Message from the President...

Hello Kinder Families,

Wow! It’s the end of Term 3 already. It has been a very busy term again. I’d like to extend a very warm welcome to Leonora Ayers who is a co-educator in the afternoon Red and Blue 3 year old groups and Purple 4 year old group, and Nina Harb who is a co-educator in the Orange and Purple 4 year old groups. We are happy that both Leonora and Nina join us to complete our staff at Ascot Kindergarten.

Also this term, we have found out that 15 hours per week of kindergarten for the year before school, will be funded for 2015. It is a relief to finally know this and to be able to finalise our timetables for next year. Although we have heard feedback about this year’s timetable with regards to increasing the 3 year old program to 2 sessions per week, and making both 4 year old groups 3 sessions per week, we unfortunately have to keep the current timetable, as is. The constraints of keeping within the entitlements of the staff award with respect to breaks, keeping 15 hours for the 4 year old groups, and keeping two 3 year old groups, means we have no movement to change the timetable for next year.

Another exciting development is that we may be having our verandah constructed in the Term 3 break! At the end of last year, an application was made to the Victorian Government to get a grant for the verandah construction to further improve our indoor/outdoor space, particularly in winter. We were granted $10,000 earlier this year, and this will go towards the construction. A builder and architect have been commissioned, and plans drawn up. This has been an ongoing project from previous Committees and now, finally, it can be realised. Special thanks go to Tara Usher for her tireless work to bring this to fruition.

At this time of year, both Blair and Steph are very busy preparing Transition Statements for all children in their groups who will start school next year. As you can appreciate, this is a huge and detailed task. An email was sent out on the second last week of term detailing this process and each family’s role in this. This important information goes to helping the school make your child’s transition into Prep a smooth one.

Have a wonderful Term 3 break with hopefully lovely Spring weather. See you back in Term 4!

Warm regards,

Sophia Karanatsios (President)
Fundraising - all wrapped up!

It has been a successful year on the fundraising front and the fundraising team thank you for supporting the events we have held. These included:

- The Welcome BBQ and Raffle
- Picture Plates
- Comedy Night
- Kinder Photos
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
- Cake Stall at Flemington Farmers Market
- Kinder (EPV) raffle

In excess of $6000 was raised this year, which is excellent! Some of these funds were used to purchase new play equipment and resources for the kinder and have already been put to excellent use by our children.

We appreciate Term 4 is a hectic one and have decided not to conduct any further fundraising activities for the year.

With thanks,

The Fundraising Team

Note Re: Kinder Photos

All Kinder Photos have now been taken for all groups. If you have any difficulty accessing the photos on the Photographer’s website please refer to the email you received with their details and contact the photographer directly for the quickest resolution. If this is not possible or you encounter any difficulties please speak to Natalie (Orange Group) or Blair or Steph ☺️
Orange Group

This term we have focused a lot on storytelling and role play during our sessions. This has followed on from a strong interest in 'Penny the Platypus' the puppet who introduced storytelling time last term and also suggestions from the children to incorporate their other favourite stories into our group times! We have used puppets, props, and our storyboard again this term to tell stories as well as using dress ups, musical instruments, and our imaginations to act out stories such as 'The Gruffalo', 'Wombat Stew', ‘Caps for Sale’ and ‘The Three Billy Goats Gruff’. Our aim was to promote literacy and language skills through this storytelling as well as to build confidence.

The children have really embraced these activities this term and to support this learning we invited ‘The Flying Bookworms Theatre Company’ to attend our kindergarten to act out some of our favourite stories as well! This incursion gave the children such delight and we all participated in acting out three stories which were ‘We’re going on a bear hunt’, ‘Caps for Sale’ and ‘The Three Billy Goats Gruff’.

We have also focused on alphabet recognition and phonics this term. At the end of last term the group were starting to discuss words that started with different letters of the alphabet. To extend this interest and learning, we introduced ‘letter of the day’ this term, in which a child decided on a letter of the alphabet and we all brainstormed words that started with that letter. We also discussed and practiced the sound of that letter to establish the link between the print letter and sound (phonics).

We have also encouraged name recognition this term and have used name tags at group times and in transition periods so that children can practice recognising their names from tags which will assist in building alphabet recognition and literacy skills.

