EPPING VIEWS KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Term 2 May 2014

News at Epping Views Kindergarten

At Epping Views Kindergarten we have been working really hard at getting consistency in all of our groups. Teaching staff last week stayed behind for some planning together. We planned what we are going to teach about the Emergency Services. We looked deeply into Outcome 5 – Communication. Staff discussed the importance of communication both verbal and non verbal. We discussed what our 4 main foci will be for this outcome in terms of literacy for Term 2 keeping in mind what the children were exposed to in term 1 and where we want to be by the end of the term. The teachers have been exposing the children to learning their own names and how to spell them. They are also trying to teach correct pencil grip and good scissor control. For our 3 year old groups our aim is to get them to recognise their name and some numbers, name basic colours and shapes.

All groups have created their own sign in boards that the children do at the start of each session before they enter the room. They need to find their photo and name and velcro on the board to say they are at kinder. The children enjoy this as they see their parents signing them in on the roll and they have a part in that too.

Reminders

Lost Property— please remember to check the lost property box as we have plenty of items without names that must belong to someone. The box is located in the kinder foyer.  

Sessions— please be on time when collecting your child as often we have another session starting soon after and this makes it very difficult to prepare and start the next session with children still in the room from the previous session. We have had to issue a few late collection fees.  

Hang Files— your child has their own hang file within their classroom. Teachers use these to put any notes, letters, art work in. You need to check these daily and remember to empty it out regularly  

Art Collection Box— please empty your child’s file and take home any work that your child may have completed.

Diary Dates

• 14th May—Lalor Library Visits  
• 21st May—Lalor Library Visits  
• 4th June—Curriculum Day—no 3 year old kinder  
• 9th June—Queens Birthday—no kinder  
• 11th June—Colour Dress Up Day—3 year old kinder groups  
• TBA—Emergency Services Visits  
• 27th June—Last day of Term 2
Echidna News

We were very happy to see the Echidna children return from the term break refreshed, excited and ready to go. They jumped straight back into the swing of things and picked straight back up from where they left off at the end of Term 1.

It was great to see so many homework sheets returned and we thank you again for your participation in the program. The children enjoyed sharing their holiday stories and hearing those of their friends also. We encourage the children to get up and speak to the entire group, using big voices and speaking confidently. This is a great skill to have and will ready them for future school experiences. In keeping with the importance of this skill, the children will soon be given the opportunity to take our class mascot home. Eddie Echidna will join your family for fun and adventures before he is returned to kinder where your child is then able to inform us of all the fun they had together.

Term 2 will see us focusing on long term goals that encompass the children’s abilities to interact appropriately with one another, contribute to small and large group play experiences and to be open to new challenges. More specifically, we are currently encouraging the children to cooperate and work collaboratively with one another, negotiating roles and relationships in play episodes.

We have explored transport extensively recently and this topic has led to a growing interest in emergency services. In the upcoming weeks we will be learning what exactly an emergency is, what to do in an emergency, how to dial 000 and exactly what emergency services (such as police, firemen and doctors) do to assist us.

We look forward to a fun and productive term and, as always if you have any queries or concerns please don’t hesitate to approach us or organise a time to meet.

Thanks - Melissa and Melinda

Joey News

This term in the Joey group there is a strong focus on alphabet and being able to recognise their names. We will be providing experiences with letters of the alphabet, allowing the children to paste the letters of the name enabling them to place the alphabet letters in order.

Transport has been a big interest among our children so we implemented it into our program. Over the two weeks holidays many of our children returned their holiday homework sheet, which most of them used many different types of transport.

We have been showing the children flashcards with the words of different transport, we then place them at the writing table to intentionally encourage the children to become familiar with the words and begin to copy the letters on the flash cards.

We also had pictures of different transport and on three large sheets were the words Land, Air and Sea. The children had to place the cards onto the correct sheet according to where they would find that mode of transport.

Thanks for a great start to Term 2.

Amanda and Laura
**Koala News**

Can you believe it's almost half way through term 2 and haven't we been busy. Thanks to all the families that came in for diversity week to talk about their culture, the children really enjoyed this. We explored our world through pictures, videos, books, song and dance as well as crafts. The children were very proud to show us their cultural homework and frequently look at this throughout the sessions. We spoke about different countries but also spoke about Australia and its heritage. Our favourite part was learning a new song 'Highway Number One' that takes us around the different states of Australia visiting the major cities.

We have also been busy looking at Transport, the different vehicles we may see in the community as well as other different transport around the world. We touched on our graphing skills looking at what colour cars each of our friends drive to kinder and also sorted different transportation in air, land and sea. We have used our Interactive TV to help us extend on our sorting skills as well as some fun games that assist us in letter recognition and our writing ability.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to expand on our alphabet and number recognition as well as touch on colours and shapes through craft and science activities. We will also be exploring our emergency services and their roles in the community. This includes fire, police and ambulance. How they help us, what we do in an emergency at kinder as well as at home or out and about in the community. We will be touching base with children about when we call 000 and what determines an emergency.

Thank you to our parent helpers who have been coming to kinder and experiencing our kinder days with us. If you are interested but have not yet signed up please speak to Casey or Melyssa.

Thank You
Casey and Melyssa

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**Cockatoo and Rosella News**

Our busy little three year olds have been busy learning the alphabet, letter recognition and also beginning to recognise their name. We took a look into in our cultural heritages through books and also a dress up day at kinder. Thank you the many families that donated resources to our kinder.

