Kinder Newsletter –
Term Three

Kinder 3 and Kinder 4

Kinder 3

Term Three in the Kinder 3 group commenced smoothly, with all children demonstrating stronger and more secure relationships with educators and peers. This has certainly made a difference to the children’s strong sense of agency and autonomy in the program, as they are able to make more confident and independent decisions about their learning and play. This time of the year is very exciting to see as the children embrace new learning and information with enthusiasm and stronger curiosity. Our group times now are full of rich conversation and discussion, especially when we read books and have question time afterwards. This is such a valuable time for the children to explore new ideas and possibilities, and the various possible scenarios and perspectives. We do this by provoking the children with open ended questioning where they have their input about Why, What, How and When etc…. These types of questions enable the children to provide a more detailed response and stimulates their thinking and language skills, and assists them in making meaning about the experience.

*Emmerson deeply involved in her Lego building is an example of “state of flow”. (16.8.19)*

This term we have followed up with our concept of Community, and how this is reflected in our Program and our Practice. The concept of Community encompasses so many aspects, from our own Kinder 3 Community to embracing visitors from external settings. This has been evident in our visits to the Community Garden, the Oval, Geelong High students Visit, Dress up Day and of course, Bradleys input into our program for Science Week. Educator Cat also contributed to our understanding of Community when she brought her woollen Stenier Doll into show the children, and we watched some footage of a sheep being shorn. What a great way to show different people in our Community.

“State of Flow”

“The mental state of play is what some researchers call “flow”. Attention is attuned to the activity itself, and there is reduced consciousness of self and time. The mind is wrapped up in the ideas, rules, actions of the game and relatively impervious to outside distractions” (Peter Gray)
Physical skills and moment is another area that we have worked on this term, ensuring that children explore opportunities for fundamental movement skills each day. The children have shown great pride and motivation to share what they can do, and insisting we watch them attempt more challenging physical experiences.

The concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) have also been an integral part of our Kinder 3 program, ensuring children are exploring a variety of resources to challenge their thinking and exploration skills. This has been evident this term in the manipulative play equipment such as lego, magnet tiles and zoobs. Experiments and opportunities for trial and error have also been provided in our program as children explore the process of experiences, and not just the product. Other ways in which this has been presented in our program is using instruments to explore sound, floating and sinking, numeracy in board games and using the natural elements in play. Art and Literacy also encompass STEM and play an integral part in inquiry based learning in the program. This has been evident in our after story discussions, shadow screen, puppets, collage and exploring with various paint and drawing mediums.
Children do STEM EVERYDAY!!! (Dr Pauline Roberts)

- There is still a perception that to do science, there needs to be big experiments and lots of equipment
- Being open to children’s questions allows for STEM concepts to be developed in everyday interactions
- Making the links explicit to the children also lets them understand the ‘work’ they are doing
- Child is constructor of their own knowledge (Constructivist approach)
- Follows children’s interests and foster deep learning
- Engages children in ‘active’ learning, and they engage with a question/problem over time

Kinder 4

“Children teach others and broaden their learning about the world through connecting with people, places and technologies and natural materials. They manipulate objects to investigate, assemble, invent and construct, and they use their own and others feedback to revise and build on an idea.” (V.E.Y.L.F pg. 21)

This term the Kinder 4 children have regularly displayed complex interactions between each other and the resources. An example of this was when the children utilised the floor puzzle to become the foundations for a large and complex building. They worked together to fully enclose the completed puzzle, incorporating outside walls and interconnecting buildings to create an elaborate structure. Another example of the children exploring play in more complex ways was when they embraced the Lion King Ooshie Game. What epic battles they had, but it was great to hear the children telling each other “it’s not about winning, it’s about having fun”. A strong interest in Numeracy concepts have also been highly evident this term, through board games, watch making at the craft table and even writing down simple equations.

“It is important to remember that children’s learning is ongoing and each child will progress towards outcomes in different and equally meaningful ways. Learning is not always predictable and linear”
The Kinder 4’s ongoing interest in shadows and light was extended by adding a screen with a light behind it. This has been a great way for the children to learn about shadows, and that the distance you stand affects the size of the shadow. To extend this interest, the children used puppets to explore their oral storytelling skills and using ‘scripts’ (made up stories) to express ideas. What a fun way to explore literacy!

August brought on many learning opportunities, incorporating Science and Book Week. The children were introduced to a wide range of science concepts, including chemical reactions, force and convection currents with a visit from Professor Bradley sharing some of his ideas with the children. The wet month of August also brought on its own learning opportunities as children experience pure joy jumping in muddy puddles, learning about force, precipitation and condensation. Children also explored the outdoors through potion making, and making periscopes in the sandpit. (All beautiful examples of STEM occurring in everyday play, where freedom and creativity can be explored.)

The visits to Freedom Aged Care have continued this term also where the children have been able to experience life from a different perspective. Intergenerational interactions give the children the opportunity to connect with the older generation, improve children’s behaviour and attitude towards older people and enhance the overall wellbeing of both young and old participants. By participating in these types of interactions when we visit we are extending the children’s experiences of
relationship’s and participation in communities. We are sure the benefit to the older generation are just as meaningful as they are to the children.

Lastly, the children have also experienced the benefits of a Pilot Program called ‘Mini Movers’ – this has enabled the children to experience different ways of being active and provide them with a small introduction to various sports. The children have also engaged in Mindfulness and Meditation through one of our Centre families, and this will be continuing into Term Four.

**Reminders**

**School Holiday Program**
The school holiday program will commence on Monday 23rd September and finish on Friday 4th October. Please remember that Friday 27th September is a Public Holiday and the Centre will be closed on this day. Lisa will be Room Coordinator whilst Paula and Jenny are on leave. Term Four re-commences on Monday 7th October.

**Hats**
Please remember to pack your child a sun hat. Unfortunately, we do not have a large supply of spare hats for the children that do not have one. We encourage the children to take responsibility for ensuring their hat is safely in their bags at the end of the day.

**Incursions and Excursions next term**

- Kinder 4 will have a visit from Tingatoodle to learn about Road Safety
- Kinder 4 will also be visiting Geelong Hospital as part of the funded programs provided for Kinder 4 children.
- Kinder 3 and Kinder 4 will be incorporating more visits to Community Garden and Oval as the weather improves.

*The Kinder team would like to say thanks for your support once again this term. We feel privileged to be a part of your children’s lives and share in their growth and development as each term passes.*

Thank You!