

Newsletter TERM 4 – 2023



**Viewbank
Preschool**

Inspiring learners for life.

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Welcome

Dear Kinder Community,

Welcome to the Term 4 newsletter. It's hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us and we are starting to prepare for 2024. I hope you have all enjoyed the year as much as I have.

We've had a lot going on recently with our Family Day event a resounding success. It was a wonderful day with the kids taking the time to play at kinder on the weekend and enjoy some music, giant bubbles and of course a sausage or two. Thank you to all who turned out for the event, I hope this will be repeated next year as well.

There is lots still to come this year with the end of year functions for each group being the highlight. We can't wait to welcome our families into Kinder to see what your children have been preparing for the celebration.

Before we head into the new year, I wanted to mention that our parents survey has just gone out to families. We value your feedback and this helps us to improve our service, so please take a moment to complete this survey. We are also asking 2024 families to consider making a voluntary donation to help with the running of the kinder. With the State Government introducing 'free kinder', places are funded for the program but there is often a significant shortfall which can impact on planned events throughout the year. If you are able, we encourage you to consider making a donation.

RED GROUP

Last day of year.
End of year concert at
9.30-10am.
15th December

BLUE GROUP

Christmas Concert
At 9.30-10am Party to
follow-children only.
Tues, 12th Dec

Last day of the year
Mon, 18th December

GREEN GROUP

Dress-up Day
Thues, 16th Nov

No Kinder - staff
professional development
21st November

Last day of the year.
Children's party & family
celebration
Thurs, 14th Dec

As we approach the final phase of 2023, it was a real pleasure to join Blue group for their excursion to Viewbank Primary School. This was a fantastic opportunity for our 4 year old students to experience a big school in a relaxed and engaging format. A big thank you to the teachers for arranging and to Miss Grant for facilitating. It was great to see how eager the kids were to experience Primary School.

Before I wrap up, I'd like to extend my gratitude to my fellow committee members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Your contributions have been invaluable to our Kinder's success. We are approaching handover to our new committee of management for 2024 and we are still on the lookout for a Secretary to join the committee in 2024. This is a critical position for our Kinder and one that is fulfilling and fun. If you are interested in taking on this role, please email enquiry@viewbankpreschool.com.au or contact myself.

Thank you to all of our staff at Viewbank Preschool. I've been fortunate to get to know our wonderful staff and my appreciation for what they do has grown exponentially. We really are lucky to have such a wonderful team.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Vice President and President of the Kinder. Both of my children have had the most amazing experiences here and the memories we've created through Kinder will last a lifetime. I'll be sad to say goodbye at the end of the year, but I can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things that will be happening in 2024.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Regards,

Andrew Isaac
President



Red Group

Welcome back to term 4 to our wonderful red group families.

We are so glad to have our duty parents come in and help support the program.

We still have spots left for duty if you can spare some time before the year ends. If you can only come for a short time and not a half session you are more than welcome to put your name down.

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 9.30-10.45 on a Wednesday.

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

Library Program - Wednesdays

Yerram continues to do sleep overs at everyone's house.

W 3 - Walking excursion to Viewbank Primary

W 5 - Water Safety Program

W 11 - Concert and party day, Friday 15th December.

Intentional teaching topics we will cover

- Insects
- Spring and the change to Summer - Temperature, weather, observing our outdoor environment. Art activities to reflect what we are observing.
- Gardening - planting vegetables, nurturing our new indigenous plants, cutting foliage for our lunch time tables.
- Animals that come from eggs
- Community Workers
- Farm animals
- Literacy and numeracy focus
- School Awareness
- Christmas - gift making
- Concert preparation
- Looking at how much we have grown



Red Group

Our last session for the year will be on **Wednesday 15th of December**.

Red group end of year concert

When – Friday, 15th of December

Time – 9.30-10am

Who – All family members welcome

End of year party – The children will celebrate with some party food during our last session together. 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.

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, Dawei, Anna and I are really going to miss spending time with them. They are a fabulous group! 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, Dawei and Anna

Blue Group

Welcome to the final term for 2023.

Blue Group enjoyed a fun last day of Term 3, we dressed up in our footy gear and other favourite dress up. We ate some cocktail frankfurts and made fairy bread as a treat. Everyone had a go at kicking a goal and we finished the day with some dancing.