We have been using group time to participate in discussions about the books we have read as well as different transports in our community. These group times are a good start in preparing children for 4 year old kinder and also primary school life. We continue to extend on these group times each week to ensure we are well prepared for the coming years.

There has been plenty of sensory activities with water play, clay, play doh and also coloured rice. Not only are these fun we are also building on other skills such as our language. Teachers ask children to describe the textures, the smells, the sizes etc. They also are introducing children to new words and helping them to be involved in small group activities forming friendships.

Over the coming weeks we will be taking a look into shape and colours as well as continuing on with numbers and alphabet. This will be done through group discussions, books and songs, craft activities, science experiments and use of the interactive TV.

Thank you
Casey, Melinda and Melyssa.
So far this term we have been focusing on transport vehicles, as this has been a big interest of the group. The children participated in many conversations and activities on the topic such as; identifying and naming transport modes, sharing their experiences of what types of transport they have travelled on, graphing the colour of their car and other modes of transport they observed past kinder. In particularly the children showed interest in the emergency vehicles so our next focus is emergency vehicles and people in our community, such as police, fire and ambulance officers. The children will be learning about what constitutes an emergency and the role of these services.

This term we have also introduced our weather chart. This is a discussion that takes place everyday where the children are involved in identifying the weather for the day. The children are being exposed to the dates, days of the week and months of the year.

We are also continuing on from our focus of name recognition, now to the children being able to identify the first letter of their name and being able to write this. Some of the children are even attempting to write their own names and names of others. We have set up a permanent writing table in our room that includes various writing materials for the children to practice their writing skills. The children are exposed to common words that we have learnt so far as well as name cards and alphabet cards.

Group games have been popular such as; “Doggy doggy who’s got your bone?” and “Who’s got the beanbag?”, which reinforces listening skills, promote socialisation and working together as a group.

Please ensure you are reading our Wombat Reflection Book to keep up to date with our program and the children’s learning and progress.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all of our parent helpers who have come along to kinder to assist so far.

Thank you

Catherine and Donna

**Magpie and Kookaburra**

The Kookaburra and Magpie children are progressing week after week. At the end of last term we were focusing on the children showing interest in being part of a group, so this term we have been introducing larger group experiences where the children participate in songs, books and discussions.

There has been a lot of interest in both groups of transport. We have provided play experiences for the children to support their interest and have had discussions about types of transport and how these transport modes travel – by air, land, water. We have been using our interactive TV to plan learning activities such as matching games of the different sounds of transport. Over the next few weeks we will be asking the children how they travel to kinder and the children will learn the concept of categorising where we will make a graph displaying this information.

We have also introduced our “Who is here today” board. Our board will be placed on the outside of the room and before the children come in for the session they can place their name card on the board. This tells us that they are at kinder for the day and are ready to play. The purpose of this board is for the children to feel a sense of identity and belonging in our environment and gives them a sense of responsibility as they put their name up on the board in line with the signing in and out process you do. We are hoping that as the children are finding their picture for the board they are also looking for and recognising their name, which is going to be a focus for the remainder of the year.

This term we will also be focusing on basic shapes, colours, numbers and alphabet. We have many learning activities planned so please ensure you look out for our reflection book on the sign in bench to keep updated with what your children have been learning.

Thank you

Catherine, Donna and Laura
**Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee have had two very successful fundraisers so far this year. Our first fundraiser for Epping Views Kindergarten was the slice, biscuit and lolly drive. We raised almost $650 in profit. With such a short timeline this was a fantastic effort.

We have just completed our most recent fundraiser being our Mother’s Day Raffle. We received many generous donations from our kinder families which we were extremely thankful for. We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations which made this such a success.

The winners of the raffle prizes were:

* Tony Smeriglio  
* Mihir Patel  
* Sara  
* Jananya Hollins  
* Khalida  
* R La Pierre  
* Goldy  
* Emma Andreatta  
* Nathan Nelson  
* Parmuir S  
* Jack Chirico  
* Debbie Clement  
* Aaron Panos  
* Anushka Wijayakoon  
* Robert D  
* Cruz P  
* Saathrik Thennasasen  
* Tania Atanasovski  
* Mahdi El Hage Hassan  
* Dragan Naumovski  
* S Poandor

If you haven’t already collected your prize please see your child’s teacher.

**We would love more people to join our fundraising team. If you are interested please let your child’s teacher know or speak to Trudy the Kinder Manager.**

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**Parent Complaints and Concerns**

It is extremely important if you have any concerns that you wish to raise with the Kinder Manager, Trudy Whewell or the Principal, Pauline Kubat that you include your name and contact details so that we can speak with you to address your concerns. Sending anonymous letters does not allow us to follow up information and to provide you with necessary facts etc. Please remember that if you have concerns we ask you where possible to speak with your child’s teacher and if the concern is unable to be resolved then please contact Trudy or Pauline.
All of the children loved having their mothers or grandmothers come and visit them at kinder for morning or afternoon tea. The 4 year old groups made some delicious scones that everyone raved about! It was great to see the children showing their mums or grandmothers around the kinder. The children made beautiful macaroni necklaces for them to wear and take home. This event was also great for the teachers too as they were able to walk around and use the opportunity to talk to the mums about their child and find out a little bit more about them. At the end all of the children presented their mums with a little handmade gift they had made for them.