

Newsletter TERM 4 - 2022



Inspiring learners for life.

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Welcome

To our wonderful kinder families,

Looking back over the past year in my role as President, I feel privileged to have been a part of the kinder's Committee. It's been a humbling experience to be involved in something that's so connected to the wellbeing of our children and I encourage all parents and families to take-part in the opportunities that so often come up at the kinder to help out.

The wealth of activities that are provided through the intentional learning program at Viewbank Kinder are second-to-none. I rarely recall a week passing by without hearing about yet another enriching learning experience from my own child. Like many other Red and Blue Group families, I know we will be taking away with us many treasured memories – which brings with it a bittersweet goodbye to our amazing and dedicated teachers, and an anticipated and excited hello to our children's prep teachers as they move into the next stage of their education. For Green Group families transitioning, it is safe to say there will be another action-packed year ahead for your children.

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting, which had an excellent turn-out, particularly of new families we will welcome to the kinder in 2023. It was great to be able to hold the AGM in-person this year, rather than online - symbolising a positive outlook for times ahead. You can read more about the AGM further along in our Special News and Events section.

Thank you to the teachers, families and Committee for allowing me to take the role of President this year. I am sure we will all continue to cherish the relationships we've made in our close-knit community well into the future.

I hope you enjoy this final newsletter for 2022 and wish you and your families health and happiness for the year ahead.

Warm regards,
Andrea Anderson – President

RED GROUP

Water Safety Program
16th Nov at 10.30am

End of year concert and Party
14th Dec

Last session of the year
14th Dec

BLUE GROUP

Water Safety Program
15th Nov at 10.30-11.30am

Blue Group Christmas Concert and
Party
13th Dec

Last session of the year
15th Dec

GREEN GROUP

NO SESSION for Green Group -
Staff Professional Development
15th Nov

Last day Celebration
15th Dec

Red Group



Welcome back to term 4 to our wonderful red group families. We are so glad to have our duty parents back in the program this term. We still have spots left for duty if you can spare some time.

Transition Reports

Thank you to all families for your contribution to the Transition reports. All families will receive a hard copy soon. Your school is now prepared to offer your child the best start possible.

Our program focus over this term...

Weekly Sports program has begun which runs from 12.45-1.30 on a Wednesday.

Signing in program - Our writing skills are really coming along through our daily sign in book.

Library Program - Wednesdays

Resilience Project Work - Our focus for this term is mindfulness which we have been exploring with the children.

Aaron Bear continues to do sleep overs at everyone's house.

What's coming up?

- 16th Nov - Water Safety Program 10.30am
- Wed, 14th Dec - End of year concert and Party day.
Last session of the year.

Red group end of year concert - 9.30-10am on Wednesday 14th, December.

Our last session for the year will be on Wednesday 14th of December. We will have a party to celebrate our year together in our last session. Can families please bring a small plate of party food. This can be dropped off at the start of the session and taken to the kitchen.

A party food list will be put out on our sign in book in the next few weeks.

Kinder clean-up - We are asking families to help with our end of year clean up by taking items home to be washed. You could also spend a short time cleaning something at the kinder during our sessions if you would prefer.



Red Group



Thank you to all families who have been so generous with your time this year to attend duty and do washing for us. We appreciate how important your time is away from the children.

Thank you for being respectful of the programs we run and supporting what we do. We had great attendance this year with our special events which was wonderful to see.

Thank you for letting us teach your precious children this year. Merryn, Mia and I are really going to miss spending time with them. We hope the children take away special memories of their time here. They are all so ready for the next phase of their education.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the program or your child. Ann-Marie's email - redgroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Thank you

Ann-Marie, Merryn, Mia and Anna



Blue Group



Welcome to the final term for the year!

The children have grown and developed so much throughout the year, we are looking forward to consolidating and extending the many skills they have learnt.

Group projects and games have been enjoyed so far this term. We turned a large cardboard box into a bus/fire engine. The children shared their ideas on what colour to paint it, how many wheels to add and how many people can fit in it.

Teams for soccer and basketball have been established-requiring lots of discussion and negotiation. Fireman and police play have been popular with lots of 'rescuing' going on.

We were lucky enough to find a treasure map hidden in the yard. We followed the map through all the obstacles until we found X marks the spot. We all dug together and found a large treasure chest with gold coins inside! It was very exciting.

The children are doing a great job of signing their name on arrival. Great practice and it's wonderful to see their progress.

We had a super fun sports session with Aaron last week. The children will have lots of opportunities to practice many gross motor skills over the next few weeks and it's also a great opportunity for them to learn from a different teacher.