We have also focused on the discussion of feelings and facial expressions this term through reading a lot of storybooks that focus on feelings as well as friendship issues. We have used special bear cards that show a whole range of different facial expressions and feelings and the children shared their ideas and thoughts about how the bears were feeling.

Other focus points have been: turn taking games and activities such as diddle diddle dumpling and of course the continuation of ‘Cheeky Monkey’, using the ‘Choice Board’ to encourage decision making and alternative choices in play, ‘Photographer of the Day’ opportunity so children get the choice to use our digital camera and take creative shots, memory games at group time such as ‘the magic cloth’ where items are removed and children need to guess the missing item.

Interests this term have included:

- Singing AFL football theme songs and singing songs from the movie ‘Frozen’
- Making worry dolls which was initiated by Zadie and Beth after reading the story ‘Silly Billy’ which then extended into creating peg dolls, making plaits for Aerial, and rope people
- Mermaids

- Making and creating with salt dough which was an extension from play-doh and the bakery that the children set up

- Construction with pipes, boxes, buckets, you name it...

- Soccer and football

- Play in the mud patch included cooking stews and mud pies, making beer, and creating cement and rivers

- Ninja turtle, Minecraft, Star Wars, and Batman construction out of blocks

- Creating storybooks

- Creating secret hide outs and cubby houses, and engaging in camping dramatic play

- Using the Apple Slinky machine

- Palaeontologist dinosaur discovery in the sandpit

- Nests and birds

- Tigers and African animals
• World maps and discussion around where we live, where we have been, and where other orange group members are holidaying in Australia and around the World.

This term the children also wanted another dress up day and it was decided that we should combine some themes to have a 'Dancing Disco, Sports, and Superheroes Dress up Day'!

We were also very lucky to have Connie come in again to demonstrate her fabulous artistry and paint the children’s faces! Thanks Connie!

We welcomed Nina to the Orange Group this term as our lovely new educator!

Also, for the last few weeks of term we had Tara on her pre-service student teacher placement and she has set up some wonderful experiences for the children.

Thank you to all parents who have volunteered their time to come in and help over Term 3. Happy Holidays and see you all again soon for our very last term of the year!!

Kind Regards,

Blair, Jenny, and Nina

Red Group

This term we have focused on introducing a lot of singing and storytelling into our sessions with the Red Group. We have used finger and hand puppets, and also a lot of movement, actions, and facial expressions to support the learning and to build literacy and language skills!

The children have really enjoyed free dancing as well as structured dancing at group time so we have promoted both in the program and the children have shown great delight! We have also read a lot of stories that promote rhythm, repetition, and rhyme.

To encourage sharing and turn taking and a sense of ownership we have introduced Kinder Puppy and there has been great excitement every week in looking forward to who gets a turn next!
Interests have included:

- Builder role play

- Sensory play with play-doh (making snowmen and people)

- Drawing treasure maps
- Felt piece storytelling
- Cooking and picnics
- Painting and finger painting
- Kite creation
- Letter recognition
- Shapes
- Dress ups and dramatic play
- Magnet construction
- Hairdresser role play

We also welcomed Leonora to our group this term as our fantastic new educator!

Have a great break and see you all next term!

Kind Regards,

Blair and Leonora
Purple Group

We have had such a busy Term 3. I wanted to include so many photos just to demonstrate how many wonderful experiences we have managed to fit in to this term but there is just not enough space! You will be able to see it all however, on your photo discs. It has been a very creative term, with lots of art and imaginative play. As the children come 4 days a week we have many opportunities to carry over experiences to the next day and revisit favourite experiences over the term.

Having Nina and Leonora begin the term with us as our new educators has been wonderful as they have brought with them some great ideas too!

Children have been playing more collaboratively of late and are exploring their ideas at a deeper level which is great to see.

