.

On behalf of our teachers and management Committee, I wish you happy reading and as always, please reach out to our teachers at any time to ask questions share your thoughts, or simply just check-in.

Warm regards,  
**Andrea Anderson - President**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Kinder Working Bee  
Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June

No kinder - Educators PD Day  
Fri, 19<sup>th</sup> Aug

### RED GROUP

Parent/teacher meetings  
10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June

### BLUE GROUP

Local Librarian Visit  
31<sup>st</sup> May

Dental Visit  
2<sup>nd</sup> June

Parent/Teacher meetings  
6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June

### GREEN GROUP

Local Librarian Visit  
31<sup>st</sup> May

Drama Toolbox Incursion  
2 June

Treasure Days  
14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dress-up day & last day of term 2  
23 June

First day of term 3  
12<sup>th</sup> July

Parent/Teacher meetings  
26<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August

### LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Dragon Boat Festival  
3<sup>rd</sup> June

## Red Group



Red group have had a positive start to term 2.

If you would like to keep up to date with what is happening in the program please read our weekly reflections using your parent password to get into the portal. This should arrive in your inbox on a Friday evening.

If you have forgotten the password or you are not receiving emails notifications for our reflections please let us know.



Red group are managing their long day now making decisions about how they are feeling and whether their bodies might need a rest. We question the children to consider how they manage their eating to keep them feeling energised and our water consumption to keep them hydrated. We ask the children to consider their body temperature and whether they are wearing appropriate clothing. The children's independence skills and managing themselves for comfort are very important skills we are focusing on for school readiness.

### What have we been experiencing in the program

We kicked off the term celebrating our mums. We hope you enjoyed your yoga, manicure, dressing up, portfolio's and stories together. The children put a lot of thought and effort into their mothers day gift making and shopping.



We had our kinder photo day on Wednesday 11th of May. The proof sheets will be in your pockets in a couple of weeks.

Red group are really enjoying our weekly yoga program on a Wednesday. We also have begun our weekly library borrowing program on a Wednesday. The children need to bring their library books in a cloth library bag to return and re-borrow new books. We have had discussions on how to care for books and how to look after books when they are at home.



**Butterfly Adventures Program** – The children have been watching the lifecycle of the butterfly. Our fat caterpillars have begun creating a chrysalis around their bodies. We wait in anticipation to see our Monarch butterflies emerge in 2 weeks.

**Insects** – We have explored the kinders bug collection. We have been looking at bee's and the important job they have to do. We created our own beehive. We practised our scissor skills cutting around hexagons to create our bee hives.

## Red Group



**The Resilience Project** - We will be exploring emotions and gratitude this term. The children have their own journals which they will be working in throughout this program. The journal will go home in the kinder holidays for families to do follow up activities and to see what the children have been up to during the term.



**Dental Care** - We have a visiting Dentist coming to kinder on Wednesday 1st June. Permission forms must be signed and returned for your child to take part. These were distributed in your pockets. Please let us know if you have misplaced it.

**Autumn** - We have been creating beautiful art work to reflect what we are seeing in our environment.

The children have been making the most of Autumn, raking the leaves, rolling in them and throwing them at each other.

We have been singing the Five Golden Autumn Leaves song.

Red group have been learning about the 5 senses. We are enjoying fun group games where we need to rely on a particular sense to seek information.



**Domestic Pets** - We have begun making our domestic pet book where the children will be sharing their pet page with the group.

**Intentional teaching still to come this term**

- Further exploration of the senses
- Domestic Animals
- Australian animals
- Aboriginal Culture



We will be ending term 2 with **RED** day to celebrate us and why we are such kind children. Reflecting on our Resilience project work this term.

More information to come later in the term.

**Mid year parent/teacher meetings** have been scheduled for Friday the 10th and 17th of June. Appointment times to be selected through an online booking system which will be sent to you soon. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss your child's developmental progress at kinder. We will discuss whether your child will be ready to begin school in 2023.