We are focusing on MINDFULNESS this term through the Resilience Project. We went on a MINDFUL walk to Price Park which was a great hit. The children completed a scavenger hunt and had a chance to play on the playground before we returned to kinder.

Transition Learning and Development Statements

TLDS for your child have been completed and submitted to your child's school. You will receive your copy in the next week. Most schools have made contact and we have shared information to ensure your child has a positive and smooth transition. You may find it helpful to read through the notes handed out this week on 'helping your child prepare for school'. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

End of year Celebrations

We will have an end of year concert and party on Tuesday 13th December. We welcome families to attend our concert from 9.30-10.00am. After the concert the children will enjoy some party food, dancing, and games.

We ask each family to contribute a plate of party food on this day, details to follow in the next few weeks. Our last session for the year will be on Thursday 15th December.

Blue Group



Parent Helpers

Please come and join us for a session as our parent helper, especially if you have not already done so. We love having an extra pair of hands and the children are very excited when a family member is 'on duty'. Most importantly, it gives you an opportunity to see your child interact with others and observe them participating in the kindergarten program. All family members are welcome, please see us with any questions.

End of year clean up

If you can help us in our end of year clean up it would be most appreciated. We ask families to either come and help at kinder or take some equipment/toys home to clean.

Don't forget....

The children need a HAT and SUNSCREEN applied before **every** session.

What's coming up?

- Tues 15th Nov- Water Safety Program-10.30-11.30am
- Tues 13th Dec - Blue Group Christmas Concert and Party (save the date!)
- Thurs 15th Dec- Last session of the year

Barb, Anna, Mia and Mai

bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Green Group

In a blink of an eye we are already half way through term 4 and nearing the end of our year of 3-year old kinder. We have seen tremendous growth in the children and are enjoying seeing new friendships form.

So far this term the group has been looking at construction and building. This interest began towards the end of term 3, with the children showing more skill in their small block building, developing more complex structures and working as a group. We challenged the children to think about everything they knew about building, brainstorming our ideas to see where this learning journey would take us. Many children knew about bricks and concrete being used to build houses, so our next step was to have a go at making our own "sand concrete" to stick wooden blocks together. Following this the group talked about different types of houses. Houses for animals as well as houses for holidaying and the different types of homes the families in our group live in. More recently we have noticed the children beginning to enclose their building structures, and after talking about walls and roofs we learned that the walls need to be joined to support the roof. This project based learning inquiry will continue for the remainder of the term, as the children's interest grows and changes. We love to see where their interest will take our learning.

Green group invited their grandparents to kinder in October for a special session of fun. It was wonderful seeing the two generations sharing their knowledge and enjoying each other's company. Thank you to all the grandparents (and a few parents) for coming in to spend this time with us, the children were so excited to have you there.

Recently we have begun to explore farm life, and we had farm animals visit on our incursion on Thursday 10th November. So far, we have discussed the different animals you find on a farm, enjoyed playing with a farm life play area, and read the story 'The Pig in the Pond'. While reading this story the children began to notice all the different things happening in the illustrations, which sparked wonderful conversation. It was great proof that children don't need to be able to read the words to read a story.

Coming up in the program we will look at insect life cycles, as our silk worms grow bigger and begin spinning their cocoons. We will talk about Christmas, prepare our end of year video, and invite our families in for an end of term celebration.



Green Group

Please remember that there will be NO KINDER SESSION for Green Group on Thursday 15th Nov, as staff undertake professional development.

We hope all our families enjoy the remainder of the kinder year, and as always please come and join us in session for kinder duty to see all the learning we are doing and fun we are having!

Dates for the diary:

- Tues 15th Nov - NO SESSION for Green Group - Staff Professional Development
- Thurs 15th Dec - Celebration for Green Group families 11:30am-12:30pm & Last Session for Term 4

Vicki and Merryn



Language Program



Ni hao! We've talked a lot about Chinese food recently. Children have shared their experience of dining in Chinese restaurants and trying new food. We had our special language session when we were very lucky to have some Chinese families come and teach us how to make dumplings. The room was set up as a Chinese restaurant with dumplings, spring rolls and dragon fruit jelly being served.

We'll start to explore the stories of Chinese characters as children are more confident of learning this new language. Calligraphy, a traditional artistic way of writing, will be explored too in the following weeks.

Resources for learning at home

Check out videos I made below:

- Little Mouse Climbing the Lamp <https://youtu.be/KGxiKQBdXU>
- Hello China Dumplings <https://youtu.be/HYa7uxqV1t0>

Mia

eclanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Special news and events

Viewbank Preschool Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wrap up

Our AGM was held on site the evening of Tuesday 25th October. We were thrilled to be able to hold the event in person this year and it provided us with valuable opportunities to meet and interact the families who will be joining us in 2023.