Some of these interests and ideas include: *Treasure maps and treasure hunts *Making Paper *Gymnastics *Witches *Princesses and Queens *Straw Construction *Tracing/drawing/colouring/writing *Dancing *Concerts/Shows *Snail hunting *Making kites *Chalk drawing on the concrete *Soccer *Painting *Tree Climbing *Making a bug hotel *Dressing up/role play *Pasting/collage/box construction *Building *Making God’s eyes/worry dolls and peg dolls *Using the apple slinky device *Games in small groups *Making up and teaching each other songs and stories *Singing *Hide and Seek *Planet/space exploration *Gardening *Recycling books and discussions *Drama – acting out stories *Letter/name recognition

Purple group is such a diverse group of children with many differing skills, strengths, ideas and interests. This term we really tried to utilise this by encouraging children to share their ideas more with one another and to learn new skills from each other. We have observed a lot more collaborative communication and acknowledgment of each other’s contributions and achievements and children are exploring playing with others they might not have played with at the beginning of the year.

Earlier in the term Purple Group children helped to plant some of the seedlings bought with our landcare grant and we have been caring for them over the last few weeks. Snails and insects, other bugs and creepy crawlies continue to be of strong interest to the children and they can spend hours hunting for creatures then watching what they do, how they move and react.
This term we have encouraged children to explore letters through play and writing through various experiences set up to promote literacy exploration. Children wrote their names with Duplo, used clipboards outside to record information during their play and used chalk outside to write and draw. Puzzles and games have encouraged children to problem solve, sort and concentrate for sustained periods of time while they persist with difficulty in order to complete a task.

We have focused on following through with children’s ideas and supporting them to stick with an idea to the end and really concentrate on the goals that children’s set for themselves as well as those which we their educators and families have set for them in order to further develop their learning and their skills.

We are very much looking forward to our last incursion in the second week back next term! The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company will be visiting Purple Group to perform “Bear Hunt”, “The Gigantic Turnip” and “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”. Orange Group loved this incursion and we think purple group will too. It’s very funny!

We hope everyone has a great break! Enjoy the sunshine!

Please remember to fill in your Transition Statements when you have some time and get them back to me as soon as you can!

Thanks

Regards

Steph, Jenny, Nina, Leonora

Blue Group

Term 3 has been a fun term, all about gaining confidence, trying new things and persisting with and overcoming challenges in play. The group has settled a bit more now and children are exploring their interests further and their play is becoming more complex. Leonora has joined our group now and we are very happy to welcome her to Blue Group.

Small group activities led by either parents or educators are a great way for children to feel comfortable engaged and involved. Storytelling, the shopping game, puzzles, creative play with play-dough, clay or collage materials and playing musical instruments are just some examples of activities which are guided by an adult in small groups to encourage communication, cooperation, turn taking and sharing skills.

Earlier in the term we had some rainy days which encouraged some messy mud and water play which Blue Group children love! We have spent many afternoons watering the garden, filling up water holes in the sandpit and painting the brick walls with water. A few children have shown an interest in treasure maps and treasure hunts as well as camping – building a camp fire with sticks and other natural materials. Lego, Mobilo, connectable equipment, marbles and pattern making experiences have been engaging and challenging experiences this term as children work on their fine motor development, problem solving skills and their creativity.
Our favourite songs at group time this term include, “Where is thumbkin?” “Mr. Clicketty Cane” “Singing in the Rain” “We’re going on a Bear Hunt” “1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive” “Bah, Bah, Black Sheep” “A Ram Sam Sam” “Johnny works with 1 hammer” just to name a few. Our group times are always the best part of our day when we come together for a giggle, some songs and to listen to a story.
Self help skills, social skills and communication skills are the main focus for our group at the moment and going into Term 4 these are the areas which we will work towards developing further. Being able to interact and communicate appropriately with peers and express ideas and feelings is a really important skill to concentrate on as children go into 4 year old kinder.

I Hope everyone has a great Break!
See you next term
Steph and Leonora

Ascot Kindergarten’s ‘Someone I Love’ Play Date and Art Show

Thank you everyone who came along to our special evening event this term. It was great to see so many families here at the kinder celebrating family and the amazing creative talents of our children!
REMINDER:

SUN HATS AND SUN CREAM! All children are required to bring sun hats to kinder everyday during term 4! The weather may be changeable but the UV index is starting to rise and our sun smart policy recommends that children are wearing sun cream and hats whenever they are outside. No hat = no outdoor play!

Jellis Craig are proudly associated with Ascot Kinder and will donate 10% from your property sale fee to our kinder.

If you are thinking of selling your home or would like a current property appraisal, please contact:
John Morello on 8378 0500
291 Racecourse Road, Kensington.

www.jelliscraig.com.au