## Red Group



**Lunch boxes** – Now that the cooler weather is here can parents please pack an extra item in lunch boxes. The children seem to need that extra carbohydrate based food on the long days which is what is feeding our tired brains in the afternoon. The children like our back up corn cakes at kinder when they run out of food. We seem to be giving out a lot of these lately.

**No hats or sunscreen needed at kinder now until 1st of September. Time to get some vitamin D.**

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

**Ann-Marie, Merryn, Mia and Anna**



## Blue Group



Welcome to Term 2! The children returned from the holidays refreshed and ready for the new term.

Our Calm4kids yoga program started on the first day back. We met Kaye and she introduced yoga breathing and some basic postures. Each week we follow a different story that introduces new postures. Be sure to ask your child about their yoga session and read the weekly session plan posted in Blue Group News.



For our second yoga session we invited our mums to join us! This was part of our Mother's Day celebration. We had a busy session with most mum's attending. As well as yoga they had the opportunity to have their nails done before visiting the photo booth.

We have been discussing the changes in our environment as we move through Autumn and given the children the opportunity to try some creative art experiences relating to this.



The butterfly adventures kit arrived at the start of the term and we have monitored the growth of the caterpillars as we clean their enclosure and fed them each session. We were very excited to witness one moving from the caterpillar stage to the chrysalis stage. We recorded this (can't guarantee how good it is) look in the news section. In 9-14 days, they will complete the transformation and emerge as butterflies.

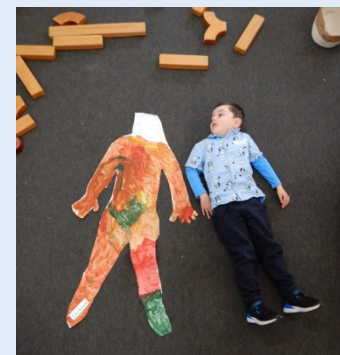
We have extended on this interest and been reading and acting out 'the hungry caterpillar'. We made a group collage of a large caterpillar from jar lids that the children named 'DONALD'. Butterfly paintings made by dabbing paint in the middle of a piece of paper then folding it in half to squish the paint around-then opening to reveal the pattern were a source of amazement. The children couldn't believe how well they looked like a real butterfly!



Last term we traced around our bodies then painted them and cut them out., the last few were completed in the first week of this term. We displayed them in the room for several weeks and have now sent them home. The children really enjoyed being traced then decorating themselves. We have had lots of fun discovering how our 5 senses work. Through listening games, smelling jars and using a feely box. We are also planning some taste testing activities. We started with pizza making last Monday which was delicious! We have experimented with slime, clay and scented playdough.



## Blue Group



Last week introduced the Resilience Project. The first principle we are looking at is Emotional Literacy. The children were given their journals and we started with some mindful colouring and an emotion self-portrait. We will be spending some time following this program each week.

Our Library borrowing program is underway. The children need to bring a **NAMED LIBRARY BAG** (shopping bag is fine) each **Thursday** to borrow a book. We will discuss book care and the joy and benefits of reading. Kinder photos went well, we even managed to get a group shot in one go!

### What's Coming up:

For the remainder of Term 2 we will be sharing information about our pets (we hope to have the responsible pet ownership program visit us) then look at Australian animals and Aboriginal culture.

### Dates to remember:

- Local Librarian Visit - Tuesday 31st May.
- Dental Visit - Thursday 2nd June.
- Parent/Teacher Meetings - 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June

As always please call or email with any questions or queries.

[bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au)

Barb, Anna & Mia

## Green Group



Term 2 has been a busy one in Green Group. We began the term by celebrating our mums, inviting them to spend some time at kinder with us. The children really enjoyed having their mums (and some grandmas) at kinder, and it was lovely to see lots of mums meeting and catching up with each other too. Together the mums and children participated in a scavenger hunt, where they had to find lots of items like, something red, something green, someone with the same eye colour as them, someone who has a brother, and the easiest one of all; someone who loves them. The children handed out their gifts for their mums, nasturtium seedlings which they had planted and raised from seed. We hope the mums (and grandmas) enjoyed their time with us.