Our President Andrea Anderson chaired the meeting, kicking off the evening with an all-encompassing reflection of this year's highlights and achievements, covering the intentional learning activities, fundraising and grants.

We then heard from each of our teachers who recapped on the purpose of each of their respective groups/programs and what they've perceived as the best parts of the year.

The welcoming in of the new Committee was the final focus of the evening and we were fortunate to have a number of parents offer up their time to be involved in the running of the kinder next year by expressing their interest in various roles.

The existing Committee of Management members provided an overview of their experience of the roles each of them has held and what they've gotten out of it. There was a strong consensus that the 2022 Committee has found the experience personally rewarding and encouraged parents to get involved.

Thank you, 2022 Management Committee!

On behalf of the staff and kindergarten community, we would like to thank our 2022 Committee of Management. Our wonderful kinder can only operate because of the tireless work of these incredible volunteers. As parents with young families and secular work obligations, they have volunteered their precious time, energy and skills to ensure the smooth running of our kinder throughout this year. Often their 'behind the scenes' work takes many hours. We would like to acknowledge your generosity and thank you all for your hard work individually by name:

President	Andrea Anderson
Vice President	Andrew Isaac
Treasurer	Tham Turner
Secretary	Jessica Alexander
Enrolment Officer	Jacqui Grant
Fundraising Convenor/s	Melanie Taylor Laura Kroussoratis Sonali Mekde
Maintenance Convenor	Greg Hibbert
Workplace Health and Safety Officer	Andrew Yu
Communications Officer	Maria Kermanidis

We look forward to welcoming and working along with our 2023 Committee of Management.

General news

End of year clean up

If you can help us in our end of year clean-up it would be most appreciated. We ask families to either come and help at kinder or take some equipment/toys home to clean.

Hats and sunscreen

A reminder that the children need a HAT and SUNSCREEN applied before **every session**

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

Thank you and farewell Mia

On behalf of the Committee, parents and students at Viewbank Preschool, we would like to thank Mia for all she has done to contribute to our kinder. Mia joined our preschool in 2019 and has been instrumental in delivering a Chinese language program that we are so proud of. Mia has always been engaging, helpful and a key member of our teaching staff.

With the skills Mia has developed at Viewbank Preschool, Mia will move into a teaching role in 2023, outside of our Kinder. We wish Mia all the best for the future and extend our gratitude for all of your hard work.

With the assistance of Mia and her network, we are currently in the process of recruiting a new language teacher for 2023.



Banyule Children's Gift Appeal

1 November to 16 December 2022

For over 20 years, the Banyule community has provided new gifts, toys and gift cards to local children and families experiencing financial hardship through the Banyule Children's Gift Appeal. In 2021, 459 local children received gifts, thanks to community donations.

Disadvantage and financial hardship affect many families in our community and can be caused by a significant change in circumstances. Christmas and the summer holiday periods can be stressful for families who cannot adequately provide for their children.

Donation Bins

New gifts can be dropped into donation bins located at:

- Diamond Valley Community Support, Shop 378a, Level 3, Greensborough Plaza
- WaterMarc Entrance, Ground Floor, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough
- Ivanhoe Learning and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe
- Rosanna Library, 72 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna
- Watsonia Library, 4/6 Ibbottson Street, Watsonia



Donate

All money donated to the Banyule Children's Gift Appeal will be used to purchase toys and gifts for children under 12 years and \$30 Gift Cards for children aged 12 to 16 years. Tax deductible donations can be made through Diamond Valley Community Support:

- Online: <https://gofund.me/76015cae>
- Phone: 03 9435 828



3081 Angels Books

Every year the 3081 Angels provide a new book for every child under 12 years who is referred to the Gift Appeal. If you are interested in supporting this initiative email: 3081angels@bchs.org.au with the subject heading Banyule Children's Gift Appeal Book Project

Get Involved

Volunteer: Volunteers support the gift appeal by packing and delivering gift parcels and collecting donations. If you would like to volunteer email volunteers@dvsupport.org.au or phone 9435 8282

Community Group donations drive: Every year community groups and local businesses run donation drives for the Gift Appeal. Register your group as a participant by emailing libby.mein@banyule.vic.gov.au or phone 9457 9961.

Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/GiftAppeal to learn more.

The Banyule Children's Gift Appeal is delivered in partnership with:





WARATAH

Special Developmental School



FESTIVAL

Celebrating International Day of People with Disabilities

Open to the General Public

Friday 2nd December, 3.30pm - 5.00pm

228 Banksia St, Bellfield, VIC 3081

Ph: 03 9474 8700

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