What's happening this term?

Signing In-The children will continue to sign themselves in at the beginning of each session. We have noticed a substantial increase in confidence since we began this last term, which is great to see.

Library Program-We will continue the take home library program on Thursdays until the end of November. Last Thursday for borrowing will be Thursday 23rd and all books will need to be returned to kinder by Thursday 30th November.

Sports Program-Sports4 Kinders will run a weekly sports program with Blue Group on Thursday's (some sessions have been changed to Monday's due to clashes with other events)

Other Intentional Teaching Focus Areas

We will continue taking turns for Yarram to visit our homes until everyone has had a turn.

Our vegetables are growing beautifully. We hope to be harvesting snow peas, sugar snap peas, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower before the end of the year. Last week the children bought home their own veggie seed to nurture. We will continue to talk about being a kind friend and refer to our bucket filling concepts. Through recent conversations about helping and respecting others we have established 'daily monitors. Each session we will have a bell monitor, worm farm monitor, table monitors, floor monitors and a chalk monitor and duster monitor. Ask your child what these jobs involve.

Literacy is a big focus this term. Lots of opportunities for writing reading, book making, dramatization of stories will be on offer. We will explore language through poems, songs and rhymes.

Workers in the Community - we will look at the roles of various community workers. This will include a visit from Nicks Dad Andrew to talk to us about his role as a lifeguard and a visit from Bec from Eltham Leisure Centre to talk to us about water safety.



Blue Group



We hope to see some silkworm caterpillars hatch and grow and eventually form a chrysalis with the children's responsibility to help clean their house and feed them every few days.

In the last week of October, we walked to Viewbank Primary School for a look around, a visit to the foundation classrooms and a play on the playground.

Christmas fun - Christmas card and gift making. Christmas concert preparation. We invite our mums, dads, grandmas and grandpas to come to our concert on the 12th December.

After the concert we will have a celebration of a wonderful year together in Blue Group (children only)

Transition Reports - To support your child's transition to school a Transition report is written by the Kindergarten teacher in conjunction with you (the family). This report supports foundation teachers to learn about your child's skills, abilities and interests. These reports will be completed over the next few weeks then added to the family section you have filled in. In mid-November I will send a copy to your child's primary school and give you a hard copy.

Dates to Remember

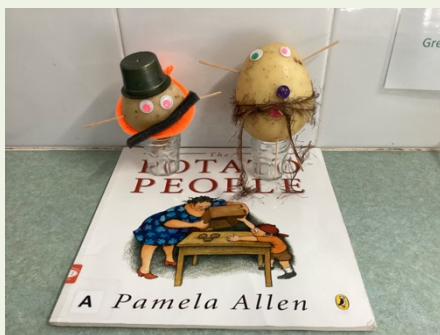
- **Blue Group Christmas Concert** - Tuesday 12th December at 9.30-10am (party to follow-children only)
 - **Last day of Term 4** - Monday 18th December.
- ❖ Please remember to bring a hat for every session. Sunscreen also needs to be applied prior to kinder.



Please feel free to contact us with any queries - bluegroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au

Barb, Anna, Dawei and Peggy

Green Group



kinder for the first time. Looking back at their photos from term one we can see just how far they have come, not only in terms of their physical growth, but also their emotional and learning capacity after nearly a year of kindergarten under their belts. During group times we are having some wonderful discussions, with children asking questions of each other as well of the educators. Their thirst for knowledge has certainly developed, as has their enthusiasm for peer social play.

In the program this term we have begun by looking at the season of spring, talking about the weather and changes to our natural environment. Discussion was sparked after reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, about just how caterpillars change into butterflies. We investigated the life-cycle of a butterfly by looking in non-fiction books and watching a time lapse video of a real caterpillar going through the metamorphosis. This has been an engaging topic for many of the children, they have been requesting materials to make their own butterflies, offering ideas for dress-ups, acting out the life-cycle, and drawing/painting them during free play. We have also introduced our silk worm experience to the group which will build on the knowledge they now have. With our own silk worms in the room, the children will be able to watch as they too go through their own metamorphosis.