This term we have been focusing a lot on fine motor skills, specifically making a pincer grip with thumb and forefinger. Some of the activities we have done to strengthen this are bead threading, using tweezers to search for buried items, creating towers with Duplo, paper tearing, playdough rolling and pulling apart, as well as painting and drawing activities. Everyday tasks such as opening the zip on their back pack, or opening and closing the lids to their lunchboxes, and the many finger play songs we sing also provide opportunities for the children to strengthen their pincer grip.

You may have seen our caterpillar/butterfly program at the kinder already. We have watched as the caterpillars munched on leaves and grew and grew, and the hung themselves upside down and have now spun their chrysalis'. Each session we are checking to see if they are ready to emerge, and we are hypothesising what the butterflies will look like when they finally make their transformation.

Each session in green group we begin our group time by acknowledging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people whose land we are learning and playing on at kinder. Green group are beginning to expand their knowledge of indigenous culture by looking at familiar symbols such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, animal footprints and how storytelling is used as a means of communication. We will be encouraging the children to share what they already know, and to ask questions for us to research together.

Coming up in the program the children will have a visit from the Rosanna Librarian, we will head to the Circus with a visit from the Drama Toolbox and have our second Treasure Day as well. Looking ahead to term 3, we will be holding parent/teacher meetings in week 3 and 4. At these meetings we will be able to reflect on the learning the children have already achieved and make some goals for the remainder of the year. Families will receive an email invitation to book in for parent/teacher meetings towards the end of term 2.

## Green Group

### Reminders

Snack time is a wonderful time for the children to socialise and learn healthy eating habits, and they are also required to begin to manage their own belongs. As the weather cools and more clothing is required (coats/beanies) small backpacks make it quite hard for children to fit their snack and drink bottle in their bags with extra clothing easily.

It would be good to sit with your child and have them try to pack their own kinder bag at home, this way families will know if a bigger bag is required. Some other considerations are can your child open and close their lunch box themselves (there are some that even staff struggle with), or is a smaller lunch box (perhaps without cooler bag now we are past hot weather) going to help them have success.

Please ensure your child brings a coat/jacket to each session, as we will be playing outdoors. Gumboots may be brought if it is a rainy day, but are not safe footwear for general outdoor play. In gumboots children are unable to properly flex and point their feet and make them unsuitable for our playground. Also please remember to label all items brought to kinder.

### Can you help us?

If you have any plastic bags to donate for sending home wet clothes we would love to take them off your hands. Please bring them to kinder!

We will be starting some box construction soon and would love any empty small boxes for the program. No food boxes please due to allergies, but boxes roughly the size of RAT boxes or tissue boxes at the largest would be well received.

Do you have an autumn tree that is dropping colourful leaves? If so, please bring us a bag of dry leaves to use in the program.

Is your family celebrating something special? We know our group is made up of many different and interesting cultures, so if you would like to share your celebrations with us please let Vicki know. We love to learn from our families.

### Dates to remember:

- Tues 31 May – Librarian Visit
- Thurs 2 June – Drama Toolbox Incursion
- Tues 14 & Thurs, 16 June – Treasure Days
- Thurs 23 June – Dress-up day (theme TBA) and last day of term 2!
- Tues 12 July – First day of term 3
- Tues 26 July – Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Tues 2 August – Parent/Teacher Meetings

Vicki & Merryn





## Language Program



Nihao! The topic of the first few weeks of the program is 'Family'. We have learnt words about family members, made our own mini-book based on famous Chinese children story 'Little Tadpoles Looking For Mum' and even recorded a special song for our mums to celebrate Mother's Day.

We'll continue the topic of 'Family' and explore some new topics as follows:

- Fruit
- Action words and body
- Dragon Boat Festival
- Introduce name



### Take-home Language Bag:

We will introduce take-home Chinese culture and language bag very soon so that children can explore Chinese language and culture with their family at home. There are many interesting things in the bag for children and families to explore, including our group mascot ---- Qiaohu, sound book, recipes, tangrams, costumes, chopsticks and many other fun things. We hope families will enjoy our language bag.

### Can you help us?

We will talk about Dragon Boat Festival as it is approaching on 3rd June. We might have a try on making the traditional festival food ---- zong zi (粽子) sticky rice dumpling. If you know how to make it and would like to contribute 2 hours in the session to help us make zongzi, please let us know.

### Resources for learning at home

Check below the videos I made.

- Family - [https://youtu.be/53Bi3Y2d\\_DY](https://youtu.be/53Bi3Y2d_DY)
- Numbers - <https://youtu.be/uB6G6BJVzNYM>
- Greeting - <https://youtu.be/-fkCguDccTM>

Mia

[eclanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:eclanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au)



## Special news & events

### Viewbank Preschool Working Bee

#### Helpers wanted

Sunday morning, 19<sup>th</sup> June

We're organising a working bee to tidy the outdoor area and tackle the weeds!

As they say, more hands make light work, so we're seeking helper volunteers that can spare an hour on Sunday morning (10am - 12pm). Please bring along your gardening gloves and basic tools, if you have some.

Please contact Greg at [maintenance@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:maintenance@viewbankpreschool.com.au) if you're free and willing 😊

### Welcoming our new Educator, Mai

We're pleased to announce that we have confirmed an additional Educator for the vacant Thursday shifts at Viewbank Preschool.

Mai Nguyen will join us on Thursdays from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May as an additional Educator covering the Green and Blue Groups. Mai joins us with relevant qualifications and experience within Early Learning Centre's as well as Family Day Care. Welcome Mai!

### Fundraising results

We wanted to share our amazing fundraising results from our recent initiatives; Lapathon, Bunnings Sausage sizzle and Mother's Day Stall.

**We raised a total of \$3937!**

A huge shout out and thankyou to our parent volunteers and all who supported with donations.

A special mention and big thanks to:

- **Maya Tesa from Liberal Democrats** for your generous donation of \$500.00 to help buy snags and supplies for our Bunnings Sausage sizzle.
- **Oli Collective** (aka Sansa's mum from blue group) - for your beautiful gifts contributions to our Mothers Day Stall! Mums, spoil yourself and check out the sensational scented product range at [olicollective.com](http://olicollective.com)

### Raising Awareness of Foster Caring in the Community

Anglicare Victoria (not for profit) recruit and support members of the community to become foster carers.

Anglicare Victoria is Victoria's largest provider of out of home care for vulnerable children and young people who are unable to live safely in their own homes. Foster carers come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds.

If you're interested in learning more, visit [anglicarevic.org.au](http://anglicarevic.org.au) or contact Kate at

[Kate.Paterson@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:Kate.Paterson@anglicarevic.org.au)

## General news

Thanks to our wonderful fundraising team and generous kinder community we have purchased the following resources for the children:

- new dolls prams
- dancing ribbons
- magnetic blocks
- tactile bean bags
- construction hats
- butterfly wings
- wheelie garbage bins
- animal figurines
- bench seat for the foyer

### Paper donations

We are in desperate need of drawing paper. We aim to be as sustainable as possible and use recycled paper for everyday drawing, however we have run out completely.

If you have access to any A4 paper or know of anyone that does, please bring it in. (blank on one side is fine)

### Wood donations

The four year old groups have the opportunity to do some woodwork in term 3. We would appreciate donations of offcuts of soft wood.

### Jackets and Beanies

We continue to spend time outside even in the cooler months so please ensure your child has a jacket/vest for every session. If they like to wear a beanie, pack that too.

### 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](mailto:bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au)

Ann-Marie - [redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au)

Vicki - [greengroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au](mailto:green@viewbankpreschool.com.au)