An interest in numbers has developed with a group of children, and we have followed this using puppets and counting cards. The children have been ordering, recognising, matching and counting object around the kindergarten. Some are also showing interest in identifying and writing their name, and so our name cards and craft tags have been high on rotation. This interest in numbers and letters comes for children at different times, and so we are mindful to follow and extend when the interest presents itself. All children will begin this journey in their own time, when they are ready.

During term 4 we plan to talk about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles, harvest and eat/cook our vegetables, invite parents to share their special skills with us, develop our community sharing circle skills, and celebrate Christmas and a wonderful year of 3 year old kindergarten.

Green Group

Important Reminders

- Please bring a sun smart hat (please no baseball style hats) to **every session**.
- For information about what has been happening each week check the Sessions Reflections on our website. Please see Vicki if you are having trouble accessing this. There have been lots of gorgeous photos of the children we don't want you to miss seeing!
- **Kinder Snacks** - we are now able to expand the foods that the children bring to kinder, but still ask families to be mindful of sending dairy foods. A fruit and or vegetable snack is what they need, however if you are finding that your child is requiring more food at kinder (as they are bringing home an empty lunchbox) you might like to add a small sandwich. Please **remember not to include chocolates or lollies** as these treats are not required at kindergarten.

Dates for the diary

We have some exciting dates coming up in the green group calendar:

- **Thursday 16th November** – Dress-up Day, the children will take the lead here so look out for more info regarding a theme or events for this celebration.
- **Tuesday 21st November** – No Kinder session – staff will be completing professional learning.
- **Thursday 14th December** – Last kinder session, children's party and family celebration! More info to come

Vicki, Merryn & Peggy

greengroup@viewbankpreschool.com.au





Language Program

Nihao,

In Term 4, children became more confident in their group learning and individual activities.

We focused on Spring /Spring insects and animals to start with, then we will move on to Community helpers. Towards the end of Term 4 our focus will be the preparations of our end of Year concert.

Words that we learned so far:

Chun Tian (Spring) Mi feng (Bee) Hu tie (Butterfly) Yang (Sheep) Niu (Cow) Ma (Horse) Chong (Worm)

Activities that we really enjoyed:

- Bumble bee hand printing
- Butterfly droppers painting
- Playdough on Chinese character place mats

Songs that we enjoyed:

- [Chun tian zai na li?](#) (Where is Spring?)
- [Ting wo shuo xie xie ni](#) (Thank you)
- [Wa ya wa ya wa](#) (Digging in the garden)
- [Ni hao ge](#) (Hello song)
- [Yan se ge](#) (Colour song)

Chinese culture learning in Term 4

Chinese Mao Bi and calligraphy was introduced, and this experience was set up for children to explore in their own play time.

The wholistic learning program was carried out via sight, hearing, touch/feel, smell, and taste throughout the 4 Terms. I look forward to hearing your valuable feedback about your child(ren)'s Mandarin learning experience at Kinder

Dawei

elanguages@viewbankpreschool.com.au

General News

We value your feedback

Have you taken a moment to complete our 2023 Parent Survey?

We value your feedback and this helps us to improve our service, so please take a moment to complete this survey.

[Survey link](#)

Voluntary donations

We'd like to thank all our families who have made their voluntary donations to our kindergarten this year. These donations help our not-for-profit kinder pay for maintenance of our grounds and equipment, administration costs and incursions and excursions. Many of these expenses are not covered by our government funding. If you haven't yet donated please click on link below:

[Click here to make a voluntary donation](#)

2023 Grants

Grants activities completed in 2023:

Over the last summer holidays an extensive upgrade of our outdoor yard and play space was completed to improve accessibility, reduce risk and provide a new flat grass space for group activities focusing on gross motor skill development. Staff and families have commented on the benefits of these improvements which has really added to the amenity of our yard.

We completed an upgrade to our windows in our children's bathroom area to improve ventilation and airflow with a bank of new opening windows.

A successful IT equipment grant was used to purchase a new laptop for use by our Early Childhood Language Teacher and a new ipad for use by the children for educational applications and in particular for taking photographs.

We have recently completed a purchase of native trees and shrubs using grant funds provided and children enjoyed participating in planting the new plants.



OUR
Vision for a Child Safe Environment

We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. We are committed to providing a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds as well as children with a disability are respected and valued.

